


FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR

DR. HÉLÈNE H. LEONE

Hélène H. Leone is an educator, a researcher and an innovator with an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and, above all, to her students. As the founder and director of the Canadian Bilingual School of Paris, Dr. Leone is thrilled that after more than 4 years of hard work and preparation, her dream of a bilingual Canadian school in the heart of Paris is finally about to come true.

Dr. Leone earned her Ph.D in Education from the University of Ottawa and is proud to say that over the years she has taught students from kindergarten to the university level. She has taught teachers how to teach, and how students learn. As a university lecturer, Dr. Leone has also taught about social justice across the curriculum, as well as education and the media through the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Leone has also been the Diploma Programme Coordinator in the International Baccalaureate Programme (IB), and Head of Modern Languages in the IB Middle Years and Primary Years Programmes.

Dr. Leone has long standing ties to France. She worked closely with the French Consulate in Vancouver during her tenure as President of the Board of Directors (2011-2013) of the French International School of Vancouver, Jacques Cousteau. Dr. Leone has also worked as an educational researcher for

the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, the *Fédération culturelle-canadienne française* and Heritage Canada. In 2010, Dr. Leone was a recipient of a national research grant offered by *l'Association des universités de la francophonie canadienne*. Dr. Leone has also spoken internationally about her research, including in 2013 at the 41st Annual Conference of the French Association for Canadian Studies at the Université de Rennes, in Rennes, France.

But Dr. Leone is also an acclaimed artist with a strong and ongoing attachment to the world of music and dance. It is a passion she will also be bringing to the Canadian Bilingual School of Paris. Dr. Leone began her classical training at the age of nine and her music - all influenced by her Quebecois roots - has been recognized many times, including at the Western Canadian Music Awards (2005) in the category of Outstanding Francophone Recording.

Dr. Leone was born in Montreal, Quebec and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia. So while she knows the challenges facing minority francophone communities, Dr. Leone has a keen understanding of the tremendous opportunities that flow from a bilingual and bi-cultural educational experience – the Canadian experience. And that is what she is bringing to the Canadian Bilingual School of Paris.
