



February 19, 2010

Dear Colleague,

You are probably aware of the fact that Campus Saint-Jean (CSJ) of the University of Alberta (U of A) has been actively working on the establishment of a French-language community college for the province. In 2005, a study conducted by the Department of Advanced Education and Technology (AE&T) confirmed the relevancy of such an initiative, and identified CSJ as the best suited institution to successfully implement this enterprise.

In a letter dated July 17, 2009, Doug Horner, Minister of AE&T, confirmed the broadened mandate of the U of A, reflecting its role in offering French language, college-level programming at CSJ. To this effect, we have presented a submission for funding to both AE&T, and the Department of Canadian Heritage, within the parameters of its envelope on Official Languages in Education (OLE).

We need your help! Your expressed support is essential if we are to ensure adequate funding to enable us to launch the first program offering in the Fall of 2010, or 2011 at the latest – Business, Tourism, Health and the Preparatory Program for Post-Secondary Education (PPPE). Beyond the launch year, funding will be required to sustain eight program families – Business, Tourism, Health, Education, Environmental Ecology, Information and Communication Technologies, Multidisciplinary Arts, and Trades, as well as two ad hoc programs – the PPPE and Interinstitutional French Language Training.

Additionally, since September 2007, NAIT is no longer offering the Bilingual Business Administration Program. This leaves an even more critical gap in Alberta's French language post-secondary programming, as there are no avenues for graduates of French, French-Immersion or FSL programs to pursue college studies in French in Alberta.

I am therefore soliciting a letter of support from you regarding this very important undertaking. Your qualified support will be instrumental in our obtaining the required funding. A copy of our submission for funding is available upon request. Please contact Dolorèse Nolette, Interim Director of the Collège at (780) 248-1658, or me at (780) 465-8705 should you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for your continued support!

Marc Arnal
Dean