



# HUMAN RESOURCES

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Human Resources

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# QUESTIONNAIRE

## Staffing International Language Programs in Basic Education

1. What is the nature of the shortage of international language teachers in your jurisdiction?

Second language instruction, particularly in French has diminished over the years. French teachers are difficult to get locally however the Maritimes have provided a good source. We have not formally polled the schools to see what potential is for offering languages like Spanish or German. Students who wish to take these courses usually do so through distance education with the assistance of a mentor.

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2. In which languages is there a shortage?

We have not fully explored this, but there would definitely be an issue if we suddenly had to provide a variety of second language programs. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. At what level (elementary, junior high, senior high) is there a shortage?

Any level. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How many new international language teachers are needed each year for the next five years in your school jurisdiction?

Around 3 to 5 per year are hired. This trend has not changed much and would continue unless demand changed. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How is your school jurisdiction currently addressing this shortage?

We have found that attending recruitment fairs in the Maritimes has allowed us to fill hard to fill spots in all our areas of shortage. We offer attractive professional development opportunities for teachers to change areas of expertise or pursue other interests. \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. What have been issues in obtaining teacher certification for your international language teachers?

N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What are possible solutions to any shortage of international language teachers in your school jurisdiction?

Should the Minister require a second language for graduation, there will clearly be an increased demand for international languages at all levels. It would simply not be feasible without some sort of transition funding. \_\_\_\_\_  
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8. What types of policies would effectively address the shortage?

Unknown. \_\_\_\_\_  
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9. How can we best prepare international language teachers for the future?

Because so many Alberta students are uni-lingual, it stands to reason that new teachers will have to be encouraged to take a second language at the University level. University students preparing to teach might be very interested in adding a second or third language to their program by a provincial grant which offered scholarships, additional remission to student loans or even free course tuition. The real question is could the U of A etc. handle the influx? \_\_\_\_\_  
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