

FOR RELEASE

November 9 2020

## Opening of Paul-Émile Mercier Secondary School Community Centre (CSSC Mercier)

On the morning of November 13, CSSC Mercier will welcome 85 students from grades 7 to 12 enrolled in the French First Language program of the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon (CSFY).

A local firm, Ketz Construction, carried out the CSSC Mercier design-build contract. Work began in the spring of 2019 and was completed in September 2020. In spite of the pandemic, there were only small delays to the project.

As early as 2007, a consultation with the francophone community was launched to explore different avenues to meet the needs of secondary students since École Émilie-Tremblay, built in 1996, was already quickly running out of space.

### Quotes

---

« The entry of our students into CSSC Mercier is a historic and exciting moment for the entire Francophone community and for French First Language education programs in the Yukon. The opening of CSSC Mercier demonstrates the respect accorded by the territorial government to our language rights and the provision of an equivalent infrastructure to our students. We thank the Government of Yukon for its commitment and contribution to building CSSC Mercier. The sustainability of a language and a culture is ensured, among other things, by the institutions dedicated to them. » Jean-Sébastien Blais, president, CSFY

« Many of our students have been waiting for this school since they entered elementary school and we are so proud that this project is finally completed! We look forward to sharing community spaces with all of the residents of Whitehorse when COVID-related restrictions are lifted. » Marc Champagne, Executive Director, CSFY

### Quick facts

---

- CSSC Mercier can accommodate up to 150 students.
- For the 2021-2022 school year, the projection is 112 students enrolled at CSSC Mercier.
- \$ 7.5 million was provided by Canadian Heritage, through the minority language education program, to build community spaces (kitchen, atrium, community radio, multi-use room, etc.)
- History of the construction of the CSSC Mercier in [French](#) and [English](#).
- List of companies that participated in the [construction of CSSC Mercier](#).

### Contact

Maud Caron, Communications

867-667-8680, ext. 0, [maud.caron@gov.yk.ca](mailto:maud.caron@gov.yk.ca)