

## Collège nordique francophone welcomes new federal government investments in minority language post-secondary education

Yellowknife, August 12, 2021— The Collège nordique francophone (CNF) welcomes the new 121.3 million dollar investment over 3 years in minority language postsecondary education, as [announced](#) this morning by the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages.

It is evident that the Government of Canada cares deeply about bilingualism in Canada and the access of French-speaking communities across the country to educational programs in institutions by and for them, including here in the Northwest Territories (NWT). Minister Joly clearly recognizes the key role that the CNF plays in the full development of the Franco-Ténois community, both linguistically and culturally, as well as economically and in the labour market.

"This is a great day for minority French-language post-secondary education. In the NWT, we have been working very hard over the past few years to meet the needs and aspirations of the Franco-Ténois community in all its diversity," said Dr. Angélique Ruzindana, President of the CNF. "These funds will undoubtedly help us perfect not only our offer here at Collège Nordique, but also that of the entire French-language post-secondary network in Canada."

"This investment will allow the CNF, and the Franco-Ténois community that has supported it for many years, to take its rightful place in the Northwest Territories' post-secondary education system," added Executive Director Josée Clermont. "Indeed, today's announcement is cause for celebration. With the support of the Government of the Northwest Territories and Minister Simpson, we will be able to deliver multi-year initiatives that will transform the student experience and allow us to develop new programs and build organizational capacity."

We wish to recognize the great work of Minister Joly in protecting official bilingualism in Canada and the substantive equality of French and English. Bill C-32, which aims to modernize the *Official Languages Act*, is further proof that the federal government is listening to Francophone communities across the country. These new investments confirm its commitment to French-language post-secondary education in Canada.

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*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 NWT.*

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