

FOR RELEASE  
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## **Selkirk French immersion program to continue in 2016**

WHITEHORSE—The French immersion program at Selkirk Elementary School will be expanded to Grade 1 in September 2016.

"It is my pleasure to announce that the early French immersion program at Selkirk Elementary School will continue in the 2016/17 school year," Minister of Education Doug Graham said. "We are pleased to assure parents of children in the kindergarten French immersion class at Selkirk that their children can continue in the same school next year."

In response to demand from parents, the Department of Education established a new kindergarten French immersion class at Selkirk Elementary School in the 2015/16 school year. Children who could not be accommodated in a kindergarten class at École Whitehorse Elementary School were able to join the new class at Selkirk Elementary School.

Selkirk Elementary School will offer two entry points for early immersion in September 2016: kindergarten or Grade 1. École Whitehorse Elementary School will continue to offer early immersion starting in kindergarten or Grade 1 as well.

In spring 2015, the Department of Education began working with Canadian Parents for French to develop a parent survey designed to inform decision making for the early immersion program expansion. Focus groups were held with parents, students, school administrators and other stakeholders to gather feedback about French second language programs. The decision to expand French immersion at Selkirk Elementary School is in response to a strong recommendation from focus group participants.

"We think it's great that the decision to expand the French immersion program to Grade 1 at Selkirk Elementary School has been made and that it has been made with enough time for parents to think about where they would like to enrol their children," Canadian Parents for French president Kristina Craig said. "We know that Selkirk Elementary School is ready for the program and we are keen to support the educators and families however we can as they provide solid immersion programming."

Kindergarten registration for Whitehorse schools begins at 9 a.m. on Monday, February 8. A parent information meeting on early French immersion will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 3, at Selkirk Elementary School.

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