



## **For Immediate Release**

February 1, 2023

### **Canadian Parents for French NB encouraged that the Premier seems to be softening his stance on abolishing the current French Immersion program in NB.**

In a media briefing this afternoon, New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs told reporters that the proposed 50/50 model for French second language was “never a sure thing” and that he will be looking for recommendations from the Education Minister following the public consultations held the last few weeks across the province.

CPF NB Executive Director Chris Collins says “ I’m hoping this is a sign that the premier has been listening to the people of NB, they have made it abundantly clear how important French Immersion is for themselves, their children and their grandchildren.”

“People have been speaking out at the public consultations over the last few weeks, and emphasizing the need for more access to French Immersion, particularly in rural areas. Many people, especially educators, have also pointed out the need to fix the English Prime program, as well as provide necessary supports and resources for teachers. CPF New Brunswick is hopeful that this could prove to be a turning point in education in New Brunswick. “

Collins says CPF NB would be glad to work with the government in those aims.

“Meanwhile, until we know for sure that the proposed 50/50 program will be abandoned, CPF NB will continue to speak out and amplify the voices of New Brunswickers who are fighting to save French Immersion in Canada’s only officially bilingual province.”

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