

For immediate release

CPF Ontario applauds the release of a new guide for inclusiveness in FSL programs

Mississauga, June 19, 2015 - The Ontario Ministry of Education is to be congratulated for releasing a new document titled: [Including Students with Special Education Needs in French as a Second Language Programs: A Guide for Ontario Schools](#). This new document builds on the [Framework for French as a Second Language in Ontario Schools](#) by promoting the inclusiveness of Core French, Extended French and French Immersion programs.

The purpose of the document is to increase the participation and engagement in French as a Second Language (FSL) programs of students with special education needs. A review of the current research and provincial data builds the case and informs the guiding practice which aligns with Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy. A whole-system approach is outlined and specific strategies to support students with special needs are identified. Four case studies demonstrate applied strategies and accommodations for students in the various FSL programs.

"This is a welcomed shift toward inclusiveness in sharp contrast to the antiquated practice of counseling students out of FSL programs at the first sign of a struggle" expressed Betty Gormley, Executive Director of Canadian Parents for French (Ontario).

The new guiding document includes a chart in Appendix B, ***Bridging the gap from policy to practice***, intended to stimulate discussion and challenge the status quo in any school or school board to help move this initiative forward. "This news offers the hope, if not the promise, that parents will feel supported and empowered to find solutions within a whole-system approach, one that will support their children's needs and allow them to experience the benefits of linguistic duality" added Gormley.

About Canadian Parents for French (Ontario):

As the Ontario branch of a national network of volunteers who value French as an integral part of Canada, CPF Ontario is dedicated to creating and promoting opportunities for youth in Canada to learn and use French.

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