

Hello. My name is Cathy Barrington. I am the head secretary at Eric Langton Elementary School.

Our motto: Where caring makes a difference

Eric Langton is an inner city school. Population: 405; 12 French immersion classes and 7 English. We're multi-cultural – 16 languages spoken in our school community.

Eric Langton is a community hub with a strong start program for preschoolers, a preschool, breakfast and lunch program, grand buddy program, after school daycare, community groups such as healthy babies, a community kitchen, free clothing exchange, Christmas hampers and are in partnership with a community garden.

We have a busy PAC and benefit from their many fundraisers, providing us with extra supplies, extra-curricular programs, books, computer and playground equipment.

Families rely on us for a lot of help – we serve some families struggling with financial hardship, mental health and addictions, new immigrants and have frequent interaction with Ministry of Children and Families, RCMP, and other community health services.

Our school is frequently vandalised and has been robbed. The secretaries are at the front entrance to the school; we have to be vigilant to monitor people visiting our premises and we have to be familiar with medical, behavior, legal issues (ie custody/no contact orders) to protect children. Some of our students become violent. We need to follow up incidents with reports example police reports, insurance, work orders for damaged premises

It is very busy. Today I was working alone in the office and tried to log the events of the day.