



Fédération des
parents francophones
de Colombie-Britannique

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May 8, 2020

The Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Education
PO BOX 9045 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Fleming:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of the Fédération des parents francophones de Colombie-Britannique (the BC Francophone Parents Federation).

Let me begin by thanking you personally on behalf of all Francophone parents in British Columbia for your leadership during these trying and unprecedented times as we face the COVID-19 pandemic. Public health and safety are everyone's priority. We are confident that the careful and cohesive plan put forth by our province will serve all British Columbians well, including BC's children.

The BC Francophone Parents Federation represents all 34 Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) in schools under the jurisdiction of the Conseil scolaire francophone (CSF), SD #93 (the Francophone Education Authority). We also represent the Francophone Early Years sector. As you are aware, the CSF is unique in British Columbia, given the learning needs and geographic distribution of the population it serves, and its organizational structure. Unlike other school districts, the CSF operates throughout the province.

Consequently, the Federation is unique too. We also operate throughout the province, representing Francophone parents in PACs and child care settings. We are the official voice of Francophone parents in British Columbia.

On March 27, 2020, a joint letter from your Ministry written in collaboration with the President of the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) was released to parents and guardians of students in BC schools. This letter was translated in French, and distributed to all parents and guardians of students attending CSF schools.

A concern has arisen that this letter failed to properly address our community because the BCCPAC is not who Francophone parents turn to for answers and advocacy in BC. They turn to the BC Francophone Parents' Federation, their official voice.

Therefore, we kindly ask that the Federation be involved in all future communication regarding Francophone education, or Ministry communication to parents and guardians of students in schools in the Conseil scolaire francophone (CSF), SD #93.

In addition, we would like to respectfully suggest that the BC Francophone Parents Federation be included in the Minister's advisory or consultation groups, just as the BCCPAC or Canadian Parents for French – BC & Yukon are.



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Again, we have much to contribute, and would be happy to do so! We strongly feel that by working in partnership with all stakeholders in education we can build a better British Columbia. We thank you for giving these requests the consideration they deserve and look forward to working with you, your Ministry and staff, in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely,

Suzana Straus
President

cc: The Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs
Yael La Rose, director of French Education, Ministry of Education
Marie-Pierre Lavoie, Chair, Conseil scolaire francophone, SD #93