

## APÉ ÉCOLE ENTRE-LACS

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January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Mr. Patrick Gatién, President of the Conseil Scolaire Francophone School Board and dear members of the board,

As the President of the Entre-lacs Parents Advisory Committee (PAC), I am writing regarding the future of secondary education in our community, among other concerns.

To date, the Conseil Scolaire Francophone (CSF) has refused to provide our community, as well as the other 7 affected communities, pertinent information required to allow our families to make important decisions regarding the future of their child(ren)'s high school education within the CSF, even though student registration deadlines loom. This is not acceptable.

The eight communities affected by the changes proposed by the CSF have clearly expressed their discontent regarding not only the fact that these decisions were made without first consulting these affected communities, but also because the « consultations » that took place to date were actually nothing but presentations hosted by a third party consulting firm that did not allow for audience participation by way of questions, direct communication with representatives from the CSF, nor the opportunity to participate in an open discussion. The whole has served to demonstrate that the CSF is clearly not interested in the needs or desires of the families nor the students that make up the academic community of clients the CSF serves.

We recently conducted a survey among our school community, of which 39 families responded. Note the following:

- \* All of the responses received were from parents/guardians of students;
- Approximately 15% of respondents indicated that they would register their child(ren) in the homogeneous model proposed by the CSF;
- A total of 74% of respondents indicated that they would register their child(ren) either - in an immersion program from grades 6-12 (18%), an immersion school/program housed within an Anglophone school (38%) or a homogeneous Anglophone school (18%); and
- Approximately 62% of respondents indicated that they do not support the CSF's decision to abolish Francophone schools/programs (housed within Anglophone schools) and establish wholly homogeneous schools across the province.

Though the completed surveys remitted may not reflect every family/parent/guardian in our community, it is clear that an in-depth consultation must take place to arrive at a solution that best responds to the unique needs of each affected community.

If there are any lingering doubts, let us be precise:

- Given that the planned consultations with the 8 affected communities has been postponed, we request that the CSF's Board of Directors revise the mandate that was entrusted to the Director General and Secretary-Treasurer by removing the requirement of phasing out secondary level heterogeneous programs;
- The community seeks a consultation performed by members of the CSF with our community and not by an outside consulting firm;
- The community insists that the CSF take into account the pre-existing physical issues and conditions that have subsisted within the Entre-lacs School facility for several years (no potable water, repairs required to physical spaces, new roofing required, no play space on site, etc.) that must be attended to before moving forward with changes to the existing secondary Francophone program;
- The community also insists that the CSF address the systemic long-standing, pre-existing needs and challenges affecting both the Elementary, Middle and Secondary components of Entre-lacs (staff retention, student retention, program diversity, availability of specialty educators, etc.)

We are confident that with openness to the unique needs, wants and necessities of our community, we can celebrate our numerous exogamous families and their important role in our academic community. Our Franco-Columbian identity needs to continue including a close relationship with the Anglophone component of the communities in which we live, work and play. If the CSF is able to be inclusive, transparent and aims to meet these needs, we will then have an opportunity to have a working relationship.

Sincerely,

Jodi Edworthy  
President  
École Entre-lacs PAC

cc:

Annette Azar-Diehl, Vice-Présidente - Conseillère Région de la Vallée du Fraser

Marie-Pierre Lavoie - Conseillère, Région du Sud de l'île de Vancouver

Annie Bédard - Conseillère, Région du Nord de l'île de Vancouver

Robert Fillion - Conseiller, Région du Sud-Est

Marie-Christie Claveau - Conseillère, Région du Nord

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APÉ Golden (école La Confluence)

APÉ Kamloops (école Collines-d'or)

APÉ Nelson (école Sentiers-alpins, école secondaire de Nelson)

APÉ Revelstoke (école des Glaciers, école secondaire de Revelstoke)

APÉ Rossland (école des Septs-sommets)