AN EMERGENCY FOR THE WORLD OF EDUCATION:

ADAPTING TO THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

WHITE PAPER
FOREWORD

Under its mandate given by the Ministry of Education of Ontario, Groupe Média TFO has created and broadcast quality digital educational content, in French, while remaining ahead of trends and priorities in the field of education. It has always been Groupe Média TFO’s mission to make a lasting and strong contribution to the thriving development of Ontario’s Francophonie.

We are motivated to enable current and future generations of Francophones to thrive. We seize opportunities to advance the cause of the French language in Canada with passion. This desire to ensure that young Francophones continually have access to education is, intimately connected with franco-Ontarian history and culture, and the social and cultural fabric of Canadian society.

Recognizing the major transformations facing the world with the rise of the fourth Industrial Revolution, we clearly realized that the means currently at our disposal fell short of the needs and ambitions of educational organizations seeking meaningful opportunities to participate in transforming education. The availability of and access to digital learning content, tools and solutions in French is not some wild idea but a reality that we must bring to fruition.

As a public media organization, we needed time to think in order to align our efforts with sustainable solutions adapted to the needs of this revolution.

This White Paper was developed through the team effort of many individuals whose names appear in the Acknowledgements section. However, this first White Paper by Groupe Média TFO unquestionably reflects the inspired leadership of Julie Caron, Senior Director of Digital Learning, whose scholarly and contagious passion for advancing education never ceases to impress us.

Glenn O’Farrell
President and CEO, Groupe Média TFO

DEDICATION:

This White Paper is dedicated to everyone interested in ensuring that future generations in Ontario and Canada have the opportunity to participate fully in learning adapted to the new realities of the fourth Industrial Revolution.
SUMMARY

In a context where recent technological innovation suggests future upheavals in the job market, Groupe Média TFO wanted to develop a status report on the situation based on a survey of the research. The goal was to identify issues of critical importance to the Canadian educational community, and propose concrete recommendations that would prevent citizens of the future from missing the innovation train.

THE IMPACT OF THE 4th INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION ON THE CANADIAN LABOUR MARKET AND THE SKILLS TO BE DEVELOPED

- Upheaval in the Canadian labour market arising from a widespread process: 47% of tasks performed by the Canadian workforce could be automated by 2055 using technologies already available (McKinsey, 2017).
- Emerging needs for new competencies (“global” and technological)
- Inclusion of these competencies in the curricula

TEACHING PRACTICES REQUIRED TO PASS ON THESE SKILLS

- Personalized education
- “STEAM” teaching (science, technology, engineering, arts, math)
- Digital instruction (innovative initiatives)

WHAT CHALLENGES A-await THE CANADIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM?

TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS

- Promote ICTs in public policy
- Strengthen the focus on teaching scientific subjects
- Developing the supply of post-secondary programs for Francophones centred on ICTs, in minority-language communities

“GLOBAL” COMPETENCIES

- Adapt educational resources to new needs
- Promote cross-contact among scientific and artistic fields
- Promote the French language and cultural diversity in curricula

VISIBILITY OF DIGITAL RESOURCES

- Publicize Canadian educational resources online
- Call attention to high-quality French-language teaching resources
- Heighten the visibility of French-language resources on the Web

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CANADIAN EDUCATIONAL

PREPARE A NEW GENERATION OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED CANADIAN EXPERTS

- Priority on support for innovation and new technologies in public policies
- Inclusive measures that attract and retain Canadian expertise in public, parapublic and private organizations

SUPPORT LA FRANCOPHONIE IN LEARNING GLOBAL COMPETENCIES

- A fund dedicated to educational and instructional resources addressing 21st century issues, particularly in French
- Collaborative partnerships and projects with international stakeholders within La Francophonie to promote resource development and sharing
- Training on teaching global competencies and new educational practices

ILLUMINATE THE FRANCOPHONE DIGITAL EDUCATION SPACE

- Funding for initiatives that drive the discovery of Francophone digital educational content in Canada
- Support for initiatives that value and promote the specific nature of Canadian digital educational content to ensure that it represents Canadian cultural values and markers

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