



# L'Association des francophones de Nanaimo

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Dec 16, 2024

To: Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public Schools Board of Trustees  
School District 68

**\*\*Subject: Urgent Support for Late French Immersion (LFI) Program\*\***

Dear Trustees,

On behalf of the Association Francophone de Nanaimo (AFN), we are writing to express our deep concern regarding the decision to discontinue the Late French Immersion (LFI) program in School District 68. As a key organization advocating for the promotion of the French language and culture in Nanaimo, we believe this decision will have far-reaching consequences for students, families, and our community.

French is a fundamental part of Canada's identity and heritage, and programs like LFI ensure that this legacy is preserved while offering invaluable opportunities to students. LFI specifically allows children entering Grade 6—a critical age for cognitive and social development—to access French language education, which has been shown to enhance literacy, problem-solving skills, and cultural awareness. For families who were unable to join Early French Immersion, LFI serves as a vital second entry point into bilingual education.

The AFN has long championed initiatives that promote linguistic diversity, recognizing that the presence of robust French programs fosters inclusivity and enriches the entire community. Beyond the academic and cultural benefits, bilingualism opens doors for youth in future career and educational opportunities, both locally and internationally. By suppressing LFI, the district risks not only limiting these opportunities but also undermining public confidence in its commitment to academic diversity and excellence.

We strongly urge the Board to reconsider this decision and work with parents, educators, and community stakeholders to find sustainable solutions to maintain the LFI program. The AFN is prepared to collaborate with the district to explore innovative ways to support French language learning in Nanaimo.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We hope the Board will reaffirm its commitment to bilingual education and its role in preparing our students for a competitive, multicultural world.

Sincerely,

Camille Veron

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