

Monday, November 20, 2017
Pomquet, NS

The Honourable Zach Churchill
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

cc. The Honourable Lena Metlege Diab, Minister of Acadian Affairs and Francophonie
cc. The Honourable Randy Delorey, MLA for Antigonish
cc. Jennifer Nunn, President of Foyer-École, École acadienne de Pomquet
cc. Michel Comeau, Directeur général, Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
cc. Nicole LeBlanc-Proctor, Directrice, École acadienne de Pomquet

Minister Churchill,

I am writing you today on behalf of Société acadienne Sainte-Croix, a cultural group committed to increasing opportunities to foster francophone Acadian culture and tradition in the Pomquet region, to express support for the École acadienne de Pomquet expansion project that the local parent association (Foyer-École, École acadienne de Pomquet) has been lobbying for.

The community of Pomquet is thankful for its French-language school, and extremely proud of the reputation it has garnered for itself as a quality institution where students become bilingual while getting a solid education and remaining solidly connected to their francophone and Acadian roots. Thanks to this excellent reputation, the school's attendance is rising steadily, to the point where space is at a premium and rooms never intended to serve as classrooms are now being used in that way - not to mention the three portable classrooms that now stand in the school yard.

For small rural communities like ours, especially in the case of French-language schools in the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP), it is essential that these schools be able to adequately grow to serve their communities. We know that when the school resorts to portable classrooms, when home economics stop being offered because that room is being used as a classroom and therefore unavailable for its original purpose - that parents start moving their kids into the English or immersion programs nearby in order to ensure the maximum opportunities for their children. However, each such instance is a loss for our community, a broken connection that could instead be strengthening the already struggling presence of Acadian French in rural Nova Scotia. For this reason, we hope you will consider the importance of properly supporting CSAP schools, especially the École acadienne de Pomquet, when you draw up this year's list of schools that will receive the go-ahead for expansion.

Sincèrement,



Paul Gagnon, directeur général
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