



**CALL TO ACTION: February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Release-February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Proposed changes to: Core French Grades 7-9**

**Proposed changes made by: Department of Education, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador**

For immediate action from Members-Volunteers-Teachers-Students-Parents-Stakeholders

The Department of Education, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is proposing changes to Core French education for grades 7-9, reducing required learning hours from 276 to 98 and making French optional beyond grade 7. This shift is expected to negatively impact student proficiency, engagement, and future French language opportunities.

Core French is the only FSL program that provides the opportunity to **all students** from grades 4-12 to learn French as an official language of our country. French Immersion is an optional program that represents less than 20% of the student population and it is not available as a choice in many/most regions and communities in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Key concerns include:

- Disproportionate disadvantages for rural students, who rely on Core French as their only French education option.
- Reduced student participation in French due to the optional structure.
- Decreased likelihood of students continuing French in high school and post-secondary education.
- A potential worsening of the nationwide French teacher shortage.

Necessary Actions:

- Complete the survey provided by the Department of Education.
- Contact your local MHA and MP to voice your concerns.
- Share on your social media channels.
- Discuss these changes with your school administrators and teachers.

Advocates emphasize strongly that Core French should remain mandatory in grades 7-9 to maintain students' French language proficiency and future opportunities. They propose creating opportunities to enhance student engagement and to continue to support teachers with professional development.

There are also concerns that these changes could impact French Immersion enrollment by creating disparities in course options.

The discussion calls for government reconsideration to ensure continued access to French language education for all students in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The deadline to have your say directly to the Department of Education is March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025. All are encouraged to complete the survey and email to voice your concerns directly to your local MHA and/or MP

**Survey link:** [Proposed Changes to Intermediate Program of Studies - Professional Learning NL](#)

**Find your local MHA:** [House of Assembly - NL - Members](#)

**Find your local MP:** [Members of Parliament for NL](#)