



# New Frontiers School Board

214 McLeod, Chateauguy, Quebec J6J 2H4  
www.nfsb.qc.ca

*Year One Results*

## New Frontiers School Board's Commitment to Success Plan 2023-2027

### 2023-2024 Annual Report

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*The New Frontiers School Board's Commitment to Success Plan was adopted by the Council of Commissioners on October 3, 2023 and approved by the Ministry of Education.*

*This 2023-2024 Annual Report was deposited with the Minister of Education, Bernard Drainville, on December 20, 2024.*



## A Message from the Chair and the Director General

*During the 2023-2024 school year, our schools and centres were busy and bustling with many activities; these can be reviewed in greater detail in Section 1 of this report.*

At the governance level, commissioners were focused on meeting structures, various bills and laws that impact English education, and making sound decisions to support the system and our students.

On September 29, the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation was recognized across the system. Orange shirts could be seen in all our schools, as students learn more about this Day. St Willibrord students welcomed Speaker Virginia Wabano, from the Eeyou Nation of Mistassini; Miss Virginia told her story as a residential school survivor. At Centennial Park, students participated in workshops and the creation of a collaborative art piece - a dreamcatcher collage with handprints and messages of hope.

Also within some of our elementary schools, nurturing support centres started to emerge. Each NEST (Nurturing Each Student Today) centre is a safe place equipped with resources to assist students in coping with challenges and guiding them back to productivity. Additional support for our schools and centres came via Professional Development & Innovation Grants. PDIGs are available to public and private schools and centres through the Leadership Committee for English Education in Quebec (LCEEQ); New Frontiers had five PDIG projects approved for a total allocation of \$23,963.

In our Continuing Education sector and in collaboration with the Lester B. Pearson School Board and the First Nations Regional Adult Education Centre in Kahnawake, “Builders of the Future” was introduced. This six-month program, totaling approximately 600 hours, covered Carpentry, Electricity, and Plumbing & Heating for students within the Kahnawake community.

On October 13, we met with local MNA Carole Mallette (Member for Huntingdon); a similar meeting took place on October 20 with Claude Reid (Member for Beauharnois). Both MNAs were very interested in our School Board and offered their support if needed. Also during the fall, commissioners were offered tours of our schools and centres.

With a new name and a new look, our REDI Committee was re-introduced system wide. Formerly known as the “Cultural Committee”, REDI focuses on four main areas, as reflected in the Director General’s Priorities: Reconciliation | Equity | Diversity | Inclusion.

The New Frontiers School Board received a letter from the Quebec Auditor General indicating that they would be proceeding with a performance audit on the academic success of Indigenous children; an introductory meeting took place on November 6. The audit, intensive in nature, would last the entire school year with results deposited in the fall of 2024.

In terms of other audits, we learned that New Frontiers would undergo at least two Information Security audits. One was completed with Microsoft and produced a report of recommendations. The second audit on general information security, was mandated by law for all public sector entities. Following a group call for tenders, Precicom was retained as the auditing firm. After submitting evidence in 23 different categories, NFSB’s final score was 78.78%, with 75% being the passing threshold. The final report also provided valuable feedback to guide future developments and improvements.

Following employee strike action during November and December 2023, the Quebec Ministry of Education announced that schools would be allocated funding to provide instructional support for those students who may have fallen behind due to lost school days. New Frontiers was allocated \$497,922. With the funds received, we provided students with pedagogical and tutoring support; pedagogical support took place during the school day and tutoring was offered after school and/or during lunch.

During the winter months we had two visits with MNA Marie-Belle Gendron (Member for Chateauguay); one took place on December 19, with a second one on February 5.

On April 8, 2024, a solar eclipse took place. While this was very exciting for many, it posed some challenges. The eclipse occurred in the afternoon during the time that most students would be travelling home from school. As ensuring everyone's safety became challenging, it was decided that April 8 would be a pedagogical day in the youth sector and that adult students would be dismissed early. All students and staff were provided with protective eyewear.

Our NFSB ArtsFest 2024 also took place in April. From a "vernissage" in the school cafeteria to school bands, songs, and a mass choir, it was a tremendous display of student talent, supported by our dedicated staff. Another proud NFSB event, especially as the event was live streamed for those who were unable to attend in person.

Starting back up in the spring, we had more visits with our MNAs. Mr Claude Reid met us at Gault Institute on May 3, 2024, and on May 6, 2024, MNA Carole Mallette joined us for a visit at Chateauguay Valley Regional High School and Ormstown Elementary School. The following week, on May 13, we met with Liberal MP Brenda Shanahan at her riding office in Chateauguay.

May continued to be busy with the annual Spring Conference 2024, hosted by the Association of Administrators of English Schools in Quebec (AAESQ), the Quebec English School Boards' Association (QESBA), and the Eastern Townships School Board, taking place. At that event, St. Willibrord School was recognized with a QESBA Excellence Award for their outdoor learning and nature-based play initiative.

Two other schools also received recognition by The Terry Fox Foundation for showing their remarkable support to this Foundation. Of the top 50 fundraisers in Quebec, Howick Elementary School ranked 13<sup>th</sup>, and Chateauguay Valley Regional High School ranked 43<sup>rd</sup>. We are proud to be amongst the "Top 50 Fundraisers of Quebec" for the 2023 Terry Fox Run!

During this school year, we also established the framework for a task force to look at the prevention of bullying and violence in our system. Following an all-call for members, the response was overwhelmingly positive. The Task Force was formed to include representation from the various employee categories. Their first meeting took place on June 17, 2024.

Finally, to close out the year, at our last Council meeting, and due to information not being provided by the Government, the New Frontiers School Board was unable to produce a budget for the 2024-25 school year in a timely manner. Therefore, as per Article 281 of the Ed Act: *If, on 1 July, a school board has not adopted its budget, it is authorized to incur expense for that month for an amount equal to one-twelfth of the amount of expenses of the preceding school year. The same applies for each month of the school year if, on the first day of the month, the budget has not been adopted.*

What a year to be proud of!

John Ryan  
Chair

Mike Helm  
Director General



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# Section 1

## Presentation of the School Board





## The New Frontiers School Board

one of Quebec's nine English-language school boards, covers the territory that borders the United States to the south, Ontario to the west, the St. Lawrence River to the north and Autoroute 15 to the east; this territory includes the Indigenous communities of Akwesasne and Kahnawake.





# Our Vision

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The New Frontiers School Board fosters success for each student.

# Our Mission

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- We engage students, staff, parents, and the community as educational partners;
- We expect and support all employees to continuously improve with a focus on enhancing student learning;
- We provide experiences that challenge students and employees to develop respect for themselves, others, and the environment; and
- We create hospitable learning environments where everyone belongs, is accepted, and is appreciated.

# Our Values

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The New Frontiers School Board values **Community, Adaptability, Responsibility, and Equity/Inclusion. We CARE.**

# Our Motto

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Education, a lifelong journey

## Educational

**Services** are provided to our youth and adult students through a network of ten elementary schools, two high schools, and three career education centres.

### Elementary Schools

- Centennial Park
- Franklin Elementary
- Gault Institute
- Harmony Elementary
- Hemmingford Elementary
- Heritage Elementary
- Howick Elementary
- Mary Gardner School
- Ormstown Elementary
- St. Willibrord

### Secondary Schools

- Chateauguay Valley Regional High School
- Howard S. Billings Regional High School

### Career Education Centres

- Chateauguay Valley Career Education Centre
- Huntingdon Adult Education & Community Centre
- Nova Career Education Centre

### Community Learning Centres (CLC)

The CLC concept exists across our system. The CLCs support all schools and centres of the School Board through various and numerous partnership and agreements; our CLCs also help promote lifelong learning.

### International Students

Through our International Student program, New Frontiers welcomes students from other countries in both the youth and adult sector.

### Programming

We have a bilingual programming model at the **elementary level** where we deliver pedagogical services 50% in English and 50% in French, with Language Arts taught in English from kindergarten through grade 6. One exception exists at Gault Institute in Valleyfield, as it serves a predominately French-speaking population; the programming there is primarily in English. All of our elementary schools offer the four-year-old Kindergarten program.

At the **secondary level**, we have many options to meet the needs of our diverse population. Each of our high schools offer traditional educational pathways, work-oriented training pathways, and have specialized classrooms for students with special needs. Both high schools also offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

In the **adult education sector**, academic programs are offered to enable students to improve literacy skills, obtain their secondary school diploma, or pre-requisites required for CEGEP or vocational programs. Our Centres offer career options in vocational education, which lead to a Québec Diploma of Vocational Training.

### Administrative Support

Supporting our schools and centres, are the employees within the Board's departments working behind the scenes to ensure the best possible environments for our staff and students.

Director General	Mike Helm
Assistant Director General	Joyce Donohue, August 2023
Secretary General	Joyce Donohue, August 2023

### Department Directors

Continuing Education Educational Services	Chantal Martin James Walker, July 2023-May 2024 Kara Johnstone, Interim, June 2024
Financial Services Human Resources Material Resources	Terence Savoie Cuthbert McIntyre Eric Colbert, <i>July-December 2023</i> Terence Savoie, <i>Interim, December 2023</i>
Systems & IT	Kara Johnstone



## School & Centre Activity Reports

### Centennial Park School

*Caroline Beaulieu, Principal*

CPS has many traditions that were upheld this year. The fall had its Welcome Community BBQ that included carnival games, bouncy castles, popcorn, corn on the cob and hot dogs. Orange Shirt Day was the first of several themed days that created awareness to our whole school population in hopes to reconcile with the Indigenous peoples. Halloween was a blast with the PPO Haunted House and costume parade. December saw the come back of the kindergarten-grade 2 Holiday Concert, Geordie Productions and many other special activities. Black History Month was mostly organized by grade 6 students in the first part of the new year. It had weekly quizzes and prizes and culminated with a school-wide assembly. I Love to Read Week, Pink Shirt Day, World Autism Awareness Day, Red Dress Day, Chateauguay Schools Track and Field and the Art in the Park concert all rounded out the year. New to CPS was our school-wide theme of H(habits).A(attitudes).T(talents).S(skills) where, as a school, we worked on several habits per month and celebrated our successes at the end of the month with a school-wide assembly. Each child and staff member received a red CPS hat at the beginning of the year. Ms. B brought with her VIP Pizza Lunches that were supported by our PPO and reading to all classes in December. Our Learning Centres also had a beverage and snack cart (for staff only) that operated weekly in the last few months of school. The students learned to take orders, handle money and produce the orders.

### Franklin Elementary School

*Carla Shaw, Principal*

Franklin Elementary School had 56 students enrolled from pre-kindergarten to grade six. We welcomed our new Principal, Ms. Shaw, to our team. Chunka-Chunka activities are back to start our day. Students attended athletic events such as cross-country, badminton, basketball, track and field, Terry Fox Run, skating, field day, and Swim to Survive program for water safety. Our community partnership with Blair Orchards continued with nature walks, student lunches, apple blossom walk, and grade six graduation. A valued partnership with Dawson College allowed Dawson student workshops through the CRLT (Community Recreation and Leadership Training) program. Arts and culture were emphasized with our Christmas Concert Solstice activity, NFSB Arts-Fest, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Pink Shirt Day, Geordie Theatre production, Little Shop of Horrors musical, and a bucket drumming workshop (Art Inspire). Community outings and field trips gave students the chance to visit L'Estacade, Botanical Gardens, Insectarium, Montreal Symphony Orchestra, and an exterior Aquatic Centre. Our outstanding PPO went above and beyond. Students benefited from the book fair, purchase of ski boots and classroom materials, welcome-back corn roast, Corn Maze activity day at the fairgrounds, hot breakfast, turkey lunch and free book, and pizza lunch. We invited K4/5 families for special events such as pumpkin repurposing and reading night, and all families for supper and a workshop. Franklin Elementary even placed 3rd with their float at the Ormstown Fair parade. Franklin Elementary was officially recognized as a Living School for their nature-based projects and initiatives, recognizing our continued emphasis on outdoor learning.

### Gault Institute

*Anick Leclerc, Principal*

Gault Institute, located in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, provides high-quality English education to 325 students from pre-kindergarten to grade 6. Our curriculum includes French lessons for students in cycles 1 through 3, delivered by specialists for 300 minutes each week. We prioritize literacy by offering daily resource and remediation sessions for students facing challenges in reading and mathematics. Each classroom is equipped with interactive technology, BenQ or Smart boards, iPads in cycle 1, and mobile computer labs in cycles 2 and 3. These resources feature WordQ and SpeakQ, speech recognition software that enhances word prediction which enriches student texts. Students engage with technology through coding and robotics workshops led by our STEM consultants. Our Physical Education classes and extracurricular activities offer a wide range of sports and recreational opportunities, including an annual Terry Fox Walk, basketball, cross-country, and badminton. We also provide an after-school daycare program to 30% of our school population, a homework period, cooking and art classes, and physical activities with free time to enjoy our outdoor spaces. At Gault Institute, we believe that fostering strong relationships is key to developing personal and social skills, reinforcing the importance of respect and appreciation for individual uniqueness. Our Community Learning Centre (CLC) enriches our school environment through partnerships with artists across various disciplines, including dance, visual arts, and music. These collaborations cultivate a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

## Harmony Elementary School

*Serge Dubuc, Principal July -November 2023*

*Pascale Caouette, Principal December 2023-June 2024*

Harmony had an eventful year. With the deserved retirement of Mr. Dubuc in December 2023, we welcomed Mme Caouette as principal for the second half of the school year. Students participated in all sorts of activities like The Music Fest, talent shows, *Parlement écolier*, Quebec City Trip, and countless lunch-time activities. The school continued to focus on our Educational Project by promoting inclusion and well-being. We learned about important causes by participating in the Terry Fox fundraiser and run, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Remembrance Day Ceremony, and various guest speakers who widened our understanding of Black History Month. Our Parent Participation Organization (PPO) worked tirelessly in organizing and running activities for Halloween, Elf Day, Remembrance Day, Easter, and outdoor Fun Day. The Resource Team made up of teachers, attendants and technicians worked with our at-risk students to help them achieve success. Our homework and tutoring programs also gave our students more opportunities to prove their learning and achieve success. Governing Board was instrumental in making sure that the school stayed on the right path in implementing the education plan and promoting academic success.

## Hemmingford Elementary School

*Carla Shaw, Principal*

Hemmingford Elementary School had an enrolment of 115 students from pre-kindergarten to grade six. Our new Principal, Ms. Shaw, was welcomed to our team. Students attended athletic events such as cross-country, badminton, basketball, track and field, after-school field hockey, an introduction to rugby, and the Terry Fox Run. Arts, culture, and community involvement continued to be a major emphasis in our school with students participating in Remembrance Day literary and poster contests, Literacy Month activities, school plays and concerts, the NFSB Arts-Fest, community gardening, and a motivational entertainer, Luca Patuelli (Art Inspire). Hemmingford students joined in leadership opportunities such as Student Coalition, Leadership, as well as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Pink Shirt Day. Community outings and field trips gave students the chance to visit the Botanical Gardens, Parc Safari, L'Estacade, the Little Shop of Horrors musical, the Montreal Science Centre, and the Pointe-à-Callière Museum. Our dedicated PPO went above and beyond, as usual, to off-set student and school enhancement costs. Students benefited from a welcome-back corn roast in the fall, pumpkin art, the book fair, monthly Fresh Fridays, gardening activities, a spaghetti lunch, a catered Christmas lunch and gift, a welcome-back breakfast in January, an Easter egg hunt, and an end-of-year BBQ. Hemmingford Elementary even placed 2nd with their float at the Ormstown Fair parade. We saw many school improvements, including our schoolyard fence enclosure, addition of ceiling fans for some classrooms, and extensive renovations to the main floor of our school.

## Heritage Elementary School

*James Furey, Principal*

Heritage Elementary School continues to serve the English population of Huntingdon and the surrounding municipalities. With an enrolment of 218 for the 2023-2024 school year, our focus was equally on two priorities: socio-emotional support and academic success for all our students. The creation of a supportive classroom environment is the focus of our efforts in supporting the socio-emotional learning and wellbeing of our students. Our NEST (Nurturing Each Student Today) Room was staffed by special education and social work technicians. The room was dedicated to allowing students a safe space to co-regulate their emotions. The philosophy behind the implementation of the NEST Room was to allow students to regulate their emotions, which allows them to reintegrate into class once they are emotionally regulated, thus ready to learn and contribute to class activities in a positive way. Academically, we continued with the development and implementation of W.I.N. time, which acts as Tier 2 in intervention in our Response to Intervention Structure. W.I.N. Time, or What I Need Time, was designed to provide remedial and enriched targeted instruction to students, meeting them at their learning level. This structure called on all adults in the building, pairing with homeroom teachers for 30 minutes each day, allowing for teachers to focus on targeted literacy instruction. Early intervention is critical in closing the learning gap. Finally, our continued development of relationships with our parents and community revolved around the idea that Heritage Elementary is a community school. Heritage Elementary looks forward to continued development of these elements in support of our students and their families in the years to come.

### **Howick Elementary School**

*Melanie Primeau, Principal July-November 2023*

*Eveline Taylor, Principal December 2023-June 2024*

What a year we had at Howick Elementary! From memorable events to strong community support, it was a year filled with creativity, growth, and joy. Our Governing Board met six times, keeping a clear focus on improving school safety, reading levels, and math results. Our staff also took a deep dive into our Educational Project, reviewing our curriculum and teaching methods to better meet the needs of all our students. Our PPO, Governing Board, and staff worked together on fundraisers that supported a variety of school initiatives. A highlight was our emotional Terry Fox Run, dedicated to one of our students battling cancer. We raised over \$10,000 for cancer research—a true reflection of our community's strength. Our talented Cycle 3 students shone on stage with performances of A Christmas Carol and Beauty and the Beast, while other fun events like Carnival Day and our Holiday Lunch brought us all together in the spirit of celebration. All in all, it was a fantastic year, and we're so proud of what we achieved as a school community. Looking forward to even more great moments ahead!

### **Mary Gardner School**

*Lynn L'Esperance, Principal July-December 2023*

*Megan Martin, Principal January-June 2024*

The 2023-2024 school year was a time of transition at Mary Gardner with new and varied leadership. Despite the changes, the incredible staff worked together to ensure that school traditions were upheld while adapting strategies to meet the academic, social-emotional and overall wellness needs of our students. The year was filled with special moment for our students; a beautiful Remembrance Day ceremony, Christmas concert, a Chinese New Year lantern-making activity and several school-wide presentations on Indigenous culture. Our annual Anti-Bullying Week included a play written and performed by grade 5 students. The "Spring into Reading" I Love to Read Week brought back the popular Scholastic Book Fair. Our talented students wowed families with an amazing performance in a Disney-themed Spring Concert. The school community continues to grow, and our educators continue to transform activities to meet the changing needs of our population. Clubs and extracurricular activities are always expanding. One new initiative implemented was the "Zen Club" that provides children in cycle 3 with a calm and quiet space to eat lunch and relax. Staff, students, and parents collaborated on new school fundraisers. Students helped sell TCBY yogurt alongside PPO members, and our Student Coalition held a wonderful cookie sale to support a student in our school community who was raising money for cystic fibrosis. The MGS team worked on creating a new Educational Project that focuses on helping parents develop the skills they require to support their child through their educational journey. We continue to follow tradition while finding innovative ways to work together as a school community.

### **Ormstown Elementary School**

*Jessica Mackay, Principal*

This year at Ormstown Elementary School (OES) was filled with exciting accomplishments and community engagement. We kicked off the year with a Welcome Back Day and corn roast, fostering a strong sense of community among students and staff. Our students participated in three field trips and enjoyed two five-week sessions of option classes, including dance, pottery, mixed media arts, drumming, and a Nature Ambassadors program. These activities promoted creativity and enriched their learning experiences. A major achievement was the development of a new tiered behavior intervention system, created by our dedicated teachers. This system focuses on both remedial and proactive strategies, supporting students' social and emotional growth while fostering a positive and structured learning environment. We proudly hosted the Valley Schools Run for Cycle 1-3 students and the Valley School Track and Field event for all Cycle 2 and 3 students, providing excellent opportunities for athletic participation. Another highlight of the year was our school production, "OES Has Got Talent: Sing," featuring students from grades 3-6. Over the summer, we renovated the first floor of our school, creating a more modern and functional learning space. Through collaboration with our Parents Committee and Staff Green Committee, we raised over \$30,000 through fundraising and grants for an outdoor classroom, enhancing our outdoor learning and environmental education initiatives. The year concluded with a successful Family BBQ that brought families, staff, and students together. These accomplishments reflect our commitment to providing a dynamic, supportive environment for all students, and we look forward to new initiatives in the 2024-2025 school year.

## **St. Willibrord Elementary School**

*Collin Thomas, Principal*

St. Willibrord School had another super school year in a thriving community atmosphere. Our Governing Board, PPO (Parental Participation Organization) and school staff all work together to ensure student success. Student success is different for each child, and as a team, we can combine social, emotional, and academic activities to make a difference in student lives. Kindness and acceptance of others are the guiding principles that are taught and modeled every day. We worked hard on making new and keeping old connections with our neighbouring community of Kahnawake. St. Willibrord continued to be a welcoming school to our whole school community, and we were happy to have several Community Learning Centre (CLC) partnerships continue. We were fortunate to have funding to allow for speciality programs and outside support. Each year brings about new challenges as our school population keeps growing, but through all the challenges, the St. Willibrord team works persistently to ensure the success of our students in a caring and safe environment.

## **Chateauguay Valley Regional High School**

*Lynn Harkness, Principal*

Chateauguay Valley Regional High School, better known as CVR, services students from over 500 kms of the Haut-Saint-Laurent MRC area. Our vision is to provide a safe and caring environment, enriching programs, and engaging instruction. Our mission is to provide opportunities which focus on the development of each student's academic, physical, social, and emotional wellbeing, incorporating values such as social justice, emotional responsibility, technological competency, and community citizenship. CVR is proud to celebrate our many successes this year. Our CVR Faculty is dedicated to student learning and an overall sentiment of belonging by offering lunch and after-school tutorials, social and emotional support, as well as a variety of clubs and extracurricular activities. These range from sports to performing arts, including leadership, games clubs, and affinity groups like CVR Pride. Our Directions Program supports our students as an alternate to suspension location and instrumental in supporting our students with IEPs. Our literacy initiatives have supported our students in their individual literacy development. We are overjoyed with the implementation of our pet therapy program and our collaborative initiative with Kiddo Active to be able to offer occupational therapy to our students in need. Our *Projet Pédagogique Particulier* (PPP) supports our struggling 15-year-old students who are repeating grade 9. This program has strengthened their connection to the school. Our Community Learning Centre continues to play an active role in engaging our stakeholders through cultural, physical, and social events. Our yearly partnership agreements with local organizations and associations continue to foster strong relationships within our community. We look forward to another great year ahead!

## **Howard S. Billings Regional High School**

*Nick Laframboise, Principal July-October 2023*

*Melanie Primeau, Principal November 2023-June 2024*

2023-2024 was busy and productive! Our high school offers a variety of programs and pathways designed to support diverse student needs and aspirations. Our new HIVE program for grades 7-8, modeled on the NEXT school concept and developed in collaboration with researchers at McGill University, has been a strong addition. At HSB, students have the option to pursue a secondary diploma, participate in the Learning Centre based on individual needs, or follow the Work-Oriented Training Pathway, which leads to certification for employment. The International Baccalaureate Programme is also available for those who apply. Our Literacy Initiative has been strengthened and broadened to provide targeted resources and remediation in both English Language Arts and French as a Second Language, with students assessed annually to ensure their literacy skills meet or exceed grade-level expectations. We have also enhanced socio-emotional support with an expanded Student Resources Team. Our Indigenous support services have grown to include a dedicated teacher and special education technician in the Indigenous Room, along with a program coordinator to integrate diverse cultural elements into school life. Throughout the year, we recognized and commemorated several important days, including Orange Shirt Day to honour the victims and survivors of residential schools, Pink Shirt Day to stand against bullying, and Black History Month, featuring daily highlights of Black artists, a visit to the Black Theatre Workshop, and a traditional Jamaican lunch. We held a moving ceremony for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day with the school community.



## **Chateauguay Valley Career Education Centre**

*Kara Woods, Centre Director*

The 2023-2024 academic year marked a transformative period for our Centre as the Governing Board, chaired by Sam Dahme, navigated a year of new leadership and staff. With Kara Woods stepping in as the new Centre Director, alongside Megan Martin and Diana Gervasi in assistant roles, the administrative team was rejuvenated. New teachers, support staff, and key roles like the storekeeper and development officer were also welcomed, reflecting a collective restart and reinvention of the Centre. This fresh start allowed us to focus on reinforcing support for students, the broader community, and new educational project initiatives. The Carpentry AEP program expanded, while the Builders of the Future program in Kahnawake received vital support. Health Care staff traveled to the United Kingdom to share insights and bring new knowledge back to enhance the nursing program. Numerous new initiatives were approved, including updated Rules of Conduct & Safety, additional field trips, and innovative offerings such as breathwork classes and babysitting courses. These efforts exemplified the centre's commitment to evolving in ways that directly support the educational and community needs. Despite challenges like space limitations and new MEQ directives on cellphone usage, the team successfully navigated these hurdles. Moving forward, the focus is on increasing student attendance and supporting youth transitions.

## **Huntingdon Adult Education and Community Centre**

*Kara Woods, Centre Director*

The key highlights for the 2023-2024 school year include the welcoming of Kara-Lee Woods as Centre Director and Diana Gervasi as interim Assistant Centre Director, while Megan Martin was called upon to serve as the interim principal at Mary Gardner School. The Centre established partnerships with local organizations, featuring Pat Walsh's painting workshop, Arthur Pigeon basketball, MWCN Pickleball, and MWCN Greenhouse Café initiatives, including pet therapy and an art workshop. Community events such as the holiday and spring plant sales, along with ValleyFest 2024 were all successful. At a special ceremony on June 21, we honored National Indigenous Peoples Day with the planting of a Peace Tree. The Board, in collaboration with the Educational Project Committee revised the Rules of Conduct & Safety. They also supported various initiatives, including a pretzel sale by students in the HAEC Social Integration Services program and three ZERO Waste Challenges from the Green Committee, along with numerous student field trips. Community communication is maintained through email, Facebook, Community Television, Microsoft Teams, and Monday Morning Messages. Looking ahead, the Governing Board aims to improve student attendance and create new programs to assist youth in their transition to adulthood.

## **Nova Career Centre**

*Derek Stacey, Centre Director*

Our vision is to continuously provide adult learners with opportunities for success. We are committed to engaging all students by addressing their learning needs, ensuring a safe environment that meets educational and industry standards, fostering excellence in innovative teaching, and strengthening our community by expanding relationships with industry partners. In our Vocational Training programs, which supported 499 students this school year, we continued modernizing our facilities, equipment, and instructional practices. This included transitioning some programs to a hybrid model, offering students the flexibility to choose between online or in-person learning. We also focused on enhancing safety and inclusivity in our learning spaces, while fostering new partnerships with industry leaders. Additionally, we supported initiatives that encourage diversity in trades, including hiring specialized staff to assist underrepresented groups in our student body. Our Adult General Education programs, which served 257 students in 2023-2024, offered students courses to meet their goals, whether it's earning high school credits, completing prerequisites for vocational programs, or pursuing social integration. We provided additional support through Resource Teachers, Special Education Technicians, Counsellors, and a Psychologist, ensuring all learners have the tools they needed to succeed. Aligned with our vision, Nova remains a vibrant and dynamic place for learning and growth.

# Section 2

## Governance of the School Board

# Governance

## The Council of Commissioners

is composed of 10 elected commissioners, a Chair who is elected universally, and four commissioners representing parents: elementary sector, secondary sector, students with special needs, and one member at large.

In accordance with By-Law BE, Council holds regular public meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 19:00 hours at Howard S. Billings High School.

## Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct for Commissioners

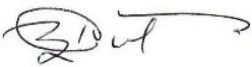
The Ethics Officer's mandate is to examine any expressed complaint directed towards a commissioner, and to determine, when applicable, if a commissioner has been in contravention of the "Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct for Commissioners". In the case of an identified contravention by a Commissioner, if found guilty, the Ethics' Officer will consider imposing a sanction.

By-Law BCAA "Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct for Commissioners" can be found in its entirety at [www.nfsb.qc.ca](http://www.nfsb.qc.ca).

## Report of the Ethics Officer:

Following my obligation in regards to Section 11.2 of the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Commissioners please be advised that my Annual Report of activity for the school year 2023-2024 ending on June 30, 2024 is without incident or complaint.

Respectfully,



Bernard Huot  
NFSB Ethics Officer  
July 2, 2024

## Chair - John Ryan

### Division #1 & Vice-Chair - Raymond Ledoux

Includes the Town of Lery, and the section of the City of Chateauguy that is described as follows: starting at a point where the Chateauguy River and the municipal border meet in the north-east, this border, Saint-Bernard Road, the Chateauguy River, and the municipal border back to the starting point. Includes Ile Saint-Bernard.

### Division #2, Karin Van Droffelaar

Includes a section of Chateauguy described as follows: starting at a point where Saint-Bernard Road and the north-east municipal border meet, this border, St. Jean-Baptiste Boulevard, St. Francis Boulevard, the Chateauguy River and Saint-Bernard Road back to the starting point. Includes the Mohawk Territory of Kahnawake.

### Division #3, Lina Chouinard

Includes a section of Chateauguy described as follows: starting at a point where St. Francis Boulevard and St-Jean Baptiste Boulevard meet, St. Jean Baptiste Boulevard, D'Anjou Boulevard, the Chateauguy River, St-Francis Blvd to the starting point.

### Division #4, Kenneth Crockett

Includes a section of Chateauguy described as follows: starting at a point where D'Anjou Boulevard and St. Jean Baptiste Boulevard meet, St. Jean Baptiste, the municipal border, the Chateauguy River, and D'Anjou Blvd to the starting point.

### Division #5, Joy Thomas

Includes the City of Mercier. Also includes the section of Chateauguy that is located to the east of St. Jean Baptiste Blvd.

### Division #6, Abdul Pirani

Includes the municipalities of Beauharnois, Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, St. Etienne de Beauharnois, Sainte Martine, and St Urbain-Premier.

### Division #7, Dianne Eastwood

Includes the municipalities of Saint-Chrysostome, Sainte-Clotilde, Saint-Patrice-de-Sherrington, Havelock, Hemmingford and Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle. Also includes a section of the municipality of Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville that is located east of Autoroute 15 and is within the territory of the School Board.

### Division #8, Peter Stuckey

Includes the municipalities of Howick, Ormstown, Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka, Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague and Très-Saint-Sacrement.

### Division #9, Barbara Ednie

Includes the municipalities of Elgin, Hinchinbrooke, and Franklin.

### Division #10, Connor Stacey, Acclaimed August 2023

Includes the municipalities of Saint-Anicet, Sainte-Barbe, Dundee, Godmanchester and Huntingdon. Includes the Mohawk Territory of Akwesasne.

## Commissioners Representing Parents

Elementary Representative

Lorne Ferguson

Secondary Representative

Caleigh Saucier

Representative at Large

Jennifer Largan

Special Needs Advisory Committee

Brenda Bourdeau

## Meetings of the Council of Commissioners

During the 2023-2024 school year, the Council of Commissioners of the New Frontiers School Board met on the following dates: September 5, 2023, October 3, 2023, November 7, 2023, December 5, 2023, January 23, 2024 (Special), February 6, 2024, March 12, 2024, April 2, 2024, May 7, 2024, June 4, 2024, and June 25, 2024.

The minutes of these meetings are available publicly on the New Frontiers School Board's website and contain copies of the decisions taken by the Council of Commissioners (<https://www.nfsb.qc.ca/council-of-commissioners/>).

Board of Directors' Committees & Membership	
Committee	Members
Governance & Ethics	John Ryan, Barbara Ednie, Dianne Eastwood, Connor Stacey, Lorne Ferguson
Human Resources Standing	Barbara Ednie, Lina Chouinard, Raymond Ledoux, Peter Stuckey, Jennifer Largan, Melanie Primeau, Cuthbert McIntyre
Audit	Lina Chouinard, Karin Van Droffelaar, Caleigh Saucier, Kara Woods, Christine Corbett

School Board Committees & Membership	
Committee	Members
Advisory Management	Mike Helm, Joyce Donohue, Luisa Benvenuti, Rob Butters, Daryl Ness, Chantal Martin, Chuck Halliday, James Walker, Nancy Richer/Christopher Blouin, Sue-Anne Ross, Kara Johnstone, Marc-André Picard, Terence Savoie, Chantal Bujold, Cuthbert McIntyre, Carlene Sandy, Eric Colbert, Leopold Hatungimana, Stephane Laliberté, Caroline Beaulieu, Carla Shaw, Anick Leclerc, Serge Dubuc/Pascale Caouette, James Furey, Eveline Taylor, Lynn Claude/Megan Martin, Jessica Mackay, Collin Thomas, Christine Corbett, Lynn Harkness, Sandra Grant, Sabrina Henderson, Nick Laframboise/Melanie Primeau, Brian Woods, Lina Zielinski, Kara Woods, Diana Gervasi, Derek Stacey, Melissa Larocque
Special Needs Advisory	Brenda Bourdeau, Sue-Anne Ross, Caroline Beaulieu, and 7 parent representatives
Transportation Advisory	Abdul Pirani, Peter Stuckey, Lorne Ferguson, James Walker, Lina Zielinski
Parents' Committee	One representative from each elementary and secondary school, and one parent representing the Special Needs Advisory Committee

## Information Under the Act to Facilitate the Disclosure of Wrongdoings Relating to Public Bodies

The New Frontiers School Board has nothing to report in the matter of disclosure of wrongdoings.



# Section 3

## Results

## Ministry of Education – Orientation 1

### Make student success a top priority for Quebec society.

<i>Increase student success</i>	<i>Provincial Baseline</i>	<i>NFSB Baseline</i>	<i>NFSB Rate 2023-2024</i>	<i>NFSB Goal 2027</i>
1. Rate of obtaining a first degree or qualification within 7 years of entering secondary school	81.4%	76.9%	NA*	84%
2. Success rate of boys	80.1%	72.3%	NA*	80%
3. Success rate of students with special needs	62.2%	79.5%	NA*	80%
4. Proportion of students scoring between 70% and 100% on the Grade 6 compulsory mathematics exam (Problem-Solving competency)	66%	73.1%	51.2%**	75%

\*These figures are provided by the Quebec Ministry of Education. At the time of publication, only “provisional” figures were available. As provisional figures often fluctuate, a decision was made to not include them.

\*\*It would be important to note that 285 students wrote the Grade 6 compulsory Mathematics exam (problem-solving). While 146 students scored between 70% and 100% (giving the 51.2% success rate), 236 students scored at least 60%, which gives a success rate of 82.8%.

## Ministry of Education – Orientation 2

### Make vocational education truly attractive.

<i>Modernize and valorize vocational education</i>	<i>Provincial Rate 2018-2019</i>	<i>NFSB Baseline</i>	<i>NFSB Rate 2023-2024</i>	<i>NFSB Goal 2027</i>
5. Graduation rate in vocational education after three years	80.9%	78.8%	76.2%	81%

The New Frontiers School Board has always placed a strong importance on Vocational Education. For a school board of our size, we offer a wide range of training options, including: Accounting, Automobile Mechanics, Carpentry, Construction Business Management, Electric Vehicle Mechanics, Hairdressing, High Pressure Welding, Horticulture, Institutional & Home Care Assistance, Interior Design & Visual Display, Landscaping, Residential & Commercial Drafting, School Daycare Educator, Secretarial Studies, Starting a Business, Support for Assistive Services in Health & Social Services Institutions, and Welding & Fitting.

During the 2021-22 school year, there were 489 students newly registered in a vocational program within one of our three career education centres. At the end of the 2023-24 school year, 373 students had obtained either a Diploma of Vocational Training, a Skills Training Certificate, or an Attestation of Vocational Specialization.

## Ministry of Education – Orientation 3

### Make schools and centres welcoming spaces.

<i>Develop new special educational projects</i>	<i>Provincial Baseline</i>	<i>NFSB Baseline</i>	<i>NFSB Rate 2023-2024</i>	<i>NFSB Goal 2027</i>
6. Participation rate in special educational projects by secondary students in the public sector	44.6%	20.7%	41.8%	50%
7. Proportion of schools and centres using the student well-being reference framework, developed on the basis of research data, to conduct a situational analysis of their environment.	0%	0%	NA*	100%

Both Chateauguay Valley and Howard S. Billings Regional High Schools have increased the special education projects available to their students. These include the International Baccalaureate Program, Work-Oriented Training Programs – pre-work and semi-skilled, the HIVE program, Options program, and our Learning Centres. The increase this year from 20.7% to 41.8% is mainly due to the introduction of the HIVE and Options programs.

\*This “student well-being reference framework” is a tool that is to be provided by the Quebec Ministry of Education. At the time of publication, this tool was still unavailable.

## Bullying & Violence

As outlined in Law 56, “An Act to prevent and stop bullying and violence in schools”, schools are obliged to report incidents of bullying and violence to the Director General’s office, including the actions taken, and support provided to both the victim and the perpetrator. During the 2023-24 school year, the Director General received 147 reports regarding bullying and/or violence

The New Frontiers School Board continues to work with its school communities in the development of proactive approaches, early identification, and appropriate remediation efforts. Every school and centre has an Anti-Bullying/Anti-Violence Plan in place.

## Complaint Examination Procedure

A copy of our [By-Law JCEA](#) on the Examination of Complaints is available on our website.

# Section 4

## Use of Resources



## Objectives, Principles & Procedures for the Allocation of Resources to Schools & Centres

Annually, and as outlined in the *Quebec Education Act*, the New Frontiers School Board consults on the allocation of resources to its schools and centres. This document outlines the objectives, principles, and budgetary procedures for the equitable distribution of resources of the New Frontiers School Board. In particular, this document:

1. Describes the content of schools' and centres' local budgets, allocations available to schools, and the centralized expenses absorbed by the School Board.
2. Covers the method used by the New Frontiers School Board to finance its various committees.
3. Includes the timeline for the budgetary process.

## Service Contracts

As outlined in Law 17, “*An act respecting workforce management and control within government departments, public sector bodies and networks and state-owned enterprises*”, school boards must report service contracts entered into with a value of more than \$25,000 in the case of service providers operating a business, and of more than \$10,000 for service providers not operating a business.

For the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, the New Frontiers School Board entered into 6 service contracts equal to or greater than \$25 000, for a total amount of \$194,918.

Management & Control of Resources	
	April 2023 to March 2024
	Number of employees for the reporting period
Management staff	45
Professional staff	64
Teaching staff	718
Clerical, technical and related staff	441
Workers, maintenance and service personnel	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 349</b>

Physical Resources – Immovable Assets			
2022-2023		2023-2024	
Balance not invested or incurred	Investments made	Amounts incurred	Amounts not invested or incurred
\$22,179,863	\$9,311,104	\$425,283	\$12,443,476*

\*This reflects the remaining, unspent balance of prior years and the additional allocation from the Ministry of Education for 2023-2024. The new allocation for immovable assets for 2024-2025 is not reflected in the ending unspent balance.

## Information Resources

The New Frontiers School Board has responded to legislative amendments introduced in the Act respecting the governance and management of information resources, leading to a comprehensive Digital Transformation Plan (DTP). This strategic framework aligns with the eighteen mandated minimal security thresholds, establishing the foundation for a secure and technologically advanced network within our system.

In 2023-2024, the School Board invested \$1,699,954 towards the maintenance of its existing infrastructure and the replacement of outdated devices, with a focus on our dedication to provide an innovative and enriched learning environment. The integration of sophisticated tools like Mozaik and Microsoft 365 has elevated communication and pedagogical methodologies.

New Frontiers continues to participate in the *Réseau d'informations scientifiques du Québec* (RISQ) internet network, a testament to our commitment to leveraging shared resources and promoting collaborative initiatives. We are dedicated to the continued refinement and implementation of our Digital Transformation Plan, ensuring that it remains adaptive to evolving educational objectives, emerging technologies, and the dynamic landscape of information security.

# Financial Results

## NEW FRONTIERS SCHOOL BOARD

Extract from the Audited Financial Statement  
 Balance Sheet as at June 30, 2024  
 (Comparative figures as at June 30, 2023)

	2023-24	(restated) 2022-23
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
Cash	\$7,597,432	\$0
Gov Operating Grants Receivable	12,259,572	\$5,819,800
Other Gov Grants Receivable	62,200,749	\$80,550,539
Taxes Receivable	99,139	\$97,327
Other Assets & Receivables	1,349,160	\$1,435,938
	<u>\$83,506,052</u>	<u>\$87,903,604</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Bank Indebtedness	\$0	\$3,556,392
Payables, Accrued Liabilities	18,036,415	\$11,893,136
Deferred Investment Grant	77,021,004	\$71,426,851
Other Liabilities and Trusts	12,218,828	\$12,157,208
Long Term Debt	51,475,914	\$59,781,106
	<u>\$158,752,161</u>	<u>\$158,814,693</u>
<b>Non-Financial Assets</b>		
Fixed Assets (Net)	\$79,359,549	\$73,441,275
Prepaid Expenses	185,018	\$163,678
	<u>\$79,544,567</u>	<u>\$73,604,953</u>
<b>Accumulated Surplus</b>		
	<u>\$4,298,458</u>	<u>\$2,693,865</u>

## Financial Results

### For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

#### Assets

The NFSB Cash position improved to \$7,597,432. MEQ grants receivable amount to \$12,259,572 for operations and \$62,200,749 for capital investments. Fixed Assets includes acquisitions of buildings & equipment of \$11,419,199 and amortization was \$3,938,537.

#### Liabilities

Long term debt decreased from \$59,781,106 to \$51,475,914. The deferred investment grant now reflects the impact of the application of PS 3280 accounting standard.

#### Accumulated Surplus

In 2023-2024, the Board recorded an operational surplus of \$1,604,594. This combined with the adjusted balance forward to produce an accumulated surplus of \$4,298,458 as at June 30, 2024.

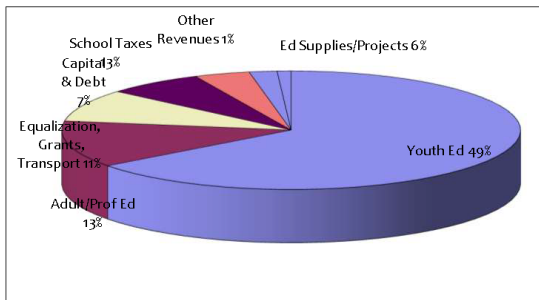
#### Trust Funds held for Anglophone Boards

The NFSB acts as a fiduciary, holding funds from the MEQ in trust and disburses them to fund various Anglophone Board Projects. The balance in these trust funds at year end was \$820,913.

Board's Auditors: BCGO S.E.N.C.R.L., Chartered Accountants

As at June 2024, the NFSB has recognized a liability and a corresponding increase in fixed assets for P53280-Assets Removal Obligation, using the modified retrospective application. The impacts of P53280 have been held in reserve by the audit firm.

Approximately 85% of financing for NFSB's operations was assumed by the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec (MEQ).



#### Revenues

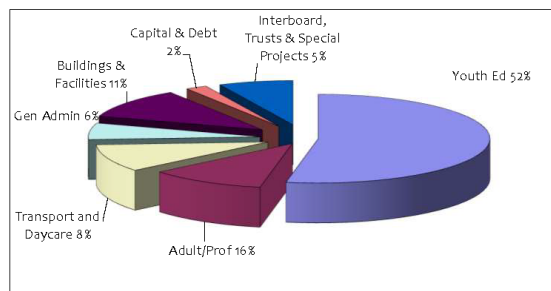
MEQ - Youth Education	60,253,727
MEQ - Adult/Prof Ed	11,521,702
MEQ - Eq,Transp, Suppl Alloc	8,132,140
MEQ - Capital/LTD	1,665,454
School Taxation/Buildings & Facilities	3,247,696
Rev's: Interboard/ Misc./Trusts/Other	1,386,937
Educational Supplies/Projects	5,259,227
	<u>91,466,882</u>

#### Gross Operating Surplus

**1,604,594**

#### Expenses

MEQ - Youth Education	47,491,321
MEQ - Adult/Prof Ed	9,608,313
MEQ - Transportation & Daycares	9,000,736
Gen. Admin, Council, Prof Devlp	5,613,207
Buildings & Facilities	9,857,924
MEES Capital & LT Debt Service	1,717,070
Interboard, Trusts, Special Projects	6,573,717
	<u>89,862,288</u>



## Reports to the Complaints Officer

**TABLE 1 – NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS**

School services	Violence, bullying	Acts of sexual violence
13	4	0

**TABLE 2 – AVERAGE COMPLAINT PROCESSING TIME**

Working days	12.5
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**TABLE 3 – NUMBER OF REASONS PROCESSED BY TYPE**

Student ranking	2
Maintenance, safety and sanitation of school facilities	1
Intimidation, violence (other than sexual violence)	4
Complementary services	2
School transportation	1

**TABLE 4 – MOTIVE STATUS**

Number of motives	Well-founded	Unfounded	Partially founded	Other
	10	2	0	1

**TABLE 5 – NUMBER OF CORRECTIONS BY TYPE**

Application of school organization policies and regulations	1
Collaboration with parents	9

**TABLE 6 – FOLLOW-UP ON ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSED CORRECTIVE MEASURES**

Number of corrections	Accepted by the school organization	Refused	Partially accepted
	10	0	0

**TABLE 7 – FOLLOW-UP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CORRECTIVE MEASURES**

Number of corrections	Implemented	Partially implemented	None-implemented
	10	0	0

Luisa Benvenuti  
NFSB Complaints Officer