

International Languages Program has been a special staple in Catholic education in the community of Etobicoke for several generations.

In my riding I have many families who themselves as children graduated from a school with IL program .And having that positive experience in their lives played a determined factor when sending their own children to a school with an IL program. Many other parents, who did not graduate from such program, and seeing what kind of success it is, while striving to provide their children with the best education, send their children to schools, where they can study another language.

International languages program has been an integral part of education for many immigrant families in my riding of Etobicoke Centre, that helped them maintain their cultural connection, religious practices or gave an extra boost of education in a form of ability to learn and practice live another language.

Also, needless to mention, that in some cultures, within some Catholic churches, the liturgy language that is used, is not English, so knowing another language, understanding the liturgy is inseparable in practicing their faith and Catholic upbringing.

Numerous research and academic studies throughout the world have demonstrated that studying a second language
- benefits the academic progress in other subjects

- Narrows achievement gaps
- Benefits basic skills development
- Benefits higher order, abstract and creative thinking
- Enriches and enhances cognitive development
- Enhances students' sense of achievement
- Helps students score higher on standardized tests
- Promotes cultural awareness and competency
- Improves chances of college/university acceptance, achievement and attainment
- Enhances career opportunities
- Benefits understanding and security in communities and society

This past year, living during the global pandemic has been very challenging for the most of people, especially children. It is our duty and responsibility as adults, that when things go back to normal, our children can have the best educational experience, which should also include the international languages program.