

GENERAL BOOKLET CERE INTERNATIONAL

Canada Europe Reciprocal Exchange

CERE ASBL , The Mug Coworking SPRL, 50 Grand Place, 7850 Enghien – BELGIUM

Individual Reciprocal Scholastic Exchanges Between Canadian and European Families



1 Month Summer Program
11 Week School Program

www.cere-exchange.ca

OUR STORY

An association with more than 26 years of experience!

Since 1990, the Ontario Ministry of Education began encouraging private organizations to offer international educational homestay programs to students.

In 1992 and 1994, Founder sons participated in a language exchange program to Canada. After having seen the benefits of this exchange program for her children, founder jumped at the opportunity to volunteer for this organization.

With the support of her family and friends, she founded a non-profit organization.

For her, it was the beginning of a profound life-long adventure that has grown from 35 students in its first year to now over 8500 students over the last 26 years.

The organization is now recognized by the Ministries of Education in Canada and in Europe. CERE is endorsed by the Departments of Education in the provinces where it operates. The association is also recognized by numerous school boards in Europe, by the Ministry of Education of Belgium, and by countless students, parents and volunteers who have participated in the exchange.

The organization is proud to have the support of schools who every year help promote the program. Each year, more than 200 families apply for the exchange program in Canada and in Europe. Our growth has been phenomenal! CERE in Europe and in Canada have decided to form a single entity. Going forward we will be under one umbrella called: CERE.

On behalf the entire team on both sides of the Atlantic, we want to thank all of the coordinators, teachers, families and parents who dedicate themselves to our mission. The organization's success lies in the passionate care this team offers to ensure family values remain at its core. Listening, engaging and supporting each family on this cultural adventure is our top priority.

If an adventure of a lifetime speaks to you, either as a student wanting to participate in a cultural exchange or as a volunteer wanting to give to your community, we welcome you to join our family.

The possibilities are in your hands!

Warmly,

CERE Team

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A CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC EXCHANGE

CERE is an international program that thrives on the true meaning of “exchange”. We carefully match Canadian students ages 12-17 with a European partner from either Belgium, France or Spain. Students on each side of the ocean take turns hosting each other for 1 month of the summer or 11 weeks of the school year. This unique opportunity to attend school, and fully immerse in a new culture, has opened doors and broadened horizons for students, families and schools for over 26 years!

Here’s what students have to say...

The very day I stepped off the plane and became immersed in a new culture, I could already feel myself beginning to change. The life lessons and new habits I learned are endless. Being thrown into a new family/country/culture helped me gain a new perspective on life and I started to view things differently. I definitely believe that this exchange changed who I am for the better.

**My French has improved so drastically from before I left. People in France were so understanding when you made a mistake that it just became easier to just, speak.
Sarah G. – Victoria – 2013**

J’aime beaucoup le système canadien et j’apprécie de pouvoir choisir les matières que je veux étudier. Je trouve que cette expérience est très enrichissante.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Personal Communication with Families:

Information Meetings: Meetings are organized throughout Canada and Europe. Principals are welcome to request information meetings for their schools. Students and families are invited to attend to find out more about CERE and ask questions.

Preparatory Meetings: Once enrolled, families are required to attend two preparatory meetings to prepare students by openly discussing cultural differences, school abroad, and what to expect from the exchange, held in late spring, and in January. These meetings help you plan for the arrival of your partner, and for your departure. You will receive your blue **backpack, luggage tag**, and helpful information to help ensure your exchange is a success.

2. Thoughtful Partner Matching:

Our success is in the care we take to review and select family matches. The matching is based primarily on age, common interests, and gender. Your partner is not your clone, but a gateway to your experience. Our thoughtful approach to finding a match, offers you a good starting point to build on. In the rare case of any serious issues that may arise, family transfers may be arranged. There is always someone available to assist students.

3. Organized Transportation:

All transportation is organized in partnership with Inspiring World Vision agency. Domestic travel is arranged for European and Canadian students along with all transfers to host families. Chaperones accompany students on all flights between France and Canada, on Canadian domestic flights longer than 4 hours and for groups of 10 students or more. In special cases, students may travel on their own with their parents' authorization and with the assistance of a concierge. Train travel in France is chaperoned either by a CERE Coordinator or a parent.

4. Extensive Insurance:

Our insurance provides coverage for hospitalization and repatriation as well as third party liability insurance for Canadian and European students. It covers the cost of one plane ticket for a parent to be at the bedside of a student in case of an emergency.

IS THIS FOR YOU?

An exchange is an important family commitment. When you enroll, you engage with another family with hopes and dreams just like yours. Please take time to consider the following questions:

MOTIVATIONS	CHARACTERISTICS
<p>What interests you about participating in an exchange?</p> <p>What would you like to learn from this experience?</p> <p>What would you like to take home from participating in the exchange program?</p>	<p>How would you best describe yourself? (sociable, intellectual, energetic, athletic, musical, artistic, calm, reserved, and/or shy)</p> <p>Do you prefer to go out or stay home with your family or friends?</p> <p>What kinds of activities do you like to participate in?</p> <p>Are you ready to experience a new and unfamiliar culture, and participate in different activities?</p> <p>How do you react when meeting new people?</p> <p>How do you react in new and unexpected situations?</p> <p>How do you feel when you imagine leaving your family and friends for 1, 2, or 3 months?</p> <p>Are you and your family ready to host your exchange partner?</p> <p>Would you and your family be able to devote time to exchange partner?</p> <p>How would you feel about sharing your room if that is what would be required?</p>
LANGUAGE & ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY	
<p>How is school going academically?</p> <p>Do you have positive relationships with your teachers and other students?</p> <p>How are your grades?</p> <p>Do you perform well in your language class?</p> <p>Are you mentally and academically prepared to miss all subjects over several weeks?</p> <p>How will you prepare so that you earn your credits at your Canadian school? (We will provide tips)</p> <p>Do your teachers feel you are ready?</p>	

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications are accepted Sept. 1 – Mar. 30 for School and Summer Programs.

Apply early to ensure your spot & sufficient time to plan with your school. The application package can be downloaded from www.cere-exchange.ca, or sent to you by head office: 1(819) 770-6490

Please Mail all paperwork to the Canadian office:

CERE

1-CP 89021 Qc J8Z 3G3CANADA

STEP 1: MAIL THE FOLLOWING FORMS TO THE CANADIAN OFFICE WITHIN 15 DAYS OF RECEIPT:

- Completed Application form (please write clearly in black ink)
- Completed Domestic Transfer Form
- School Recommendation form (completed and signed by your teacher and school principal – 11 week School Program only)
- \$700 deposit paid by e-transfer

STEP 2. ASSEMBLE YOUR FAMILY FILE WITHIN ONE MONTH :

Your complete family file consists of:

- “Family File” forms (take care to ensure legibility. Your matched family will see this!)
- Copy of your most recent report card (school program only)
- Authorization for Medical and Surgical Procedures to be signed by both parents and Health Certificate to be completed by your doctor.
- Copy of vaccination records
- Photocopy of passport (expiry date must be at least 6 months past your expected return)
- Criminal Record Checks for the Vulnerable Sector for each person 18 and older who will be living in your home at the time of the exchange.
- \$1200 payment by e-transfer

Once you have completed gathering the documents for your complete family file, make two copies. Attach a passport sized photo (3 total) to the top right corner of each set of papers. Mail the originals plus the two copies to the Canadian office.

*** (late applications may be accepted on a case by case basis until June 1st. Contact the Applications Administrator for more details).

THE MATCHING PROCESS

WHAT IS “MATCHING”?

Matching refers to the process of finding a Canadian Family, and a European family, each with a child close in age that share similar interests.

Please indicate your interests clearly and legibly (i.e: swimming, sports, computers, etc.) in order to find an appropriate partner.

Each candidate must fill out the application form themselves. Parents are asked to respond to the specific pages that are reserved for them, once their child has completed their section.

Information that may be difficult to disclose, such as any health issues, allergies, smoking, special diets, etc. is a necessary part of the application process.

We take into account the date in which the application was received and priority is given to those who register first.

When does the matching process take place?

Matching takes place in Europe during March and April for the Summer and School Programs.

YOUR MATCH!

- Once the applications are reviewed in detail and matched, each student will receive the Family File of their proposed match.
- **A concerted effort is made to find the best fit for each student:**
 - Exchange partners will share some common interests but matching is not a cloning process.
 - If, however a serious problem arises with your exchange partner or host family, remember to always get in touch quickly with your local coordinator.
 - We can organize an immediate host family change.
- We will provide the tools needed to make the exchange successful.
- The goal of the program is to provide a positive experience and an opportunity for personal growth.
- The added bonus is to learn to express oneself with more ease in another language.

SCHOOL PROGRAM

(11 WEEK EXCHANGE)

MID-AUGUST – NOVEMBER 1ST: CANADA

In **mid-August**, your European partner will live with your family and go to your school. He/she will return to Europe in **early November**.

FEBRUARY – BETWEEN APRIL 21 TO 24: EUROPE

It's your turn! In **February you fly to Paris** and spend two days touring the city (details below). After the tour, you will live with your European family, and become a part of it. You will:

- Discover a new country (France, Belgium or Spain) and culture,
- Experience a European life in a European Family,
- Learn or improve your French or Spanish skills,
- Meet new people and make new friends, and
- **Attend a European school!**

At **the end of April**, you go home, full of a new experience and memories for life.

ALL STUDENTS BEGIN THEIR EUROPEAN ADVENTURE IN PARIS!

Day 1	Explore Paris – Notre-Dame – Bateaux Parisiens - return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.
Day 2	Explore Paris – Evening orientation and overnight stay at the hotel.
Day 3	Departure to meet your family, either by train or connecting flights. Host families within driving distance of Paris will pick-up the students at the hotel.

Please see pages 13 & 14 for more details and payment schedule.

SUMMER PROGRAM

(1 MONTH EXCHANGE)

JULY: EUROPE

Fly to Paris, and spend one-day touring the city (details below), then join your European family, for one month and:

- Discover a new country (France, Belgium or Spain),
- Discover a new culture and way of life,
- Learn and improve your French or Spanish, and
- Meet new people and make new friends!

AUGUST: CANADA

In the **last days of July**, you fly to Toronto with your partner, and you visit **Niagara Falls together**. Then, you go home together to continue your adventure. Your partner flies back to Europe in last days of August.

ALL ASBL STUDENTS BEGIN THEIR EUROPEAN ADVENTURE IN PARIS!

Day 1	Explore Paris – Notre-Dame – Bateaux Parisiens - return to the hotel, dinner and overnight stay.
Day 2	Departure to meet your family, either by train or connecting flights. Host families within driving distance of Paris will pick-up the students at the hotel.

Please see pages 13 & 14 for more details and payment schedule.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE COST?

- Exchange partner matching
- Preparatory meetings before departure
- Return international air transportation between Canada and Europe
- Chaperones on international flights and during the Paris tour
- Connecting air travel or express train in France or Belgium as required
- Airport shuttle to Paris and train transfers
- Chaperones for students travelling by train in France or Belgium
- Orientation in Paris with visits to the Eiffel Tower, monuments and a cruise on the Seine
- Hotel accommodation and meals during Paris tour and orientation
- One day in Toronto and a visit to Niagara Falls (Summer Program)
- Hotel accommodation and meals in Toronto
- Our Coordinators are available anytime during the program
- Hospitalization, repatriation and third-party liability insurance
- Blue backpack, luggage tag and information booklets
- **DOES NOT INCLUDE:** Spending money, passport, visa fees, Doctor visits and prescriptions.

INSURANCE

INSURANCE PROVIDED FOR ALL CERE STUDENTS
Groupe April International My Studies cover

REPATRIATION INSURANCE, HOSPITAL INSURANCE AND THIRD-PARTY LIABILITY (AIRLINE TICKET FOR A PARENT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY) INSURANCE FOR EUROPEAN & CANADIAN STUDENTS

More information provided during the preparatory meetings.

RECIPROCAL PROGRAM - PAYMENT SCHEDULE

CERE invites families to pay by **e-transfer** following the schedule below. Other payment schedules can be arranged. Contact head office: normand.lorraire@gmail.com for details.

SCHOOL PROGRAM	
All Provinces (except Ontario)	Ontario
\$4190 plus \$400 Airport Tax**	\$3400 + \$400 Airport Tax **
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 700 – Included with the program application \$1200 – Included with the Family File \$1400 – July 05 \$1290 – November 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 700 – Included with the program application \$1200 – Included with the Family File \$ 900 – July 05 \$ 1000 – November 1

SUMMER PROGRAM	
All Provinces (except Ontario)	Ontario
\$4190 plus \$400 Airport Tax**	\$3400 + \$400 Airport Tax **
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 700 – Included with the program application \$1200 – Included with the Family File \$1400 – April 1 \$1290 – May 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$ 700 – Included with the program application \$1200 – Included with the Family File \$ 900 – April 1 \$ 1000 – May 1

WITHDRAWAL AND REIMBURSEMENT

Until **March 1st** CERE will reimburse the full amount. After March, a **non-refundable fee of \$200** applies in case of cancelation. If a candidate cannot participate and must cancel his/her departure after having hosted his/her European partner, CERE will reimburse the sum paid according to the above.

NOTE: Fuel surcharges are sometimes added by the airline. When this happens, CERE must pass that extra cost on to you. Students are responsible for any supplementary baggage charges.

In the case where a plane ticket has been issued for the candidate, the travel agency reserves the right to withhold a non-refundable fee of \$300 from the airline ticket. If you have travel insurance, you will be reimbursed the total amount. However, the cancellation reason will be taken into account, to determine the reimbursement (i.e. death of a family member, loss of employment, severe illness or hospitalization).

HOW TO MAKE AN E-TRANSFE

E-transfers are an easy way to make your scheduled payments directly from your online banking to CERE

Here is how:

Step 1:

- Go to your online banking service and select the e-transfer option where you will be asked to set up a new recipient.
- The recipients account name is: ORGANISME DE SEJOURS EDUCATIFS FRANCOPHONE-Belgique
- The Recipient Email address is:
- You will be asked to provide a security question and answer.

Step 2:

- Send an email to:
- Provide the security question, answer, and coordinator you are working with.
- Indicate the student's full name (especially if it is different from the person making the payment)
- indicate which payment you are making, for example:
 - \$700 Application Deposit
 - \$1200 Payment with the Family file
 - Two payments:
 - Summer Program Schedule: April 1st, May 1st
 - School Program Schedule: July 5th, November 1st

PICTURE YOUR LIFE IN EUROPE!

The Program Coordinators and members of the European team are available to provide support during your stay. You will be welcomed into your European home as a family member. Your exchange partner will be there to help you adapt and settle into life in a new country. Enjoy the differences and have fun learning from them.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE

- Put your whole focus into your new European life. Too much contact with friends from home will prevent you from fully experiencing this adventure. This is YOUR time.
- If you are spoken to in English, remind your host family that you are there to learn French or Spanish.
- Communication is the secret to a successful exchange. Let your family know if you are tired and need to rest or wish to spend some time alone, or if you don't understand. This honest discussion will prevent many misunderstandings and bring you closer.
- Consider your exchange partner as a brother or sister. You can establish friendships with others and do some things on your own. Discuss your plans with your partner and your host parents well ahead of time.
- Meal time is an important part of the day in Europe. Everyone gathers around the table for a late meal; they share their day, their joys and frustrations. Listen, participate and share with them.
- Remember to bring a little gift for your host family. A book about Canada or your province would be a great keep-sake. More ideas can be found under Gift Suggestions.

SPENDING MONEY

User fees are applied to debit cards every time money is withdrawn. Check with your bank before you leave to ensure that your card will be accepted in Europe. You need to inform your bank that you will be using your card in Europe.

Have some Euros on hand before you leave. Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere. Visa and MasterCard are commonly used. The American Express Card is not widely accepted.

If you wish to buy clothes, sportswear, jeans, etc., be aware that they cost more in Europe. \$500 is the minimum amount of spending money suggested.

COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

There are not many pay phones in Europe. You will need to purchase a telephone card in Europe to make local and long distance calls. Long distance calls are expensive. Try communicating with your family via Skype. It is free!

If you have a cell phone that is unlocked, you can purchase a SIM card for 15 Euros or less. You can then purchase pay as you go “ticket recharge” and communicate with your host family and new friends this way.

Some families may not have a wireless connection. Neither host families nor CERE will pay for phone calls. Please use your phone card to avoid phone bill issues.

Pre-arrange phone calls with your parents at times that will be convenient for everyone. Please keep in mind, the time difference between home and Europe.

Keep in mind that time online is not time experiencing being in Europe. It is good to be more aware of time spent texting, and being online when other people are around or during social times since being in a new country is a precious opportunity. Engaging in conversations is enriching and the best way to connect with others and make the most of your experience.

You are now ready to pack your suitcase and face a new world and adventure!!!

GIFT SUGGESTIONS

Remember to bring a little gift for your host family and homeroom teacher. See below for some suggestions:

- Books about your province
- Typical Canadian product (hermetically sealed) such as maple syrup / *no alcohol permitted*
- Tablecloth with maple leaves
- Canada themed calendar
- Postcards, keychains
- T-shirt from Canada



THE EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

The following explains European grades & levels vs. Canadian grades & levels.

AGE	EUROPEAN GRADE or LEVEL	EUROPEAN SCHOOL	CANADIAN GRADE	CANADIAN SCHOOLS (Ex : 1)	CANADIAN SCHOOLS (Ex : 2)
5-6	GS	Maternelle	Kindergarten	Elementary School	Elementary School
6-7	CP	Elémentaire	1		
7-8	CE1		2		
8-9	CE2		3		
9-10	CM1		4		
10-11	CM2		5		
11-12	6e	Collège	6	Middle School	Junior High
12-13	5e		7		
13-14	4e		8		
14-15	3e		9		
15-16	2de	Lycée	10	Secondary School	Senior High
16-17	1e		11		
17-18	Terminal		12		

Depending on you and your partner's age, you will either attend a **Collège** (Junior High School) or a **Lycée** (Senior High School).

- After elementary, students enter the "College", where they spend 4 years between the ages of 11 and 14.
- During these 4 years the program includes, European studies, History, Geography, Technology, Sciences, Mathematics, English, another language, Music and Sports.
- The first year is called "Seconde" (2nd). This is a general program.
- The following year, students have to choose a major with choices in: European studies; Mathematics; Sciences; Economics, etc.
- The "Baccalauréat" is the equivalent of the High School Diploma.

Unlike Canada, European students do not choose what they wish to study. The class follows a course schedule given to them at the beginning of the school year.

A Typical School Day: A normal school day starts at 8:30am. Typically, students have 4 different classes with a short break at 10:15. After lunch you are back in school for the rest of the afternoon. You will spend around 8 hours in school every day and your exchange partner will have homework. Being present in class and attempting the assignments is expected.

European School Facts: You might be surprised by the classical and rigid European educational system. Students sit in class and listen to the teachers all day long. They are not allowed to speak unless requested to do so by the teacher. Students are never late for class. Being late is a sure way of getting extra homework or a detention.

Sports: During the "Collège" years students have 4 hours of sports per week. At the "Lycée" students have 3 hours of sports per week.

Transportation: If you live in the countryside, you might have to travel by school bus. If you live in town, you might take a bus or the metro with your exchange partner. Transportation fees are paid for by the host family.

If you experience a problem: please speak with your English or language teacher. You can even go to the "Secrétariat du Principal", the principal's secretary office and speak with him/her.

It is very important NOT to address a teacher or anyone in a position of authority by using the familiar "tu" form of the language. Always use "vous" (French) or "usted" (Spanish). If you don't, you will be considered as being impolite and showing poor manners.

CANADIAN SCHOOL AND YOUR PARTNER

European students will attend the same school as their exchange partner.

Please register the student with the school as soon as you receive their family form. The Principal will have already signed an agreement to host the exchange student as part of the initial application of the Canadian student.

Principals and school counsellors will help European students select their courses while they are in Canada. A report card will be issued to the student at the end of the exchange.

School Schedule:

It is recommended that European students attend the grade that corresponds with their schooling in Europe, although it is not mandatory. Their main goal is to listen and speak English throughout the day. It is recommended that they take English and a Social Studies course and are then free to choose other options such as Drama, Art, Dance, P.E, Shop or Home Economics. It is not mandatory that the European student be in all the same classes as their exchange partner.

Please note that Canadian students attend European schools without incurring any costs. We ask that all schools provide an “anecdotal” report card (no grades) or a signed letter for the European exchange students before returning home. The objective is to provide students with a commentary on their participation, attendance and effort. An original copy is also sent to the European office.

Arrival-Departure:

European students arrive mid-August and will begin school on the first day of class either at the end of August or the beginning of September depending on the location.

Start: End of August or first Tuesday in September after Labour Day

End: Beginning of November.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. School is mandatory. (School Program)
2. Adapting to the lifestyle of the host family (schedules, meals, outings) is part learning experience.
3. It is forbidden to commit a misdemeanour or an offence that is punishable by Canadian and/or European law (stealing from your family, shoplifting).
4. Students may not drive any type of motorized vehicles including motorcycles.
5. It is forbidden to hitch-hike.
6. Cigarettes and alcohol are forbidden.
7. Possession and/or use of illegal drugs are cause for an immediate return home.
8. Engaging in physical violence or writing insults on social media is cause for an immediate return home.
9. The host family is the custodian of the exchange student. Travel to other countries alone is forbidden.
10. No refund will be given if students do not complete the exchange.
11. Families are bound to host an exchange student even if it is not the same person initially agreed upon.
12. All debts must be paid before returning back to Canada.

Remember... What you put into this exchange is what you will get out of it. Make the most of every opportunity!

TESTIMONIALS

Christine

Un petit message pour vous donner quelques nouvelles de notre fils Maxime GRANDAZZI.

L'échange se passe parfaitement bien. Maxime est ravi tant sur le plan humain que linguistique. Nous tenons à vous remercier pour l'excellent travail de matching que vous avez réalisé. Un grand merci à Kristin, John, Jacob et toutes les personnes (amis et famille) qui ont eu des relations avec Maxime et qui lui ont fait partager des moments inoubliables. Grâce à Kristin et John, les 9 semaines sont passées très rapidement et surtout sans aucun moment de stress pour nous comme parents. Nous sentions notre fils tellement heureux ! Nous essaierons d'être une aussi bonne famille d'accueil pour Jacob, nous y tenons ! Je voulais transmettre un message aux futurs parents qui envisageraient de faire partir leurs enfants au CANADA et qui comme nous sont totalement angoissés de le voir partir si loin seul : Faites confiance à cere et surtout à votre enfant. C'est une si belle expérience!

Très cordialement,

Catherine G.

My advice to a future candidate would be to not be shy. You can't be shy when doing an exchange, because you'll want to make friends and get to know people. Being shy just give you an air of not wanting to be there, and then after a while people start to give up. Unfortunately that's what happened to me until about the 7th week when I realized that I needed to be more outgoing, or my trip wasn't going to get any better. Another piece of advice would be to watch the movie "Yes Man" right before you go, and then act like you've promised to say yes to everything. I did that for my trip, and I think I only said no to a few things. I literally tried every piece of food put in front of me, tried every new experience in general. You want to benefit from the amazing opportunity while you have the chance, so saying yes is a definite must.

Now I feel confident with my French, and I'm not as afraid about making mistakes with my language because I know that that's how you learn the most. People in France were so understanding when you made a mistake that it just became easier to just, speak.

Sarah G. – Victoria

I just really want to thank you for this amazing trip. I couldn't expect a better sister and a better family because it's really what I found: a second family. This month was perfect and was for sure the greatest things I've ever done. I've learned so much about the Canadian culture and also about the Canadian way of life. I'm so grateful for everything my family showed me. It's crazy how in only two months you can become so close to your sister. I will miss her so much!!!

Cordialement

Marion N. (Calgary, Alberta avec Stéphanie D.-P.)

Thank you for all of your organization. It was truly the trip of a lifetime for our daughter. She was so warmly welcomed and embraced into the family in Marseille. We had pictures sent to us every day with details of what activities the kids were up to. Elizabeth was fortunate to have been on the Cote d'Azur where she swam, caved, scuba dove, cliff dove and had a lot of hikes around their property. However for me as her mom, the very best part was that the entire family (grandparents, aunts, uncles and all the cousins) lived within walking distance and they all embraced her into their family. She interacted with everyone and had many opportunities to get to know the whole family. One of the grandmothers bought her souvenirs and a little cousin cried on their last evening together before the trip home. Liz wrote down in a journal all of the new foods she sampled and every new word and expression she heard. She felt great when English words were becoming harder to retrieve! I received a note from the mom saying that the family is a little worried about their son as his English is not at all at the same level as our daughter's French. It's always nice to hear that the years spent in Immersion actually do pay off. Again, on behalf of myself, husband and our daughter Elizabeth, I want to thank you all for your awesome organization and having made this trip so easy because we understand that it would have been a huge endeavor to have made it look so flawless! Congratulations to all of you.

Very sincerely,

Cynthia C. – Calgary

La France, c'était une expérience vraiment incroyable! Pas seulement pour les raisons évident, comme pour améliorer mon français, faire des amis en France, explorée la France etc, mais aussi pour découvrir un peu plus sur moi même! Je trouve que je sais beaucoup plus maintenant de ce que j'aime et qui m'intéresse dans la vie.

C'est vrai que ce n'était pas tous toujours facile et super amusante, il y avait les différences culturels d'adaptée a et les différences de les différents style de vie, mais c'était pour ça que c'était si intéressante! J'étais vraiment dans mon élément avec la culture française; l'art, les vêtements, les gens, c'était vraiment tous que j'identifier avec, alors c'était vraiment géniale d'exploré! En Paris, j'ai pleurée en voir toutes les bâtiments parce qu'ils étaient tous si jolie- je pleurée de joie!

Je suis encore (et j'ai l'intention de continuer pour toujours!) en contact avec tous mes ami(e)s française, ils et elles étaient tous super gentille avec moi et j'ai beaucoup rigolé avec eux!

Je SAIS que je retournerai en France bientôt! Je suis si heureuse d'avoir faire l'échange et j'espère de faire quelque chose comme ceci dans le futur.

Thanks!

Claire N. – Victoria, BC

Voici les quatre phrases tentant de décrire mon échange. Encore merci pour le merveilleux travail que toute l'association réalise pour nous permettre de vivre une expérience inoubliable comme celle-ci!

"How to describe four weeks in only four sentences; especially when they have been so enriching!

Anyway, I've fit in an amazing family who took care of me as if I was the "third child". They were deeply involved in making my stay as pleasant as possible and in sharing their culture with me. They definitely took up the challenge very well and that's the reason why I really consider my exchange more as an incredible human experience than just as a simple linguistic exchange! 😊"

Garance M., accueillie par

The exchange I did in Canada was really awesome, my exchange partner and I have so much in common and her family was really nice. We went camping in Banff and Kelowna and we did a lot of sports and activities in the Rockies. It was the first time I went camping and I loved it. I was really sad to leave them, I didn't want to go back to France. I'm pretty sure I will see my exchange partner again. And the brownies are so much better there than in France and I haven't seen a bear yet so I have to come back ;) Clarisse D., Calgary (avec Amy L.)

Bonjour CHRISTINE ,

Je m'adresse à vous afin de vous informer à propos de la première semaine au Canada de ma fille Eleonora G. Après un accueil parfait à l'aéroport CDG, un long voyage en avion, la connaissance de deux jolies copines, l'émotion des Chutes du Niagara même si sous la pluie et quelques difficultés d'adaptation au nouveau 'timing' canadien, elle a enfin atterri à Victoria, sa destination finale.

Vraiment fatiguée par le long voyage et le manque de sommeil, sa première impression de la famille d'accueil a été très forte mais après une bonne nuit de repos son aventure a commencé.

Elle est heureuse et enthousiaste de sa vie en famille, fascinée par l'autonomie et l'extravagance de sa correspondante Christina qui lui est exactement complémentaire en tout. Elles sont déjà devenues de bonnes amies et leur complicité est touchante.

La famille toute entière a montré vers Eleonora une affection sincère et attentive, qui lui a permis de moins souffrir de la distance qui nous sépare.

Je n'ai pas pu donc m'empêcher de vous envoyer dès maintenant un tout grand merci pour cette incroyable opportunité d'échange, si riche que ma fille ne l'oubliera plus jamais.....maintenant mon problème sera la faire rentrer en Belgique !!!!

Je vous envoie mes salutations les meilleures et mes souhaits d'une bonne permanence au Canada.

Bien à vous,

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MEET YOUR LOCAL COORDINATORS

Most of us are former principals, teachers, and parents of students who have participated in the program. We are all very passionate about what the exchange programs bring to our communities.

Our ultimate goal is to help students and their families have the best learning experience possible. Please don't hesitate to contact us with questions you may have. We look forward to meeting you.

You can count on us to:

- Guide you through the application process
- Be a resource to answer any questions hosting your European match,
- Organize information and preparatory meetings in Canada,
- Act as a liaison with the European offices,
- Organize and assist at the departure locations and/or chaperone groups to Europe and Canada, and
- Provide support to Canadian and European students during their exchange.

Provincial Coordinators spend a few days in France at the beginning of the exchange to ensure that everything is running smoothly for the students.

Canada Europe Reciprocal Exchange, How to Reach us

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*Coordinators are
volunteers
(principals,
teachers,
businessman, and
parents of past
students).*

Les clés de la réussite avec :
CERE et nos bénévoles