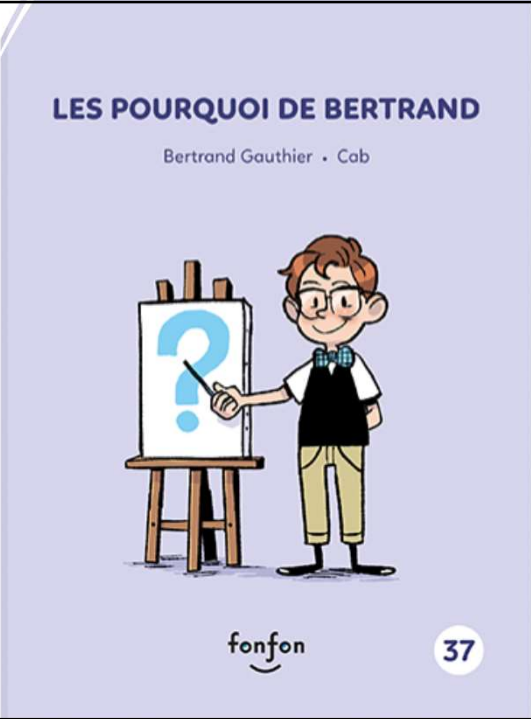


Why  
Late French  
Immersion?  
*Ça, c'est la  
question!*

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COTW Discussion,  
Mission Public Schools  
March 2025

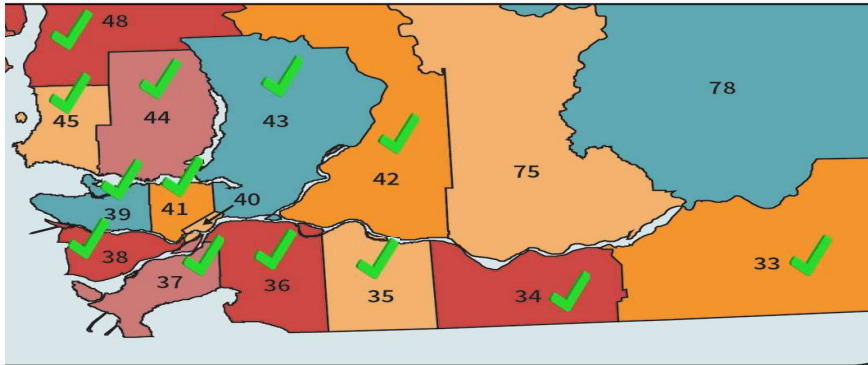


1



2

Local Districts that offer Late French Immersion (grade 6/7 entry)



- 33 Chilliwack
- 34 Abbotsford
- 35 Langley
- 36 Surrey
- 37 Delta
- 38 Richmond
- 39 Vancouver
- 40 New Westminster
- 41 Burnaby
- 42 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
- 43 Coquitlam
- 44 North Vancouver
- 45 West Vancouver
- 48 Sea to Sky
- 75 Mission
- 78 Fraser-Cascade

**Districts that do not offer late French Immersion**

SD75 – Mission

SD78 – No French Immersion program

3

Support from moving from ICF to Late FI

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
We did not have a qualified teacher.	We had a qualified teacher but not enough students.	Change the structure so that students start in Grade 7 instead of leaving their elementary school in their last year.

4



**Who are our current 524 French Immersion students?**

- 70 Indigenous students currently enrolled (K-12 making up 13% of the program's student population)
- Neurodiverse (including autism, down syndrome, dyslexia)
- 35 designated students (6.6%)
- Plurilingual and pluricultural
- Monolingual (a protective factor against racism and creating a diverse society includes speaking additional languages)

5

**Why late French Immersion in Mission?**

**It's an OPPORTUNITY!**

- Opportunity to learn Canada's other official language and provides job opportunities (ex. RCMP, flight attendant, federal government jobs, mobility options to move to a Franco-Canadian region, etc.)
- Many newcomer families want to learn both official languages, but prefer to start with English in primary
- Some families choose to start school and routines in English (new district focus on grade 1 entry as well)
- Increases class sizes in French Immersion at the secondary level
- No entry point for families moving to Mission to join late immersion (some go to Abbotsford or Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows instead)
- Chance for middle school students to choose a Choice program and be a part of a community within the school

6

## Who pre-registered last year?

Students pre-registered from 7 elementary Mission schools

17 students pre-registered last year

9 decided not to join because they did not want to leave their elementary school for their last year (*these initial numbers may also be impacted by those who did not decide to pre-register for the same reason*)

### Students registered from:

ESR (2), Cherry Hill (1), Mission Central (3), Christine Morrison (3), Hillside (3), Albert McMahon (2), Windebank (3)

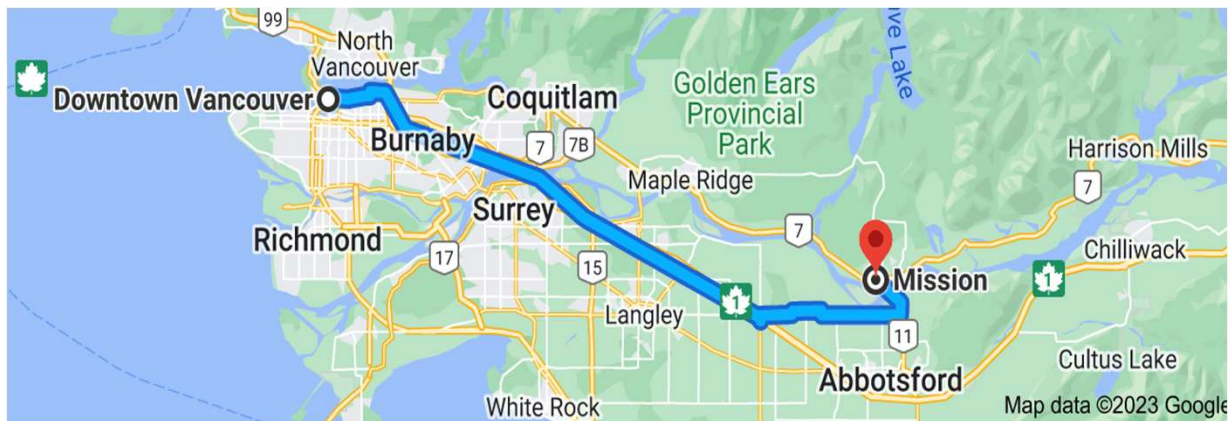
PLUS one out of district that was moving to Mission in the summer

**\*These students would be given priority registration since we cancelled the program. We would connect with them directly.**

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## Mobility & population changes

(Statistics Canada, 2021)		Mission--Matsqui--Fraser Canyon <sup>Ⓢ</sup> British Columbia [Federal electoral district (2013 Representation Order)]
		Counts
Characteristic		Total
<b>Population and dwellings</b>		
Population, 2021 <sup>1</sup>		101,216
Population, 2016 <sup>1</sup>		94,825



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**Parent reasons (from last year)**

Thank you for this **opportunity** for our son. He is very excited to join the program in the Fall. Opportunity was repeated by three parents.

My child has expressed interest in learning new languages, she is currently learning Japanese with Duolingo App. I believe she will be very excited about learning French at school.

I have always had the interest and desire for my kids to be multilingual but my fear was I didn't speak French. I have watched the district's YouTube video which identified that I do not have to speak French for my kids to study French.

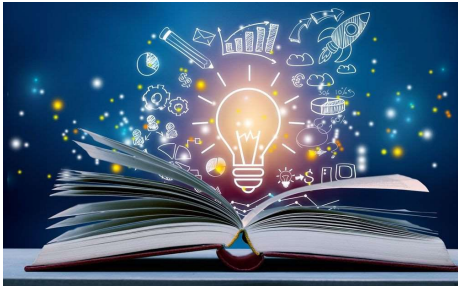
We are a Hungarian speaking family and we hope to expand his knowledge to speak another language.

**A family who moved to Mission last year:** There are significant benefits in being bi-lingual and even multi-lingual, if that opportunity arises. It not only taps into our neurodevelopment that can easily go unused, but it also bridges cultural and social gaps. We become better at problem solving and perspective taking when we learn to switch codes, and best of all, we can meet others at their place of expression, and worldview.

We are thankful that my child was able to join French Immersion mid-year grade 1 and he is truly enjoying his class. Since learning a third language, he has rekindled his desire to keep Afrikaans going as a home language, and even expressed the desire to learn other languages like isiXhosa and Fijian.

9

**Research on early and late French Immersion literacy skills**



In the long term, students who learn to read in English before learning to read in French attain literacy levels in English that are no different from those who learn to read and write in French first.

- The same is true as far as French reading is concerned. Students in late French immersion do not read in French better than those who began in early French immersion. What differs the attainment of proficiency.
- Either way, students will transfer their knowledge of strategies and “how language works” to the other language

Turnbull, Lapkin & Hart, 2001; Genesee, Paradis, Crago, 2004; Genesee & Jared, 2008)

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# What could Late French Immersion look like in Mission at École Heritage Park?

Year 1 – Grade 7	Grades 8-9	Grade 10
<p><b>All instruction in French except elective</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">SN1</span></p> <p><b>*No English Language Arts</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">SN0</span></p>	<p><b>Stay in their Late FI group for the following classes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Français langue 8 &amp; 9</li> <li>• Sciences humaines 8 &amp; 9</li> <li>• Sciences 8 &amp; 9</li> <li>• Maths 8</li> </ul> <p>All the rest of the classes can be taught in English.</p>	<p><b>Join the Early French Immersion group in all immersion-based classes: (Communication orale 10, Français langue 10, Sciences humaines 10, Français langue 11, Sciences humaines 11, Français langue 12).</b></p> <p><b>Proficiency levels of students in late French Immersion (grade 12):</b> Minimum B1 proficiency, some may attain a B2-level of proficiency</p>

11

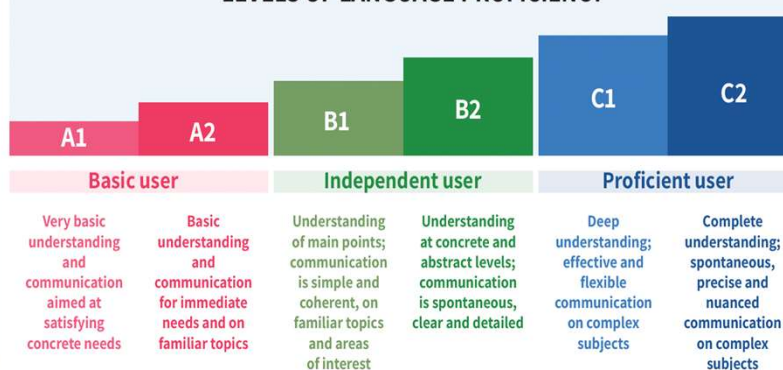
## Diplôme d'études en langue française

Certification offered to all French learners in Mission études en langue française in grade 12

### What is the DELF/DALF certificate?

- An internationally recognized certification
- Over 65,000 certifications completed in Canada to date
- Assesses French as a second language skills including listening, speaking, reading and writing
- Based on the levels of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (CEFR) to which the pedagogy of second language programs in British Columbia is aligned

### LEVELS OF LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY



12

## Slide 11

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**SNO** Should we keep math in English for all three years?

Shauna Nero, 2025-02-25T22:04:12.323

**SNO 0** Traditional FI Instructional time in French: 100% (Grade 6), 50% (grades 7-10), 25% Grade 11, 12.5% Grade 12

Shauna Nero, 2025-02-25T22:07:47.154

**SN1** This could also be in French?

Shauna Nero, 2025-02-25T22:05:41.121

### Possibility of federal funding special project

SD75 can submit a potential special project proposal with UBC-O to help support the creation of the program 1.0 Late FI teacher from September 2025-June 2028 plus some start-up resource costs. Proposals are due March 27th 2025.

\*After June 2028, we will know if the program is successful and it would just be their teacher (not extra funded).



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