Addressing the Elephant in the Room

The Unexpected Popularity of a French Language Coaching Program for Immersion and Core French Teachers

National Table for French as a Second Language (NTFSL)

April 22, 2025

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Canadian Association of Immersion Professionals



Agenda

- 1. Pan Canadian Consultation
- 2. School Board Challenges
- 3. Creating the Language Coaching Program – Beginnings
- 4. ACPI's Language Coaching Program Today
- 5. And Five Years from Now?





La référence en matière d'immersion française au Canada / The reference for French immersion in Canada



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Pancanadian Consultation 2016-2018

- To better profile French immersion professionals
- ✓ Identify challenges and needs
- ✓ Better support practices
- ✓ Target the specific issues facing French immersion in Canada

FAITS SAILLANTS CONSULTATIO PANCANADIEN

Three Top Challenges Identified

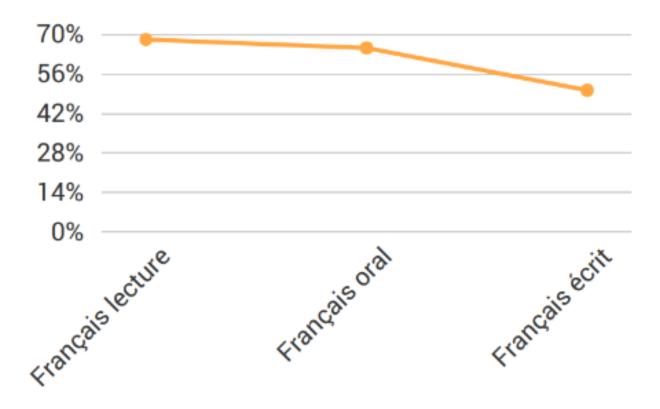
- 1. Widespread shortage of qualified teachers
- 2. Variability in the level of **language skills** of teachers
- 3. Critical **lack of resources** and tools specific to immersion



LE BILINGUISME EST VALORISÉ

1. What are the consequences of this shortage?

- ✓ Hiring of unqualified candidates
- Hiring of teachers without immersive teaching qualifications
- Hiring of teachers who don't speak
 French
- Unilingual English-speaking specialists working with immersion students & teachers
- ✓ Services offered in English to students with difficulties
- Unilingual English-speaking substitutes



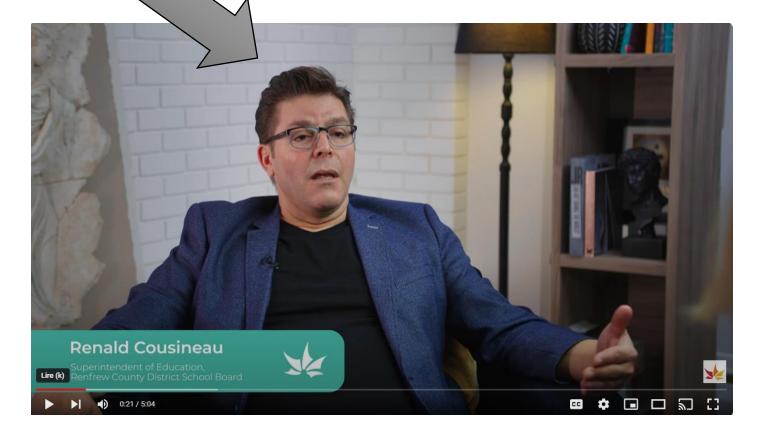
What are the factors behind the variability in French language competency?

- A test to **assess the language skills** of candidates for teaching positions is often not mandatory.
- Many professionals say they know just enough French to be functional.
- Others allege that they lack the time to perfect their skills.
- Some claim that their **precarious status** deprives them of the desire to improve their French.



Vision of Language Support From initial conversations......

to now











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Supporting the development of French immersion teachers' language skills

- Supporting development of French language skills among educators can be complex.
- Limited human resources, lack of time, and lack of expertise in developing French proficiency assessment tools can be significant issues for school boards.
- It's important to offer <u>specific</u>
 <u>language training</u> to improve language skills.



The nuts and bolts of the program

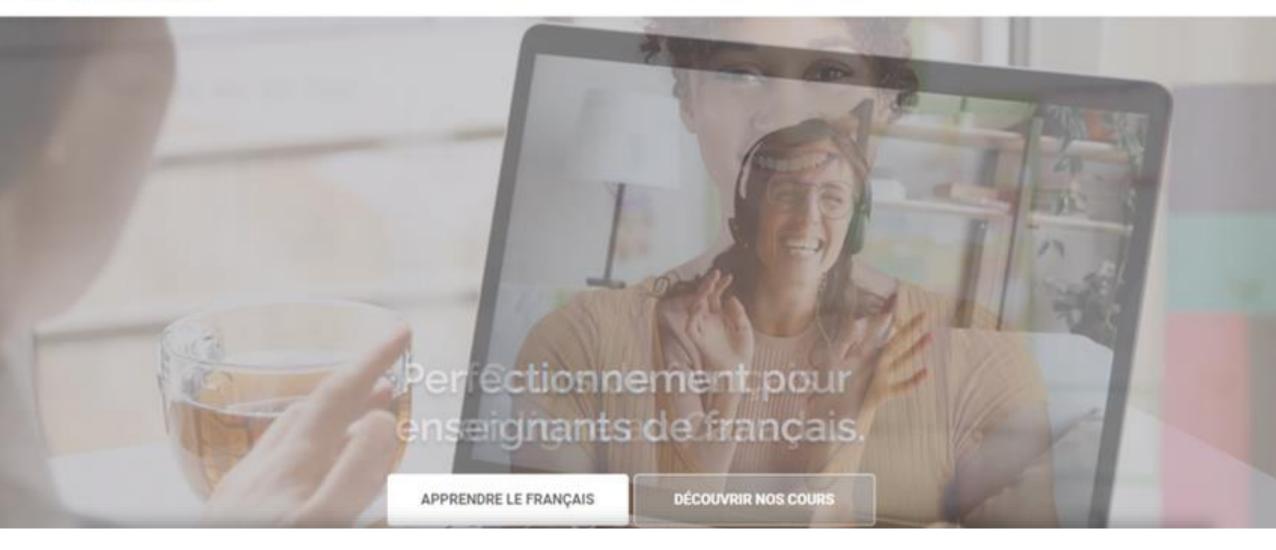
- ACPI's Language Coaching Program offers an approach that not only assesses language skills but also provides individualized language coaching.
- Through this program, educators (teachers, principals, support staff) access tools to become *more confident* in teaching French as a second language, and ultimately *stronger language role model* for students.



The power of collaboration







Partnerships in Action



« When teachers are more confident in speaking the language, our students are more confident speaking the language. It's a win-win for us. »

> Amy Van Brabant FSL Educational Consultant (7-12) Ottawa Catholic School Board

> > www.acpi.ca



TROUSSE DU PROGRAMME D'ACCOMPAGNEMENT LINGUISTIQUE DE L'ACPI

ACPI'S LANGUAGE COACHING PROGRAM PACKAGE

Convenience at your fingertips



THE PROCESS

Step 1: REGISTRATION

Once the contract is signed with ACPI, the school board directs educators to a customized registration page on the ACPI website.

Step 2: PLACEMENT TEST

Participants are asked to complete an EVALANG placement test and share the

results with ACPI for the purpose of setting up individualized coaching sessions.

EVALANG is a reliable, modern, and affordable test that can be taken online in under 35 minutes. It assesses two of four language skills: reading and listening. The participant receives an internationally recognized certification that is aligned with the proficiency levels defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and developed by France Education International.

Step 3: INDIVIDUALIZED LANGUAGE SUPPORT

Participants can then start their weekly personal language coaching sessions (8 sessions) with the <u>PremièClass</u> language school.

Première Class, a Toronto-based language school, offers online courses that are aligned with the CEFR and focused on active communication. The coaching path is determined by ACPI and the language school, which is recognized for the support services it offers FSL educators.

Step 4: SATISFACTION SURVEY

The participants are invited to complete a satisfaction survey at the end of the coaching sessions.*

*Survey results are sent anonymously to school divisions upon completion of the program..

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PARTICIPATION COSTS

Coordination by ACPI and 8 language coaching sessions: \$1,050 per educator or \$950 for

repeated registrations



Making the work light!

PROGRAM DETAILS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

A Language Coaching Opportunity!

Rationale:

One of the concerns related to the retention of French immersion educators is linguistic insecurity. Some immersion educators leave teaching or apply to English language teaching positions as a result of their perceived level of French proficiency. To address this concern, we have decided to provide support to some immersion educators to become more confident communicators en French.

Partnership:

The NAME OF SCHOOL BOARD has decided to partner with ACPI (Association canadienne des professionnels de l'immersion) to offer an opportunity to immersion educators who are looking to improve their French language skills. In partnership with ACPI, Premiere Class, a private language school in Toronto which offers French language instruction to adults has developed a virtual program for immersion teachers focusing on understanding and interacting in French through one-on-one sessions with a coach. The coaches are former immersion educators and consultants who have a deep understanding of the action-oriented approach and the CEFR (Common European Framework of References for Languages).

Program Description:

This program offers support to French immersion educators to help them to improve their French language skills and to develop the necessary tools to become confident communicators of French as a second language. www.acpi.ca

Program costs

A Language Coaching Opportunity!

Cost:

The program costs \$1,050 per educator and includes diagnostic language testing (EVALANG) and individual weekly French language coaching sessions for an 8 week period (three pre-determined cohort dates per year). Dates and times of the virtual coaching sessions will be determined by the educator and the coach.

Goal:

The end goal is to create confident French language educators and improve retention in the school system.

Timeline (Insert cohort dates):

- Choose participants
- Registration
- Test Evalang: Results are sent to ACPI so that educators can be properly matched with a coach. Test results are not shared with the school division.
- Partnering with a coach
- Coaching sessions commence

Participant Responsibilities:

- 1.Complete the Evalang test
- 2.Commit to 8 coaching sessions per week
- 3.Complete a satisfaction survey at the end of the program

Action Required:

We are looking to find # French immersion educators who would be interested in this opportunity.



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Next steps!



Draft Language Coaching Contract

Between the

<u>_____name of school district</u>located in ____city_____represented by <u>name</u> and title of school division representative.

and

The Association des professionnels de l'immersion (ACPI) located at 170 Laurier West Street, Ottawa, ON K1P 5V5 represented by Jessica Saada, Executive Director.

Period of agreement:

September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025

Context:

Determining the appropriate level of French required to be a confident communicator as a French as a Second Language (FSL) teacher remains an unaddressed issue. Over the years, school boards have created a variety of ad-hoc French language testing with a goal to determine the level of French of the candidate interviewed to place them in an appropriate program and grade level. Coherent internationally recognized evaluations and tailored personal interventions are non-existent. This agreement provides FSL teachers the opportunity to improve their French proficiency through diagnostic language testing and individual French language coaching sessions for an 8-week period. The end goal being to create confident French language educators.

Finding the teachers

EXAMPLE OF COMMUNICATION TO EDUCATORS

English version

Dear Educator,

The (School Board) has an exciting partnership with ACPI (Association canadienne des professionnels de l'immersion) to provide personalized linguistic coaching and language enhancement for immersion educators. There is no cost to educators and their progress and results will be kept confidential by ACPI.

This initiative will be delivered virtually by Premiere Class, a Toronto-based language school. Immersion eudcators are invited to express their interest in this pilot project by submitting their application directly to ACPI using the link provided in the Expression of Interest for Educators.

Please note that registration is limited. Confirmation will be sent to the applicants. If selected, participants would start their weekly coaching sessions with Premiere Class the week of DATE, and complete their program by DATE. Approximately 8 sessions will be offered during this time period.

The deadline for registration is DATE.

For further information, please contact Contact Person,

Thank you for your interest.

(School Board Contact Person)

Step 1: Language Assessment

- Under 30 minutes
- Results shared with ACPI
- Transferred to "Première Classe"
- Phone call with Matthieu Prunier
- Matching with the coaches



Step 2: Language Coaching

 Customized according to expressed needs

DÉROULEMENT DES SÉANCES DE COACHING LINGUISTIQUE

- Séance 1 : Présentation (travail, intérêts, rapport à la francophonie...), identification des compétences à consolider (liste de repérage pour l'autoévaluation CECR), identification de ressources numériques pour perfectionner ses compétences en français afin de s'en servir en salle de classe et introduction du "French log" (journal de bord).
- Séance 2 : Sujets d'actualité, travail, discussions informelles (« small talk »), interaction autour des activités réalisées depuis la séance précédente, journal de bord, visionnement d'une courte vidéo ou lecture d'un article d'actualité ou en lien avec les intérêts mentionnés, discussion autour du sujet, puis travail de production écrite ou orale à préparer (résumé écrit, courriel, débat...) à l'aide d'un document partagé (Google Docs ou Slides) pour la séance suivante.
- Séances 3 à 7 : Déroulement selon les besoins des participants.es.
- Session 8 : Rétroactions en lien avec les progrès observés au cours des séances précédentes (confiance orale, expression écrite, CECR, approche actionnelle...)

IMPLEMENTATION OF A LANGUAGE COACHING SESSIONS

- Session # 1: Presentation (work, interests, relation with the French-speaking world...), desired skills to reinforce (CEFR Self-Assessment Checklist), How to better leverage digital resources to improve your French and use them in the classroom and "French log" (learning journal).
- Session #2: Current events, work... (*small talk*), interaction around the activities carried out since the previous session (*French log*), viewing of a short video or reading of an article related to current events or interests, discussion around the topic and then written or oral production work to be prepared (written summary, email, debate...) on a shared document (Google Docs or Slides) for the next session.
- Session #3 to #7: Sequenced according to participants needs.
- Session #8: Feedback on the training and progress (oral confidence, written WWW acpinca CEFR, action-oriented approach...)

Satisfaction Survey

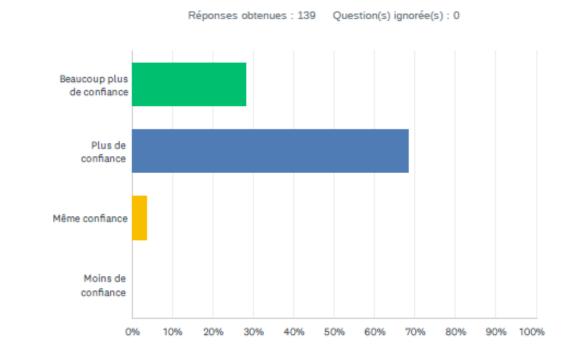
Step 3

Continuous positive results

Aggregated feedback shared with school divisions

After completing the program, how do you feel about your French language skills? Accompagnement linguistique de l'ACPI: Questionnaire de satisfaction 2023-2024

Q1 Après avoir suivi le programme d'accompagnement linguistique, comment vous sentez-vous par rapport à vos compétences linguistiques en français?

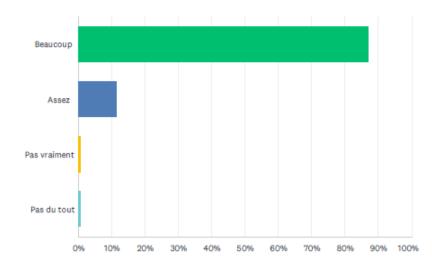


CHOIX DE RÉPONSES	RÉPONSES	
Beaucoup plus de confiance	28.06%	39
Plus de confiance	68.35%	95
Même confiance	3.60%	5
Moins de confiance	0.00%	0
TOTAL www.acpi.ca		23 ¹³⁹

Accompagnement linguistique de l'ACPI: Questionnaire de satisfaction 2023-2024

Q8 Êtes-vous satisfait de l'accompagnement linguistique de Première Class?

Réponses obtenues : 139 Question(s) ignorée(s) : 0



Are you satisfied with "Première Class"?

CHOIX DE R	ÉPONSES	RÉPONSES	
Beaucoup		87.05%	121
Assez		11.51%	16
Pas vraimen	t	0.72%	1
Pas du tout		0.72%	1
TOTAL			139
#	VEUILLEZ PRÉCISER		DATE
1	my instructor was so easy to talk to, very engouraging		6/21/2024 8:49 AM
2	J'ai tellement adoré ma conseillère! Elle est tellement gentille, elle a bier clairement	n expliqué des choses	6/20/2024 10:53 AM
3	J'ai adoré mon mentor		6/17/2024 2:29 PM
4	mon mentor etait si gentille. Elle a partage des ressources et elle m'a te de continuer mes seances avec elle en septembre.	llement aide! J'espere	6/14/2024 12:45 PM

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www.acpi.ca

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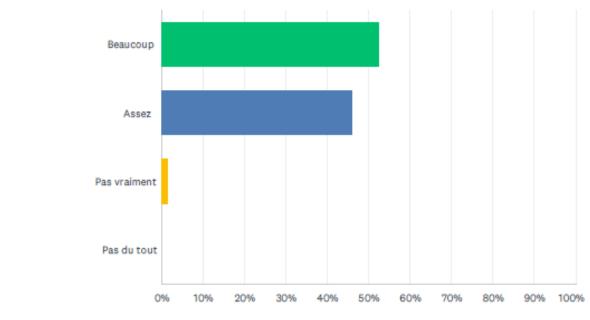
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Accompagnement linguistique de l'ACPI: Questionnaire de satisfaction 2023-2024

Q3 Pensez-vous que l'accompagnement linguistique a amélioré vos compétences linguistiques?

Réponses obtenues : 139 Question(s) ignorée(s) : 0

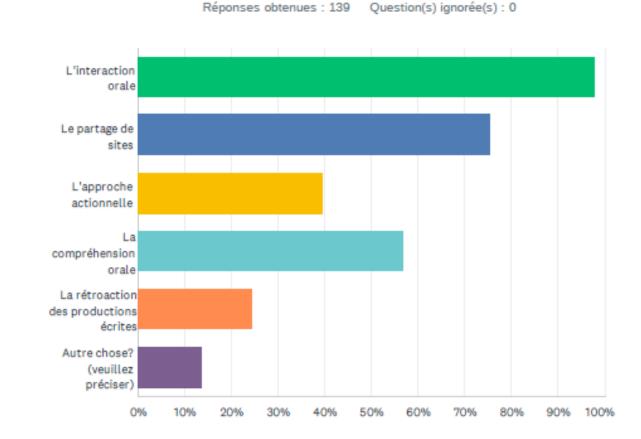


Do you think that language coaching has improved your language skills?

CHOIX DE RÉPONSES	RÉPONSES	
Beaucoup	52.52% 73	3
Assez	46.04% 64	4
Pas vraiment	1.44%	2
Pas du tout www.acpi.ca		0
TOTAL	25 13	9

What did you appreciate about your language coaching?

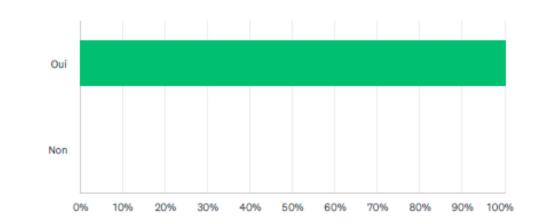
Q9 Quels éléments avez-vous apprécié de votre accompagnement?



Would you recommend the program to a colleague?

Q12 Recommanderiez-vous le programme à un.e collègue?

Réponses obtenues : 139 Question(s) ignorée(s) : 0



CHOIX DE RÉPONSES	RÉPONSES	
Oui	100.00%	139
Non	0.00%	0
Nombre total de participants: 139		

#	VEUILLEZ PRÉCISER.	DATE
1	Je recommande ce programme pour les personnes qui veulent améliorer leur français.	6/20/2024 10:53 AM
2	Il est utile d'avoir des instructions individuelles et de corriger les erreurs.	6/13/2024 7:52 PM
3	Claire était une enseignante extraordinaire. Elle était très patiente.	6/12/2024 5:32 PM
4	Absolument!	4/17/2024 10:48 AM
5	Je souhaite que tous mes collègues peuvent en profiter à un moment donner.	4/14/2024 8:48 PM7

What suggestions do you have for improving ACPI's language coaching program?

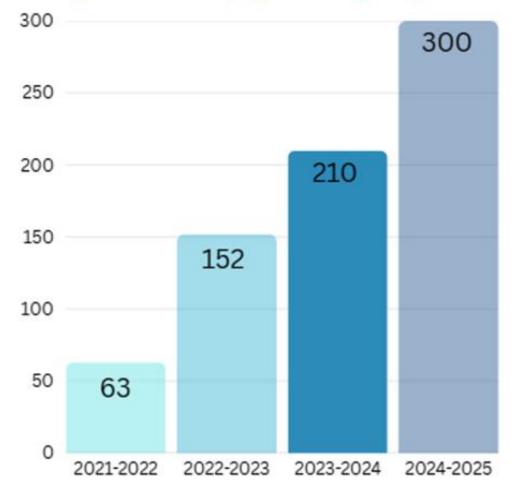
C'est fantastique! Johanne Proulx est formidable et j'apprends de nouvelles choses chaque session! Merci infiniment pour cette occasion.	4/2/2024 8:26 AM
J'adore le partage de buts langagiers pendant la première session. J'ai tellement apprécié que Johanne Proulx a personnalisé les sessions selon mes buts personnels. Nous avons même travaillé mon CV et un entretien!	4/1/2024 8:25 PM
n/a	4/1/2024 12:11 PM
J'ai beaucoup aimé le programme et l'instructrice	3/27/2024 4:30 PM
Plus de pratique de l'écriture.	3/27/2024 1:51 PM
non	3/27/2024 12:10 PM
Je veux le faire encore! :)	3/26/2024 11:58 AM
Aucun	3/26/2024 7:54 AM
N/A	3/26/2024 6:56 AM
Rien. C'etait fantastique! :)	3/26/2024 6:53 AM
Je n'ai pas des commentaires.	3/26/2024 3:58 AM
Rien	3/26/2024 3:07 AM
C'était incroyable et j'adore la personne avec qui je faisais la programme.	3/25/2024 6:37 PM
Rien. J'ai beaucoup aimé lenprogramme.	3/25/2024 2:44 PM
Aucun!	3/25/2024 1:51 PM
Je n'ai aucune suggesstion. Antonia est superbe!	3/25/2024 1:00 PM
J'aurais aimé faire le test de placement à la fin de la formation en addition d'au début. Là j'aurais eu une meilleure idée de mon succès.	3/25/2024 12:25 PM
Pas de suggestions spécifiques.	3/25/2024 12:20 PM
Continue the focus on spoken French with the tutor	3/22/2024 12:00 PM
l'aimerais travailler avec le même tutorat nendant toute l'année seolaire	3/22/2024 11-37 AM
www.acpi.ca	28

Current and Past Participation

	Algonquin and Lakeshore C.D.S.B.	Ottawa Carleton District School Board
	Black Gold School Division	Ottawa Catholic School Board
	Bluewater District School Board	Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic School Board
	Border Land School Division	Portage La Prairie School Division
	Brandon School District	Prairie Rose School District
	Calgary Board of Education	Prairie Spirit School District
	Calgary French and International School	Prairie Valley District School
	Centre régional d'éducation d'Halifax	Rainbow District School Board
	Christ The Redeemer Catholic Schools	Regina Catholic Schools
	Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools	Renfrew County Catholic District School Board
	Durham District School Board	Renfrew County District School Board
	Edmonton Catholic School Division	Saskatoon Public School Division
	Elk Island Public Schools	SD 40 (New Westminster School Division)
	Flin Flon School Division	SD 61 (Greater Victoria School Division)
	Halifax Regional Centre for Education/Centre régional d'éducation	Thunder Bay Catholic School Board
	Halton District School Board	Trillium Lakelands District School Board
	Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools	University of Victoria French Teacher Education
	Kelsey School Division	Waterloo Catholic District School Board
	Kenora Catholic District School Board	Waterloo Region District School Board
	Lakehead Public Schools	Wellington Catholic District School Board
	Limestone District School Board	Western School District
	Louis Riel School Division	Yellowknife Catholic Schools
	Mountain View School Division	Ministère de l'Éducation du Yukon
	NLSchools	
\square	Ottawa Carleton District School Board	

Yearly growth in enrolment

Croissance des inscriptions au Programme d'accompagnement linguistique



Distribution of school boards in rural and urban areas (2023-2024)

Répartition des conseils scolaires en milieu rural ou urbain

Provinces ou territoires	Milieu rural	Semi-urbain	Milieu urbain
Territoires du Nord-Ouest			
Yellowknife Catholic School		Env. 20 000 hab.	
Colombie-Britannique			
University of Victoria French Teachers			Env. 96 000 hab.
New Westminster School Division (SD 40)			Env. 80 000 hab.
Greater Victoria School Division (SD 61)			Env. 96 000 hab.
Alberta			
Calgary Board of Education			Env. 1 665 000 hab.
Edmonton Catholic SD			Env. 1 568 000 hab.
Saskatchewan			
Saskatoon Public SD			Env. 290 500 hab.
Christ The Teacher Catholic Schools		Env. 17 500 hab.	
Manitoba			
Border Land SD	Env. 4 400 hab.		
Brandon SD		Env. 53 700 hab.	
Flin Flon SD	Env. 6 000 hab.		
Kelsey SD	Env. 6 000 hab.		
Louis Riel SD			Env. 850 000 hab.
Mountain View SD	Env. 8 500 hab.		
Portage La Prairie SD		Env. 13 800 hab.	
Prairie Rose SD	Env. 3 000 hab.		
Prairie Spirit SD	Env. 4 000 hab.		
Western SD	Env. 10 000 hab.		
Ontario			
Bluewater DSB			Grande région de Toronto
Durham DSB		Env. 139 000 hab.	Env. 6 500 000 hab.
Lakehead Public Schools		Env. 107 000 hab.	Env. 1 000 000 hab.
Ottawa Catholic SD		Fau 12 150 hab	LIN. 1 000 000 Hab.
Renfrew County Catholic DSB		Env. 13 150 hab.	
Renfrew County DSB		Env. 13 150 hab.	
Peterborough, VNCCSB		Env. 190 000 hab.	
Thunder Bay Catholic SB Trillium Lakelands DSB		Env. 114 000 hab.	
Waterloo Catholic DSB		Env. 22 300 hab.	
		Env. 116 000 hab.	
Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador		Em. 112.000 h-h	
NL English SD		Env. 112 000 hab.	
Total : 29 partenaires à travers le pays			

Partner loyalty * = year after year (2023-2024)

Fidélisation des partenaires * = année de la première participation

Provinces ou territoires	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Jerritoires Nord-Ouest			
Yellowknife Catholic	Participation*	Participation	
School			
Colombie-Britannique			
University of Victoria			Participation*
French Teachers			
New Westminster		Participation*	
School Division (SD 40)			
Greater Victoria School		Participation*	
Division (SD 61)			
Alberta			
Calgary Board of	Participation*	Participation	Participation
Education			
Edmonton Catholic SD	Participation*	Participation	Participation
Saskatchewan			
Saskatoon Public SD		Participation*	Participation
Christ The Teacher			
Catholic Schools			
Manitoba			
Border Land SD		Participation*	
Brandon SD			Participation*
Flin Flon SD		Participation*	
Kelsey SD			Participation*
Louis Riel SD		Participation*	
Mountain View SD		Participation*	
Portage La Prairie SD		Participation*	Participation
Prairie Rose SD			Participation*
Prairie Spirit SD			
Western SD			Participation*
Ontario			
Bluewater DSB			Participation*
Durham DSB	Participation*	Participation	Participation
Lakehead Public Shools,	Participation*	Participation	
Ottawa Catholic SD			Participation
Renfrew County Catholic	Participation*	Participation	Participation
DSB	-		
Renfrew County DSB	Participation*	Participation	Participation
Peterborough, VNCCSB	Participation*	Participation	
Thunder Bay Catholic SB	Participation*	Participation	Participation
Trillium Lakelands DSB			
Waterloo Catholic DSB			Participation*
T-Neuve-et-Labrador			
NL English SD			Participation
Total : 29 partenaires à trav	ers le navs		

Three Different Cohorts

- ✓ Accomodating a variety of schedules
- ✓ Planning for hiring sufficient coaches
- ✓ Weekly sessions more effective
- Enrolling in more than one cohort





PROGRAMME **D'ACCOMPAGNEMENT** L INGUISTIQUE

Améliorez votre processus d'embauche et encadrez le perfectionnement des compétences langagières de votre personnel enseignant en immersion française.

Cohortes 2024-2025



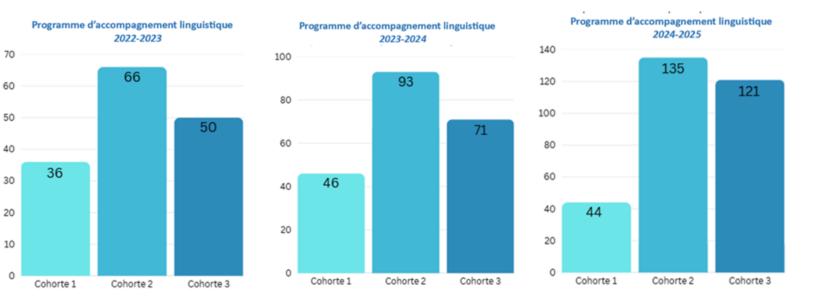
Printemps 2025 Inscription avant le 7 avril 2025 Séances d'accompagnement (1h par semaine) : à terminer avant la fin juin

- Recevoir un accompagnement linguistique V individualisé
- Explorer des outils langagiers et devenir des communicateurs confiants

Pour participer?

Breakdown of participants by cohort in the program

Répartition des inscriptions par cohorte au *Programme d'accompagnement linguistique* 2022-2023 à 2024-2025





Testimonies from coaches and participants

www.acpi.ca



CERTIFICAT DE PARTICIPATION

PROGRAMME D'ACCOMPAGNEMENT LINGUISTIQUE

Avril 2025

LESLEY DOELL Conseillère pédagogique nationale ACPI

athern Armstrong

CATHLEEN ARMSTRONG Chargée de projets pédagogiques ACPI

PREMIÉRECLASS

aade lence

JESSICA SAADA Directrice générale ACPI

And five years from now?

- Acknowledgement of life-long learning
- ✓ Constant tweaking based on partner feedback and participant feedback
- ✓ Customized program
- ✓The power of collaboration
- ✓ Concrete results in improved language proficiency over the longterm



Access the program here

Questions? Merci!

www.acpi.ca

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