



February 9, 2026

Request for Capital Funding – French-Language School and Early Learning Centre in Riverview

Honourable Dr. Claire Johnson
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
366 St. George Street
Moncton
E1C 1X2

Dear Minister Johnson,

I am reaching out regarding a meaningful opportunity to strengthen francophone education in Riverview – one that aligns with our shared commitment to supporting New Brunswick’s vibrant Acadian and francophone communities.

Recently, I met with Town of Riverview staff and leaders from the District scolaire francophone Sud (DSFS), to discuss key priorities related to education and infrastructure. Through these conversations, it has become clear that establishing a French-language elementary school, with integrated French-Language early learning and childcare facilities in Riverview, represents not only a necessity for our growing community, but also a tremendous opportunity to advance our collective vision for equitable, accessible French-language education.

Many residents of the town of Riverview are French-language rights holders. Together, we can explore how to develop facilities that better reflect and support these protected language rights, all while strengthening the cultural fabric of our entire region.

The Town of Riverview recognizes and appreciates the Government of New Brunswick’s ongoing commitment to ensuring access to French-language education across the province. We share this commitment and want to work collaboratively with you to support our residents while advancing this important goal.

Therefore, the Town of Riverview respectfully requests that the Government of New Brunswick work with our municipality to secure the necessary capital funding for the timely construction of a French-language elementary school, including integrated early learning and childcare facilities, to ensure families in Riverview have access to French-language education within town boundaries. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the educational needs of our community and how we can move forward together. We would be pleased to join you in Moncton, or host you in Riverview, this February. A Town staff member will reach out to coordinate a convenient meeting time.

Background

As you know, the Greater Moncton Area, which includes the town of Riverview, was Canada’s second fastest-growing census metropolitan area in 2024. Furthermore, according to Statistics Canada, 8.5% of Riverview residents speak French at home, and 29% reported knowledge of both official languages in the

most recent census. Despite this, Riverview lacks a French-language school or adequate early learning and childcare facilities to serve its francophone population.

Currently, francophone parents must navigate challenging decisions regarding their children's education. Many are choosing between enrolling their children in an already crowded French-language school across the Petitcodiac River in Moncton or registering them in the English-language school system. Increasingly, families appear to be selecting the latter option, which may not fully reflect their educational preferences.

Case for a French-Language School and Early Learning Centre in Riverview

Addressing an Immediate Need: More than 300 students residing southwest of the Petitcodiac River are currently enrolled in other schools in the DSFS and could immediately be transferred to Riverview upon the opening of a francophone school. Furthermore, the opening of a new kindergarten to grade eight (K-8) school would attract additional students, including those of francophone parents who currently attend school in the anglophone system. In this regard, according to Statistics Canada, a K-8 school could accommodate approximately 687 students (an increase of 38.5% since 2021) if all children of francophone parents living southwest of the Petitcodiac River are accounted for. The current figures demonstrate a clear and compelling need for this request.

Supporting Equitable Access for Francophone Families in Riverview: As Mayor, I am committed to working alongside our partners to support the well-being of all Riverview residents, including ensuring equitable access to education. We share a collective responsibility to ensure that families can access education in the language of their rights and choice within their community.

At present, many francophone families encounter practical challenges when seeking French-language education for their children in Riverview. Those who choose French-language schooling must travel across the Petitcodiac River to École Sainte-Bernadette, which is currently operating at full capacity and has had to adjust certain services as a result. In the absence of a local option, some families are enrolling their children in nearby English-language schools – not as their preferred choice, but due to limited access to French-language education in town.

Strengthening French Vitality in Riverview: Rapid population growth in Greater Moncton, largely driven by immigration, represents a clear opportunity to strengthen francophone offerings in Riverview. Between 2020 and 2024, the town's population increased 1.8% to 22,227 residents. Establishing a French-language school in Riverview would directly support francophone newcomers, enhance cultural and linguistic vitality, and position the town as a competitive, inclusive community. Town Council views the protection of Acadian and francophone educational rights as an essential and collaborative effort, one that ensures equitable, high-quality French-language education comparable to that offered to anglophone students.

Request for Capital Funding

In November 2024, the newly elected Provincial Government committed to investing in education, with Premier Holt acknowledging that schools across the province are facing overcrowding and stretched resources. I have appreciated your engagement in these challenges, particularly regarding overcrowding in the Greater Moncton Area, and I understand that your government intends to ensure adequate staffing, space, and resources to address them.

At present, Riverview and its residents have not yet seen this commitment fully realized in local francophone school infrastructure. As our community continues to grow, there is an opportunity for us to work together to ensure francophone families have the educational resources they need. In a collaborative spirit, please be advised of the following motion, adopted at the Town of Riverview Regular Council meeting of February 9, 2026.

Riverview Town Council agree to submit an advocacy letter to the Provincial Government requesting funding for the construction of a French-language K-8 school with integrated early learning and childcare facilities in Riverview.

The Town of Riverview looks forward to working with your government, the DSFS, and shareholders, to ensure the francophone children of Riverview receive the high-quality French education they deserve. We look forward to the opportunity to meet in person to discuss our shared priorities and explore how we can continue to strengthen educational opportunities within our community together.

Thank you sincerely for your time, consideration, and ongoing partnership in supporting the families we collectively serve.

Sincerely,

Mayor Andrew J. LeBlanc
Town of Riverview

