

Marie-Astrid Detharet wins 'French Immersion Leader of the Year' Award

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Chinook's Edge School Division is pleased that its French Immersion Coordinator has received a new provincial award for French Educators. Canadian Parents for French (CPF) Alberta and its partner organization, the Alberta French Language Education Consortium (AFLEC), has given their first annual award for "French Immersion Leader of the Year" Award to Marie-Astrid Detharet.

"I am very surprised. This is quite an honor because there are so many deserving individuals who work tirelessly to promote and encourage French education in Alberta," said Marie-Astrid Detharet. "I am thankful to CPF, to my nominators and my Chinook's Edge team. Also thank you to Chinook's Edge for supporting second language learning in a rural school division." Detharet is passionate about giving students a chance to learn second languages. "As French is my first language, and English my second, I believe in students having access to learn another language. It helps them appreciate the world around them."

"This is well deserved recognition," said Jason Drent, Associate Superintendent of Learning Services. "We are grateful for Marie-Astrid's commitment to supporting French Immersion in our division, and we are proud to see her receiving this award."

"Marie-Astrid is passionate about French; she does whatever she needs to do to support and promote French immersion and French second language (FSL) education," said Michael Tryon, Executive Director, CPF - Alberta. "Her involvement in her school division's community, in ensuring that her students have as many opportunities as possible to learn and use French, as well as being a champion for FSL education across the province and within the Francophone community, made Marie-Astrid the ideal candidate for this inaugural award. She has set the bar high for future recipients."

Tryon said CPF Alberta is also handing out awards for French Immersion educator of the year, French Second Language educator of the year, and French Second Language professional of the year (could go to educational assistants, custodians, administrative assistants - etc. - anyone who has made a difference to French education). 78 nominations for the four awards were received and considered by the organization's selection committee.

"French language instruction is as strong as it is in Chinook's Edge in large part because of Marie-Astrid," said Tracey Lynn, Vice Principal of École Fox Run School, and one of the individuals who nominated Detharet.

"Marie-Astrid is so quick to give credit to the team around her, which is great, but also she deserves credit for her leadership," said Lorraine Ewashen, Administrative Assistant, CESD Learning Services.

"Marie-Astrid has such passion and shows dedication in her work," said Erin Machell, Learning Services Coordinator, CESD and nominator. "Her work, for instance, with the recent Francophone Games in Sylvan Lake was evidence of that dedication. She is an exemplary leader and puts her heart into her work."

Detharet has been a teacher in Chinook's Edge for over 15 years. She taught at École Fox Run School and served as the part-time French Immersion Coordinator for the division prior to assuming her current full time coordinator role in Learning Services supporting new curriculum implementation, along with her role as French Immersion Coordinator. This past year, Detharet was instrumental in bringing the highly successful Francophone Games to Sylvan Lake in May 2023.

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