



Collège nordique francophone welcomes new investments in minority language post-secondary education in the 2021 federal budget

Yellowknife, April 21, 2021— The Collège nordique francophone (CNF) welcomes the new multi-year investments for minority language post-secondary education announced in the 2021 Federal Budget.

Clearly, the Government of Canada is listening to post-secondary institutions in minority settings and, more importantly, to the voices of our students and communities who are calling for greater access to educational programs at institutions by and for them. North of 60, it is clear that increased access to the education our French-speaking youth and adults need must come through a stable and accountable institution like the CNF.

“For the past 10 years, the Franco-Ténoise community has had a vision of building an institution in their image, one that is independent and has the capacity to assemble the right conditions for educational and training programs that will allow them to thrive here in the North,” said Dr. Angélique Ruzindana, President of the CNF. “An educated Franco-Ténoise community with a northern character that reflects the diversity of our territory and indigenous nations is an economic force that contributes to a healthy and resilient labour market.”

“To maximize the potential of each and every one of our students, Collège nordique francophone must take its rightful place within the Northwest Territories’ post-secondary education system,” completes Josée Clermont, executive director. “If we applaud the investments allocated to the college of the linguistic and cultural majority to support its transformation, we point out that it is time for the Canadian North to have its own full-fledged francophone college supported at its fair share by its territorial government with the support of the federal government.”

We wish to recognize the important role that the federal government plays in ensuring that the minority language community has equitable access to post-secondary education in a network of institutions by and for them. If the White Paper on the modernization of the Official Languages Act emphasized the government’s commitment to support this network, the 2021 budget confirms it.

“We would also like to acknowledge the feminist leadership of Ministers Mélanie Joly, Crysthia Freeland and Mona Fortier, and of Parliamentary Secretary Marie-France Lalonde for having created the favourable conditions for the development of the potential of our communities,” added Dr. Ruzindana. “Francophones across the country are working hard to support a just economic recovery for all. We must give ourselves the tools to participate to our full potential.” The CNF looks forward to being part of the national movement to build a strong, effective and sustainable francophone post-secondary system.

A non-profit organization, the mission of the Collège nordique francophone is to offer professional, language and continuing education programs focused on preparing students for the labour market in a lifelong learning context. Its clientele is composed of learners from diverse communities in the Northwest Territories.

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