

Press Release

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**For Immediate Release**

## MANITOBA'S FIRST STUDENT CAISSE IN A FRANCOPHONE SCHOOL



**On Thursday, February 11, 2010**, a group of students from *Collège Louis Riel* held their first press conference before federal and provincial representatives and the school administration. A number of other invited adults and students were also in attendance to lend their support.

The group was there to unveil a major initiative: **The official opening of Manitoba's first Student Caisse!** In September 2009, *Collège Louis Riel* became the first francophone school in the province to offer a financial management course, where students learn how to start up and manage a co-operative - in this case, the **Caisse Riel**. Those successfully completing the course will receive a credit.

The Caisse Riel is managed and administered entirely by students, and its services are aimed primarily at students and their student associations. It provides a unique opportunity for young people to sit on their first board of directors and to break into the world of **entrepreneurship!** The Student Caisse operates as an economic and social co-operative, with the following objectives:

- Promote the habit of saving among its members;
- Provide a number of basic services such as deposits, cashing and issuing of cheques, withdrawals, transfers and issuing debit cards;
- Promote overall cooperation.

The students enrolled in the course wasted no time in creating their board of directors and executive committee, setting up room 102, and working to get everything up and ready for the **official opening in February 2010**. They also chose a name and logo for their co-operative, which was officially unveiled at the press conference.

Collège Louis Riel's Student Caisse was made possible thanks to the involvement of the Caisse Saint-Boniface, the Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (CDEM), and school staff, especially Brian Selby, the teacher in charge of the project, and principal Marcel Matte. The Caisse Saint-Boniface now hopes to develop the Student Caisse concept **in other francophone and French immersion schools.**

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Source:

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