



**NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
INFORMATION SHEET**

DATE: January 4, 2023
TO: Education Committee
FROM: Don Balcombe, Assistant Superintendent
SUBJECT: Core French and French Immersion Federal Grant Funding

Background

In British Columbia, there are four programs to learn French in the K-12 education system. Core French, Intensive French, French Immersion, and the Francophone Program. NLPS offers Core French and French Immersion, as well as supporting Francophone students from SD93 in grades 8 through 12 at Nanaimo District Secondary School. All elementary schools in the district offer Core French in grades 5-7. Core French is offered in grades 8-12 at our secondary schools. French Immersion programs are offered at four of our elementary schools and two secondary schools. École Hammond Bay, École Pauline Haarer, and École Quarterway are single-track French Immersion schools, while École North Oyster offers both English and French Immersion programs. Ladysmith Secondary School offers French Immersion in grades 8 and 9. Nanaimo District Secondary School offers French Immersion in grades 8-12.

In addition to regular funding through the Ministry of Education and Child Care, French programs have access to funding grants supported by the Federal Government. NLPS qualifies for grant funding in the following categories: E-Learning Technologies, Learning Resources, Core French, French Immersion, Teacher Professional Development, and Cultural Activities.

Overview

The district French Advisory Committee (FAC) is responsible for applying for grants, allocating grants, and reporting annually in accordance with the Official Languages in Education Protocol. The FAC consists of the Assistant Superintendent-Secondary and French programs, the Director of Instruction Learning and Innovation, the French Immersion Learning Coordinator, the Core French Learning Coordinator, and all principals and vice principals from schools with French Immersion programs.

The committee meets once a month throughout the school year to plan, implement, and monitor programs and initiatives that are supported by the grants. Collectively, the grants amount to approximately \$250,000/year of targeted support to our French Immersion and Core French Programs. The following are some examples of resources, both human and material, that has been provided during the 2021-2022 school year within each grant category.

E-Learning Technology Grant

- Hardware and Software
- iPads
- Chromebooks
- French Language Apps
- Online subscriptions
- Headsets

Learning Resources Grant

- Printed and electronic resources including:
 - French reading materials
 - novel sets
 - French games
 - French numeracy resources
 - French manipulatives.

Core French Grant

- Salary for 0.2 FTE Learning Coordinator – Core French
- Printed and electronic resources including:
 - French books and guides
 - French interactive software and games
 - Teacher collaboration release time

French Immersion Grant

- Salary for 1.0 FTE Learning Coordinator –French Immersion
- Library books
- Classroom books
- Leveled readers
- French games
- Early Literacy support materials

Teacher Professional Development Grant

- Teacher release time for Professional Development in Early Literacy initiatives and resources
- Teacher release time for collaboration sessions with French as Second Language teachers
- Professional development for French Immersion teachers on increasing oral fluency

Cultural Activities Grant

- Malicounda - French drummer
- Will Street - French singer
- Art Starts - French art activities
- Cultural kits offered to French Immersion classes

The committee is excited to continue to support programs and initiatives throughout the district and to increase involvement post-COVID-19 of students and parents in our Core French and French Immersion programs.