

## Message from the president

I am pleased to share with you the highlights of the Yukon Francophone School Board's governance for the 2024-2025 school year. This final year of the current term shows that the trustees remained disciplined and rigorous. Their role as trustees of the language rights conferred on French-speaking individuals by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and their legal obligations to the Yukon Government have guided their decisions. These fundamental responsibilities guide each of our decisions and reinforce our commitment to accessible, equitable, and high-quality French-language education.

### Celebrating with you!

Looking back, we can conclude that this year was marked by memorable celebrations and significant advances for our school community. It was, without a doubt, a year of celebrations, a time when we honored our history, recognized the commitment of our members, and celebrated our collective successes.

In accordance with our right to full governance, in the fall of 2024, we officially named our Dawson education program: Programme Confluence. This name, which symbolizes the meeting of cultures and languages on the traditional lands of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, embodies our desire to build a French-first education in the Klondike region that reflects the values of this community: an education that is respectful and inclusive of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in knowledge and rooted in the Francophone heritage of this territory.

In the spring, the Member of Parliament for Yukon recognized my dedication to advancing French-language education by recommending me for the honor of receiving the King Charles III's Coronation Medal, a distinction that touches me deeply and that I received with humility, surrounded by current and former members of the CSFY.

On June 1, 2025, we celebrated National Francophone Parent Involvement in Education Day for the first time, recognizing the importance of parents' volunteer involvement. Through their support and dedication, parents are an essential pillar of our education system.

On June 13, 2025, we celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French as a First Language program and École Émilie-Tremblay. This program, which began modestly with 34 children in two classrooms in the basement of Whitehorse Elementary School, is now a pillar of our community and our French-language education continuum. We now welcome the children of our first students, living proof of the vitality and sustainability of our system. It is also important to note that in June we celebrated another achievement: the largest cohort of Grade 12 graduates in French as a first language. Twenty-two students from CSSC Mercier completed their schooling, ready to pursue their studies and contribute to society as committed Francophones.

### Early childhood policy and service development

Throughout the year, trustees were supported in their mandate by the results of surveys conducted among families, students, partners, and staff, in line with the priorities of our strategic plan. This data enabled us to adjust our actions to better meet the educational needs of our community. We were also

sensitive to parents' concerns about the importance of reviewing the use of information technology in the classroom and required the development of a policy to that effect that is aligned with the latest research in this area.

In addition, trustees have been actively working to develop a second branch for a French-language daycare center in Whitehorse, thereby responding to growing demand from families and helping to expand French-language services for young children.

### **Politically speaking**

On the political front, our delegation, composed of Myriam Bougie, Marc Champagne, and myself, participated in the 34<sup>th</sup> FNCSF conference in October 2024, under the theme Building Our Future in the Present. This conference was an opportunity to consult with our partners on various important issues, to better understand the Canadian political context, and to continue developing our network. In December 2024, Marc Champagne and I testified before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages as part of the national study on the French language education continuum. This appearance allowed us to demonstrate the added value of federal funding for our organization and to call for flexibility and indexation of federal funding to take into account our northern reality and our growth.

In February 2025, I participated in the FNCSF's awareness days on Parliament Hill to reiterate to senators and members of Parliament the importance of funding quality French-language education in the Yukon based on the principle of real equivalence. It was a great success. In the spring, I participated in the Yukon Francophone Leaders' Roundtable to continue the CSFY's support for the overall development of the Francophone community.

### **Thank you**

This report is the last one presented by the current team of trustees, as a school board election is scheduled for November 2025. I would like to highlight the professionalism, rigor, and dedication that my fellow trustees have demonstrated throughout this term. Their commitment to educational success deserves to be commended. We hope that we have met the expectations of parents and members of the Francophone community. I sincerely thank the latter for the trust they have placed in me in the performance of my duties.

I conclude this report by reaffirming our collective commitment to French first language education in the Yukon that enables everyone to succeed, is based on respect and the well-being of each individual, and is resolutely focused on the future. Together, let us pursue this mission with conviction and solidarity.

Thank you to everyone who, through their commitment, trust, and collaboration, contributes every day to promoting French-first education in the Yukon. Your support is invaluable, and it is thanks to you that we are moving forward.