INTRODUCTION

On December 10-11, 2019, a virtual certification inspection was completed on Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School – Yiwu (MLFNS-Y) in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province, People’s Republic of China, referred to as the School in this report. The purpose of this 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 Mr. Shawn Chisolm and Mr. Johnny Bevacqua (Chair).

The School’s BC program has an enrolment of 108 students, in Grades 1 to 10. The School is situated on an expansive campus that also houses the Maple Leaf International School-Yiwu as well as the Maple Leaf Chinese elementary and middle school. The entire campus enrols approximately 1300 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 Owner/Operator’s assistant superintendent, the principal of the Chinese school, BC Principal, ESL teachers and BC teachers.

The Owner/Operator, China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Ltd. (CMLES), is responsible for the BC program at the Maple Leaf foreign nationals school, the international school and the Chinese elementary and middle school.
The BC program’s philosophy, objectives and special features include:

- Blending the best of the innovations and higher-level thinking model with the cultural richness and discipline of the traditional Chinese educational model, preparing students to meet the challenges of living and working in a more internationalized society.
- Assuming that every child has a strong desire to learn and to develop an understanding of the world, to share their knowledge, and to communicate their understanding, thoughts, and feelings through wide-ranging personal expression.
- Providing 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.
- Promoting appreciation for the diversity of people and cultures, by providing an optimal environment for learning and teaching, and offering a globally respected curriculum that inspires in students the spirit and ideals of global citizenship.

The Team would like to thank Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School - Yiwu for its cooperation and preparedness for the inspection.

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<th>The School has satisfactorily addressed requirements contained in the previous inspection report.</th>
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Comment:
There were no requirements in the previous report.

**BUSINESS PLAN 1.0**

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<th>The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education, confirming the sustainability of the program.</th>
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Comment:
The Team reviewed and discussed the various aspects of the business plan pertaining to enrolment, human resources, marketing and advertising and confirms an appropriate sustainability plan. The Owner/Operator has put in place school policies and procedures that are consistent with the terms and conditions outlined in the Certification Agreement.
## INSPECTION CATALOGUE 2.0

### 2.02 The Owner/Operator meets all requirements as set forth in the BC Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (the Agreement).

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**Comment:**
During the inspection, provincial educational standards, requirements and expectations were reviewed. The Team could not confirm that the School was in compliance of the current Certification Agreement which permits the School to operate a Kindergarten to Grade 9 program.

The Team confirmed that the Owner/Operator failed to notify the BC Ministry of Education of its desire to add Grade 10 to its course offerings prior to certification for the 2019/20 school year.

**Requirement:**
The Owner/Operator is required to contact the BC Ministry of Education as soon as possible and seek formal approval to amend the Certification Agreement to extend grade level offerings up to Gr. 10 for this current school year (2019-20) and for Gr. 11 and 12 to be added in the subsequent two school years.

### 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.

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**Comment:**
The Team reviewed a certificate of approval from the local education bureau signed in March 2019 which gives the School permission to operate. The certificate of approval has an expiry date of December 31, 2021.
2.04 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 Not Met |

Comment:
The School meets local building, safety, and cafeteria codes and regulations and has appropriate safety and evacuation plans in place. The Team reviewed documents regarding safety, earthquake and fire drills. The Team reviewed translated documents that indicated the School is in compliance with the local codes and regulations required to support the BC program.

2.05 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 Not Met |

Comment:
The Team reviewed the 2014 OSR agreement between the Ministry of Education and the Owner/Operator. Based on this Agreement the Team confirmed that all the requirements related to the OSR in the Agreement are in compliance.

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

| ☒ Requirement Met | ☐ Requirement Not Met |

Comment:
The Principal is serving in their first year at the School and has 12 years’ experience working for the Owner/Operator at various other schools, including time as a vice principal.

Commendation:
The Owner/Operator is commended for creating systems and opportunities to mentor and grow leadership capacity with its organisation.
2.07 The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 2.07 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:
The School meets the requirements in section 3.4 of the inspection catalogue.

2.08 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 2.08 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

☐ Requirement Met ☒ Requirement Not Met

Comment:
Student record files include a registration form, results of the English language entrance assessment, copies of student report cards and the BC Ministry of Education’s personal information consent form.

Upon reviewing Permanent Student Records (1704) the Team confirmed that the records have not been kept up to date as required. Files are locked and housed in fireproof cabinets.

Requirement:
The School is required to update all Permanent Student Records (1704) as required.

2.09-2.14 The School meets the teacher certification requirements as outlined in sections 2.09-2.14 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

☒ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

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

The Team confirmed that six teachers are on an approved letter of exemption, which expires in January 2020, and are being supported to complete their application.

All locally certified teachers have valid certification. Staff files are appropriately maintained and contained required documents.
2.17 The School meets the requirements for curriculum implementation outlined in section 2.17 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

☐ Requirement Met  ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:
The Team reviewed the course/subject offerings and curriculum planning documents for Grades 1 - 10 and confirmed the School meets the requirements for curriculum implementation.

2.18 The School meets the requirements for English language assessment and acquisition as outlined in section 2.18 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

☐ Requirement Met  ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:
The Principal is solely responsible for student admission decisions and administers the English language assessments used to determine if prospective students’ English proficiency is sufficient to secure enrolment at the School.

The School employs ESL specialists that assist classroom teachers to assess English proficiency and provide targeted intervention for language acquisition support.

The classroom teachers also receive ESL training through system and school sponsored professional development and planning resources that incorporate ESL instructional practices.

2.19(a-e) The School meets the course credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions and BAA courses) as outlined in section 2.19 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

☐ Requirement Met  ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:
The School is providing an education program to Grade 10 students this school year and the Team confirmed the School meets the course credit requirements for challenge, equivalency, and exempted courses. The School does not presently offer any BAA courses.
2.19(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.

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Comment:
As most of the teaching staff come from jurisdictions other than BC, system and school level assistance is provided to support teachers with the implementation of the BC curriculum. The Team reviewed course overview documents and noted the School staff primarily use CMLES-created templates for course planning. These plans comply with BC’s new curriculum framework. The Team also observed some personalized teacher planning in unit and day plans.

School staff expressed their appreciation for the course planning support provided by the CMLES, the School Principal, and for the regularly scheduled staff collaboration opportunities.

Commendation:
The School leadership is commended for the collaborative environment created to support teachers with course planning which complies with Ministry requirements.

2.20 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.

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Comment:
The Team reviewed the School’s calendar and schedule and confirm the School provides over 1,000 hours of instructional time, exceeding the Ministry requirements for Grade 1 to 10.
## 2.21 The School meets the assessment methods requirements as outlined in section 2.21 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

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Comment:
The Team confirms that a variety of assessment strategies are utilized by the School, with a greater focus on formative assessment to provide timely learning support for English language acquisition.

The Team reviewed the School’s Foundation Skills Assessment results and found evidence that summative assessments of student learning are used to inform instruction and target student support.

Student self-assessment instruments were observed from other curricular areas, but the School was unable to provide evidence of core competency self-assessments.

## 2.22 The School meets the learning resources requirements as outlined in section 2.22 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

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Comment:
The Team confirms the School meets the learning resource requirements as outlined in section 2.22 for the offshore inspection catalogue.

School staff expressed their appreciation for the improving access to print and online learning resources. The School Principal approves and procures the appropriate resources for the teaching staff.

More consistent and dependable Wi-Fi access for staff and students was identified as an area that would improve instructional resource access.

## 2.23 The School meets the student progress report requirements as outlined in section 2.23 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

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Comment:
The Team confirms the School provides four formal reports, two informal interim reports and two formal parent/teacher meetings. The School staff also share student learning updates
with parents informally through teacher or parent-initiated meetings and through electronic communication and via the parent portal of the School’s information management system. The Team confirms the School provides descriptive written comments that reference the grade appropriate curriculum standards in Grades K – 9, with the addition of letter grades in Grades 4 – 10.

The School could not provide evidence that student self-assessment of the core competencies are included in a summative report to parents.

**Requirement:**
The School must include student self-assessment of the core competencies to a written summative report to parents to comply with the Ministerial, “Student Progress Report Order”.

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**2.24 The School meets the parent/student handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.24 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

☑ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**
The Team confirms that the School has a comprehensive and current parent/student handbook which contains required policies related to appeals and dispute resolution, student assessment, admissions, student discipline, and student supervision.

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**2.25 The School meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.25 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.**

☑ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

**Comment:**
The comprehensive teacher handbook is updated yearly and details the School’s vision/mission/shared values; student matters; student safety; professional conduct; performance management; school budgeting; hours of work; employee benefits; conditions of employment; and communications.
2.26 The School meets the distributed learning requirements as outlined in section 18 of the Agreement and section 2.26 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

☐ Requirement Met  ☐ Requirement Not Met  ☒ Not Applicable

Comment:
The School does not have distributed learning courses.

CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Team wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal and staff of Maple Leaf International School – Yiwu for:

- Creating systems and opportunities to mentor and grow leadership capacity within its organisation.
- Creating a climate that takes advantage of its cultural diversity as a school, weaving it in daily academic life and identity of the School
- The collaborative environment created to support teachers with course planning which complies with Ministry requirements.

Requirements

In order to meet the requirements of the B.C. Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement, the Team requires that by March 17, 2020, the Owner/Operator provide the Director of International Education, responsible for B.C. Global Education Program - Offshore Schools, with a plan and timeline for proposed implementation of the following items:

- The School is required to confirm approval with the BC Ministry of Education to extend grade level offerings beyond Gr 9; inclusive of Gr. 10 for this current school year (2019-20) and for Gr. 11 and 12 in the subsequent two school years.
- The School must include student self-assessment of the core competencies to a written summative report to parents to comply with the Ministerial, “Student Progress Report Order”.
- The School is required to update all Permanent Student Records (1704) as required.
SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Team recommends to the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education that, contingent on responding to the above requirements to the satisfaction of the Executive Director, the British Columbia education program offered at Maple Leaf Foreign Nationals School-Yiwu continues to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.