

October 19, 2018

Honourable Robert Fleming  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

VIA EMAIL: [EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**RE: Request for the Ministry of Education to take action for the health and safety of staff and learners at École des Voyageurs in Langley**

Dear Minister Fleming,

École des Voyageurs de Langley is a CSF school offering a French first-language education from kindergarten through grade 7 to students with an eligible parent living in Langley and Surrey. As of September 2018, it had 94 students.

The school that houses École des Voyageurs formerly belonged to the Langley School Board (SD35) and was acquired by the CSF in 2000. It was built in 1962/63 and has 4 classrooms in the main building and three portable classrooms that have been added to fill the additional need for space.

In 2017, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure began work on an exit off the Trans-Canada Highway onto 216<sup>th</sup> Street in Langley where École des Voyageurs is located. This exit will be part of a route that heavy trucks will be encouraged to use. When it is opened in the winter of 2019, a total of 7,100 cars and trucks are expected to use the exit every day and pass in front of the school – a 70% increase in traffic.

In a report submitted by the Township of Langley on May 8, 2017, it was acknowledged that there was an elementary school on the corner of 88th Avenue and 216th Street. The report goes on to state that the inclusion of 216th Street in the truck route network will result in increased truck volume on the west side of the school. It is anticipated that the volume will be in the order of 15 trucks per hour, or an average of one every 4 minutes during peak periods. Between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., it is estimated that around 90 trucks will pass in front of the school and its play structure.

Such a project near a school clearly raises serious concerns about the health and safety of students and staff at the school. In fact, it drew the attention of both the David Suzuki Foundation's "Bluedot" movement (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8-qCi-MhOU>) and Dr. Christopher Carlsten, Associate Professor and Chair in Occupational and Environmental Lung Disease, Department of Medicine at UBC (3 letters attached).

Given these circumstances, and to respond both to the health and safety needs of the occupants of the school and to the need for the CSF's space requirements to provide its French-language education program, the CSF respectfully asks that the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Health, work with the CSF to find solutions to these very real risks, before an unfortunate incident occurs.

Ways to rectify the situation at École des Voyageurs, which has been brought about by circumstances completely beyond the control of the CSF, must be considered immediately, in the form of renovations to the school or relocation the school on the same site to ensure that any risk to the health and safety of the occupants of the school is significantly reduced.

I propose that a meeting be organized at your earliest convenience to explain the situation in greater detail and propose concrete solutions. The CSF looks forward to hearing from you as soon as possible. Please communicate with the CSF's Secretary Treasurer, Sylvain Allison, with respect to any aspect of this letter; he can be reached at 778 229 3496 or 604-214-2606, or by email at [sallison@csf.bc.ca](mailto:sallison@csf.bc.ca)

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Lapierre', written in a cursive style.

Marie-France Lapierre,  
President

Cc.: Honourable Adrian Dix, Ministry of Health  
Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure

Encl. : January 2018, letter from Heart & Lung Institute  
June 2017, letter from Heart & Lung Institute  
January 2017, letter from Heart & Lung Institute