MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Ontario English-language School Boards

FROM: Kathy Verduyn
Director
Field Services Branch

DATE: August 22, 2011

SUBJECT: French as a Second Language (FSL) Update

I am writing to inform you of two exciting, new resources that are now available to support FSL students, teachers and parents, and upcoming professional development web conferences for FSL educators.

*On est capable!* is a series of professional learning videos and a viewer’s guide available in DVD format and online at Curriculum Services Canada’s website (www.curriculum.org/fsl/oral/). The series supports teachers of elementary and secondary Core, Immersion and Extended French in the development of spoken interaction skills within the context of rich, authentic tasks in the classroom. Vignettes featuring educators and students allow viewers to observe strategies in action and their positive impact on student engagement in their FSL class.

Under the leadership of the Rainbow District School Board, the *FSL Homework Toolbox/Trousse pour les devoirs* website (www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca) was developed to provide homework support to French Immersion program students and their parents. Students, parents and educators in Core and Extended FSL programs may also find it helpful. The website includes audio files and video clips in French and English, information on specific topics, a list of French language learning websites, and general tips for learning French.

Starting in early fall 2011, interactive web conferences designed specifically for FSL leaders will be facilitated by Curriculum Services Canada. In support of strengthened FSL professional learning communities, FSL leaders in each board will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the teaching strategies demonstrated in *On est capable!* Details regarding dates and web conferencing technical information will be provided shortly.

Please share this information with your FSL teachers, students and parents. Your local Regional Office staff is available should you have any questions.