The Francophone Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) program

Patricia Garvey

SWIS team at CSF / district 93 Francophone school board
Settlement Workers in Schools

Conseil Scolaire Francophone of British Columbia
CSF of BC
Francophone school district SWIS program Overview
Funded by IRCC
Home is not where we live…
Home is where we belong

African proverb
The Conseil scolaire francophone is a public school board that is recognized across Canada for its vitality and innovation.

**VISION**: All our students will reach their full potential, taking pride in their French language and Francophone culture.

**MISSION**: To develop in our students, from an early age, proficiency in the French language, a culture of life-long learning, a healthy lifestyle, and a desire to contribute to society.

- 37 schools
- More than 6000 students
- 25% growth in 5 years
Objectives of SWIS program

• Empowering newcomer families on their journey of settling in our country
• Collaborating with schools to support newcomer families and students during the adjustment to a new life in Canada
• Building a bridge linking newcomer families and students with their school and community
• Supporting newcomer families in a minority francophone community
• Supporting newcomer youth
Main activities

We Provide:

• Needs assessments and referrals
• Information and orientation
• Community connections
• Group or individual sessions on school related subjects based on needs
• Personal support
• Providing and creating a culturally safe environment
Program organisation

• School based settlement services for immigrants since 2007
• Small team responsible for all 7 schools: 1 assistant, 2 SWIS workers and 1 Youth worker
• Assigned to an individual School to provide regular services
• Work closely with school personnel and specialized staff
7 schools in 5 régions
Access criteria

- Newcomers students and their families who are registered in our francophone schools,
- **Eligibility**: permanent residents, Convention refugees, refugee claimants and Live in Caregivers

École Rose-des-Vents
Vancouver

École Jules-Verne
Vancouver

École des Navigateurs
Richmond

École des Pionniers-de-Maillardville
Port Coquitlam

École Anne-Hébert
Vancouver

École André Piolat
North Vancouver

École Gabrielle Roy
Surrey
Diversity

• Our clientele comes from highly diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.
Challenges

• Small and dispersed client base
• Connecting with clients
• Serving clients with high need 47% refugee
• Finding services in a minority francophone community
Best practices

• Flexible and accessible delivery (itinerant services if needed)
• Collaborative work with school administrators, staff, teachers, school counsellors, school psychologist, speech and language pathologist, resources teachers etc.
• Case management approach
• One-on-one service
• Appropriate programming base on client need or peer group
• Support service, holistic approach.
How to contact us for referral?

Please contact Patricia Garvey

✧ by email: Patricia_garvey@csf.bc.ca
✧ by phone: 604-214-2589

✧ Information at https://www.csf.bc.ca/
Q&A Session

• Type your questions in the Chat Box
• Email to events@amssa.org
• Click the ‘hand icon’ on the left of the panel