

Presentation to the French Immersion Review Committee

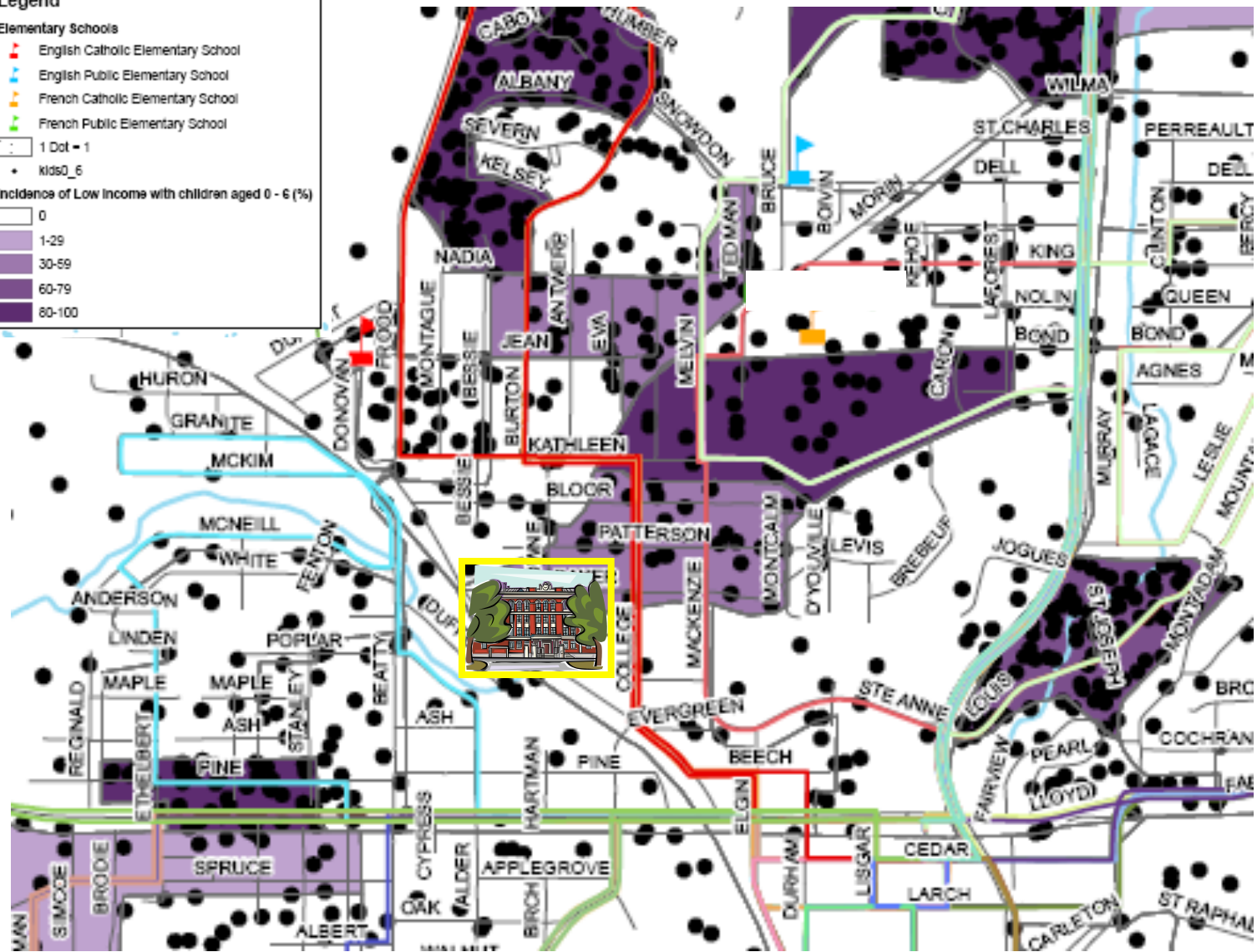
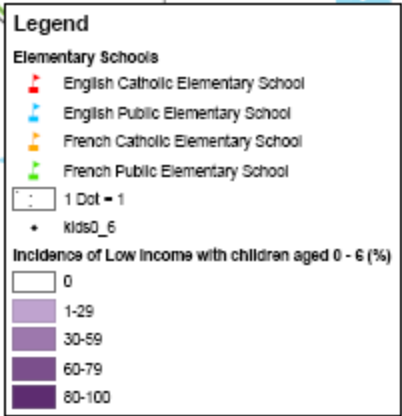
*Maintaining opportunities for children and
families in Downtown/Flour Mill/Donovan*

Lansdowne Public School Council

June 14, 2011

Our Neighbourhood

- **A diverse neighbourhood:** 40% of residents speak English and French; 12% report Aboriginal identity (6% in CGS).
- **A challenged neighbourhood:** 31% lone parent families (17% in CGS); 20%-52% children under LICO (12% in CGS); 14% unemployment (8% in CGS)
- **A transitional neighbourhood:** 52% changed addresses in the last 5 years (36% in CGS)
- **A changing neighbourhood:** New Downtown Plan, School of Architecture and apartment developments will mean more people will be living downtown.



Our School

- The only school in Central Sudbury that offers both French Immersion and Ojibwe.
- School supports for families: Transportation, child care and food offered for school events, low/no field trip costs/ activity fees, snack program, School Council family nights, limited fundraising campaigns
- Community supports for families: Licensed Child Care, Best Start Hub, Breakfast Club, BBBF Afterschool and Summer, Family Dinners, Library, Police Initiatives, NOAH
- Committed, skilled staff: Teachers stay for a long time, are skilled at differentiated teaching- this is vital for split grade classes, as well as supporting kids with special needs

Parent Survey Results

- 30% of families answered
- % who Agree or Strongly Agree
 - French Immersion will provide better opportunities for my child- 89%
 - I/we are committed to sticking with FI- 94%
 - It would be difficult for me/us to continue to be involved- 88%
 - The supports at Lansdowne make it easier for us as a family- 88%
 - It is important to have the opportunity for my children to learn both French and Ojibwe- 59%
 - I/we would stay at Lansdowne if FI was gone- 18% (18% don't know)
- One or both parents grew up speaking French in 41% of families
- Families feel their kids do just as well academically, socially and have more opportunities in a triple grade class.

Why continue investing in French Immersion at Lansdowne?

1. If children have to go outside the community, they will lose the social/nutritional/family supports that are provided at Lansdowne.
2. Many parents will not be able to maintain their connection with school if their children's school is outside the community.
3. Children from First Nation backgrounds need to have equal opportunity to choose FI without losing Ojibwe language and culture.
4. Enrollment at lower grades has been steady. Lower enrollments in higher grades is due to the transitional nature of the community as families move away for better opportunities- it is not a lack of interest in FI.
5. Lansdowne needs to remain a viable, vibrant school to meet future community needs as downtown Sudbury evolves over the next several years.
6. Teachers at Lansdowne have the skills to manage triple grade classes as needed, and can share their expertise in differentiated teaching

What our parents say...

- “The school also has programs for the students that are free which helps us parents out that don't have the money for it, since in this area not too many parents do!”
- “Students at Lansdowne have the opportunity to learn or at the very least, be exposed on a regular basis to the languages and cultures of French, Ojibwe and English and our family nights promote awareness and understanding of other cultures representative of this multicultural neighbourhood and community.”
- “I have no vehicle so going to another school for the French program would have been much harder for me to play an active role (going to open houses, interviews etc.) because of transportation and being on a fixed income.”

What our parents say....

- “Now that the Hub is on site I have the opportunity to bring my youngest child to the there, stop in and visit my son's class and/or volunteer my time and get my daughter exposed to and used to positive experiences at the school. It is a 15 minute walk and that has allowed us to participate in Hub activities, field trips, family nights without worries of transportation, etc”
- “I also do not see a problem with the split grade classes, my son is in a 2/3 split and his teacher does a wonderful job as far as I’ m concerned.. if the school board looks at this as a problem then that only means they have no faith in our wonderful teachers at Lansdowne and they deserve much more credit than that...”
- “As a family we moved out of housing, however due to the experiences we had at Lansdowne we decided to move within the school boundaries so that my children could still attend Lansdowne & receive the great support from the amazing teachers & programs that Lansdowne offers us.”