Growing up, Dylan Trerice loved listening to his Italian grandparents speak in their mother tongue.

"I remember watching my Nonna speaking Italian and wondering how it felt to communicate fluently in another language," says the Vancouver Island French Immersion teacher and Canadian Parents for French BC and Yukon Branch board members.

Unbeknownst to Dylan at the time, thus began his love for bilingualism.

Throughout elementary and high school, his parents enrolled him in the Core French program. "In high school, I had the most brilliant Core French teacher, who recognised that I was really good in French," says Dylan. "She told me that being so proficient, it could open up so many doors for me."

The core French program taught Dylan the beauty and magic of learning French by learning how elements such as vocabulary, grammar, and culture were intertwined and connected to boost proficiency.

His most precious high school memories were of a Grade 10 exchange trip to Paris for two weeks. Immersing himself completely in the language, he felt a "huge sense of pride and joy to be able to communicate clearly in French with the locals."

After high school, Dylan attended the University of Victoria (UVic), where he completed an undergraduate degree in French studies, literature, culture and linguistics.
"At university, my professors encouraged me to go for a Master's in French Studies," he adds. "I spent half a year at UVic and another six months in Montpellier, France."

With his Master's under his belt, a professor offered him the chance to teach university level French labs. He knew he'd found his calling.

Now in his sixth-year teaching French Immersion, Dylan is passing on his passion for French to his own students.
"As a French Immersion teacher, I intertwine teaching philosophies and techniques unique to Core French with those of the French Immersion model so that my students are inspired to take a much more active and inquisitive role in developing their proficiency of French," says Dylan.