

June 4th, 2020

Ms. Adriana LaGrange  
Alberta Minister of Education  
44 Capital Boulevard, 10044 108 St NW,  
Edmonton, AB T5J 5E6

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones (FNCSF), I wish to express my deepest gratitude for the measures your ministry has taken as part of the Protocol for Agreements for Minority-Language Education and Second-Language Instruction (OLEP).

As a result of these measures, your ministry stands apart. Indeed, it has appropriately reflected the key commitments in the strategic education agreement: consultation with French school boards in developing their respective action plans and implementing education initiatives; the importance of providing a continuum in education to support the vitality of Francophone and Acadian minority communities; and greater transparency in the use of federal funds transferred to them for French first-language education.

In particular, I would like to congratulate you on your new portal which provides complete and accurate information that is accessible to all on funding agreements for French first-language education in Alberta.

In addition, the rebalancing of amounts allocated to Alberta's French school boards as part of the OLEP is a major step in recognizing the growth of the French-language school network in the province that includes over 40 schools attended by nearly 9,000 students!

I am also hopeful that for the 2023-2028 protocol, your ministry will not dismiss the idea of increasing the contribution granted to Alberta's French school boards even more in order to meet the growing demand for French first-language education in the province.

In the opinion of the FNCSF, the next OLEP will have to reflect increases in the cost of living. These bilateral agreements in education have not seen a significant increase in 10 years. Yet they are essential for enhancing Francophone students' educational experience as they allow for the provision of support to early childhood and multilingual families, cultural activities, as well as francisation, literacy and on-line teaching support, among other things.

The FNCSF is proposing that the Government of Canada increase its investments at the next OLEP by injecting an additional 455 million dollars over four years. This increase will foster the development of Francophone communities, specifically by allowing their members to receive instruction in their own language while respecting school boards' management rights.

Please remember that you can count on the support and collaboration of our Alberta members!  
Yours sincerely,

The President of the FNCSF

Louis Arseneault

*The Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires francophones represents the 28 French and Acadian school boards in minority settings in Canada. These deliver French-language education to more than 170,000 students attending some 700 schools.*