

*For immediate release*PRESS RELEASE**Lack of qualified teachers: Campus Saint-Jean is part of the solution!**

EDMONTON (February 9, 2017) – The French Immersion Programs celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their foundation this year and they have never been so popular! In Western Canada, specifically in Alberta and British-Columbia, the high demand has its consequences: school boards have a hard time to find teachers that would satisfy the demand and some schools are forced to suspend their programs.

Following the article *Quality of French-immersion teachers questioned as demand soars in Canada*, published in *The Globe and Mail*, on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, we recall that Campus Saint-Jean is part of the solution.

In fact, Campus Saint-Jean (CSJ) welcomes more than 100 new students in its Education programs each year. However, it's far enough to satisfy the demand. "The requests come from everywhere: Yukon, Ontario and - of course - Western Canada. We could easily double our number of students and wouldn't have a hard time to find a workplace for them at the end of their term", mentioned Dr. Pierre-Yves Mocquais, Dean of Campus Saint-Jean.

The lack of teachers is not something new for CSJ. In spring 2016, the institution also hired a firm to get an overview of the situation. Three great observations have been made:

1. Western and North Canada are seriously in need for qualified teachers in francophone schools and French Immersion Programs.
2. This need of staff requires a greater focus to the quality of teaching among our future teachers.
3. There is a great deal of School Boards in Western and North Canada that hire teaching staff from other provinces or other francophone Countries, but the churn rate is high.

In order to respond to this situation, it's imperative that the Government of Alberta, School Boards, Canadian Parents for French and Campus Saint-Jean are mobilized. This work has been started, but the programs funding for the teachers training in French Immersion and francophone schools have to be revised. "The key is collaboration. Solutions have been proposed to support future teachers to choose Education studies at Campus Saint-Jean", insist Pierre-Yves Mocquais.

*The Campus Saint-Jean, a French-language multidisciplinary faculty at the University of Alberta, is committed to integrating knowledge, discovery and citizenship. Today, nearly 800 students attend the Campus Saint-Jean, driven with the desire to finish their post-secondary education in French. They have chosen to study in one of the two college programs (Administration and Tourism), the nine bachelor's programs (arts, sciences, administration, nursing and education included) or one of the two Master's programs (Arts or Education).*

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