

Message from the President

Dear education partners, parents, staff and community members,

True to their mandates, the Board of Trustees professionally fulfilled their obligations as trustees of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and their duties over the course of 2022-2023.

In September 2022, the CSFY opened the Centre francophone de Dawson to the public. Aware of our responsibility to meet the community's demand for educational services in French, and with the 2021 census data confirming in December 2022 the presence of 40 children in Dawson of rights holders' families, we worked throughout the year to collaborate with the Yukon Government on educational services in the area. Our efforts contributed to the signing of a three-year funding agreement for a French as a First Language Program in Dawson, which began in August 2023. We are delighted to have been able to respond positively to parents and students for the start of the new school year, and we wish them all the best for 2023-2024!

In October 2022, the CSFY welcomed delegates from the Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones (FNCSF) to Whitehorse for their 32nd annual conference. The event was a great success and provided us with excellent exposure. Our sincere thanks to Julie Dessureault for organizing the reunion evening hosted by the CSFY.

In November 2022, school elections enabled the community to elect new trustees: Mr. Jesse Cooke, Mesdames Véronique Maggiore, Myriam Bougie, Jessica Masson-Guerette and myself. This team entrusted Mr. Cooke with the vice-presidency, and reappointed me as president. I would like to thank the trustees for their professionalism and dedication to French first language education, as well as the outgoing trustees for their commitment. Also in November, the Yukon First Nations School Board elected its first team of trustees. We took the opportunity to congratulate them on their election, and to extend a hand of respect and openness to continue working together.

Last February, I had the opportunity to join the FNCSF's Parliament Hill Days. During these days, along with my FNCSF colleagues, I spoke to federal elected officials about the importance of adequately funding the Official Languages in Education Program and ensuring that Bill C-13 is adopted. I was pleased to see that the Official Languages received a significant increase in the 2023 federal budget, and that Bill C-13 was passed on June 20, 2023, giving Canadians a stronger Official Languages Act.

During the spring, with the conclusion of the 2018-2023 strategic plan, the CSFY launched planning for its next strategic plan 2024-2028. During this period, we also supported CSSC Mercier's nomination for the International Baccalaureate® (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP)

(Programme d'éducation intermédiaire (PEI) du Baccalauréat International® (IB)). CSSC Mercier is now a candidate school since this summer, and we believe this will strengthen the educational offering of our high school program and benefit our students. In May 2023, the trustees agreed to take over the governance of the Garderie du petit cheval blanc. Following the wishes of the Garderie's members, its operations were integrated into those of the CSFY. We thank their members for their vote of confidence. We believe that by having the mandate for early childhood, the CSFY will be able to offer a continuum of services in French.

Last April, along with Veronique Maggiore and Marc Champagne, I took part in the 4th National Education Summit, whose theme was Reimagining Education. Also in the spring, the team of trustees and the Executive Director had a first political meeting with the elected officials of the Yukon First Nations School Board and their Executive Director. We agreed on the importance of working together and joining forces when necessary. This meeting was a great moment in the 2022-2023 school year.

In June, the Chairman of the Yukon First Nations School Board and I had the opportunity to present our school boards and realities to Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada, the Lieutenant Governors and the Territorial Commissioners. In August, it was the turn of Mr. Marc Serré, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, to visit CSSC Mercier, accompanied by Veronique Maggiore, Marc Champagne and myself.

In conclusion, thank you all for your confidence in the CSFY, its trustees and staff. We look forward to fulfilling our obligations for the well-being of our students, their families and our community.

Yours sincerely

Jean-Sébastien Blais, President