

## [TRANSLATION]

Gravelbourg, September 27, 2022

**The Honourable René Cormier, Senator**

Chair of the Senate Committee on Official Languages

Dear Senator Cormier:

**Subject: Support for the proposed change to the wording of Bill C-13**

On behalf of Collège Mathieu, an institution that provides vocational and technical training to the francophone and bilingual community as a way to promote its socio-economic development, I would like to express my appreciation for your work and for the importance you attach to francophone minority communities (FMCs) in areas such as the amendments to the *Official Languages Act* and all issues related to the development of official languages. Senator Cormier, Collège Mathieu is pleased to see that in the proposed modernization of the *Official Languages Act* (Bill C-13), there is progress on recognizing quality, life-long learning.

However, to ensure that this bill has a comprehensive impact on the vitality of FMCs and the learning continuum, it is essential to support the change proposed by RESDAC to include formal, non-formal and informal settings by rewording section 41(3) as follows:

41(3) The Government of Canada is committed to advancing opportunities for members of English and French linguistic minority communities to pursue quality learning, in formal, non-formal and informal settings, in their own language throughout their lives, including from early childhood to post-secondary education.

This change is important because it will have a positive impact for decades to come, since providing a clear role in the *Official Languages Act* for informal and non-formal learning, in addition to formal learning, contributes to the social and economic engagement of Canadians, thereby promoting civic engagement and participation in coming up with solutions to the common challenges of our society.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Francis Kasongo  
Executive Director

cc: - RESDAC

Ministers, MPs, Senators  
Standing Committee on Official Languages  
Minister Petitpas Taylor  
Minister Qualtrough