

*For Immediate Release*  
May 23, 2014

## **Simcoe County DSB Recognized for Meeting Growing Demand for French Immersion**

**Mississauga** – The Simcoe County District School Board will receive an award in recognition of the launch of the French Immersion program and the Board’s commitment to excellence in French Second Language (FSL) learning. The ceremony will take place at the Board office at 1170 Hwy 26, Roy Edwards Room, Midhurst, at 6:00pm on May 28, 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 continue to grow despite the overall decrease in general student enrollment that school boards are experiencing across the country.

The SCDSB has responded to the increasing demand 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 enrolment. Dedicated parent volunteers and members of Canadian Parents for French are available to support parents and students in this new program.

Betty Gormley, Executive Director of Canadian Parents for French (Ontario), will invite the following representatives to accept the plaque: Mr. Peter Beacock, Chair of the Board, and Ms. Kathryn Wallace, 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*