

English follows

Bonjour,

Je vous écris au nom de la Société de la francophonie manitobaine (SFM). La SFM est le porte-parole officiel de la communauté francophone du Manitoba. Elle veille à l'épanouissement de cette communauté et revendique le plein respect de ses droits.

À l'approche des élections scolaires, la communauté francophone aimerait connaître la position des candidates et candidats sur certaines questions importantes.

Nous vous demandons de prendre quelques minutes pour répondre aux questions ci-dessous. Vos réponses seront ensuite publiées pour notre communauté sur les réseaux sociaux. Si vous avez un compte Twitter, veuillez inclure votre identifiant Twitter afin que nous puissions vous identifier lorsque nous partagerons vos réponses sur nos médias sociaux.

1. Comme commissaire, verrez-vous l'importance des programmes d'immersion au sein de votre division scolaire ?
2. Selon vous, quelle est l'importance du bilinguisme au sein de votre communauté ?

Si vous avez des questions, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec Marianne Champagne, gestionnaire des communications à la Société de la francophonie manitobaine, à mchampagne@sfm.mb.ca.

En vous souhaitant bon succès dans la course électorale, veuillez agréer nos sentiments les meilleurs.

Hello,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Société de la francophonie manitobaine (SFM). The SFM is the official voice of Manitoba's Francophone community. It ensures the development of this community and advocates for the full respect of its rights.

As the municipal election approaches, the Francophone community would like to know where the candidates stand on some important issues.

We ask that you take a few minutes to answer the questions below. We will then share your answers on social media for our community. If you are on Twitter, please include your Twitter handle so we can identify you when we share your responses on our social media.

1. As a school trustee, do you see the importance of immersion programs within your school division?
2. In your opinion, how important is bilingualism in your community?

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Marianne Champagne, Communications Manager at the Société de la francophonie manitobaine, at mchampagne@sfm.mb.ca.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Best of luck in the upcoming electoral race.

—
Marianne Champagne
Gestionnaire des communications
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Hi Marianne,

I have been having a very busy campaign but I love your question and would be happy to provide a response for you to post to the Francophone community. The question reminds me of an event that I experienced while traveling in France.

But first, in response to your first question the answer is yes. There is great importance to immersion programs in our school division. The gift of language has benefits that lasts a lifetime. Both my children are enrolled in the French immersion programs.

I believe that French in the community is vitally important because it demonstrates purpose to the French immersion track in school.

When I was in France I came across some school age children. When they discovered that I was from Canada and spoke English they immediately thought it would be fun to speak English with me and began to say random English words and phrases completely out of context. I quickly understood that they were practicing what they had learned in school and played along. We all had a great laugh and created a memory for all of us that would last a lifetime.

However, what is important to note here is that having a chance to speak another language in the community is what gives purpose to learning it in school which in turn keeps it in the community. May this cycle continue for generations.

[Vive le français](#)

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