

For Immediate Release
May 23, 2014

Upper Grand DSB – A Leader in FSL Programs for 40 Years

Mississauga – The Upper Grand District School Board will receive an award in recognition of 40 years of French Immersion programming and a commitment to excellence in French Second Language (FSL) learning. The ceremony will take place at the Board office at 500 Victoria Street North, Guelph, at 7:00pm on May 27, 2014.

During the 70's and 80's French Immersion grew rapidly in popularity. Today there are over 164,635 students in Ontario enrolled in French Immersion and more than 31,295 in the Extended French program. It remains one of the few programs that continues to grow despite the overall decrease in general student enrollment that school boards are experiencing across the country. There is support and an increasing demand from the community for French Immersion programs and for good reasons.

A greater awareness of the cognitive, cultural and employment benefits of a FSL education has contributed to the rise in French Immersion enrolment. Graduates of this program are now parents enrolling their children in French Immersion and providing encouragement to their peers to do the same.

Throughout the last 40 years, the UGDSB has demonstrated great insight and leadership by offering this program and by allowing it to grow and flourish to the level it has. Dedicated parent volunteers and members of Canadian Parents for French have been on hand to offer support along the way, providing that necessary link between the community of parents and the family of schools.

Andree Hoogendoorn Simmons, a former French Immersion teacher with the Board, will highlight some of the Board's recent achievements and its efforts to make the French Immersion program accessible to as many students as possible.

Betty Gormley, Executive Director of Canadian Parents for French (Ontario), will invite the following representatives to accept the plaque: long-standing trustee and FSL supporter, Susan Moziar, Mr. Mark Bailey, Chair of the Board, and Ms. Martha Rogers, Director of Education.

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Canadian Parents for French (Ontario) is the Ontario branch of a national network of volunteers who value French as an integral part of Canada and who are dedicated to promoting opportunities for youth in Canada to learn French