INTEGRATING CULTURE
IN CLASSROOMS AND SCHOOL LIFE

CULTURE and **IDENTITY** play an important role in the development of French Immersion students.

THE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM:
DEVELOPING PROUD, CONFIDENT, COMPETENT, ENGAGED, PLURILINGUAL GLOBAL CITIZENS

Parents, students, and staff all have a shared responsibility in realizing this vision. **All stakeholders, whether they speak French or not, have a role to play.**

"It's important that students do activities in French that are meaningful to them, like discussing their likes and concerns, having fun, and creating things."
Bailey Palomar, university student

"Getting an education in French was supported by my parents and teachers, even if they didn't speak the language."
Heather Brydon, teacher

CULTURE AND IDENTITY PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS VISION.

IDENTITY

Immersion students have a plurilingual **identity**: their culture of origin, the Francophone culture, and the Immersion environment shape their thinking and world view.

CULTURE

Culture can be broken down into **cultural references** – i.e., those things that are important to a group and together form a culture:

- **Public figures and characters**, in all spheres
- **Achievements and works**, such as creations, discoveries, and productions, in all spheres
- **Traditions, lifestyles, and social mores** like customs, practices, and habits
- **Linguistic, historic, and contemporary heritage**
- **Institutions and organizations** serving the community
- **Legislation** that had an impact on the community's development
- **Demonstrations and gatherings of significance to the group**

In the French Immersion Program, the more students interact with Francophone cultural references, the more they take ownership of them and become motivated to continue learning the culture and language.

Learning about, and being open to, different cultures increases students' ability to think and interact with the world.

Studying both the French language and culture promotes sustained learning.

CULTURE GIVES MEANING TO LEARNING FRENCH.

"French took on new meaning for me when I was able to meet Francophones and experience life in French. Speaking the language helped me discover a whole new side of me."
Luke Loewen, young worker

THE GOAL FOR TEACHERS:
FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM TO ENABLE STUDENTS TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Strategies:

- Promote French as a modern and dynamic language at school. *Examples: hearing adults speaking French; seeing bilingual signage at school*
- Create opportunities for students to experience French as a living, relevant, and dynamic language, not just a school subject. *Examples: having French speaking role models; using French language audio and video products; playing games in French*
- Create opportunities for students to participate in the Francophone community. *Examples: accessing Francophone community resources; responding to an article in a French language newspaper; participating in local French language events*
- Allow students to interact with cultural references in all school subjects. *Examples: learning to cook in French; studying the lives of French-speaking Canadian astronauts*

Manitoba