

Communiqué by CANADA DELF-DALF central management

Ottawa, March 23rd 2026

The Ontario DELF Centre (010715) has been informed by France Éducation International of a cybersecurity incident involving the GAEL platform, which is managed and operated by France Éducation International and used to register candidates for the Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) examination. The incident occurred between January 9 and 12, 2026.

The DELF is an internationally recognized French language proficiency diploma administered by France Éducation International on behalf of the French Ministry of Education.

Based on the information from France Éducation International, only candidate data may have been affected. No DELF examiner data has been impacted.

Individuals who have registered for and taken the DELF examination since 2005 may *potentially* be concerned.

According to the information provided by France Éducation International, the following candidate information may have been accessed:

- First name and surname
- City and country of birth
- Date of birth
- Nationality
- Primary language
- DELF centre: identified as: 010715 Ontario DELF Centre

It is important to note that the names of participating schools in Ontario are not entered into the GAEL platform. Also, as an additional privacy safeguard, The Ontario DELF Centre do not record candidates' email addresses in the GAEL platform. This measure helps limit the amount of personal information stored in the system and further protect candidates' data.

No other personal information, such as home addresses, phone numbers, is stored in the platform.

In Canada, additional precautionary measures were implemented by DELF Canada in early February including:

- Limiting the data entered in the platform by recording only the year of birth rather than the full date of birth
- Parental consent for minor candidates to be coordinated through participating schools
- Regular password changes for platform access
- Reminders to centres not to share login credentials

About the DELF Examination

To ensure the proper identification of candidates and the issuance of official diplomas, a limited set of personal information is required at the time of registration. Participation in the DELF examination is voluntary, and families decide whether their child registers for the examination. Parental consent is required for minor candidates.

Next Steps

FEi has informed that the necessary security conditions were met before the GAEL platform was reopened on January 26.

As a general best practice, you are encouraged to always remain vigilant regarding any unexpected or suspicious communications. As the DELF Centre of Ontario does not enter candidates' email addresses or postal addresses into the GAEL platform, the risk of phishing messages linked to this incident is very low.

For any inquiries, please contact : delfdalf@institutfrancais.ca