



## MEDIA RELEASE

January 21, 2020

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### ***Board of Education French Immersion Review***

In the Fall of 2019, the Board of Education passed a motion to conduct a comprehensive review of French Immersion programming in School District 91. Early French Immersion is offered in the communities of Burns Lake and Vanderhoof.

The district has contracted the services of Mrs. Anne Cooper from AZ Cooper Consulting to conduct the review. Mrs. Cooper is a retired educator and former superintendent, who has an extensive background in BC Education.

As part of the process, an interim report was submitted to the Board of Education at the January 20, 2020 Board meeting. The report and related information are now publicly available at: <https://www.sd91.bc.ca/apps/news/article/808257>

The interim report includes an examination of:

- *historical enrolment patterns*
- *current enrolments*
- *community demographics*
- *class size and composition*
- *staffing levels and recruitment challenges*
- *budget considerations*

This interim report is provided to ensure that the background and contextual information being considered is widely available, prior to consultations within the community and preceding further analysis and the provision of recommendations.

Mrs. Cooper will visit both Vanderhoof and Burns Lake during the second week in February to meet with staff and stakeholders to obtain further information, gain insights into the program and to garner perceptions and expectations first hand. Only after this phase of the project will any consideration be given to recommendations regarding the programs. A final report will be submitted to the Board of Education in the spring.

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