

From: [Karen Matthews](#)
To: [Karen Matthews](#)
Subject: T Oke Subject: Urgent Appeal: Preserve Late French Immersion for Our Students
Date: December 17, 2024 1:04:08 PM

From: Terry Oke <>

Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 10:41:00 AM

To: Trustees BoardChair <TrusteesBoardChair@sd68.bc.ca>; Naomi Bailey <Naomi.Bailey@sd68.bc.ca>; Greg Keller <Greg.Keller@sd68.bc.ca>; Tania Brzovic <Tania.Brzovic@sd68.bc.ca>; Leanne Lee <leanne.lee@sd68.bc.ca>; Chantelle Morvay <Chantelle.Morvay@sd68.bc.ca>; Leana Pellegrin <Leana.Pellegrin@sd68.bc.ca>; Mark Robinson <Mark.Robinson@sd68.bc.ca>; Tom Rokeby <Tom.Rokeby@sd68.bc.ca>; Tim Harris <Tim.Harris@sd68.bc.ca>

Cc: Superintendent <Superintendent@sd68.bc.ca>; Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Programs <AsstSupSecondary@sd68.bc.ca>

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Dear Trustees of the Nanaimo Ladysmith School District,

I am writing to express my deep concern and disappointment regarding the proposed cancellation of the Late French Immersion program. As a parent of a child currently enrolled in Early French Immersion at Quarterway Elementary, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible value of this program in shaping well-rounded, culturally aware, and globally minded students. To deny this opportunity to others is both inequitable and unacceptable.

Six years ago, families whose children were unable to secure a spot in Early French Immersion through the lottery were assured that Late French Immersion would remain a viable and accessible alternative. Many of these families have patiently waited for this promised opportunity, only to now face the prospect of its removal. Breaking this commitment undermines trust in our district and fails the very students it is meant to serve.

Eliminating Late French Immersion creates a dangerous precedent. This program is not just an academic pathway—it fosters critical language skills, cultural appreciation, and diversity of thought, all of which align with the principles of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI). Budgetary challenges should never result in limiting opportunities for student development and growth. Instead, programs like Late French Immersion must be protected as essential components of a strong, inclusive educational system.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this decision and honor the district's promise to current and future families. Preserving Late French Immersion is not just about maintaining a program—it's about upholding trust, fairness, and the values that define our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for making decisions that prioritize equity and opportunity for all students.

Sincerely,
Terence Oke
[Parent and Community Member]

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