

# Certification Inspection Report

## BRITISH COLUMBIA PROGRAM

at

MAPLE LEAF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - DALIAN

DALIAN, LIAONING PROVINCE

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

NOVEMBER 23 – 25, 2020

## INTRODUCTION

On November 23–25, 2020, an online certification inspection was completed on Maple Leaf International School – Dalian (MLIS-D) in Dalian, Liaoning Province, People's Republic of China, referred to as the School in this report. The purpose of this online inspection was to determine whether the requirements for the British Columbia (BC) education program have been met, according to the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement*. The inspection team (the Team), appointed by the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education, British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE) in accordance with the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* (the Agreement), consisted of Harry Moes and Terence Sullivan who also served as Chair.

The School's BC program has an enrolment of 785 students, which includes 1 student in grade 10, 374 students in grade 11 and 410 students in grade 12. The BC program is housed on a larger campus which also includes a pre-school pre-kindergarten program which has 106 students, a kindergarten to grade 6 program with 151 students and a grades 7 to 9 program with 748 students. The BC program is housed in two buildings that contain the BC program and one grade ten class of the new Maple Leaf World Program which contains 479 students. The entire campus, which houses the BC program, enrolls 2269 students.

During their visit to the School, the Team reviewed all standards required in the *BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement* and *Operating Manual* and met with the School's, Offshore School Representative (OSR), BC Principal and vice principals, BC teachers and BC students.

Maple Leaf International School – Dalian is part of the Maple Leaf System. The Owner/Operator, China Maple Leaf Educational System Ltd. (CMLES), is responsible for the BC program. Maple Leaf High Schools (grades 10-12) will leave the BC program in 2 years. Maple



Leaf presently has eleven high schools in China, three foreign nationals schools in China, 57 pre-kindergarten elementary and middle schools in China, three high schools in Canada, one on the campus of Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops and one on the campus of Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Richmond and one in Ontario. Maple Leaf also has opened schools in Australia, Singapore and Malaysia.

CMLES provides an international education that emphasizes academic excellence within a supportive community that respects and promotes cultural norms and traditions for both Chinese and international students. CMLES schools promote appreciation for the diversity of people and cultures, provide an optimal environment for learning and teaching, and offer a globally respected curriculum that inspires in its students the spirit and ideals of global citizenship.

The Team would like to thank Maple Leaf International School - Dalian for its hospitality, cooperation and preparedness for the inspection visit.

<b>The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
<p><b>Comment:</b>            The Team reviewed in detail all 64 files of teachers employed by the School. All teachers have a Certificate of Qualification from the Teacher Certification Branch or a Letter of Exemption from the Independent Schools and International Education Branch. The School has fulfilled the requirement from the previous inspection.</p> <p>Also, the School has responded fully to the suggestions contained in the previous report. All teaching positions have been filled for this school year. In addition, the School has completed an internal upgrade of its Wi-Fi system which includes updates to the Wi-Fi access points, the addition of different internal networks for teachers and students and the purchase of new equipment that allowed bandwidth to be increased to 700 megabytes.</p>			
<p><b>Commendation:</b>            The School is to be commended for its thorough response to the requirement and suggestions from the previous inspection report.</p>			



## BUSINESS PLAN 1.0

<b>The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>China Maple Leaf Educational System Ltd. will phase out the BC Offshore Program at Maple Leaf International School - Dalian over the next two years. The present grade 10 class is enrolled in the Maple Leaf World School Program. The School has ceased any further recruitment initiatives to enroll students in the BC program. The School will fulfill its commitment for graduation to those students in grades 11 and 12 who are enrolled in the BC program.</p>		

## INSPECTION CATALOGUE 2.0

<b>2.02 The Owner/Operator meets all requirements as set forth in the BC Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (the Agreement).</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>China Maple Leaf Educational System Ltd. is presently in negotiations with the British Columbia Ministry of Education to finalize the BC Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement for Maple Leaf Schools. Those negotiations are nearing completion.</p>		

<b>2.03 The Owner/Operator has written approval from the appropriate government entity to operate the offshore school, as outlined in section 5.03 of the Agreement.</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requirement Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Partially Met	<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement Not Met
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The Team viewed a document titled "Approval of the Curriculum by the Education Committee of Liaoning Province" dated August 2, 1999 with no expiry date, a document titled "Permit of the People's Republic of China for Chinese Foreign Cooperation in Running a School" dated April 29, 2016 with no expiry date and a "Certificate of Registration for Private Non-commercial Enterprises" dated April 11, 2019 valid to April 28, 2021. All documentation was provided in both Mandarin and English.</p> <p>The School has the government approvals to operate the School.</p>		



**2.04-2.05 The School meets local building, safety and cafeteria codes and regulations. The facilities are deemed to be suitable to support the BC program.**

Requirement Met                       Requirement Partially Met                       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team viewed several Fire Acceptance Documents for buildings on campus dated in December 2009 and December 2010. The documentation applies to teaching buildings, student dormitories and teacher accommodation. There was no expiry date on the documentation and all documents were in English and Mandarin.

The Team also examined a document titled “Food Production License” dated June 20, 2016 and valid until June 19, 2021. Also examined was a document titled “Food Business License” dated May 29, 2019 and valid until April 15, 2023. Both documents were provided in English and Mandarin.

China Maple Leaf Education System Ltd. has provided a letter dated July 12, 2018 to all Maple Leaf schools which allows for the continued education of students if a school has to be closed on a temporary or permanent basis.

The School meets the requirements for local building safety and cafeteria approvals.

**2.06 Offshore School Representative (OSR) - The Owner/Operator must appoint an individual to act as offshore school representative. This individual must be confirmed by the province and must meet all of the requirements set out in section 14 of the Agreement.**

Requirement Met                       Requirement Partially Met                       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

China Maple Leaf Educational System Ltd. has appointed Mr. Jim Beeke as the Offshore School Representative for Maple Leaf Schools. By arrangement with the BC Ministry of Education Mr. Beeke has been permitted to delegate some of his OSR responsibilities to the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent of the Maple Leaf System. The Team was pleased that Ms. Jacalyn Kersey, Deputy Superintendent of the Maple Leaf System, was able to attend and assist the Team throughout the inspection.

**Commendation:**

The Team commends the Deputy Superintendent of the Maple Leaf System for her assistance and support throughout the inspection process.



**2.07 The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.07 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Principal has extensive administrative and teaching experience in the Maple Leaf System. He has served as a head teacher, vice principal, and principal. He holds his Certificate of Qualification from the British Columbia Teacher Certification Branch, a B.A, and Bachelor of Business Administration from Simon Fraser University and a Master's in Education Degree from the University of British Columbia. He is presently completing his Certificate of Advanced Educational Leadership through Harvard University.

The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.06 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

**Commendation:**

The Principal is to be commended for his leadership and personal commitment to the students and staff at Maple Leaf International School – Dalian throughout the challenges presented by the pandemic.

**2.08 The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 2.08 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The School has 2 FTE vice principals, 2 educational coordinators, 2 academic advisors, 13 department heads, 1 foreign affairs secretary, 1 office manager, and 3 secretaries. The School also receives support from the central office of Maple Leaf systems.

The School meets the administrative support requirements outlined in section 2.08 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.



**2.09 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 2.09 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team reviewed 10 files selected at random from grade 11, and 10 files selected at random from grade 12. All files selected were thoroughly reviewed and contained the student and parent consent forms which have been updated for the 2020/21 school year. The files also met all the requirements outlined in section 2.09 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

**Commendation:**

The clerical staff at the School are to be commended for the comprehensive and well-organized teacher and student files which greatly facilitated the work of the inspection.

**2.10-2.18 The School meets the teacher certification requirements as outlined in sections 2.10-2.18 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team reviewed each of the 64 files of the BC professional staff employed by the school. All files contained a Certificate of Qualification from the Teacher Certification Branch or a Letter of Exemption from the Independent Schools and International Education Branch. The Team confirms each file contain all items outlined in the Inspection catalogue.

**The Team confirms that all authorized persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the Ministry of Education.**

The School employs 11 locally certified teachers who are authorized to instruct BC credit courses (with exemption for local certification). The courses include Mandarin, Chinese Language and Culture and Chinese Social Studies. All evidence of certification was provided in both English and Chinese. Proof of criminal records checks was also provided for all locally certified teachers.



**2.19 The School meets the requirements for curriculum implementation outlined in section 2.19 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team reviewed curriculum planning documents, which showed evidence of a full transition to the new redesigned BC curriculum in grades 11, and 12. The School's collaborative curriculum writing teams and individual teachers worked diligently to plan for the inspection by preparing all curricular documentation and being available for interviews.

Weekly staff meetings and monthly Professional development sessions are scheduled. The School continues to prioritize the ongoing development of the new curriculum, English language learners program implementation and integration, communication and thinking competencies, First Peoples Principles of Learning, scaffolding inquiry, and authentic assessment.

In response to COVID-19 pandemic program delivery challenges, the School staff completed 20 hours of professional development on the Canvas Learning Management System. For teachers or students who are not able to be in the physical classroom, Canvas allows for video conferencing, creation and viewing of video lessons, online chat forums for the course, discussion boards, and emails between teachers and students. For both remote learners and in-class blended learning, the ability to upload content allows for students to review material at their own pace and in their own time. The Canvas calendar keeps students aware of due dates and upcoming assessments.

**Commendation:**

The Owner/Operator is commended for the ongoing empathetic and caring support to the School and individual teachers during stressful times of campus attendance and travel COVID-19 restrictions and uncertainty.

The School is commended for its encouraging assistance during the challenging COVID-19 shifting landscape in providing (a) additional competent staffing classroom supervision support; and (b) excellent school-and-home learning platforms (Canvas).

The Staff is commended for their adaptive expertise when rebuilding their courses and modules in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which allowed for a proactive transition to remote and blended learning program delivery.



**2.20 The School meets the requirements for English language assessment and acquisition as outlined in section 2.20 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team confirms that English language assessment and acquisition meets the requirements.

Under a new policy initiated by CMLES, the management of the student admissions process is now jointly administered by the BC Principal and headmaster. They are responsible for managing and making final decisions on student admission and assessment of English language skills, ensuring that students meet or exceed the learning outcomes identified in the Education Program Guide (section 9.09 (a)) of the Agreement.

The School has established a graduated system for entry into the BC program. Depending on student English proficiency, students will be placed in a foundations, bridging or full BC program. Advancement from foundations to bridging or from bridging to the full BC program occurs upon successful completion of the BC entrance examination.

ELL focussed topics within joint staff meetings provide opportunities for collaborative dialogue between Chinese (host school) and the BC program ELL teaching staff.

Students are supported in their English language learning in the deliberate scheduling of English courses each semester.

Teachers receive ongoing professional development in strategies for ELL support.

**Commendation:**

The School is commended for its purposeful Success Room Department. This department, supported by Educational Program Coordinators, administration and teachers, anchors all programs delivery, supporting teacher and student learning, social and emotional needs, and ensures quality programming and progress monitoring occurs continuously and consistently.





**2.21(a-e) The School meets the course credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions and BAA courses) as outlined in section 2.21 (a-e) of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team confirms that the School meets the course credit requirements for equivalency, exempted and BAA courses.

Currently the School offers the following courses exempted from requiring BC certified teachers: Mandarin Chinese 11, 12; Music 10, 11, 12. Letters stating exemption are on file and curriculum planning documents in English were reviewed by the Team.

The School continues to offer Board Authority Authorized (BAA) Course offerings in the following areas -- Chinese Language Culture 11 and 12; Chinese Social Studies 11 (Geography and History); Chinese Social Studies 12 (Humanities); Psychology 12 and Teacher Assistant 11 and 12.

The School rarely offers the opportunity for students to challenge courses.

**2.21(f-g) The School meets the course overview/course planning requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I, 2. (e) of the Agreement; namely, that all BC program courses offered in the School meet or exceed the ministry learning outcomes/learning standards identified in the educational program guides for each course.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The Team confirms that curriculum planning documentation is in compliance with the new curriculum frameworks for grades 10-12.

The School's digital curriculum planning documentation was utilized during the inspection. Curriculum planning documentation and ongoing teacher professional development and support was reviewed during teacher video conferences.

It was very evident that the teachers continue to prioritize curriculum development. The Team observed clear evidence of the ongoing shift from teacher-centered learning to inquiry-based, collaborative, and core competency-based learning and assessment.

The School is commended for consistently demonstrating the (a) integration of the - Big Ideas, Learning Standards, Curricular Competencies, Core Competencies, and (b) ensuring



that Assessment (Self-Assessment & Classroom Assessment) supports student learning in each course.

A review of teacher documentation revealed that teachers continue to update their course overviews and unit plans to incorporate and manage ongoing curricular development. The curriculum planning documentation gave evidence of being current and “alive.”

Students, when interviewed, competently reflected on the School’s offerings, their academic and social growth, and expressed appreciation for the positive school culture.

Commendation:

The School is commended for the intentional Graduation Program (grades 11, 12) curriculum planning documentation.

**2.22 The School meets the instructional time allotment requirements as outlined in section 4.5 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools, including the requirements set out in sections 1.1 to 6, with the exception of s. 4(5)(b), 4 (6), 5 (8)(a) and (d) and s. 5.3 of Ministerial Order 41/91, the Educational Standards Order, enacted under the Independent School Act.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The Team confirms that the School meets the requirement for instructional time allotments. Student instructional time totals 1035 hours per year, which exceeds the minimum requirements for grades 11 and 12.

The School has a tradition of staff sponsoring and participating in the School’s House League extensive intramural and extracurricular athletic, academic and social enrichment programs.

**2.23 The School meets the assessment methods requirements as outlined in section 2.23 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

Comment:

The matter of using student performance data to inform and support future strategic planning for continuous school improvement and enhanced student learning was reviewed during the inspection.



Teachers prioritize the ongoing analysis of formative and summative assessment results and adjust their instruction and evaluation accordingly.

Teacher interviews revealed that the School employs assessment strategies that are (1) consistent with the school philosophy of educating the whole child; (2) allow students to demonstrate that the curriculum learning outcomes in curriculum can be met, at any stage and time; and (3) are consistent with the general expectations and standards of the course curricular competencies.

Assessment methods and tasks include, but are not limited to, observation, student self-reflection, student peer assessment, rating scales, adapted rubrics, oral and written reports and the assembling and presenting of portfolios. Best practice dictates that the assessment methods are varied and used as much as possible in conjunction with the BC Performance Standards

The required Literacy and Numeracy Assessment was reviewed.

#### **2.24 The School meets the learning resources requirements as outlined in section 2.24 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

Requirement  
Met

Requirement  
Partially Met

Requirement  
Not Met

##### Comment:

The Team confirms that the School meets the expectations for learning resources as outlined in section 4.7 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

The School integrates technology in all aspects of program delivery. Classrooms use projected display/internet connection that allows for the use of teacher created and/or purchased electronic curriculum support material as well as remote teacher program delivery. The school network was upgraded to include separate networks for teachers and students which has greatly improved access.

Students have access to five computer labs with a total of 50 computers. Students have their own laptops and e-readers for instructional purposes and the school has a protocol for adapting them for secured use when students write provincial assessments.

The School has sufficient print resources to support student learning for its current enrollment and courses offered. The library recently acquired Sora/Overdrive which houses a collection of electronic and fiction and non-fiction books. For online research the students have access to Proquest e-Library, a database containing e-books, magazine articles, reference resources and links to other websites.



The library provides tutorials on how to use Proquest and Galaxy (online catalogue), avoid plagiarism, take proper citations and manage note-taking skills.

Maple Leaf vocabulary books teach the GWL and AWL word families. The School teachers are trained in the San Diego Quick Assessment tool for English proficiency. Test results are utilized in assisting students in making appropriate reading selections and for targeted intervention with students identified as needing support.

**2.25 The School meets the student progress report requirements as outlined in section 2.25 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

Parents receive progress reports by Chinese Counselors at grade meetings, and through direct access into PowerSchool. The PowerSchool student and parent portal offers families real time access to daily attendance records and marks related data.

The School reports to parents six times a year. Following semester 1/term 1 and semester 2/term 3 parents are invited to meet with teachers to discuss student progress and strategies to support their child's learning. Meetings are also scheduled during reporting periods with parents to discuss students that fail to demonstrate satisfactory work.

**2.26 The School meets the parent/student handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.26 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

Requirement Met

Requirement Partially Met

Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The parent/student handbook is produced centrally for all Maple Leaf Schools by Maple Leaf Systems. The handbook is published in English and Mandarin. The handbook has been updated as required. The handbook contains policies on Appeals and Dispute Resolution, Students Assessments, Academic Requirements, Student Conduct and parental appeals. Policies on Student Supervision are contained in the teacher handbook.



**2.27 The School meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.27 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

Requirement Met                       Requirement Partially Met                       Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**

The teacher handbook also is produced centrally by the Maple Leaf System. The handbook contains a process for resolving student parent concerns, a dispute resolution policy and policies on teacher and administrative evaluation. The handbook does contain a policy regarding provincial liability and a contract of employment between the owner operator and teachers. The statement is also included in each teacher contract.

The teacher handbook meets the requirements outlined in the inspection catalogue.

**2.28 The School meets the distributed learning requirements as outlined in section 18 of the Agreement and section 2.28 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

Requirement Met                       Requirement Partially Met                       Requirement Not Met                       Not Applicable

**Comment:**

The School presently has 74 students enrolled in distributed learning (DL) courses. The School contracts with the approved distributed learning service provider which is Global Education (<http://globaled.ca/>) and is aware of the change with respect to the process for awarding credits for courses taken through DL.

## CONCLUSION

### Commendations

**The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal, staff and Offshore School Representative of Maple Leaf International School Dalian for:**

- its thorough response to the requirement and suggestions from the previous inspection report;
- the Deputy Superintendent of the Maple Leaf System's presence, assistance and support throughout the inspection process;
- for the Principal's leadership and personal commitment to the students and staff at Maple Leaf International School – Dalian throughout the challenges presented by the pandemic.



- the work of the clerical staff and the comprehensive and well-organized teacher and student files which greatly facilitated the work of the inspection;
- the ongoing empathetic and caring support of the owner/operator for the School and individual teachers during stressful times of campus attendance and travel COVID-19 restrictions and uncertainty.
- encouraging assistance during the challenging COVID-19 shifting landscape in providing (a) additional competent staffing classroom supervision support; and (b) excellent school-and-home learning platforms (Canvas).
- the staff's adaptive expertise when rebuilding their courses and modules, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which allowed for a proactive transition to remote and blended learning program delivery.
- intentional Graduation Program (11, 12) curriculum planning documentation.
- the purposeful Success Room Department. This department, supported by Educational Program Coordinators, Academic Advisors, administration and teachers, anchors all program delivery, supporting teacher and student learning, social and emotional needs, and ensures quality programming and progress monitoring occurs continuously and consistently.

## SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

**The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education that the British Columbia education program offered at Maple Leaf International School – Dalian continues to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.**

