

Message from the President

Dear education stakeholders, parents, staff and community members,

2020-2021 was a landmark year for the CSFY with the opening of the CSSC Mercier on November 13, 2020. What a great achievement! Congratulations to all of those involved in this success! CSSC Mercier enabled us to offer high school students full-time face-to-face education during the pandemic. In the long term, the CSSC Mercier will allow us to maximize the services we offer to high school students and enrich the French First Language program. It allows us to look to the future with optimism.

With respect to governance, the trustees exercised their duties throughout the year while continuing to implement the settlement agreement. Guided by our strategic plan, we have continued to improve our services and our programming. In the spring, we also launched the Strategic Plan Achievement Survey involving parents, students, staff and community stakeholders.

Reaching out to the Yukon First Nations was an important topic for the board of trustees. The board asked the CSFY team to support the Yukon First Nation Education Directorate (YFNED) and their plan to establish a First Nations School Board. The idea of a meeting between elected members of YFNED and CSFY was proposed, however, the context of the pandemic has not yet allowed us to get together.

Regarding our actions with the community, the trustees were involved in various activities, including meetings of the *Table des leaders de la francophonie yukonnaise*. This roundtable allows us to stay informed on the priorities of the francophone community and to improve our political positioning. We also took the time to fully understand the issues related to early childhood to continue our collaboration with the Garderie du petit cheval blanc.

With regard to the territorial political environment, the trustees took the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Education, the Honorable Jeanie McLean, in June 2021 in order to maintain the positive relationship that we have with the Government of Yukon.

Regarding national issues, we continued our active involvement within the National Federation of Francophone School Boards (FNCSF). I continue to fulfill my mandate as second vice-president of the FNCSF and president of the Political Influence and Lobbying Committee, a working committee of the FNCSF. In addition to joining the FNCSF's political lobbying sessions in February 2021, this role allowed me to get involved in the modernization of the *Official Languages Act* and to participate in the Summit on the rapprochement of Canadian

Francophonies in June 2021. I am pleased that the FNCSF has announced that its annual conference will be in Whitehorse in October 2022.

I would like to point out that the CSFY is celebrating its 25th anniversary! In fact, the first contribution agreement between the Department of Education and the CSFY was signed in 1996, allowing the hiring of an executive director/secretary-treasurer and an administrative assistant.

In closing, I would like to thank the Association franco-yukonnaise for awarding the "Exceptional Commitment" award in May 2021 to the CSFY administrative team and all the trustees since 2009 who have worked on the settlement agreement and the opening of CSSC Mercier.

Regards,

Jean-Sébastien Blais, president