



October 5, 2011

City of Nelson
Suite 101, 310 Ward Street
Nelson, BC V1L 5S4

Dear Mayor Dooley and City Council:

Re: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Board Meeting and French Language Opportunities

We write to congratulate the City of Nelson on hosting the recent successful Federation of Canadian Municipalities board meeting. We are proud that the FCM meeting showcased Nelson nationally. Thank you for your efforts to provide French translation services for the francophone delegates attending the FCM's regional tours. Though this did not materialize due to the delegates' schedule, we are pleased that the bilingualism of Nelson citizens was recognized.

On behalf of **Canadian Parents for French (CPF)**, an organization that believes in a bilingual Canada supporting French language learning opportunities in youth, and the **Association des francophones des Kootenays Ouest (AFKO)**, promoting French language and culture in the Kootenays as well as supporting the Francophones and Francophiles of the Region; we offer to assist with the organization of French translation for future national conferences hosted by the City. Many of the Region's Francophone and Francophile residents, recent French Immersion graduates and students of French language programs would welcome the opportunity to speak and practice French with visitors.

Our community is home to so many French speakers. AFKO celebrates its 25th year with a production of "Le Petit Prince" in Nelson on October 22 and in other Kootenay communities. The popular Late French Immersion program began in School District No. 8 in 1985 and since, many local students have become bilingual Canadians graduating with a double dogwood. École des Sentiers-Alpins, a Francophone School opening in Nelson in 2006, now has 40plus elementary aged students. French is spoken on our streets by tourists and locals. Many local businesses, including Au Soleil Levant, Village Ski Hut, Safeway, Devitos, and City Hall, have bilingual staff happy to serve in either official language. We are proud of two languages! (And on a complete aside, Tourism Nanaimo produces a French language brochure "Bonjour Nanaimo" that identifies all of its "ici on parle français" businesses – Nelson businesses could no doubt do the same!)

French language is ever more accessible, promoting more opportunities for bilingualism. D-PACE Ltd, a local engineering business, reports that since translating their website into French, they have experienced "significantly" more "hits", and has thus expanded business opportunities internationally into French speaking countries. We are pleased that the City awaits the launch of the French translation of its website.

Thank you for your continued support in the promotion of French speaking, learning and culture in our community. Merci tellement de votre soutien.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish Dehnel'.

Patricia (Trish) Dehnel
Vice-President, CPF - Nelson Chapter
Canadian Parents for French
Proud of Two Languages/Nos deux langues, notre fierté

CC: AFKO
School District No. 8
MP Alex Atamanenko

École des Sentiers-Alpins
Fonction d'Eva, FCM event coordinator
Canadian Parent for French, BC Branch