

Deborah Ball, President
Canadian Parents for French, Newfoundland and Labrador
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Sept. 30, 2011

Dear Ms. Ball:

Thank you for your questionnaire from the Canadian Parents for French. Our Party strongly supports French education in this province. I am happy to respond to your questions on behalf of the Party.

1. Are you aware that there are over 20 000 Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who speak both English and French, the vast majority of whom learned French as a second language?

The fact that there are so many second-language French speakers in the province today speaks to sound federal and provincial policies for education in French as a second language which can only be strengthened.

2. Do you believe funding for French language education programs should be maintained, increased or decreased?

Early French Immersion is the key to a bilingual population, but the demand is outstripping supply. More resources must be directed to providing French Immersion in each school facing a growing demand, so that children are not turned away.

3. In a competitive global economy, where 52 nations have French as an official or working language, do you believe French language post-secondary education should be a priority in Newfoundland and Labrador?

Our post-secondary institutions could benefit from more courses conducted in French, but complete post-secondary French education in the province would seem a challenge. We welcome more information from you on this topic.

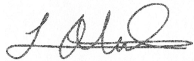
4. What has been your or your family's experience with French?

Many people in this province have benefited from French language programs in our schools. Being bilingual is proving more and more useful to today's young graduates in finding employment and making links with francophones in Canada and abroad. Growing demand for Early French Immersion speaks for itself.

If you wish to look at our platform, please go to <http://www.nl.ndp.ca/platform>.

If you would like further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Michael