

**FRENCH IMMERSION IN  
REVELSTOKE**  
THE QUEST CONTINUES...

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8. Parent and Public opportunity to field questions to Trustees

# CPF REVELSTOKE INTRODUCTIONS

President: Stephanie Melnyk

Vice-President: Kendra Von Bremen

Treasurer: Vanessa Morrow

Secretary: Verena Blasy

Cohort Representatives:

2013 GR1 Representative: Stephanie Melnyk & Vanessa Morrow

2013 K Representative: Kendra Von Bremem & Kris Howe

2014 K Representative: Marnie Graf & Stephanie China

2015 K Representative: Ben Wilkey & Anita Hallewas

2016 K and beyond Representative: Giles Shearing & Sab Werner

# CPF REVELSTOKE SUMMARY, FI UPDATE AND GOALS

## CPF Revelstoke Summary

- The CPF is parent-led, non-profit organization that has worked for more than 30 years to provide French-language education
- The Revelstoke chapter of the CPF provides support to help implement French Immersion

## French Immersion Update

- Since 2008 Revelstoke parents have demonstrated a strong & consistent desire to implement French Immersion. On Mar 27 2013, Superintendent Hooker completed his report into the feasibility of FI in Revelstoke, and we would like to review the data, assumptions & calculations used and suggest new solutions based on our most recent research.

## CPF Goal

- To support the implementation of Kindergarten – Grade 7 French Immersion with supported French learning through high school to attain DELF certification ( a diploma in French Studies). To give our children the benefits of a second language.

# CONSISTENT VIEWS SHARED WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

View #1 “The value of French Immersion”. The SD report confirms the value of a FI program is consistent with the views of district staff and trustees.

View #2 “Budget Implications-non issue”. The SD report of April 2008 summarizes Federal Funds that would be available to SD19 in addition to operating funds from MOE. \$3,750 initial year and \$27,698 in annual grants.

View #3 “Staffing Implications-non issue”. The SD confirms that there is sufficient retirement and temporary contracts ending that there would not be any layoffs to accommodate FI. There is currently three teachers already in the school district who are qualified.

View #4 “AHE is the only facility that could provide space for additional programs”. AHE K2013 enrolment is 10. The SD is already forced to look at a K/1 split. FI would only help to pull students from CPE and BVE in order to equalize numbers thus avoiding splits. CPE enrolment shows 21 and BVE shows 28. The bulk of committed FI students are from BVE.

# DATABASE NUMBERS

School Board Report

Birth Year (Entry Year)	Committed any school	Committed at AHE only	TOTAL
2007 (Gr1 2013)	7	-	7
2008 (K 2013)	15	2	17
2009 (K 2014)	14	2	16
2010 (K 2015)	11	-	11
2011 (K 2016)	N/A	-	-

CPF Report

Birth Year (Entry Year)	Committed any school	Committed at AHE only	TOTAL
2007 (Gr1 2013)	17	4	21
2008 (K 2013)	18	2	20
2009 (K 2014)	20	2	22
2010 (K 2015)	20	1	21
2011 (K 2016)	19	1	20

1. The School District report numbers are not representative, *CPF numbers are considerably higher.*
2. The School District report states “CPF cohort numbers could not be validated”.  
*Surveys contain phone numbers and email addresses that could be validated. We are willing to pass on our surveys for validation. We have been told that is not acceptable.*
3. The School District report generally caps kindergarten class size at 20 students.  
*CPF totals reflect full class size.*
4. The School District report states “projected enrolment for K 2013 is 59”.  
*CPF has shows 21 of the 59 Kindergarten children enrolled are committed to FI. That is a 33% commitment to FI from all parents enrolling their children in kindergarten for the 2013 year!*
5. *CPF surveys demonstrate this trend for the next 5 years*

# ENROLMENT

- **Historical correlation between births and Kindergarten enrolment**
  - E.g.. 76 students in 2012 K cohort, 67 babies born in Revelstoke in 2007
  - There were 72 births in 2008, so 75 – 80 students were projected for 2013 K
- **Potential reasons for lower enrolment (currently 59 students registered for 2013 K)**
  - Confusion about new FI program
  - Enrolment in Ecole des glaciers
  - February enrolment is not mandatory
- **Do Feb enrolment numbers consistently match the number of students that arrive for Kindergarten in September?**

# GROWTH

- In the SD19 PROJECTION MODEL, the “enrolment decline rate” has been applied at 3% per class per year
  - SD19 school population declined from 1114 in 2008/09 to 1022 in 2012/13
    - Average decline of 1.65% / year
    - 3% minus 1.65% = 1.35%. In a class of 20, 1.35% is equal to .27 students per class per year (3.25 students over 12 years)
- Growth was not accounted for in SD19 projection model
  - Realistic to think that over 12 years, an FI program may gain students from outside Revelstoke.
  - In a class of 20, one student joining the program is equal to a 5% increase



# ATTRITION

The attrition rate used in the Supts. Report projection model at the elementary level is 5% (i.e. one student per year). This is the same rate used in the 2008 assessment. It should be noted this is considerably higher than the provincial average of 3.2% at the elementary level, so it is a worst-case estimate of the cohort size. ([www.cpf.bc.ca](http://www.cpf.bc.ca)).

# DELf

## What is the DELF Certification?

- Diplome d' études en langue française - Diploma in French Studies
  - Essentially a proficiency test in French where you receive a level (A1-B2) for the DELF and then C1/C2 with the DALF certification (Diploma in Advanced French studies)
  - Exam tests reading, writing, speaking & listening capabilities
  - Certification is recognized world wide (unlike a double dogwood which is provincial)

## Why the DELF?

- Puts attrition rates at the high school to rest
- Allows greater flexibility for students in high school
- Recognized world wide and at all Post Secondary institutes in Canada
- MOE is going to align itself with the DELF certification in the next couple of years

# PROVINCIAL PICTURE

- Of B.C.'s 60 school districts, 18 do not offer French immersion, including Revelstoke
- FI Enrollment in BC has increased consecutively each year over the past 14 years, even while general school enrollment has declined
- In 2012 there were 46,856 FI students in BC
- FI Students comprise over 8% of BC student population
- FI is not just for large cities, numerous smaller communities offer FI

Location	FI program	Certification	Details
Chetwynd (SD59) Population 3,100	K-7	Aiming for a Dual Dogwood	Dual track elementary school. Currently 6 students in FI in grade 8 (first cohort through secondary)
Haida Gwaii (SD50) Population 4,800	K-6	No certification offered	Sk'aadga Naay Elementary
Smithers (SD54) Population 5,400	K-7	DEL F – B2 (but still receive French instruction at the secondary level)	827 elementary students in Smithers with 174 in FI; 800 at Smithers Secondary (fed by Telkwa and Morricetown too)
Merritt (SD58) Population 7,000	K-12	Dual Dogwood	Merritt has four elementary schools, one of which is a single-track FI school. All four feed Merritt Secondary School.
Ladysmith (SD68) Population 7,900	K-7	Dual Dogwood at the end of Secondary School in Nanaimo	Student population of about 1,300 with four elementary and one secondary school. There is one dual-track elementary school with a lottery for FI admission. There is no FI offered at Ladysmith Secondary and students must continue in Nanaimo.
Kitimat (SD82) Population 8,300	K-12	Dual Dogwood	Dual track elementary school.
Terrace (SD82) Population 11,500	K-12	Dual Dogwood	Some FI courses offered by correspondence to meet graduation requirements.
Salmon Arm (SD83) Population 17,500	K-12	Dual Dogwood	Two classes offered at elementary (44 students max) on a first-come-first-served basis. Adding a pilot project for Late Immersion in September 2013.

		Enrolment 2012/13
SD #87	Stikine	200
SD #49	Central Coast	226
SD #92	Nisga'a	371
SD #84	Vancouver Island West	389
SD #50	Haida Gwaii	624
SD #10	Arrow Lakes	785
SD #81	Fort Nelson	878
SD #74	Gold Trail	1209
SD #51	Boundary	1317
SD #85	Vancouver Island North	1386
SD #78	Fraser-Cascade	1471

# GOLDEN CASE STUDY

- Golden had FI and is planning on moving towards a “later” FI program from Grade 4 onwards.
- The “External Review of the Golden Zone - Final Report” repeatedly cites the high percentage of vulnerable students entering the school system as a major factor to the struggles of the Golden Early FI program.
- Students’ vulnerability is measured using EDI data (Early Development Instrument). Golden is 30-40% vulnerable. In contrast, Revelstoke is 6.7% vulnerable.
- Dana Hudson, a mother from Golden, stated that FI always had a waiting list and was always at capacity.

# KIRSTY PETERSON, GOING FORWARD & QUESTIONS

- Kirsty Peterson Presentation
- Going Forward
- Trustees opportunity to field questions to CPF
- Parent and Public opportunity to field questions to Trustees

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR TIME**

