



## **Pacific Montessori Society Policy Statement on International Students**

### **1.0 Overview**

The participation of ‘international students’ at Selkirk Montessori School:

- 1.1 Fosters international exchange and development of knowledge;
- 1.2 Promotes cultural diversity and understanding within our community;
- 1.3 Enriches the educational experience of international students, Canadian students, and academic staff; and
- 1.4 Facilitates international cooperation and development.

### **2.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines with regard to the following issues:

- 2.1 General statement reflecting the mandate of Selkirk Montessori School with regard to international students;
- 2.2 Provincial government funding of international students;
- 2.3 International students who do not have student authorizations and who wish to enroll at Selkirk Montessori School; and
- 2.4 Protecting the welfare of international students who are living without parental, guardian or other adult supervision.

### **3.0 Definitions**

- 3.1 The British Columbia *School Act* defines an ‘international student’ as an individual who has moved to British Columbia from outside of Canada and who does not meet the residency requirements set forth in section 82 of the *School Act*.
- 3.2 Section 82(2) of the *School Act* addresses ‘residency’ requirements. This provision states that a student is resident in a school district if: (a) the student is ordinarily resident in the school district and (b) the guardian of the student is ordinarily resident in British Columbia.
- 3.3 Section 82(2) of the *School Act* addresses the meaning of “guardian of the person”. Following is a concise overview of how “guardian” is identified in the *Family Relations Act*.
  - a. Where the parents of a child are living together with the child, they are joint guardians of the child unless a court orders otherwise.
  - b. If the parents live separately, the parent who has the usual care and control of the child is the sole guardian of the person of the child, subject to any Guardianship Order made under the *Divorce Act* as administered by the *Family Relations Act*.
  - c. Where there is no order, parents may provide in a written agreement which of them will be their child’s guardian.

- d. Persons who are not a child's parents can become that child's guardian either by court order under Section 30 of the *Family Relations Act* or by a will under Section 40 of the *Infants Act*.
- 3.4 Legal advice should be obtained in the event that a definitive interpretation of 'guardian' or 'ordinarily resident' is required.

#### **4.0 General**

- 4.1 Selkirk Montessori School does not discriminate in the admission of, or the provision of services to, international students on any grounds including race, creed, colour, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic or national origin, political or religious affiliation, belief or practice, gender, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, family relationship and responsibility, personal or social lifestyle or behaviour, or age.
- 4.2 It is essential that an international student arrange for a suitable home environment that is supportive of Selkirk Montessori School prior to admittance. Selkirk Montessori School maintains discretion throughout the academic year to ensure that such home environment is arranged.

#### **5.0 Provincial Government Funding**

- 5.1 Pursuant to the School Act, the British Columbia government will not provide education funding for international students unless the student satisfies one of the following exceptions:
- a. The student is a refugee claimant with an acknowledgement letter from the Immigration and Refugee Board;
  - b. The student is a Convention Refugee and can present a letter from Citizenship and Immigration Canada ("CIC") confirming this;
  - c. The student has been admitted to Canada under a letter of permission or permit issued by CIC;
  - d. The student is in the custody of the Minister for Children and Family Development; or
  - e. The student is attending school on a reciprocal and equal exchange. This exchange must be one in/one out of the same district for the same length of time, with the exchange completed within two years.
- 5.2 In conjunction with section 5.1 hereabove, the student's guardian must satisfy one of the following:
- a. The student's guardian has been admitted to Canada for permanent residence (i.e., landed immigrant) or has applied for permanent residence from within Canada and can substantiate this with documentation from CIC;
  - b. The student's guardian has been admitted for temporary residence in Canada for a term of one year or more and holds a student authorization or employment authorization from CIC;
  - c. The student's guardian has been admitted under a teacher exchange program;

- d. The student's guardian is carrying out official duties as a diplomatic or consular official and is able to substantiate this with a Foreign Representative Acceptance Counterfoil in the guardian's passport; or
- e. The student's guardian is a person who is a resident of the province on a cyclical (continuing part-time) basis, as determined through consultation with the Ministry of Education and with CIC.

## **6.0 Procedure**

- 6.1 If a student wishes to be considered an international student, and that student has a CIC student authorization, then that student should be identified as an international student of provincial government Form 1701.
- 6.2 Unless the student satisfies one of the exceptions listed in section 5.0 hereabove, then provincial education funding will not be available for the student. If Selkirk Montessori School has claimed the student for funding purposes, then they must reimburse the provincial government.
- 6.3 International students without student authorizations who wish to enroll, or are enrolled, with Selkirk Montessori School should be referred to Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

## **7.0 Tuition fees applicable to International Students**

- 7.1 In the event that an international student is not eligible for provincial government education funding, then Selkirk Montessori School retains discretion to charge higher tuition fees to international students. Such higher tuition fees would reflect the funds that would have otherwise been paid to Selkirk Montessori School in the form of provincial education funding and any other charges that Selkirk Montessori School deems appropriate.

## **8.0 Tuition Refund**

- 8.1 The refund policy that is applicable to Canadian students will also apply to international students.

## **9.0 Financial Assistance**

- 9.1 The general policy of Selkirk Montessori School is to make bursary and other financial assistance available to international students on the same basis that bursary and other financial assistance is made available to Canadian students.

Policy approved by the Board of Directors and effective on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005.