



MAR 13 2017

Ms. Marie-France Lapierre
President, Board of Regional Trustees
Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique
100 – 13511 Commerce Parkway
Richmond, British Columbia
V6V 2J8



Dear Ms. Lapierre:

Thank you for your correspondence addressed to the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, regarding the 2021 Census questionnaire and the evaluation of the number of children entitled to attend Francophone schools. Minister Joly appreciates your taking the time to write on this matter.

Our official languages are an integral part of our identity as Canadians. The Government of Canada is proud to offer concrete support to official-language minority communities across the country.

For example, the Government brought back the Census' long form, increased funding allocated to CBC/Radio-Canada, reinvested in the Canada Council for the Arts and in the movie industry, modernized the Court Challenges Program, appointed bilingual judges to the Supreme Court, launched the review of the bilingual services Regulations as well as the Mobilité francophone component of the International Mobility Program and developed a number of administrative initiatives.

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development and Minister responsible for Statistics Canada, and Minister Joly, as Minister responsible for official languages, understand the importance of gathering reliable data to assess the educational needs of official-language minority communities.

Your organization participated in the pan-Canadian consultations on official languages, led by the Department of Canadian Heritage, to address the concerns of official-language minority communities. I invite you to stay tuned to participate in the consultation process regarding the content of the 2021 Census questionnaire, which will be launched by Statistics Canada next fall.

.../2



This new exercise will provide you with an opportunity to review, in collaboration with Statistics Canada officials, the best ways in which to implement section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and to make data on the transmission of the French language in affected communities more comprehensive..

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,



Manon Côté
Director
Ministerial Correspondence Secretariat

c.c.: The Honourable Navdeep Bains, P.C., M.P.
Mr. Sean Casey, M.P.