

For immediate release

June 3, 2013

New Toronto District School Board policy founded on equity and commitment to learning French as a Second Language

Canadian Parents for French (Ontario) applauds the Toronto District School Board (TDSB)'s new French as a Second Language policy: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ppf/uploads/files/live/91/1798.pdf>. It is a document that is founded on principles of equity and a commitment to learning French as a Second Language.

It is also, to the best of our knowledge, the first 'co-constructed' policy document that the TDSB has developed since it adopted a new community engagement policy outlining types of consultation: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ppf/uploads/files/live/97/1789.pdf>. Co-construction means that parents, staff and trustees wrote the draft document together, reviewed the input gathered at a full, city-wide public consultation and finalized the draft together before it went to the board of trustees for a vote. It passed unanimously.

The parent participants were drawn from the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) which is co-chaired by a parent and a trustee and includes TDSB FSL staff as non-voting members. Parents run the committee. To view the committee's work, go to www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac.

"I hope that this new FSL policy document provides a solid foundation for growth, excellence and inclusion in the coming years. It was a great experience to be a part of its development" stated Mary Cruden, President of CPF Ontario, who sat on the FSLAC as the CPF liaison.

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Backgrounder:

The TDSB is the largest school board in Canada with approximately 260,000 students. More than half speak a language other than French or English at home. About 26% of the students were not born in Canada. There are 23,000 students in French immersion (100% SK-3) and the Extended French (50/50 program). All of these students are eligible to receive free transportation based on the same transportation policy as the regular English program students and every applicant to the programs is guaranteed a spot. More than 100,000 students are in core French (40 min/day) which is mandatory in Ontario from grades 4-9.

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) is the national network of members that values French as an integral part of Canada and is dedicated to the promotion and creation of French Second Language learning opportunities for all young Canadians.