



*Furthering bilingualism by promoting and creating opportunities  
for students to learn and use French*

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Surrey Parents Encourage Continued Learning of Canada's Two Official Languages**

**Surrey, BC** - The Surrey School District sent surveys home with students in grades 2, 3, and 4. The survey asks families to identify their priority for a second language of instruction in grades 5, 6, 7, and 8. The BC School Act requires all students in BC to take a second language course between grades 5 and 8. The second language largely offered in Surrey - and across Canada - is Core French.

*"Learning any language is good for the brain and for cultural interactions, but at CPF we promote Canada's two official languages as the foundation of what it means to be Canadian."* Mary-Em Waddington, President Canadian Parents for French Surrey.

*"Canadian Parents for French notes that French is one of several languages approved by the BC Ministry of Education. French is the required core language if another is not supported by parent demand. French remains the language of employment across Canada. Learning another language broadens a person's horizons, enhances cognitive ability, and is a great asset. Now is the time to emphasize the importance of learning French and create pride for it amongst our children and youth. Now is the time to make a significant contribution in this area. As such, CPF asks the parents to get actively involved in this process."*

Parents of students in grades 2, 3 and 4 have until Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> to respond and send back their surveys. We encourage families to select French.

#### **Additional information:**

Preamble and survey access is <https://www.surreyschools.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

\*Through Federal French Funding the Surrey School District currently receives \$511,000/yr. This is based on enrolment in programs such as French Immersion and Core French. If Core French enrolment drops, so will our Federal French Funding, which is up for renegotiation in 2018/19.

\*According to Statistics Canada, Canadians who speak both Official Languages earn, on average, 10% more and there is a 3% lower unemployment rate compared to Canadians who only speak one of Canada's two Official Languages.

\* Approximately 250 Surrey families are waitlisted for early French Immersion each year; entry is by lottery system. Core French equalizes access to French as a second language education across grades 5 – 8.

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