

CM2000697

Article Title

Major Investment to Support Expansion of Nunavut's Only Francophone School

Teaser

The Government of Canada, together with the Government of Nunavut, is funding a major project to expand Nunavut's only French-language school

Tweet

Minister Joly, together with the @GOVofNunavut, announces funding to support Nunavut's Francophone community.

Minister Name(s)

Hon. Mélanie Joly

Departments/Agencies

Canadian Heritage

Geographic Region

Nunavut

Article Body

IQALUIT, November 9, 2020

At a virtual press conference given jointly with the Honourable David Joanasié, Nunavut's Minister of Education, the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages, announced that the Government of Canada is providing \$10,769,000 in funding to École des Trois-Soleils and the Centre de la petite enfance les Petits Nanooks child care centre for work to expand their premises and modernize their equipment. The Government of Nunavut has committed to investing \$9,001,000 in this important project, which involves adding a gymnasium and four classrooms, purchasing equipment, and expanding the child care centre. Once expanded and better equipped, École des Trois-Soleils will be able to accommodate all of the region's Francophone students under one roof. Currently, students have to transfer to an English-language high school after grade 8.

Inuktitut, English and French are Nunavut's three official languages. As the territory's Francophone population has grown, this increase has been particularly noticeable within the school system. It is therefore important for the federal government to support this official-language minority community.

In addition to wanting to preserve Inuktitut, the Government of Nunavut aspires to make this territory a fully bilingual society whose population would be fluent not only in Inuktitut, but also in English or French.

Quotes

“All Canadians have the right to a quality education in their first and second languages, regardless of the community to which they belong. By strengthening Nunavut’s Francophone educational infrastructure and networks, our government is helping the Francophonie flourish in the country’s northernmost region.”

—The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages

“Nunavut has a young and growing population with vibrant languages flourishing in our territory. It is always a delight to see schools and childcare facilities expanded and improved because young people deserve the best learning environments. This building upgrade will certainly be a positive impact for many Nunavummiut linguistically and culturally.” —The Honourable David Joanasié, Nunavut Minister of Education

Quick Facts

In 2016, 4.4 percent of Nunavut’s population could conduct a conversation in French, an increase of 0.6 percent since 2001.

In 2016, 1.8 percent of Nunavut’s population reported French as their mother tongue or language regularly used at home.

Associated Links

Action Plan for Official Languages – 2018–2023: Investing in Our Future	https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/official-languages-bilingualism/official-languages-action-plan/2018-2023.html
Official Languages Support Programs	https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/official-languages.html
Infographic: The French Presence in Nunavut	https://www.clo-ocol.gc.ca/en/statistics/infographics/french-presence-nunavut

Contacts

For more information (media only), please contact:

Catherine Mounier-Desrochers
Press Secretary
Office of the Minister of Economic Development and
Official Languages
613-295-3617
catherine.mounier-desrochers@canada.ca

Media Relations
Canadian Heritage
819-994-9101
1-866-569-6155
pch.media-media.pch@canada.ca

Follow us on Twitter: [@CdnHeritage](https://twitter.com/CdnHeritage),
[@freetobeme_ca](https://twitter.com/freetobeme_ca), [@SportCanada_EN](https://twitter.com/SportCanada_EN) and
[@capital_exp](https://twitter.com/capital_exp).

Troy Rhoades
A/Manager, Communications
Department of Education
Government of Nunavut
867-975-5680
Info.edu@gov.nu.ca