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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November-17-11 1:59 PM
To: frenchimmersion@rainbowschools.ca
Subject: Continuation of French Immersion program at Sudbury Secondary

Dear Board Members:

I have been advised that the Immersion program at Sudbury Secondary could possibly be eliminated. I think this would be unfortunate for a number of reasons most of which you are likely aware, but I would like to offer my perspective as well.

As a parent and grandparent and former member of the school board I have always been a strong supporter of the Immersion program wherever it was implemented in the system, but particularly for the downtown schools as the program offers an advantage to pupils in this area (and those who attend from other areas for the Arts Program as offered at Sudbury Secondary) similar to those in other sections of the city.

My two children who attended the Immersion program both were able to obtain summer jobs while in high school and later in University because of their ability in French (at Science North and Services Canada) and later obtained permanent employment in large part due to their language skills. My oldest granddaughter, also an Immersion graduate, now resides in Quebec city where of course she speaks mostly French. My other grandchildren are now in elementary school in southern Ontario but are enrolled in Immersion programs in both the public and separate systems. Besides employment enhancement opportunities the cultural enrichment of the possession of second language skills cannot be overemphasized.

I know that many practical factors need to be taken into consideration when making these difficult decisions, however as Sudbury Secondary is in effect our "flagship" school in the system it does need to be seen as leading in the offering of premium programs for the benefit of students who are served within the catchment area and beyond.

Sincerely,

John Lindsay
Chair
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