**PRESS RELEASE**

**Canadian Parents for French New Brunswick disappointed with GNB French Immersion Consultation**

Canadian Parents for French New Brunswick is calling on parents, students, and teachers to complete supplementary survey in support of Grade 1 French Immersion on the GNB government website as well as our very own survey found on our website [www.cpfnb.org](http://www.cpfnb.org) , Facebook and Twitter page.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Sussex, New Brunswick—**The Board of Directors of Canadian Parents for French New Brunswick has expressed sincere disappointment and frustration towards the Government of New Brunswick’s recent decision to consult on the entry point for New Brunswick’s French Immersion Program. In response, the Board of Directors has established an independent survey to send with a letter to the Minister of Education, the Honourable Dominic Cardy.

On February 27th, the Government of New Brunswick launched a consultation soliciting feedback on the French Immersion entry point. Canadian Parents for French New Brunswick has been unequivocal in its supports the grade one entry-point for the French Immersion program in the best interest of New Brunswick students.

Bob Bernier, Board Director, retired teacher and former District Supervisor said “the government should be applauding the results of our program: nearly 85% of students starting French immersion in grade one that finish the program in its entirety are achieving the level of intermediate plus or better, making them bilingual. In addition to this, a total of 40% reach advanced level, a testament to the dedication and commitment of students and teachers.”

The current grade one entry point, introduced in September 2017, was designed with purpose to increase the number of New Brunswick students that graduate bilingual. The dedicated teachers and administrators that developed the program did so with intention to identify resources and clear objectives to reach the program’s objectives. Canadian Parents for French New Brunswick is confident that this program, if continued, will yield even better results than our former programs in the province.

The questions in the questionnaire are perceived as flawed in order to reflect the government’s intention to change the entry point of French Immersion. The Board of Directors has written Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Dominic Cardy to express their concerns with the consultation and support for the grade one entry point. Additionally, they are calling upon parents, students, graduates, and teachers to express their disappointment with the survey and express their experiences with the grade one entry point by completing the Government of New Brunswick survey before March 31st, 2019. An independent survey created by CPF NB can be found on our website [www.cpfnb.org](http://www.cpfnb.org) or our Facebook and Twitter page will be open until March 25th, 2019.

**Quotes:**

“Canadian Parents for French New Brunswick is disappointed with the recent government survey. We remain supportive of the grade one entry point. It is disappointing that the government has released this survey that seems to be soliciting feedback only insofar as it fits their narrative to change the current entry point. We are calling on Minister Cardy to use pre-existing resources that were completed using genuine consultation with stakeholders and grounded in research, such as the 2012 Task Force Report, that clearly states that grade one entry for French Immersion is in the best interest of New Brunswick students” –Greg Keith, President, Canadian Parents for French New Brunswick

“As an individual whose entire career path has been shaped by a choice that was made when I was five years old, I remain an advocate for the entry level of the French Immersion program being the first grade. I am aware that no two program participants will have the same experience and that, unfortunately, not everybody will be as fortunate as I have been. However, I have seen first-hand the impact this program can have on children, and I hope that people will continue to speak up about the subject.”—Lexie Forsythe, Grade One Entry Point Graduate (Riverview High School, 2016) and current Education student at l’Université de Moncton

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**Quick Facts:**

* Canadian Parents for French New Brunswick is a provincial branch of Canadian Parents for French, a network of volunteers dedicated to the promotion and creation of French-second-language learning opportunities for young New Brunswickers
* New Brunswick’s Auditor General, in a January 2019 report, warned that disruption and school reforms is challenging student performance
* 2015 test results show that 84.3% of students who took the test scored *Intermediate Plus* or better and 41.6% scored at the Advance Plus level

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