



Centre d'accueil et d'établissement
50, 8627 Rue Marie-Anne-Gaboury
Edmonton (Alberta) T6C 3N1



Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord
301, 8627 Rue Marie-Anne-Gaboury
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NEWS RELEASE

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Guide for francophone newcomers: *L'ÉCOLE FRANCOPHONE : GUIDE POUR PARENTS*

Edmonton's centre for francophone newcomers, *Le Centre d'accueil et d'établissement* (CAÉ) and the francophone school board, *Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord* (CSCN), are launching a guide for francophone parents newly arrived in Alberta or Canada entitled *L'ÉCOLE FRANCOPHONE : GUIDE POUR PARENTS*. The guide will be launched Tuesday, March 24, 2009 from 11 am to 12 pm in the rotunda La Cité francophone located at 8627, rue Marie-Anne-Gaboury (91 St.) in Edmonton.

The guide will offer newcomers information and suggestions that will help them establish positive relationships with education stakeholders. It will also help them understand what goes on at school and how the Alberta school system works. «For our schools, this guide is an excellent way to inform new families about our programs, services and policies that are different from one province to another» explains Henri Lemire, superintendent of the CSCN.

This initiative is part of the Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) program. A SWIS is someone who is hired by the centre for francophone newcomers and works within a francophone school to offer help and support to recently arrived immigrants. The SWIS also helps school staff better understand the needs of immigrant families and the various levels of integration. Georges Bahaya is director of the CAÉ and supervisor of two SWIS: « I am very proud of this guide produced jointly with the *Conseil scolaire*. I believe it will become an essential tool for newly arrived francophone families».

L'ÉCOLE FRANCOPHONE : GUIDE POUR PARENTS was made possible through a grant from Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

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For more information contact: Georges Bahaya, Director
Centre d'accueil et d'établissement
Tel. : 780-669-6004

Henri Lemire, Superintendent
Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord
Tel. : 780-468-6440/1-800-248-6886