

President's Report – September 26, 2019, Annual General Meeting

Dear Parents, Community Members and Partners:

With the construction of the Francophone Secondary School Community Centre beginning last April and a large class of graduating students in June, 2018-2019 has been a notable year on many different levels. Here is a look back at this busy year:

Negotiations with the Settlement Committee towards full school governance are still underway between the Yukon Department of Education and the Yukon Francophone School Board (CSFY). The Board wishes to have governance over everything that stems from its mandate and is pleased to note that negotiations are drawing to a close.

The start of construction of the Francophone Secondary School Community Centre was a very momentous occasion for the CSFY's entire team as well as for our community! We are proud to be directly collaborating with the Yukon Government on this construction project. In addition to being a school, this Centre will also function as a gathering place for the whole community. Institutions dedicated to languages and cultures help ensure their continued vitality. The CSFY is grateful to the territorial and federal governments for their financial investment and is looking forward to the school's opening.

In October 2018, Jocelyne Isabelle was elected as trustee following the resignation of Marc-André Lavigne the previous month. It was with regret that the CSFY accepted Trustee Lavigne's resignation, and we thank him for his expertise, his time and his commitment as Vice-President. On October 10, the board of trustees elected Vincent Larochelle as Vice-President and myself as President. The term of office for the five trustees will end this year, with new general elections planned for November 4, 2019.

The CSFY presented its new 2018-2021 Strategic Plan at the last Annual General Meeting. Its framework helps direct the trustees' attention towards our desired outcomes and also unveils four main focal points to prioritize: our students, our education, our visibility and our leadership.

The presidents and executive directors of our local Francophone organizations gathered together during two forums for leaders of the Yukon's Francophone community to discuss the main priorities of our community. Two documents were created which present the issues facing the Yukon's Francophone community as well as priorities to consider in light of the federal elections in October 2019.

Trustee Gilles Ménard, our Executive Director and I participated in the 28th convention of the National Federation of Francophone School Boards (Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones - FNCSF) which centred on the theme of early childhood services. This congress is an important

gathering involving information sessions and meetings. It provides elected school board officials with the means to excel at fulfilling their mandate and the opportunity to discuss with each other subjects of common concern regarding the preservation of our language and culture.

As a member of the FNCSF's administrative council, we have been representing the CSFY's interests throughout the year. This led us to participate in a day of political solicitation with the FNCSF in Ottawa. During those meetings, we started a dialogue with members of Parliament about the importance of the federal government's funding for the provincial and territorial Departments of Education to help cover the additional costs of providing French First Language education in a minority setting. For a second year in a row, we presided over the discussions of the members of the Western and Northern Presidents' Association (l'Association des présidences de l'Ouest et du Nord – APÉON). Our region put forward a resolution on political canvassing during the annual congress of the FNCSF and discussed challenges facing the early childhood field.

We also represented the interests of the CSFY during the Symposium on the 50th anniversary of the *Official Languages Act* in Ottawa in May 2019. The modernization of the *Act* was at the heart of those discussions.

Once again this year, the trustees attended parents' committee meetings in order to understand their concerns and areas of interest. They also twice invited student council members to discuss with them their issues and perspectives. It is vital for the trustees to foster a relationship of trust with both parents and students.

In closing, I would like to thank all the trustees, as well as the members of our administrative team, for a year marked by our many achievements.

Sincerely,



Jean-Sébastien Blais
President