

President's Report September 27, 2016 Annual General Meeting

The 2015-2016 school year was an opportunity for the Yukon Francophone School Board (CSFY) to make progress on several issues. These significant developments represent a decisive moment in our history and are beneficial to our school community and the Yukon Francophone community. They include the adoption of the new French as a First Language Instruction Regulation, which delegates the responsibility for admission to the CSFY, and the creation of the settlement committee and the construction sub-committee for the Francophone School-Community Centre. These committees, formed by the CSFY and the Government of Yukon, are developing negotiated solutions to move towards full school governance, in addition to planning the construction of a new Francophone high school. Thank you for the work undertaken in good faith by all members of these committees. Thank you also to the Yukon Francophone community for taking part in such large numbers in the consultations and sharing your ideas on the Francophone high school. You have clearly expressed your desire for a combined community centre and high school. We have heard you and we are working to achieve this.

We are happy to be able to manage our schools' budget according to the implementation of a new funding formula developed by the CSFY and the Department of Education. This formula increases the financial autonomy of the CSFY and is another step towards full governance of French First Language Education.

1

The trustees remain committed to maintaining positive relationships with municipal, territorial and federal elected officials. The trustees took the opportunity to develop cordial relations with the new Minister of Canadian Heritage and her team during the panel discussions in Whitehorse. The CSFY organized information sessions with political parties and took the time to meet City of Whitehorse municipal councillors to inform them about our projects. I am also on the board of the *Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones (FNCSF) (National Federation of Francophone School Boards)*.

During the last school year, we welcomed two new trustees. I would like to highlight the excellent participation of Edith Campbell and Edith Bélanger. They were both able to quickly contribute to our discussions.

We are fortunate to have a dynamic, competent team led by our executive director, Marc Champagne. Since he started in the summer of 2015, he has guided the progress of important projects with expertise in the school environment and a passion for our students. The work of the CSFY team is remarkable on several fronts. The many complex files are handled with unwavering professionalism.

In closing, I would like to emphasize the importance of seizing opportunities offered by the Yukon Francophone School Board. It represents a powerful lever to help shape the future of our community and our families. It is an instrument that contributes to the vitality and sustainability of French in the Yukon. It must rely on positive, collaborative leadership in order to ultimately make a difference for our students.

Finally, on a more personal note, I would like to mention how much of a pleasure and honour it has been for me to serve my community as trustee of the CSFY over the last three years and as president during the last year.

Jean-Sébastien Blais, President

Summary of projects and files from the 2015-2016 school year

Moving towards full school governance

Creation of a settlement committee

In August 2015, the CSFY and the Government of Yukon (YG) agreed to set up a settlement committee to resolve some of the disputes that remained following the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in May 2015, sending both parties back to the lower court for a new trial.

Case management conferences with the Yukon Supreme Court

A Yukon Supreme Court Judge was assigned to the CSFY case. Case management conferences took place during the last year. During these conferences, both parties requested that all procedures relating to a possible legal remedy be put on hold.

Francophone high school construction subcommittee

This committee is in charge of the Francophone high school construction project. It is made up of representatives from the Department of Education, the Department of Highways and Public Works, the CSFY and the Association franco-yukonnaise (AFY). The current proposal is to build a high school for 200 students from grades 7 to 12 with community facilities, including a multiuse 250-seat auditorium.

Site proposed for the construction

In May 2016, the construction subcommittee recommended the old F.H. Collins high school site as the new location for the school. A traffic impact study will be undertaken to examine traffic and safety issues.

Timeframe and next steps

We are still at the preliminary stages of the project and no timeframe has been set for construction. An invitation to tender was launched in August 2016 to find a firm to design the Francophone high school. A funding proposal for the community aspects of the school was presented to Canadian Heritage by the Department of Education in the spring of 2016.

Interim solution for the high school

In the meantime, the CSFY chose to build a portable classroom at the école Émilie Tremblay to house an elementary classroom so that all of the Académie Parhémie classrooms could be combined in the same school wing. This was built during the summer of 2016.

Celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the CSFY

The CSFY took part in the year-end school BBQ organized by the parents committee on June 16, 2016, to celebrate its 20th anniversary and thank students, parents, staff members and partners for their involvement and support.

Adoption of the new French as a First Language Instruction Regulation

In August 2016, the Government of Yukon adopted the *French as a First Language Instruction Regulation* under the *Education Act*. This allows the Minister of Education to delegate to the CSFY the responsibility for admission to its schools. The Regulation officially recognizes practices that have been in place for a number of years and the admission process will not substantially change. This Regulation was created thanks to the progress made by the settlement committee.

Thanks to you all!

Jean-Sébastien Blais, President