



## School Trustee Candidate Questionnaire - Election Oct. 15, 2022



Dear School Trustee Candidate,  
On October 15th parents will be voting in school board elections.

To help our 8,000 Canadian Parents for French members around the province make informed decisions, we are asking all school board candidates to respond to this short survey. We will share your responses with our members in your local community before election day. Our members are parents with children in the education system. Your responses will be very important to them.

**The deadline to submit your response is Friday, October 7th at 5pm.**

Thank you for taking the time to articulate your support for French educational programs.

– Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon

### Any Questions?

Feel free to contact Jason Howe, CPF BC & Yukon Executive Director: [ed@cpf.bc.ca](mailto:ed@cpf.bc.ca)

### Personal Information:

#### Full Name

Kulvir Mann

#### Electoral District

SD 44 North Vancouver

### Questions and Details:

#### Do you support French immersion?

Yes, I fully support it and believe it is a great program that allows our students an opportunity to learn and be fluent in another language.

It is a district wide program that any student can register for. In NVSD, we have an early French immersion program for students starting at Kindergarten/Grade 1 to Grade 12 or the late French immersion program from grade 6 to 12. It is currently being taught at 6 of our elementary schools. We have the secondary program at 3 schools for Grade 8 to 12.

Students that are fluent in more than 1 language have access to more opportunities nationally and internationally, have less competition and higher wages in certain business industries and organizations. Students who are exposed to cultural differences become more respectful, have better

communication skills and increased acceptance of multicultural backgrounds.

### **If elected, in what ways would you demonstrate support for French immersion?**

I have been very supportive of the program and our families that have enrolled in it for many years before I was an elected trustee and continue to do so at the board table. I share the information from the NV Chapter on my social media links and have attended many events with parents over the past 4 years as trustee.

I would welcome more opportunities for trustees to be engaged with the Canadian Parents for French and build a stronger relationship. I would recommend a survey to gather feedback from current families registered on their experience and interested new families for what they expect from the program in NVSD.

I want our programs to be equally accessible for all children to be able to register and have had the best experience when they graduate.

I am always happy and proud to see at our French immersion schools, that the presentations such as singing national anthems, school events and assemblies are done in both French and English by students. It allows the celebration of their learning to be showcased for all the students in the school and invited guests.

### **What strategies would you employ to keep up with parental demand for French immersion programs within your school district?**

As a school district, we review the program enrollment numbers and demand for it annually so that we can support the students who want to register. If there is more demand for it, we can review, and it can be grown into more elementary schools.

I attend PAC meetings regularly and they have been a great place for parents to ask questions and provide feedback to me directly. I hope to get a chance to sit on our French Immersion Advisory Committee as well and see how I can advocate there for the program and will also do so at the BCSTA conferences.

I would love to attend a Canadian Parents for French meeting to learn more about your role and help support you which would benefit our students/families. Our staff, administrators and teachers also collaborate with other school districts to share ideas and information with each other.

I would also advocate for more funding at the provincial level with the Ministry of Education for NVSD. There was funding announced in 2021 by the federal government to increase bilingualism for students across Canada and support their learning French from an early age. It was a 3-year commitment, and I will be following up on that to see how much NVSD would be able to receive.

### **How would you support recruitment and retention of French Immersion teachers?**

Our school district staff do a tremendous amount of work with recruitment and retention of teachers and are always looking for new unique ways to attract more teachers. They work with local universities and colleges, across Canada and internationally to post jobs and entice teachers to join NVSD.

With our local universities/colleges, our school district has a partnership with them where the teacher candidates are offered opportunities at our schools to gain experience and practicums so they can apply and get hired for a job when they graduate. This makes an easy transition for them as they are already a valued member of our school district.

Our French teachers have a strong network to support each other, and they work collaboratively on how to make it grow and be even more successful.

I would support as requested in my governance role as hiring new staff is operational.

**Would you support a French Advisory Committee at the school district level, with representatives from the various stakeholders, i.e. trustees, administrators, parents and teachers?**

Yes, I do and we already have a French Immersion Advisory Committee that includes a trustee rep, senior exec, principals, teachers, cupe rep, parents and students.

I think it would be a great idea to have the Canadian Parents for French do a presentation and provide feedback you have received from parents for the committee reps. It would be a way to increase communication between you and the school district.

**In what ways would you support the expansion of online French courses for students who cannot obtain proper access to French immersion classes through to grade 12?**

We currently have 6 online courses available through our NVSD Online Learning for grades 10 to 12. I would support growing the list of courses and have it from grade 8 to 12.

I would suggest a survey be done with students and parents in grade 7 to 12 to see what courses they would like to see added and how much interest in enrollment there is if those options would be added. If there is a demand for more options and to grow the program from grade 8 to 12. I would fully support and advocate for it. We would also need to ensure that we have staff and resources to be able to teach the courses.

**Anything else you would like to add?**

I think more opportunities for students to experience the French culture and awareness of the language would be beneficial for their learning.

In NVSD, students get to go to France and Quebec which have been amazing opportunities for them. Due to covid we did not offer them for the past few years, but I am excited that our students will be going to Quebec this school year in May 2023.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to engage with parents and families. If anyone has any questions or want to discuss anything about our NVSD program, please contact me anytime.

We appreciate you taking the time to complete this survey. Thank you.