



PRESS RELEASE

**Henderson Annex to temporarily accommodate students
from Kindergarten through Grade 6 starting in September 2017**

Vancouver, June 21, 2017 – The Board of Trustees of the Conseil scolaire francophone (CSF) met on June 19, 2017 to determine which grades will be offered temporarily at the Henderson Annex starting in September 2017 to partially address overcrowding at École Rose-des-vents and to meet additional space requirements resulting from the restoration of clauses in the collective agreement.

The CSF Board of Trustees has decided that the Henderson Annex will accommodate students from Kindergarten through Grade 6. As of September 2017, students from Kindergarten through Grade 4 enrolled at École Rose-des-vents living between Cambie Street and Main Street (up to False Creek) and those living south of 41st Avenue in Vancouver will have their classes at the Henderson Annex. In the coming years, the Henderson Annex will also accommodate students in Grades 5 and 6 living in the same catchment area.

The CSF Board of Trustees made this decision following a deliberative process in which many factors were considered – particularly those relating to education – in order to organize the school in a way that meets students' needs. The decision to offer Kindergarten through Grade 6 at the Henderson Annex allows a second elementary school to be created, with its own structure. Under this arrangement, all stakeholders – parents, students, employees and school administration – will be involved in making decisions about the needs at the Henderson Annex, and the CSF will be better able to serve current and potential students at both the Henderson Annex and École Rose-des-Vents.

École Rose-des-vents has been overcrowded since 2005. Since then, the CSF has attempted to mitigate the adverse effects of overcrowding by adding portable classrooms and a portable gymnasium at the current school site and using classrooms in École secondaire Jules-Verne to accommodate more students. Despite these efforts, the site at which École Rose-des-vents and École secondaire Jules-Verne are located is overstretched and the lack of space at both schools is becoming worse each year.

It should also be noted that since at least 2001, the CSF has been seeking another site west of Main Street and since 2009 it has been seeking two other sites west of Main Street, in order to build new schools to replace École Rose-des-vents. However, despite a 2015 ruling from the Supreme Court of Canada and another 2016 ruling from the Supreme Court of British Columbia, whose findings regarding École Rose-des-vents have not been appealed, the Ministry of Education has not yet taken the necessary steps to allow the CSF to provide an elementary education west of Main Street that is truly equivalent to that offered to the Anglophone majority.

The Henderson Annex is the only building offered by the Vancouver School Board (VSB) to help the CSF temporarily address overcrowding at École Rose-des-vents. It was built to accommodate a primary school and is located at 801 East 54th Avenue, 800 metres east of Main Street. The Henderson Annex facilities are sufficient to serve as a temporary solution for students from Kindergarten through Grade 6 in the catchment area described above, until the Province takes the necessary steps to allow the CSF to build two new schools west of Main Street.

The Board of Trustees' decision was made following a consultation process in collaboration with members of the Rose-des-Vents Parent Advisory Council and other parents, to assess the preferences of parents of current and potential students with regard to the use of the Henderson Annex. Parents were able to visit the property and building at the Henderson Annex, express their views on the options for using it presented by the CSF, and propose alternative options for the CSF to consider.

Approximately 50% of parents in the CSF community participated in this consultation. The CSF would like to thank the parents who took the time to complete the survey, which provided a better understanding of the concerns and preferences of some parents directly affected by the temporary use of the Henderson Annex.



The administration of École Rose-des-vents will shortly be contacting the recreation centre in the neighbourhood to develop potential partnerships to provide exciting, enriching activities for the future students at the Henderson Annex.

Child care and school transportation

Parents have expressed concerns about transportation and child care. The CSF would like to confirm that discussions are ongoing with the Les Copains child care service, which currently operates at École Rose-des-vents, for the continuation of their services at the Henderson Annex; however, it is quite possible that this service will not be in place by September 2017. For that reason, the CSF and the administration of the Les Copains child care service have agreed to offer transportation between the two sites (École Rose-des-vents and the Henderson Annex) until all the licenses required for the operation of a child care service at the Henderson Annex have been obtained.

Also, as mentioned earlier, school transportation times will be comparable to those for children attending École Rose-des-vents. Individual situations will be assessed to provide the best possible service.

The CSF will be contacting the parents of students who will be attending the Henderson Annex in September 2017.

Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique

Since it was established in 1995, the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique has been providing educational programs and services promoting the comprehensive development and cultural identity of the province's Francophone students. A partner in the advancement of the Francophone community in British Columbia, the CSF now has more than 5,700 students attending 37 schools – including 24 homogeneous French-language schools – and serves around one hundred communities throughout the province.

-30-

Information:

Pascale Cyr
Public Relations
Conseil scolaire francophone de la C.-B.
(604) 214-2617