



Language & Race in Contemporary Canadian History

Parent Resources for Change

What we've learned

- Parents used many strategies to make schools more inclusive of linguistic and racial diversity. They worked with school and Board committees, community groups, news media published in their community's language, and political organizations.
- Some focused on multiculturalism or anti-racism without linking to language, while others debated whether to expand International Languages (IL) or prioritize English.
- The greatest progress came when parents from different communities worked together, even though building solidarity wasn't always easy.

How can this change?

- It is unlikely that all parents or all members of an organization will ever hold the same perspective on IL, multilingualism in general, or how language, culture, and race/racism are connected.
- But an important first step in making change is to create space to discuss and debate these topics explicitly and to figure out who your allies are.

Make a plan

- Use the table below on the back side of the page to help imagine and organize the kind of change you want to see for International Languages education!



Parent Resources for Change

| Start with yourself | Finding allies | Getting others organized |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why is IL important to you, your family, your child, your community? ● What experiences have you had with the IL program? <p>If you are in an organization or committee that is relevant to IL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are its mandate, mission, or guiding principles? ● To what extent do these principles pay attention to multilingualism or IL? ● If they don't, what connections do you see between the group's mandates or principles and multilingualism or IL? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Which other parents do you know who are interested in expanding IL and multilingualism at school? ● Do you all share the same linguistic and cultural background? If so, can you reach out to parents from different communities, too? <p>Come together and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why is IL important to you? ● If you're active in the same organization or committee, share your responses to the questions on the left. ● If you're active in different organizations, work through those questions for each group. | <p>What do you think the most important next steps are?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuing to reach out to other parents ● Engaging the organizations or committees you work in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If IL is already part of your group's work, how can you enhance it? ○ If IL is not part of your group's work, how can you help other members see the connections and why it's important? ● Learning from past parent efforts - this is where we can help. We can meet with you and share more background on our project's findings to help support your efforts to expand IL! |