

**LEARNING =**



**... THINKING + ACTING + CONTRIBUTING**





## LITERACY PLAN – JUNE 2012

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### I - INTRODUCTION

School boards in British Columbia are required by law to prepare and submit a literacy plan to the Ministry of Education. As the literacy plan is updated annually, for this fifth plan, we have attempted for the first time to join together CSF and community initiatives promoting literacy in French for learners of all ages. We believe that this literacy plan illustrates our partnership and effective collaboration that enriches our work.

### II - DEFINITION OF LITERACY

Traditionally, literacy was considered as a basic skill combining reading and writing. This definition has evolved over time, and now reflects the life skills required to attain personal objectives that allow people of all ages to function and even thrive in family, social, economic and community life, through activities and events that foster the development of literacy in the areas of health, well-being, the arts, personal growth, budget planning, employment, post-secondary education, and justice.

### III - COMMUNITY CONTEXT

According to the 2006 census, the Franco-British Columbian community included 70,410 people with French as their official mother tongue. Since its creation, the CSF is known to have been an active partner in the development of the Francophone community in British Columbia. The CSF is a provincial school board with 4,600 students enrolled in its 36 public schools from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Its schools serve more than one hundred communities throughout British Columbia, which is highlighted in the CSF's strategic plan.



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At the meeting about the literacy plan that took place on June 20, it was interesting to note that several provincial Francophone organizations shared the fact that their clientele also included Francophiles, whereas by law, the CSF is required to ensure that their clients are of Francophone origin. Under these conditions, the CSF's student population experienced a 4% growth rate at the start of the 2011 school year.

In addition, it should be pointed out that the CSF has a very multicultural makeup, reflecting the international Francophonie of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with students from some sixty different ethnic groups. Through their presence and their actions, these groups contribute to the cultural and economic vitality of the community, and the long-term survival of the French language in British Columbia.

### IV - LITERACY INITIATIVES

#### 1. FAMILY LITERACY

Early childhood services are recognized as making a difference with our students, not only with regard to social development, but also language development, taking into consideration the Francophone minority context of British Columbia.

As mentioned in the CSF's achievement contract, we believe that the three areas of focus proposed in the strategic plan, all student-centred, will enable all CSF students to develop a culture of independent learning from an early age, while being aware of their role in today's society, and that of tomorrow.



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### StrongStart CENTRES

*CSF and FPFCB*

**Target group (age category):** Children 0 to 5 years of age, and their parents

**Description of initiative:** The mission of this Ministry of Education initiative is to welcome, free of charge, Francophone children 0 to 5 years of age who are accompanied by an adult (parent or other person responsible for the child), and to invite them to participate on site in a variety of French-language activities.

StrongStart Centres are provided in the following schools: École des Pionniers de Maillardville, École Anne-Hébert, École Franco-nord, École des Sentiers-alpins, École du Bois-joli, and École Entre-lacs.

**Achievement indicators:** Number of children enrolled, number of families attending the centres on a regular basis, and client satisfaction.

### BRINDAMI TRAINING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS (ECEs)

*Fédération des parents francophones de la C.-B. (FPFCB) [Federation of Francophone Parents of B.C.]*

**Target group (age category):** Early Childhood Educators working in the CSF's early learning centres, for children 0 to 5 years of age.

**Description of initiative:** "Brindami" is a social and self-control skills development program. The training session will be offered twice: on October 20, and on January 19, 2013

**Achievement indicators:** Satisfaction survey of ECEs after they have received the training.

### READY, SET, LEARN

*CSF*

**Target group (age category):** 3- and 4-year-old children and their parents

**Description of initiative:** The Ready, Set, Learn projects enable 3- and 4-year-old children to take part in play-based activities to better prepare them for Kindergarten entry. These activities are organized in the schools in partnership with the community.

**Achievement indicators:** The goal is for all CSF elementary schools to organize 2 events per year.



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### Immigrant Family Settlement Workers in Schools (TÉFIÉ)

CSF

## Services TÉFIÉ

Immigrer dans un nouveau pays, fréquenter une nouvelle école, se familiariser avec une culture différente de la sienne, c'est un grand défi mais aussi une belle aventure !

Pour faciliter cette adaptation et aider les élèves et leurs familles à s'intégrer rapidement et de façon durable au sein de l'école et de la communauté, nous proposons différents services, gratuits et en français.



A	..... pour	<b>Accompagner</b>	<b>A</b> ■ Accueillir et orienter les nouvelles familles immigrantes ■ Les initier à la vie scolaire de leurs enfants, en milieu francophone
G	..... pour	<b>Guider</b>	<b>G</b> ■ Donner des conseils pratiques sur la vie de l'école et de la communauté ■ Appuyer les familles pour faciliter l'intégration de leurs enfants dans un système scolaire francophone minoritaire
I	..... pour	<b>Inform</b>	<b>I</b> ■ Diriger les familles vers les services scolaires et communautaires, en fonction de leurs besoins
R	..... pour	<b>Renforcer</b>	<b>R</b> ■ Servir de lien entre les intervenants scolaires, l'élève et la famille ■ Valoriser les élèves en facilitant leur intégration culturelle, leur réussite scolaire, identitaire et sociale et leur bien-être en général ■ Organiser des ateliers, des rencontres, des sorties pour développer les liens entre les familles et la communauté francophone

*Le multiculturalisme au sein du Conseil scolaire francophone est tout à fait remarquable. En effet, le CSF est considéré comme étant l'un des plus culturellement diversifiés au Canada français. Le CSF dessert une population hétérogène qui provient de plus de 70 pays et qui, au total, parle quelque 60 langues.*

[Following is the English translation of the text in the above graphic:]

TÉFIÉ SERVICES [Immigrant Family Settlement Workers in Schools]

Immigrating to a new country, attending a new school, becoming accustomed to a different culture from your own — it's a big challenge, but also a wonderful adventure!

In order to facilitate this adaptation, and to help students and their families integrate quickly and well into the school and the community, we are offering various services, free of charge and in French.



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AGIR —<sup>1</sup>

A – for Accompany

G – for Guide

I – for Inform

R – for Reinforce

A – Welcome new immigrant families, and provide them with an orientation  
Initiate them to their children’s school life, in a Francophone environment

G – Give practical advice about the life of the school and the community  
Support families in order to integrate their children’s integration into a minority  
Francophone school system

I – Refer families to school and community services, according to their needs

R – Serve as liaison between school workers, the student, and the family  
Make the students feel valued by facilitating their cultural integration; their school,  
identity and social success; and their general well-being  
Organize workshops, meetings and field trips to develop connections between the families  
and the Francophone community

The Conseil scolaire francophone is amazingly multicultural. In fact, the CSF is considered to be one of the most culturally diverse school boards in French Canada. It serves a heterogeneous population originating from more than 70 countries and speaking some 60 languages.

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<sup>1</sup> Translator’s note: This acronym stands for ACT.



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### FAMILY LITERACY: KEY FOR THE INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANT WOMEN IN B.C.

*Éducentre College*

**Target group (age category):** Immigrant women in B.C., and children from 0 to 6 years of age, social workers providing services to Francophone immigrant clients.

**Description of initiative:** Research and analysis (April 2011 – January 2013):

- ✓ Conduct a requirements study to identify the specific realities and needs of immigrant women, as well as the most appropriate programs and tools for their situations.
- ✓ In the literature review, identify best practices for family literacy with immigrant women;
- ✓ Publish a report on the first stage of the research project;
- ✓ Present the results of the first stage of the research project to the members of the *Réseau d'experts en alphabétisation familial* [Network of experts in family literacy], the Board of Directors of Éducentre College, and other project partners;

Publish a requirements study report, outlining the research results, on the following sites: Éducentre College, National Adult Literacy Database [NALD], and the Centre de documentation sur l'éducation des adultes et la condition féminine (CDEACF) [Documentation centre on adult education and the status of women]; and undertake the next stages of the project in order to achieve the expected outcomes by January 2013.

**Achievement indicators:** Communities made up of adults from Francophone families (living in a minority environment) whose level of essential skills allows them to develop deeply rooted habits of reading and writing in French in their daily lives, so that they can thrive in their family life, and contribute to the vitality of their community and the Francophone community.



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### 2. SCHOOL LITERACY

We have chosen to limit ourselves to the CSF's most recent initiative since all programs in our schools provide fundamental support for literacy. Furthermore, the CSF believes that its schools keep abreast of changes in education.

#### EARLY YEARS EVALUATION – TEACHER ASSESSMENT (EYE-TA)

CSF

**Target group (age category):** Kindergarten students and teachers in the CSF

**Description of initiative:** This individualized teaching initiative makes it possible to assess students as early as Kindergarten, and to expose them to stimulating activities in order to support their school success.

**Achievement indicators:** Successful training of Kindergarten teachers, since 2012-2013 is the implementation year

#### B.C. FRANCOPHONE GAMES

*Francophone Youth Council of B.C. (CJFCB)*

**Target group (age category):** Youth 13 to 18 years of age

**Description of initiative:** 2013 will mark 21 years that the Francophone Youth Council of B.C. (CJFCB) has been organizing the largest gathering of Francophone and Francophile young people in the province: the B.C. Francophone Games.

This activity provides an opportunity for French-speaking youth in the province, mainly from Francophone schools and French Immersion programs, to participate in a weekend of sports, artistic, and leadership competitions and training sessions. The objective is to emphasize cultural, artistic, sports, and linguistic sharing by French-speaking youth through high quality programs centred on education and free expression. In addition to youth education, the key outcomes include concrete achievements (visual arts, media leadership), performance awards (sports and theatre arts), greater connections between youth from the different regions of the province, the involvement and consequently the outreach of the host community, the mobilization and commitment of young leaders to the youth cause (leadership), thus ensuring continuity.

The B.C. Francophone Games take place in May.

They also provide an opportunity for young people to participate in the Annual General Meeting of the Youth Council. They must demonstrate their involvement and make their voice heard in the organization that serves as their representative in the community. The concept of



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“by and for youth” is illustrated by a system of governance that coincides with the realities of young people, and includes the presence of minors (representatives 14 to 18 years of age) on the Board of Directors.

**Achievement indicators:** Number of participants and their satisfaction level, number of trainers and volunteers. Number of components offered. Number of partners involved. Quality of the workshops and activities offered. Concrete deliverables for each component. Number of new sports. Number of nominations at the AGM. Participation rate in the AGM.

### LIGUE D’IMPROVISATION FRANCO-COLOMBIENNE [FRANCO-BRITISH COLUMBIAN IMPROVISATION LEAGUE]

*Francophone Youth Council of B.C. (CJFCB)*

**Target group (age category):** Youth 14 to 18 years old

**Description of initiative:** The 2012-2013 season of the Ligue d’Improvisation franco-colombienne (LIFC) [Franco-British Columbian improvisation league] will feature the creation, training, coaching, and formation of 5 youth improvisation teams (1 to 6 players per school) made up of young CSF Francophones aged 14 to 18 years.

Firstly, thanks to a training camp and professional training sessions provided by the Théâtre de la Ligue nationale d’improvisation [national improvisation league theatre company], in October and November, the players, trainers and judges, representing the various regions of the province, will perfect their knowledge and skills in theatre arts and their French-language proficiency, with a view to developing their potential as orators.

These training sessions will enable the teams to meet subsequently on a weekly basis in their schools. By coordinating these practices and providing tools, the LIFC will thus provide an opportunity for communities to regularly offer cultural extracurricular activities in their own environment, and therefore to offer more dynamic services for local youth. Gathered on the occasion of a provincial tournament in February, the 37 participants (players, trainers, and judges) will compete in contests to strengthen the connections between young people. This tournament is open to the entire Francophone and Francophile community, and will welcome one hundred spectators to participate in the dissemination of Francophone cultural life in British Columbia. During the year, these teams also have the opportunity to express their art in community activities or events whose goal is to promote and disseminate the Francophone culture, and to ensure that Franco-British Columbian youth are included as an integral part of Francophone community festival programs. With regard to literacy, young people can show originality in their use of words, inject humour and spontaneity into their way of speaking, and work on expressing emotions.

**Achievement indicators:** Number and satisfaction level of the players, trainers, and the public



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(during contests). Number and quality of the workshops given, practices, and contests. Level of use of French by team members. Number of tools created to equip the players in the LIFC. Number of performances during community events.

### FRANCOPHONE YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Conseil jeunesse francophone de la C.-B. (CJFCB) [Francophone Youth Council of B.C.]*

**Target group (age category):** Youth aged 14 to 25 years

**Description of initiative:** Every year for the past 14 years, the Francophone Youth Council of British Columbia has organized a Parliamentary simulation where 80 French-speaking young people between 14 and 25 years of age take on the role of Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), Minister, and Cabinet Member for 4 days in order to debate bills. This province-wide event is very successful with Franco-British Columbian youth thanks to its training sessions, debates, and social activities. In fact, the training sessions provide participants with a better understanding of the provincial legislative system, and Parliamentary traditions and decorum. Holding debates on bills provides an opportunity for young people to ask questions and have a dialogue on subjects of interest and concern to them. It also improves their leadership skills, public speaking abilities, and critical thinking. Finally, social activities offer networking opportunities for a large number of French-speaking youth who come from all over the province. This helps to break their isolation, increase their feeling of belonging, and ensure an increase of the Francophone space in their identity construction. The Francophone Youth Parliament of B.C. takes place in January.

With regard to literacy, the Francophone Youth Parliament of British Columbia provides an opportunity for young people to improve their French-language proficiency, including both oral and written skills, for example by preparing bills, arguments, or Parliamentary procedures such as amendments.

**Achievement indicators:** Number of participants and volunteers. Satisfaction level of the participants and volunteers. Number of partners involved. Quality of training sessions and activities provided. Retention rate of young people compared to previous years.

### LE DROIT AU QUOTIDIEN [EVERYDAY LAW]

*Association des juristes d'expression française de la C.-B. (AJEFCB) [B.C. Association of French-Speaking Legal Practitioners]*

**Target group (age category):** Students in Grades 10 to 12



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**Description of initiative:** Once a year. Presentations in 5 CSF schools => Objective: to raise awareness and educate students about the law by providing a 90-minute workshop on a specific legal topic (for example, consumer law and criminal law).

**Achievement indicators:** Project evaluation at the end indicating an increase in the number of participants in the project compared to the preceding years. In addition, the quality of the projects has continually improved.



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### MOCK TRIAL

*Association des juristes d'expression française de la C.-B. (AJEFCB) [B.C. Association of French-Speaking Legal Practitioners]*

**Target group (age category):** Lawyers and other legal professionals (in particular, legal translators, notaries, and judges), the general public, and a few students from the CSF by invitation.

**Description of initiative:** Once per year => Objective: to raise awareness among the general public, and provide training in French (oral and written, with reading), and to hold a mock trial lasting one 8-hour day.

**Achievement indicators:** Project evaluation at the end indicating an increase in the number of participants in the project compared to the preceding years. In addition, the quality of the projects has continually improved.

### THÉÂTRE FORUM

*Association des juristes d'expression française de la C.-B. (AJEFCB) [B.C. Association of French-Speaking Legal Practitioners] in partnership with the CSF's Virtual School*

**Target group (age category):** Students in Grades 10 to 12

**Description of initiative:** Objective: To raise awareness among Francophone students about Canadian realities in human rights and language rights, and to present a play providing information on these rights.

**Achievement indicators:** Project evaluation at the end indicating an increase in the number of participants in the project compared to the preceding years. In addition, the quality of the projects has continually improved.



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### 3. ADULT LITERACY

This part of the literacy plan is new and is still being developed. The CSF wishes to expand the pooling of resources by provincial Francophone organizations, and to encourage them to promote literacy, thus enabling people of all ages to function and even thrive in family, social, economic, and community life through activities and events that foster the development of literacy in the areas of health, well-being, the arts, personal growth, budget planning, employment, post-secondary education, and justice.

#### THÉÂTRE FORUM

*Association des juristes d'expression française de la C.-B. (AJEFCB)*  
*[B.C. Association of French-Speaking Legal Practitioners]*

**Target group (age category):** Adult newcomers

**Description of initiative:** 3 times a year => Objective: To raise awareness among the population of Francophone newcomers about the Canadian realities in human rights and language rights, and to present a play providing information about these rights.

**Achievement indicators:** Project evaluation at the end indicating an increase in the number of participants in the project compared to the preceding years. In addition, the quality of the projects has continually increased.

#### ELDER LAW

*Association des juristes d'expression française de la C.-B. (AJEFCB)*

**Target group (age category):** Legal professionals (primarily lawyers)

**Description of initiative:** Once a year => Objective: French-speaking legal professionals who have the skills to practice in French, and who practice in fields affecting senior citizens – family law, wills, etc.) by organizing a 90-minute workshop

**Achievement indicators:** Project evaluation at the end indicating an increase in the number of participants in the project compared to the preceding years. In addition, the quality of the projects has continually increased.



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### PACIFIQUE EN CHANSON

*Conseil culturel et artistique francophone de la C.-B. (CCAFCB) [B.C. Francophone Culture and Arts Council]*

**Target group (age category):** Adults and young adults

**Description of initiative:** 4 competitors from the province, groups or singer-songwriter-composers, upgrade their skills in their art, and perform on stage in a musical competition, for which the winner will have the chance of participating in Chant'Ouest (interprovincial competition).

**Achievement indicators:** Survey (general public), evaluation sheet (participants), feedback (production, musicians).

### FRANCOPHONE SERVICES

*The Provincial Language Service*

**Target group (age category):** Francophones living in British Columbia or wishing to settle in the province

**Description of initiative:** The mission of the Provincial Language Service (PLS), a program of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), is to help organizations to provide accessible services to linguistic and cultural minorities, through interpretation, translation, consulting, and training services.

Only for Francophones, the PLS provides an information and referral service about British Columbia's medical system for the Francophones of B.C., and those wishing to settle in the province.

A Francophone professional will answer your questions about health and well-being, and will help you with the following: to find a service, family doctor or specialist; to obtain medical insurance in British Columbia (Medical Services Plan, MSP); to find [information in French](#) on a particular health problem. Services for Francophones are directly connected to health literacy.

**Achievement indicators:** Publication of an annual activity report, including a list of the initiatives undertaken, the number of people who were helped by the services, examples of translation projects, the number of patients who obtained medical interpretation services through the PLS, partnerships created, the number of newsletters published, etc.

See the 2011/2012 annual report on our website:

<http://www.phsa.ca/AgenciesAndServices/Services/Provincial-Language-Service/RessourcesFrancophones/default.htm>



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### V - Acknowledgements

Following the meeting about the literacy plan held in June 2012, the CSF would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contribution:

- ✓ The Provincial Language Service (PLS)
- ✓ Association des juristes d'expression française de C-B (AJEFCB)  
[B.C. Association of French-Speaking Legal Practitioners]
- ✓ Fédération francophone de la C.-B (FFCB) [Francophone Federation of British Columbia]
- ✓ Conseil culturel et artistique francophone (CCAFCB)  
[B.C. Francophone Culture and Arts Council]
- ✓ RésoSanté C-B
- ✓ Fédération des parents francophones de la C-B (FPFCB)
- ✓ Scouts francophones de la C.-B.
- ✓ Éducacentre College
- ✓ Société de développement économique (SDE) [Francophone Economic Development Society]
- ✓ Conseil jeunesse francophone de la C.-B (CJFCB)  
[B.C. Francophone Youth Council]

