

# 266 nouvelles places en garderies dans les écoles francophones

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**Quelques 266 nouvelles places en garderies dans les écoles de langue française seront disponibles dans les prochains mois.**

La ministre de l'Éducation, Kathleen Wynne et la ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires, ministre déléguée aux Affaires francophones et députée d'Ottawa-Vanier, Madeleine Meilleur, en ont fait l'annonce, jeudi dernier, à l'École élémentaire catholique Des Voyageurs.

«C'est une bonne nouvelle pour freiner l'assimilation. C'est important de commencer en bas âge», a fait valoir la ministre Meilleur, en ajoutant que ces nouvelles places permettront aux enfants de vivre en français.

Quelques 32 nouvelles places seront disponibles à

l'École Des Voyageurs, tandis que 10 autres écoles à travers la province bénéficieront des autres places.

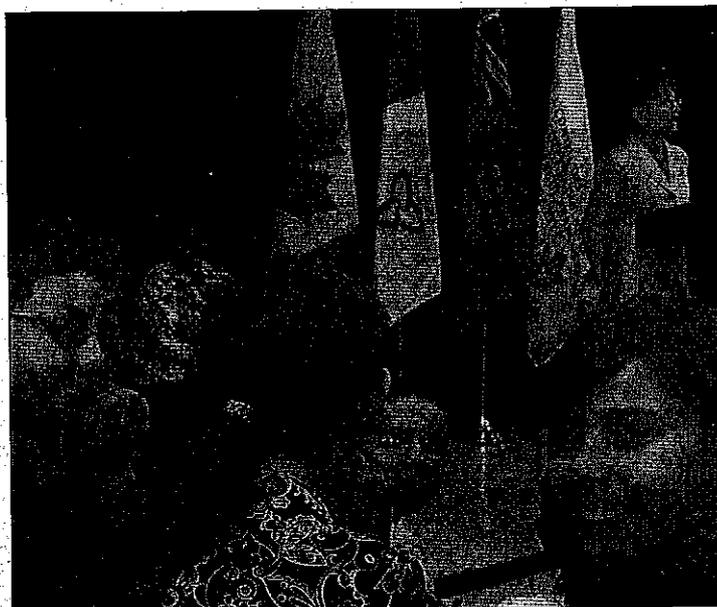
La ministre Wynne a indiqué que les parents sont plus enclins à envoyer leur enfant dans une école de langue française lorsqu'il a fréquenté une garderie francophone.

Celle-ci a indiqué que l'objectif de son gouvernement était que 75 % des écoles francophones possèdent sa garderie.

Le but de cette annonce est de garder les élèves francophones dans le système scolaire de langue française.

La présidente du Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du Centre-Est (CÉCLFCE), Diane Doré, a d'ailleurs émit le souhait d'avoir des garderies scolaires dans toutes les écoles francophones.

«Actuellement, environ 1400



Quelques 266 nouvelles places en garderies dans les écoles de langue française ont été créées. Photo : Étienne Ranger

enfants francophones sont en attente d'une place dans nos garderies», a-t-elle fait valoir.

Le ministère de l'Éducation et

des Services à l'enfance et à la jeunesse octroieront respectivement 4 millions \$ et 2 millions \$ pour le financement.

LOCAL NEWS

# Province funding more child care spaces for French language schools

BY ANIL JHALLI  
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The provincial government announced last week that it will invest in 266 child care spaces in French Language schools across the province.

The announcement was made by Education Minister Kathleen Wynne at École Élémentaire des Voyageurs in Orléans.

The minister was joined by Ottawa-Orléans MPP Phil McNeely and Ottawa-Vanier MP and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs, Madeleine Meilleur.

"Adding child care centres in French Language schools will help Francophone children to develop sooner and be more successful," said Wynne. "It will make our French language schools more responsive to

the needs of parents."

**"Adding child care centres in French Language schools will help Francophone children to develop sooner and be more successful."**

Kathleen Wynne  
Education Minister

The \$6 million dollar initiative - a combined effort from the Ministries of Education and Children and Youth Services - stems from recommendations from the Minister's Permanent Task Force on French language education.

"We know that high

quality and affordable child care increases opportunities for the whole family," said Children and Youth Services Minister Deb Matthews. "Increasing access to quality French language early learning will help parents balance the demands of work and raising their kids."

Of those 266 spaces, École Élémentaire des Voyageurs will receive 32.

"This is a big announcement for the Francophone community," said McNeely.

Meilleur agreed.

"Everything we do is for our children," she said. "It is important that children receive education in their first language to help them succeed in the future."

## From the heart



Queenie Decimen recites a poem during the Ms. Ottawa Afro Caribbean Teen Pageant last Friday evening at the Orleans Theatre on Centrum Boulevard.

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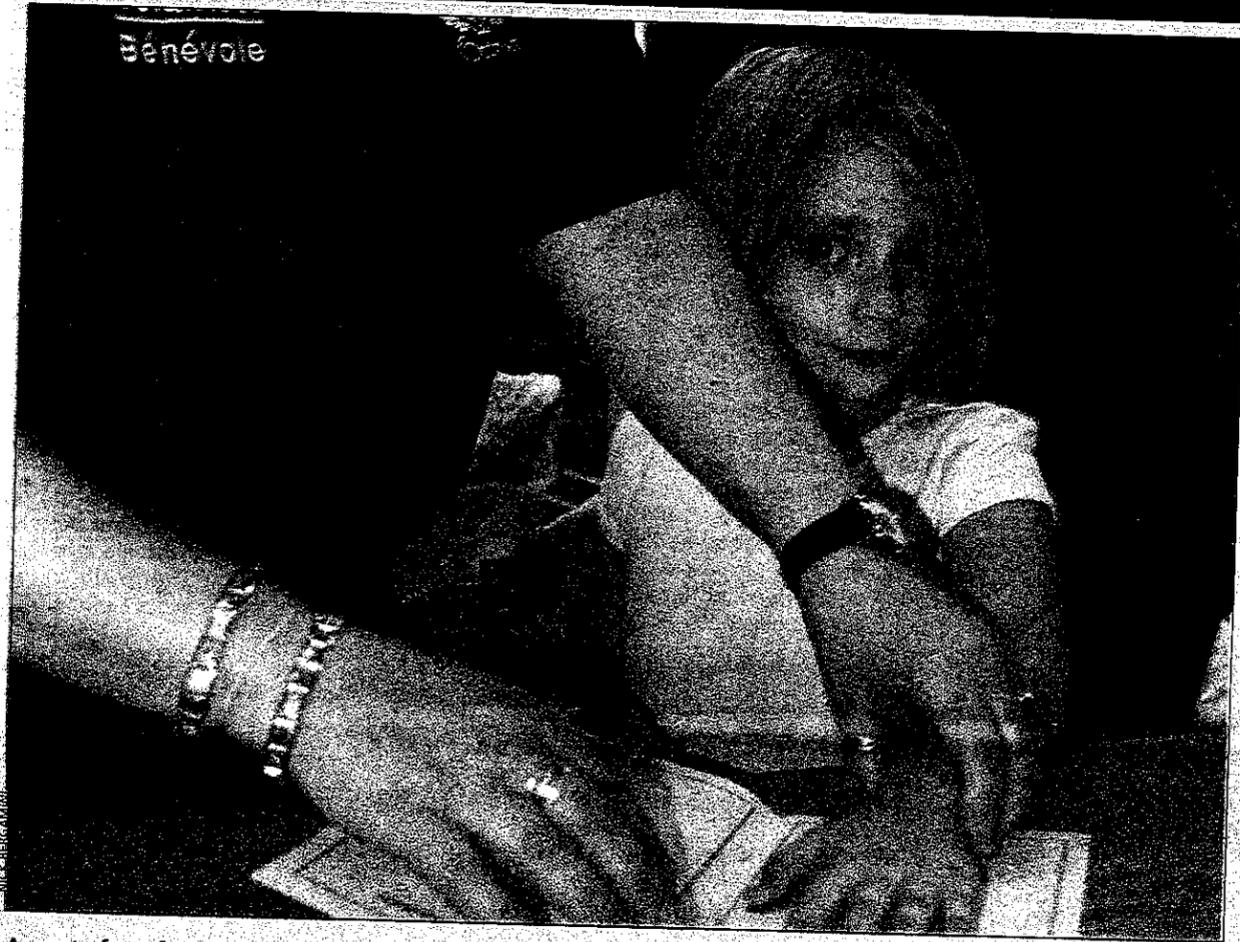
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As part of a safety program, 6-year-old Julia Palmer is fingerprinted by Ottawa Police during the Kids Day International event at Ecole Élémentaire Arc-En-Ciel in Orléans. For more on this story, please see page 4.

CÉCHLÉ

19 sept 2008

the Now EMC

**LOCAL NEWS**

# Kids Day International promotes health and wellness for youth

BY NICK BERGAMINI  
Staff Writer - The Now EMC

Both parents and kids got all they could ask for at the Orléans edition of Kids Day International, an event aimed at promoting health and wellness among youth. The event was organized by Freedom Chiropractic owner and CFRA Radio host Dr. David Covey.

Hosted at École Élémentaire Arc-En-Ciel, the event brought together various

experts in children's health. Among them was Covey, who was giving free spinal check-ups to the kids of concerned parents.

"This is a chance to find problems early on in the spine. It's the nervous system in your body and that is just so important," he said. "One patient of mine, her parents took her in and in three weeks of working on her spine, it was a huge difference. She had seizures since birth and this has all

but stopped. That has totally changed that family's entire lives."

Like many chiropractors, Covey is a strong advocate of preventative medicine — that is tackling illness before it starts.

"I see a lot of people who just do disease care. People are back and forth, in and out of the hospital. CHEO is full with sick kids," he explained. "So what we need to do is switch from disease care to prevention, which is finding problems before the symptoms arise."

Among the other health experts on hand was an optometrist giving eye examinations and an orthodontist checking kids teeth.

The Ottawa Police Service was out in full force, represented by Orléans community police officer Henri Lanctot. Lanctot is a staunch advocate of the Ottawa Police's Child Print program. Parents can get their child fingerprinted and fill out the information that police will need in a worst case scenario situation—the abduction of their son or daughter.

Lanctot and a group of volunteers fingerprinted



Megan Levesque has her spinal cord checked by Dr. David Covey during the Kids Day International event last Saturday in Orléans.

kids, while educating them and their parents about how to stay safe.

"The rational behind that is that if the parent calls the police, very often they are in a panic mode," he said. "At least that way we have basic information about the child. Personal safety is paramount so we need to convey that message."

Penny Palmer, who vis-

ited International Kids Day with her six-year-old daughter, was relieved to get a set of finger prints done.

But people concerned about privacy need not worry. Parents hold onto the booklet and only hand it over into police in the event that they need it.

On the lighter side, was a presentation by Ray's Reptile Zoo. Easily the most

popular attraction at the event, kids were left captivated by the snapping turtle, crocodile and another animals being exhibited.

Judging by the packed gymnasium and feel good atmosphere, the event was a huge success. "We both are so busy all week so this gives a chance to do something together and have fun," said Palmer.

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## Une première Maison familiale rurale en Ontario



par **Kristina Brazeau**

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Article mis en ligne le 18 septembre 2008 à 13:50

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**La première Maison familiale rurale franco-ontarienne (MFR) a été inaugurée, samedi, à Alfred.** Il s'agit de la première MFR en Ontario. Le concept n'est toutefois pas nouveau et est d'ailleurs bien établi au Québec depuis 10 ans.

Le projet est né d'un partenariat entre le Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité de l'Ontario (RDÉE) et le campus d'Alfred de l'Université de Guelph.

Pour le campus d'Alfred, qui fournit les locaux, il s'agit d'une excellente occasion de promouvoir l'agriculture auprès des jeunes.

«La MFR a pour but de répondre au besoin de main d'œuvre et de diminuer l'exode rural», explique le président de la MFR, Luc Morin.

Le programme s'adresse aux élèves de 10e à la 12e année, qui souhaitent apprendre autrement dans le domaine de l'agriculture et du commerce et accueille présentement neuf élèves de Glengarry-Prescott-Russell et des environ.

Les élèves passent deux semaines en salle de classe et effectuent deux semaines de stage en alternance tout au long de l'année scolaire.

Durant les semaines en classe, les élèves sont encouragés à vivre une autre expérience, soit de cohabiter dans la résidence de la MFR, située à quelques pas du campus d'Alfred de l'Université de Guelph. Les élèves sont également fortement encouragés à habiter sur leur lieu de stage comme l'explique M. Morin.

«Nous les encourageons à demeurer à l'endroit du stage surtout dans le cas d'une ferme lorsqu'ils sont appelés à aller faire le train à 5 h du matin.»

Les élèves bénéficient également d'une coordonatrice en animation à la résidence. Il en coûte 150 \$



**La Maison familiale rurale franco-ontarienne accueille actuellement neuf élèves. Photo : Kristina Brazeau**

pour deux semaines pour y habiter incluant la nourriture et les activités parascolaires.

Le projet, qui a pris quatre ans à être mis sur pied, est une coopérative et pris en charge par la communauté.

Le concept pourrait être adapté ailleurs dans la province.

## SchoolBox charity began with a single notebook and pencil

Almonte resident Tom Affleck quickly saw how something so simple could change a child's life, writes Jesse McLean.

**Jesse McLean**

The Ottawa Citizen

*Friday, September 19, 2008*

It was in early 2006, midpoint in Central America's dry season, when Tom Affleck began living in a small community in northern Nicaragua.

The Almonte native had just finished a two-year contract working for a large non-profit organization, and he was disillusioned.

He had come to the impoverished country to help empower its people, but he felt he was losing touch.

"The organization was doing great work, but I just found I was in the office all time and never with the people we served," he said. "I was tired of being behind the scenes."

So he tried to reconnect with the people he had come to help. He volunteered at an orphanage and a women's prison, and worked as a bodyguard of sorts, protecting a farmer who, he says, was being persecuted by a coffee conglomerate.

"I was doing some real soul-searching there," he said.

In that small town in the north, Mr. Affleck, a boyish looking 30-year-old, met a young girl outside her family's shack. He gave the girl a notebook and a pencil.

"Her dad came around the corner and he was so excited. He told her, 'Now that you have a notepad, you can go to school this year.' I was so overwhelmed by that experience. I still am," he said.

He was flustered by the notion that something as simple as not having a notebook was preventing the girl from going to school. Yet that gift, a friendly lark, launched Mr. Affleck's charity called SchoolBox. It has since become an entrepreneurial success story: The group has handed out thousands of education kits, which include pencils, erasers, notebooks and rulers. As well, Mr. Affleck and others have helped fund and build a school and a library, and have plans to erect eight more schools in 2009. What's more, annual donations have increased by 10 times in the last two and a half years.

"I think people realize that it's such a great thing to be involved with. Every dollar goes toward helping the kids," said Sarah Kerr, a project co-ordinator with SchoolBox.



CREDIT: Jean Levac, The Ottawa Citizen  
Tom Affleck is the founder of SchoolBox, a charity that has handed out thousands of school supplies to children and has helped build a school and library.

But Mr. Affleck fondly remembers the organization's humble beginnings. Only days after he gave away that first notebook, he withdrew a chunk of money from his savings account -- the product of two years of hard work -- to buy more school supplies.

"I really didn't have any idea what I was doing. I bought (the notebooks and pencils) in bulk and carried them with me on the bus. We're talking really grassroots," he said.

He would travel to different towns and villages, most of which were just communities of makeshift hovels, and hand out notebooks door to door. However, he soon realized his goodwill was being co-opted by politicians.

"Local community leaders were taking me door-to-door. I figured out pretty quickly they were just taking me to the houses of their supporters," he said.

Despite the success of SchoolBox, it's come at a great expense for Mr. Affleck. He had to take out a line of credit to fund the first few bundles of school supplies. And after heading the organization for more than two years, he only recently began accepting a paycheque of \$1,500 per month.

"I had to move back with my mom because I had no money."

And his mom isn't the only Almonte resident who has helped SchoolBox's cause. Many of the town's schools and churches have held fundraisers, and several residents have even travelled to Nicaragua to help build schools and hand out supplies.

SchoolBox is hosting a Latin dance fundraiser tonight at the Almonte Agricultural Hall, at 195 Walter St. Tickets are \$20, and available at the door.

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