



## POLICY STATEMENT

The Government of the Nunavut (GN), under the authority of the *Education Act*, is committed to ensuring that the children of rights holders have access to French first language instruction in a school or classroom provided for out of public funds.

## PRINCIPLES

This policy is based on the following principles:

- That the children of right holders, as identified in section 23 of the *Charter*, are entitled to receive instruction in French;
- That under section 163 of the *Education Act*, the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut (CSFN) has a mandate to provide French first language public instruction to the children of rights holders;
- To ensure that the children of rights holders have access to the education program they are entitled to under section 23 of the *Charter* and the resources required to provide an optimal program pursuant to that section, only the child of a rights holder is automatically entitled to French first language instruction.

## APPLICATION

This policy applies to the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut when enrolling a new student in a school or classroom under its jurisdiction.

## DEFINITIONS

*Charter*: Refers to the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

*Rights holder*: Refers to any individual who has a right to have his or her children receive French first language instruction under section 23 the *Charter*. A rights holder in Nunavut is a Canadian citizen who meets one of the following criteria:

- (a) His/her native language is French, that is, the first language learned and still understood; or
- (b) He or she has received his or her education at the elementary level in a French-language education institution in Canada; or
- (c) He or she is the parent (guardian) of a child who has received or receives his/her education at the elementary or secondary level in a French-language education institution in Canada.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **1. Minister**

- (a) The Minister shall ensure that, wherever numbers warrant, the children of rights holders under section 23 of the *Charter* have access to French-language instruction.
- (b) The Minister of Education has the authority to establish and enforce an admissions policy for French first language programs in Nunavut.
- (c) The Minister of Education shall ensure that the CSFN carries out their roles and responsibilities in compliance with this policy.

### **2. Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut**

- (a) The CSFN is responsible for the provision of French first language education programming for the children of rights holders.
- (b) The CSFN is responsible for the implementation of this policy when enrolling a new student in a school or classroom under its jurisdiction.

## **PROVISIONS**

1. No new student shall be enrolled in a French first language education program unless:
  - i. at least one of his or her parents is a rights holder under section 23 of the *Charter*, **or**;
  - ii. with the support of the CSFN, the Minister has approved their admission to the program, per the prescribed process in the accompanying operational directive: "Admission of Students in French-language schools".
2. The CSFN will use the prescribed format to document its verification of the eligibility of a new student who is a child of a section 23 right-holder under section 1.
3. The CSFN shall maintain copies of the documentation submitted by the rights holders to substantiate the student's eligibility, and will provide access to this documentation to the Minister upon request.

## **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

No additional financial resources are required to implement this policy.

## **PREROGATIVE OF CABINET**

Nothing in this policy shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of Cabinet to make decisions or take action outside the provisions of this policy.

## **SUNSET CLAUSE**

This policy shall be in effect from the date of the signature and shall remain in effect until March 22, 2021.