

Directive: Language and Culture

Category: Administrative Management



INTRODUCTION

This Directive is based on section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The section in question grants to parents who meet the established criteria the right to have their children receive instruction in French in the Yukon. Section 23 also grants these parents the right to school governance. This Directive is also based on the provisions of the Yukon *Education Act* and related regulations that stipulate that the official language of the administration, the schools, the staff members, the students and the programming of the Yukon Francophone School Board (Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon-CSFY) is the French language.

The CSFY's schools, services and programs, taken together, play a key role in the promotion of the French language and culture. Hence, French is the language used for instruction, communication and work at the CSFY. French language schools are fundamental to the maintenance and growth of the French language in the Yukon.

DIRECTIVE STATEMENT

This Directive includes a series of measures intended to promote and develop the use of the French language in all of the CSFY's areas of activity. These measures focus on four objectives:

1. To enhance, promote and consolidate the quality, presence and use of the French language in its schools and in its external events;
2. To develop and integrate the francophone cultural identity;
3. To make the use of French common practice and rewarding; and
4. To increase the reach of the French language in the Yukon.

This Directive should be implemented in a spirit of mutual respect.

TERMS

1. The French language is used in all areas of school life, including:
 - 1.1 communications, spoken and written, intended for the students, staff, parents, community partners, and the French Community;
 - 1.2 teaching materials, including software, except for the teaching of other languages;
 - 1.3 socio-cultural and sports activities; and
 - 1.4 school radios : a minimum of ninety percent (90%) of French-language songs is required.
2. A high quality of French is required by administrators for all teaching activities, except for the teaching of other languages.
3. The CSFY creates a cultural environment in which individuals can identify as being part of a French-language cultural community and be proud of their francophone linguistic and cultural heritage.
4. There are some exceptions to this Directive:
 - 4.1 If a student's proficiency in French is insufficient, the CSFY must communicate in another language if necessary, and in accordance with the language skills of members of the administration and staff of the CSFY and its schools, including when:
 - 4.1.1 the goal is to facilitate the francization of the student for the purpose of integrating him or her in a regular class; or
 - 4.1.2 the communication in question concerns health and safety, including class rules.
 - 4.2 If a parent's proficiency in French is insufficient, the CSFY must ensure clear communication in another language if necessary and in accordance with the language skills of members of the administration and staff of the CSFY and its schools, including when the communication is about:
 - 4.2.1 the health and safety of the student; or
 - 4.2.2 the student's schooling (report card comments, reports by specialists, remarks about behaviour, etc.).

- 4.3 Communications sent to parents about student's health and safety should include either an English translation or a link to an English translation of the communication.
- 4.4 A parent can request, in writing, from the school principal, a version written in another language, in accordance with the language skills of members of the administration and staff of the CSFY and its schools, of the following documents:
 - 4.4.1 letters of authorization or consent for activities and outings (including the risk analysis); and
 - 4.4.2 essential communications that make it possible to follow the academic progress of the student.
- 4.5 It is permissible to use an English-speaking resource person to enable pupils to take part in activities relating to the First Nations of the Yukon, but only where it is not possible to find a suitable French-speaking person.
 - 4.5.1 Where this is necessary, the staff member must obtain permission from the school management to use English during a class activity (except for English lessons).
 - 4.5.2 Written materials in English must be translated into French in accordance with the appropriate protocols.
 - 4.5.3 Where necessary, the activity must be made accessible to pupils who do not understand English by providing an interpreter.
- 4.6 Some documents from external sources that have initially been created in a language other than French can be distributed to the school community without being translated, with the authorization of the principal.
- 4.7 When possible, the school provides translation tools to the parents on its websites, emails and documents sent to their home (for example, a link to Google translate on its Web page or in the signature of emails from staff).
- 4.8 While ensuring that French takes precedence, the CSFY can use languages other than French to ensure good communication with the Yukon community, including:
 - 4.8.1 on the websites of the CSFY and its schools;
 - 4.8.2 during events in the community; and
 - 4.8.3 in the CSFY's promotional activities.
- 4.9 In the context of initiatives undertaken by the CSFY and its schools for families in which one parent does not speak French, activities, resources and documents can be bilingual (in French and another language), but French must always take precedence.

4.10 An English version of the following documents will be produced by the CSFY:

4.10.1 this Directive;

4.10.2 the admission policy and admission form; and

4.10.3 any other communication whose translation is deemed necessary by the CSFY.

IMPLEMENTATION AND CONTROL

1. The principal provides a copy of this Directive to each staff member at the beginning of the school year.
2. The administrative team of the school and the CSFY, with support from the CSFY's Executive Director, oversees the implementation of this Directive.
3. The management of this Directive requires, aside from the engagement of the school principals, the staff's active participation.
4. The implementation of this Directive must respect the language skills of members of the administration and staff at both the CSFY and its schools.
5. All translations of official CSFY documents will contain the following sentence:
"This document is a translation of an original French-language document and is provided for information only. In the event of a discrepancy, the French-language original will prevail."