

Always Good to Open New Schools

Description

Always good to open new schools. Perhaps, Mr. Higgs will send us pictures.

The Government of New Brunswick has just opened its first international francophone school in Tunisia, in partnership with a private company.

Dubbed "Acadie", this French-language school built in Sousse, in the east of the country, officially opened this spring. It is headed by New Brunswicker Nicole Marquis, a former school principal who believes the school will provide quality education to Francophiles.

It will be a private school. We must agree that Canada ranks ninth in education. So I can understand why they chose the very inclusive New Brunswick curriculum for teaching there, says the new director, Marquis.

It was after long negotiations that the New Brunswick Department of Education and Early Childhood put its plan into action. The province has chosen Tunisia, a country shaken by a social crisis strongly linked to endemic unemployment.

Although it is well received by the Tunisian community, this school will not be accessible to the majority of its residents. Tuition fees are only available to wealthy families.

For example, parents who want to send their child to Acadie School will have to pay \$ 3,300 a year to enroll their child from kindergarten to grade five. From the sixth grade to the twelfth, the family will have to pay \$ 3,700 a year.

In this country, the average annual salary is \$ 4400.

The same school program as in New Brunswick

The proposed curriculum is the same as that of New Brunswick schools. Tunisian students who will study at Acadie will follow the same courses. Arts and language will occupy a prominent place.

New Brunswick's curriculum is still at the forefront of technology, new skills in the 21st century, so that's it. They will live all that Canadians live, all that New Brunswickers are going through. They will have to live the same thing, explains Nicole Marquis.

French will be the language taught, but it will also be possible for students to take intensive English classes, as well as Arabic lessons, their native language.

One of the strengths of this new school is the importance it will place on the inclusion of students with unique challenges.

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