

## The importance of keeping the French Immersion program at Lansdowne School

Councillor Ward 4  
Conseillère Quartier 4

### Presentation to the Rainbow District School Board

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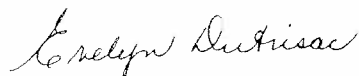
I am the City of Greater Sudbury Councillor for Ward 4. Lansdowne Public School is an elementary school in that Ward. I have received several calls from parents indicating their concern that the Rainbow District School Board may remove the French Immersion program from Lansdowne Public School.

It is of great importance that this program be kept at Lansdowne Public School. Parents recognize the importance of their children learning French as a second language. Children learn French through the study of other subjects. This enriches their vocabulary and increases their capacity to speak French in meaningful situations. The French Immersion program provides students with a better understanding of French speaking societies. It also helps a child develop better oral communication skills, in addition to reading and writing. As a long term goal, a child is then able to study French at the secondary school level as well as the post secondary level. This helps a child find meaningful work in a bilingual career. Learning a second language enhances career choices, develops thinking and communication skills, and provides a greater appreciation of diversity.

Parents are also concerned with the distance a child would have to be bused in order to attend schools that would offer a French immersion program such as Ernie Checkeris Public School and Carl A. Nesbitt Public School. The family income in the Donovan is quite low in comparison to other parts of the City. The 2006 census indicated the average family income in the Donovan was \$52,029 while the Greater Sudbury was \$81,721. This lower family income could create some challenges for children attending French Immersion schools in the New Sudbury area. During an emergency, it could be difficult for parents to get their children.

If the French Immersion program is to be eliminated from Lansdowne Public School, this would mean that there would be no more public French Immersion schools in the downtown area of the City. I do hope that the board will seriously consider keeping the French Immersion program at Lansdowne. I know that the Rainbow District School Board prides itself in offering an equal and quality education to every child attending schools under their mandate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Evelyn Dutrisac'.

Evelyn Dutrisac  
Councillor Ward 4