

Message from the President

Dear partners in education,

I am very proud to present to you the 2023–2024 Annual Report of the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon (CSFY). This report illustrates all the energy our staff has devoted to ensuring that we fulfil our mission, which is to offer a quality education in French to eligible learners in the Yukon.

This report is also an opportunity to provide you with a brief overview of the work undertaken by your school trustees during the 2023–2024 school year. I would like to highlight the efforts invested by the trustees in developing the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan. The consensus that emerged from that process is to support the growth of our schools, our services, and our programs; to support our desire to be an institution committed to taking the necessary steps towards greater reconciliation with Yukon First Nations; and to provide open, welcoming schools to a population that is more diverse than ever.

In that regard, I am happy to note that the CSFY was one of the signatories to the Declaration of the Table de gouvernance de la Franco-Yukonnie en faveur de la réconciliation avec les Premières Nations (Yukon Francophone Governance Table for reconciliation with Yukon First Nations). The signing of the Declaration, which took place on April 9, 2024, commits the CSFY to act in accordance with the document's eight guiding principles, in a spirit of caring and ongoing commitment, and demonstrates our desire to build relationships founded on respect, openness, and accountability. The CSFY and its schools are grateful to be among the partners of the Table de gouvernance de la Franco-Yukonnie, a forum that fosters the collegial and collaborative development of our Francophone community.

The trustees were also engaged in the process of transferring the governance of the Garderie du petit cheval blanc daycare, which was completed in the fall of 2023. By taking charge of the early childhood component, we will be able to extend this service to the communities where our schools are located. The vitality of the French daycare has long provided the seedbed for École Émilie-Tremblay. At a time when the Yukon and the City of Whitehorse are expecting their populations to grow, the CSFY needs to ensure that it develops this service adequately. We would like to thank the Board of the Garderie du petit cheval blanc for the trust it has placed in us by handing over the reins.

With regard to our profile on the national stage, I would like to thank the Commission nationale des parents francophones (CNPf) for choosing Whitehorse as the location for its annual meeting. Our special thanks go to Jocelyne Isabelle, Director of the Garderie du petit cheval blanc, and Geneviève Tremblay, Pedagogical Consultant and Coordinator of Early Childhood and Multilingual Family Services at the CSFY, for their warm welcome and their logistical support. This event was also the occasion to honour Myriam Bougie, a trustee and parent, by awarding her the 2024 Prix national Ghislaine-Pilon for her exemplary commitment as a parent. Congratulations, Myriam!

At the regional level, the trustees and I worked to support the development of our Dawson Program, which has now been named the “Programme Confluence” as of the meeting of August 29, 2024. The opening of the Dawson Program in 2023–2024 was the result of collaboration between the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in government and the Department of Education. We would like to express our deep gratitude to the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Nation for its trust in the establishment of a program that respects its culture and language. We would also like to thank the Department of Education for granting three-year funding for this program. This financial support will enable us to provide a quality educational program to our students.

Because the Dawson Program is so important to local families, I would like to express my gratitude to the trustees for organizing a public meeting in Dawson in June 2024. Their presence demonstrated their commitment to being accessible and attentive to the needs of the community, thus providing valuable support to our partners, parents, and students.

At the national level, I continue to be deeply engaged in the governance of the Fédération nationale des conseils scolaires (National Federation of Francophone School Boards). As part of this mandate, I participated in discussions on the vision for minority French-language schools. My participation in the days of action on Parliament Hill also allowed me to raise awareness among members of Parliament and senators of the importance of federal support for our services, our planning, and our ability to offer beneficial activities to our students. This work of political representation, which I am striving to carry out with credibility and conviction, was recognized in April, when I was invited to participate in a State Dinner given by the Prime Minister of Canada for the Prime Minister of France. This invitation gave me the opportunity to officially thank the Prime Minister for enacting the new Official Languages Act.

In conclusion, I would like to express my profound gratitude to our administrative team, and in particular the Executive Director and the Secretary-Treasurer, for their valuable advice, their exemplary planning, and their attention to detail throughout the year. Thanks to you, our school board can move forward with confidence! Thank you for your dedication.

Jean-Sébastien Blais
President