



April 5, 2022

Ref: 250704

Patrick Gatien, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 93 (Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique)
Email: patrick_gatien@csf.bc.ca

Dear Patrick Gatien:

Thank you for your letter of September 29, 2021, regarding the next Official Languages in Education Protocol (OLEP).

I agree that the Conseil scolaire francophone and the Ministry of Education share a common goal of obtaining increased OLEP funding to support the supplementary costs of delivering French first language education in British Columbia.

Although I was pleased to see the Department of Heritage Canada provide a supplemental \$1.4 million/year to support French minority language education in BC from 2021 to 2023, I understand that there is no guarantee of renewal of this supplemental funding. In addition, I acknowledge that the federal funding for OLEP has not increased in over a decade and consequently, has not kept up with inflation and cost of living.

The Ministry of Education is collaborating with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to prepare for the negotiations of the next OLEP, which are planned to begin in 2022. The current goal for British Columbia is to increase OLEP federal funding for both French as a first language education and French as a second language instruction.

Thank you for the update and for your continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Whiteside
Minister