

November 6, 2013

Dear Senator,

On April 15, Canadian Parents for French had the pleasure of appearing before the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages for the latter's *Study of best practices for language policies and second-language learning*.

In our presentation, CPF President Lisa Maria Perkins, CPF National Board Member Rita Parikh, and CPF National Executive Director Robert Rotheron focused on the importance of immigrant students' access to second-language programs across the country. While presenting, we promised to submit a brief to the committee, and provide additional information to questions asked by committee members during the hearing. Please find attached the brief – *Examination of the Practices, Policies and Systems in Place in Canada to Encourage French-Second Language Learning by Immigrants* – in addition to a background document, *An Overview of French Second Language Education in Canada*, and samples of our multilingual outreach tools.

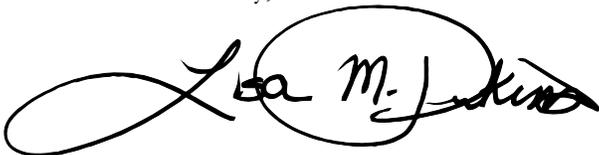
Ms. Parikh stated that we would have fully developed recommendations for the committee on outreach and promotion to parents; educators, and principals; and the removal of barriers of access to French. These recommendations are to be found on page 3 of the brief.

When asked about the success of multilingual programs in other countries, Mr. Rotheron briefly talked about how Finland looked at the Canadian immersion model when creating its own multilingual program. Mr. Rotheron and Ms Parikh also mentioned that India had a successful trilingual education system. While Canadian Parents for French is not an expert in the success of international multi-lingual programs, we have included some information on page 13 of the background document. CPF recommends that the committee contact the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute of the University of Ottawa for further information on the success of international multilingual programs.

During the hearing, senators asked about the current Official Languages in Education Protocol (OLEP) agreements in place between the Federal and provincial and territorial governments. We have included detailed information in the background document under the headings of The Official Languages in Education Program: Funding FSL Education in Canada, and Canadian Workforce Development (pages 11 and 13 respectively).

We are always grateful to appear in front of the committee and we hope that our brief will be of use while you work on the *Study of best practices for language policies and second-language learning*.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Marie Perkins
President, Canadian Parents for French