



# 大连枫叶国际学校

## Dalian Maple Leaf International School

22 March 2011,

### Letter of Reference: Steve Colvin

I am pleased to write this letter of reference for Steve Colvin who I have known for two years in my role as Director of English and Curriculum at Dalian Maple Leaf International School (DMLIS) in Dalian, China. Mr Colvin has taught in our ESL classes for many years, and currently teaches English 10. Last year he also taught the special grade 10 English class for lower ability level students and he has previous experience teaching Communications 11 as well.

From September 2009 to the present time, I have observed Mr. Colvin informally in my role as Director of English in charge of the English program; I frequently visit his classes and although I am not officially responsible for Mr. Colvin's direct supervision and evaluation, I feel confident that I am able to speak to his skill as a first rate teacher.

DMLIS is a B.C. offshore school of 2700 students on gender specific campuses and offers students the opportunity to graduate with both a Dogwood and a Liaoning Chinese certificate. All the teachers are B.C. certified and our students are registered as B.C. students.

Mr Colvin combines his knowledge of English, his creative and critical thinking skills, his knowledge of ESL, his love of researching for current and relevant materials, his desire to imbed in his students a love of deep questioning and profound learning, and his sense of humor to provide a warm and caring relationship where students strive to do their best. His classes are active, engaging and he teaches to all modalities of learning.

Mr Colvin manages by respect for his students and their unique qualities and for their culture and traditions. His academic background, with a Master's in Linguistics and his strengths in working with Chinese learners of the English language, has made him a leader in the department and in the entire school. His lessons have a sense of purpose built in on a daily basis and his students know he is there to support them.

Mr. Colvin enriches our school culture because he enjoys getting people involved in new ideas. He regularly posts intriguing articles to Dbabble, engaging in discussions with his colleagues and presenting Professional Development sessions on Chinese culture and language. Since he has been here a while, comparatively speaking in the Maple Leaf world, Steve plays an active mentorship role for many of the younger English teachers. He is constantly helping out with minor info tech issues and staff computer problems, because he is very knowledgeable in that area. He has played a leadership role in the development of several unit plans for the new Introduction to Literature 10 locally developed course and for the English 10 course; he developed the Diagnostic Test; he is often involved as leader of teams writing examinations for entrance to the programme and currently for mid-term assessments.

I have found Mr. Colvin to have great integrity and honesty and he is an excellent role model for our students. His love of music spills over into his lessons, forging a bridge with these teenagers, and is not only evident in his music appreciation club, which the girls love. His creativity informs all that he undertakes.

I have no reservations in recommending Mr Colvin for a position at any Canadian or International School. If you need further information I can be contacted at [lindafordbedard@hotmail.com](mailto:lindafordbedard@hotmail.com) or 250-951-0022 (Canada)

Sincerely,

Linda Ford-Bedard