



Association des conseils  
scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario

**Recommendations Submitted to the  
Ministry of Finance of Ontario  
as part of the Pre-Budget Consultations**

**February 11, 2020**

ACÉPO represents the four French-language public school boards in Ontario. With an impressive 79% growth since its creation, the French-language public education system is by far the fastest growing in the province. Our system perfectly meets the needs of a multicultural population living in a modern society, as evidenced by the enviable academic results of our students. The success of French-language public education is all the more remarkable since only four school boards cover the whole of Ontario (average of 55,000 km<sup>2</sup> per French board vs. 5,000 km<sup>2</sup> for English boards), which makes our system the most efficient in terms of resource use in Ontario. In a world where economic success is closely determined by access to high-level educational services, it is foremost by leveraging the resources of its human capital that Ontario will succeed in positioning itself as a leader in a global economy.

ACÉPO is pleased that the government is inviting its stakeholders to participate in the pre-budget consultations. As part of these consultations, we offer the following recommendations to support student success, and ensure that French-language public system is providing education, training and skills that will be preparing students for rewarding careers.

### **Careers in Skilled Trades and Technology**

One of the government's priority is to encourage students to choose a career in skilled trades. If students are to have access to a wide range of opportunities to explore careers in skilled trades and technology, major investments are needed to build new workshops and to renew the equipment of existing ones to ensure that workshops are on the cutting edge of technology so that students are prepared to meet the increasing demands of the job market.

But, above all, since training to become a skilled trade teacher has not been offered for more than five years in French-language universities in Ontario, the government must absolutely ensure the reintegration of this option into the French-language university curriculum in order to advance its skilled trades priority.

### **Shortage of Qualified French-Language Teacher and Support Staff**

French-language schools in Ontario are having difficulty finding qualified teachers and support staff. This shortage is further accentuated by the success of immersion programs in English schools and their need for French teachers. It is essential that all French-speaking students in Ontario be able to benefit from quality education in French, and yet nearly 110,000 students and their families are affected by this shortage. The government must invest in innovative and structuring solutions to ensure the sustainability of French-language education in Ontario.

### **School Infrastructure**

With a 79% growth since their creation in 1978, French-language public schools are the fastest growing system in Ontario. Francophone students are increasing in number but are cramped in their school. In fact, several of our schools do not have enough space to accommodate their students.

Lack of infrastructure is not a new problem for Francophone students and their families. They have been waiting for over 21 years for the network of French-language public schools to be completed. Thousands of students have not yet had the opportunity to receive French-language education in more than 45 locations in the province, due to the lack of French-language public schools.

The government must make major investments in capital projects in order to give French-language students, and their parents, the ability to choose the learning environment that will best nurture the development of their full potential.