



**The Mother Language Lovers of the World Society
British Columbia Registration # S-0060789**

**Motherlanguage lovers.com
*my language is my identity***

Hon. Chairperson
Board of Education
Ottawa Carleton District School Board, Ottawa.
27th December, 2020

Subject: A Project Proposal for the Implementation of International Mother Language Day (IMLD) by Appointing "Mother Language Ambassador" from among the students of Elementary level.

Dear Chairperson,

As you are aware, the United Nations Educational and Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared 21st February as the International Mother Language Day (IMLD) in 1999. The initiative for IMLD was undertaken by our organization – the Mother Language Lovers of the World Society (MLLWS) – and ultimately supported by all member states of the UNESCO, including Canada. Today, we celebrate 21st February as IMLD to enhance awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions around the world, and to protect and promote linguistic diversity through multilingual education.

The MLLWS, based in Surrey, B.C., has been working with the City of Surrey and the School District of Surrey for implementation of the goals of IMLD. We developed a model, which is now called the BC Model for IMLD implementation, already recognized and endorsed by the UNESCO. As the first step, the School District of Surrey included IMLD in the School Yearly calendar. As a result, in Surrey School District alone, every year approximately 70,000 students, representing 172 various mother language speakers now have opportunities to celebrate on 21st February their languages, identity and their cultural heritage within the Canadian multicultural mosaic.

This Model is being replicated in other School Districts in BC. For your information, the Ottawa Catholic School Board recently included the IMLD in their school calendar. We consider that childhood is the best time to raise awareness about the mother languages. However, in the absence of a structural guidance and resources, the elementary school systems may find it difficult to prepare themselves for such a venture and thus may lose their interest to move this forward.

We therefore propose that, following examples in BC and Ottawa and other provinces as well, you may consider to include the IMLD in your School Districts yearly calendar. We promise to assist you with resources as well as advisory services from MLLWS, which are as follows.

1. Basic Resources: With the help of UNESCO, MLLWS will arrange the basic resources like information packages, video presentations, posters etc.

2. Mother Language Committee: Your School Board/District will be responsible for forming a committee for mother language awareness for each school. This committee will be responsible in a school board level to observe IMLD in every school annually on 21st February (or on a different suitable date if it is a holiday). The committee will also create awareness and promote preservation of mother languages through arranging presentations, seminars, counselling, and classroom talks in all schools.



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3. Mother Language Ambassadors: School Board/District will elect/select a Mother Language Ambassador (volunteers from school teachers) from each school or school zone including a leader among all the ambassadors to sit in the School Board Mother Language Committee.

4. Regional Celebration: You may think of a regional/District-wise Celebration of IMLD every year and involve your City/Municipality and local political figures to further highlight the importance of IMLD in Canadian context.

I am forwarding a presentation for your kind information. It will highly appreciate, if you please undertake this educational initiative in your School Board/District. We assure you of technical help and any advisory services from MLLWS. Please visit our website (www.motherlanguage lovers.com) for further information.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Mohammad Aminul Islam

President,

Mother Language Lovers Of The World Society, BC

[Email: maislam@motherlanguage lovers.com](mailto:maislam@motherlanguage lovers.com)

Phone: 1-778-895-4084