INTRODUCTION

On November 27 – 28, 2019, a virtual certification inspection was completed on Maple Leaf International School - Yancheng in Yancheng, Jiangsu province PRC, referred to as the School or MLIS-Ya in this report. This inspection was a virtual inspection conducted over the internet, with no on-site visit. The purpose of this inspection was to determine whether the requirements for the British Columbia (BC) education program have been met, according to the BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement. The inspector, appointed by the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education, British Columbia Ministry of Education (MoE) in accordance with the BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (the Agreement), was Mr. Edward Noot (the Inspector).

The School’s BC program has an enrolment of 22 students, in Grades 10 and 11 (with Grade 12 being added next year), housed on a spacious modern campus. Students are enrolled in a dual credit program that will lead to graduation from both the Chinese and BC programs. The BC program shares this facility with some 500 students enrolled in a Chinese elementary and middle school.

During this virtual inspection of the School, the Inspector, to the best of his ability, reviewed all standards required in the BC Global Education Program – Offshore Schools Certification Agreement and Operating Manual and met with the School’s Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, BC Principal, BC teachers along with some students.

The Owner/Operator, China Maple Leaf Educational Systems (CMLES) is responsible for the BC program. Maple Leaf International School - Yancheng is one of fifteen China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Schools in China offering the BC program and enrolling over 8000 students. CMLES operates over 60 additional Chinese program schools in China, as well as some international programs in other countries.
The philosophy or the BC program is articulated as follows:

*The MLES educational philosophy is based on the belief that through blending the best of the innovations and higher level thinking western educational model with the cultural richness and discipline of the traditional Chinese educational model, students will be best prepared to meet the challenges of living and working in a more internationalized society.*

*MLES schools promote appreciation for the diversity of people and cultures, provides an optimal environment for learning and teaching, and offers a globally respected curriculum that inspires in its students the spirit and ideals of global citizenship.*

*MLES schools seek to develop students to their best potential and to provide them with a world of opportunity.*

The Inspector would like to thank Maple Leaf International School - Yancheng for its hospitality, cooperation and preparedness for the inspection visit.

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**Comment:**
The School’s previous inspection report contained no requirements.

The previous report does contain suggestions, focusing on student self assessment and the implementation of First Peoples Principles of Learning. The Inspector confirms that the School embraces these suggestions and implemented specific strategies to strengthen understand and practice in these areas.

**BUSINESS PLAN 1.0**

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**Comment:**
The Owner/Operator has submitted a business plan to the BC Ministry of Education. The School is only in its second year of operation and enrolment remains disappointingly low. Startup projections are proving to be overly optimistic for this campus. These is hope that increased marketing, including on social media, along with intentional recruitment in the
middle school housed on campus could net more enrolment. The middle school on campus is itself a small school and BC program growth may take some time.

Yancheng has been declared a tier 4 city which gives it priority in China for buildings and economic development and the facility at MLIS-Ya is impressive. The Inspector believes that this School has the likelihood of growing to the point of sustainability in the future.

### INSPECTION CATALOGUE 2.0

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.02 The Owner/Operator meets all requirements as set forth in the BC Global Education Program Offshore Schools Certification Agreement (the Agreement).</td>
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**Comment:**
The Inspector confirms that the Owner/Operator meets all requirements set forth in the Agreement.

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<td>2.03 The Owner/Operator has written approval from the appropriate government entity to operate the offshore school, as outlined in section 5.03 of the Agreement.</td>
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**Comment:**
The School was able to provide documentation indicating support and approval of the BC program by the appropriate governmental authority in Jiangsu Province; however, the approval letter does not fully comply with the requirements outlined in section 5.03 of the Agreement. The School indicated that they have been granted an extension to meet this requirement. Once proper documentation is obtained it should be immediately forwarded to the MoE.

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<td>2.04 The School meets local building, safety and cafeteria codes and regulations. The facilities are deemed to be suitable to support the BC program.</td>
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**Comment:**
The Inspector viewed photos and videos of this impressive new campus that included an academic building, a cafeteria, gymnasium, student dorms, teacher apartments and outside track and playing fields.
The Inspector viewed written local government authority to operate the buildings at the school as well as a license from the local authority to provide cafeteria food services. The Inspector also viewed a fire safety compliance certificate.

The Inspector reviewed the School’s comprehensive emergency preparedness plans for fire or any natural disaster requiring a school evacuation.

The Inspector confirms that China Maple Leaf Education Systems has a plan in place for Maple Leaf schools in the event any of their schools face a temporary or permanent closure due to an unforeseen event. The plan has been signed by the Offshore School Representative (OSR) for Maple Leaf and the Superintendent. In addition, the Principal of Maple Leaf International School - Yancheng has an emergency evacuation plan and has supplemented the Maple Leaf plan with specifics regarding the location of his staff and students in the event of an unforeseen closure of the School.

2.05 Offshore School Representative (OSR) - The Owner/Operator must appoint an individual to act as offshore school representative. This individual must be confirmed by the province and must meet all of the requirements set out in section 14 of the Agreement.

☑ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:
The Owner/Operator has appointed an experienced individual to act as Offshore School Representative (OSR). The OSR meets the requirements set out in section 1 of the Agreement and has been confirmed by the BC MoE as suitable for this position.

The OSR contract was renewed on September 1, 2018. The Inspector confirms that the OSR is knowledgeable about all aspects of the School’s operations and all related aspects of the Owner/Operator’s business operations; particularly the governance, business and administrative functions of the Owner/Operator’s operation of the School and that he is fully aware of his obligation to report critical information relating to changes in the operation of the School or ownership structure that could significantly impact the School’s operation.

The OSR works closely with the superintendent and deputy superintendent of CMLES, both of whom participated in the virtual inspection. The comprehensive administrative structure of CMLES provides robust support for individual schools in this system.

The OSR was approved for this role by the MoE in 2014, and since that time CMLES has undergone some major organizational changes which has resulted in a redefinition of other roles engaged by the OSR. Given that the OSR is now in multiple organizational relationships with the Owner/Operator (which is prohibited in the Agreement under Schedule B, Part II - 3), it is suggested that the OSR consult with the Executive Director of Independent Schools...
and International Education at the MoE to determine whether he currently meets the requirements of an OSR as outlined in the Agreement.

The annual report indicated that the OSR is aware of his obligation to report, in a timely fashion to the Ministry any critical information relating to any changes in the operation of the School and/or ownership structure that could have a significant impact on the School’s operation – including proposed changes to the Owner/Operator’s governance structure, financial situation and student and/or teacher safety.

Commendation:
The comprehensive administrative structure of CMLES provides robust support for individual schools in this system.

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<th>2.06 The Principal meets the requirements as outlined in section 2.06 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.</th>
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Comment:
The Principal is an experienced secondary teacher with two years’ experience as a secondary vice principal and is now in his second year as the principal of Maple Leaf International School - Yancheng. Prior to becoming a vice principal, he participated in CMLES administrative intern program. The Inspector reviewed the Principal's job description and contract, both of which comply with requirements under the Agreement.

He has his valid Certificate of Qualification from the BC Teacher Certification Branch (TCB) and meets the requirements outlined in the Agreement.

The Inspector noted that the Principal was very well prepared for this inspection and was passionate in his support of the BC program.

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<th>2.07 The School meets the administrative support requirements as outlined in section 2.07 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.</th>
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Comment:
The Principal is well supported in his leadership of this school by a full time bi-lingual secretary, a part time academic advisor and ESL director. The Chinese headmaster and his staff also provide some program support as does the comprehensive CMLES senior admin team.
### 2.08 The School meets the Student Record requirements as outlined in section 2.08 of the Inspection Catalogue for offshore schools.

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**Comment:**
The School verified that student files are securely stored. The virtual inspection process allowed for the Inspector to view only limited files. They are maintained by the administrative assistant and contain all required elements including the newly developed personal information consent forms for parents and students.

The School utilizes PowerSchool administrative software to manage student data.

### 2.09-2.14 The School meets the teacher certification requirements as outlined in sections 2.09-2.14 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

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**Comment:**
*The Inspector confirms that all authorized persons under the Agreement possess valid and current certification under the Ministry of Education.*

Three BC program teachers holding valid COQs, while one is awaiting certification and authorized with a letter of exemption. The Principal is supporting the TCB application process and has confirmed that all required documents have been submitted. The application is complete and is waiting to be evaluated by the TCB. The letter of extension runs through the end of November and the Principal is in the process of requesting an extension in case the TCB is not able to complete the file evaluation by that time.

All locally certified teachers have evidence of certification and local criminal records checks on file.

Staff contracts were reviewed and found to be comprehensive, addressing all the required areas.

Staff turnover at the School is not currently an area of concern. The Inspector appreciated that the staff are highly committed to building a strong program and to maintaining a positive school culture.

The Team confirmed that all teachers are employed under proper Chinese work permits and Z visas. Teacher files are in order and well maintained and include evidence that teacher
evaluations are occurring as per school policy. A principal evaluation was conducted last year as per school policy.

Commendation:
The Inspector appreciated that the Principal and staff are highly committed to building a strong program and to maintaining a positive school culture.

2.17 The School meets the requirements for curriculum implementation outlined in section 2.17 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

☐ Requirement Met     ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:
MLIS–Ya benefits from a strong central office offering training, support, resources and ongoing professional development. The School has successfully implemented the new curriculum as is evidenced in planning documents reviewed by the Inspector and in conversations with the Principal and deputy superintendent.

The School demonstrated a very strong understanding and utilization of the core competencies and big ideas. They are evident throughout planning documents and the timetable, as the School has implemented a cross graded all school core competency block one per week. Assessment practices and First Peoples Principles of Learning are in line with the new curriculum and they remain an area for enhanced professional development this year.

Commendation:
The School is commended for the strong implementation of the new curriculum and for ongoing support and professional development in this area.

2.18 The School meets the requirements for English language assessment and acquisition as outlined in section 2.18 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

☐ Requirement Met     ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:
The BC Principal, in conjunction with the headmaster, assesses the students who are interested in the BC program and the final decision on admission to the BC program rests with the BC Principal.

Students who pass the entrance exam are admitted into the BC program and those who are unable to pass the exam are admitted into an ESL foundations program. All MLIS–Ya
students take extra English/Language Arts courses and a systematic program of support is offered for students.

Teachers are supported in their role as English language acquisition facilitators.

### 2.19(a-e) The School meets the course credit requirements (equivalency, challenge, exemptions and BAA courses) as outlined in section 2.19 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

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**Comment:**
The Inspector reviewed MoE letters of approval to offer Mandarin 10, 11 and 12 and Chinese Social Studies 11 as exempted courses. The Inspector confirms that the School is making appropriate use of these courses.

The School makes appropriate use of equivalency and challenge and at this time the School offers no BAA courses.

### 2.19(f-g) The School meets the course overview/course planning requirements as outlined in Schedule B Part I, 2. (e) of the Agreement; namely, that all BC program courses offered in the School meet or exceed the ministry learning outcomes/learning standards identified in the educational program guides for each course.

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**Comment:**
CMLES curriculum teams, under the direction of the deputy superintendent, have prepared course overviews, along with some unit and lesson planning templates that incorporate all the elements of the new curriculum. The Inspector confirms that course overviews for all courses offered from Grades 10 -12 are in compliance with the modernized curriculum. These overviews and accompanying lesson plan templates are a valuable instructional planning support for teachers, particularly those new to the BC curriculum.

MLIS-Ya teachers use the course overview, unit planning and lesson planning templates, but have personalized them to meet the specific learning needs of their students.

The CMLES overview, unit and lesson planning templates identify the big idea, First Peoples Principles of Learning, core and curricular competencies, and key ESL learning strategies for each lesson.
The School maintains a schedule of ongoing professional development to continue to support teachers in their implementation of the BC curriculum.

2.20 The School meets the instructional time allotment requirements as outlined in section 4.5 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools, including the requirements set out in sections 1.1 to 6, with the exception of s. 4(5)(b), 4 (6), 5 (8)(a) and (d) and s. 5.3 of Ministerial Order 41/91, the Educational Standards Order, enacted under the Independent School Act.

☐ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:
MLIS-Ya students are in session 6.2 hours per day for 182 days per year for a total of 1,128 hours per year, far exceeding the 850 hours per year required by the Educational Standards Order.

The Inspector noted that the School coordinates a robust club program that runs every day after school from 4:00 pm to 5:10 pm. Compulsory early evening study blocks are also scheduled.

2.21 The School meets the assessment methods requirements as outlined in section 2.21 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

☐ Requirement Met ☐ Requirement Not Met

Comment:
Conversations with the Principal and staff indicate that the School is utilizing a variety of formative and summative assessment strategies, along with rubrics and the BC MoE Performance Standards thus meeting the requirements outlined in this section of the inspection catalogue.

The Inspector also noted that assessment practices remain a focussed topic for MLIS schools in the current year.
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<tr>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>☒ Requirement Met</td>
<td>The School meets the learning resources requirements as outlined in section 2.22 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools. The catalogue outlines an impressive array of digital resources available to the students at MLIS-Ya. As a new school they are acquiring print resources as they are able. The assistance of the CMLES central office expedites the acquisition of print resources when they are requested.</td>
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<td>2.23</td>
<td>☒ Requirement Met</td>
<td>The School meets the student progress report requirements as outlined in section 2.23 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools. MLIS-Ya parents receive six reports per year; two formal and one informal report card per semester. Report cards are issued at parent meetings and translators are available for teachers if needed. Parents are also able to monitor their child’s progress online through the Power School parent portal.</td>
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<td>2.24</td>
<td>☒ Requirement Met</td>
<td>The School meets the parent/student handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.24 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools. The parent/student handbook is produced by the Maple Leaf central office and contains the necessary polices on parent/student dispute resolution, a student code of conduct and assessment. The Principal has also supplemented the handbook with policies on attendance, withdrawal, course changes and a policy on “I” reports. The parent/student handbook meets the requirements outlined in the inspection catalogue.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>☒ Requirement Met</td>
<td>The School meets the teacher handbook requirements as outlined in section 2.25 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools. The teacher handbook meets the requirements as outlined in sections 2.25 of the inspection catalogue. It contains the requisite policies on staff dispute resolution, teacher evaluation,</td>
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principal/vice principal evaluation, human resources policies, student supervision, and student admissions. China Maple Leaf Educational Systems has defined the employment relationship for all authorized staff as directed by the BC Ministry of Education. The Principal has also supplemented the handbook with policies on field trip procedures and a professional development plan.

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2.26 The School meets the distributed learning requirements as outlined in section 18 of the Agreement and section 2.26 of the inspection catalogue for offshore schools.

Comment:
The School does not offer distributed learning courses.

CONCLUSION

Commendations

The Inspection Inspector wishes to recognize the Owner/Operator, Principal and staff of Maple Leaf International School - Yancheng for:

- the comprehensive administrative structure of CMLES, which provides robust support for individual schools in this system;
- the high commitment of the Principal and staff to building a strong program and to establishing a positive school culture;
- excellent development of course overviews and curricular planning; and,
- the strong implementation of the new curriculum and for ongoing support and professional development in this area.

SUMMATIVE RECOMMENDATION

The Offshore Inspection Inspector recommends to the Executive Director of Independent Schools and International Education that the British Columbia education program offered at Maple Leaf International School – Yancheng continues to be recognized as a British Columbia-certified school.