

Minister  
of Immigration,  
Refugees and Citizenship



Ministre  
de l'Immigration,  
des Réfugiés et de la Citoyenneté

Ottawa, Canada K1A 1L1

Carolyn Broady  
President  
British Columbia School Trustees Association  
c/o Mike Russell  
mrussell@BCSTA.ORG

2024-01335900

Dear Carolyn Broady:

Thank you for your correspondence of September 16, 2024, regarding the request from the British Columbia School Trustees Association for funding to support newcomer school-aged students for English and French language training.

I appreciate the British Columbia School Trustees Association's commitment to the wellbeing and needs of school-aged newcomer children. Canada is recognized as a world leader in the settlement and integration of newcomers. The federal government is investing approximately \$1.2B in 2024-25 to support the settlement needs of newcomers (outside of Quebec). This investment recognizes that strong settlement services provide newcomers a solid foothold to contribute to Canadian society.

We are not alone in this work: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) relies on the extensive network of partners and organizations that deliver services to help newcomers build new lives in Canada, including in British Columbia.

While it does not provide language training, the Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) Initiative – *L'initiative des travailleurs et des travailleuses d'établissement dans les écoles (TÉÉ)* – provides school-based settlement programming to support the integration of newcomer students and their families while fostering inclusion and intercultural competence within the education system. All newcomer students (regardless of immigration status) and their parents/guardians are eligible to be served.

Federally-funded language training programming for adults is complemented by second language training programs funded by provinces and territories (PTs), including language training for school-aged children and youth. IRCC therefore works closely with PTs to ensure complementarity of service delivery to support newcomers to Canada.

Canada 

The Department launched a Call for Proposals (CFP) in 2023, which closed on January 31, 2024, inviting settlement service providers across the country to propose projects and initiatives to continue this important work. Projects were solicited to provide language assessment and training services to newcomer adults with opportunities to improve their official language skills for successful social and economic integration. To access IRCC-funded settlement language training, persons must be of legal school-leaving age within their province or territory.

The Department may seek to address needs identified after CFP 2024 projects are in place through additional funding processes. Regular updates are posted on the [IRCC funding page](#).

Thank you for expressing your concerns. I trust that the information provided above is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

The Honourable Marc Miller, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship