David Gagnon
toogreen@gmail.com
8340, ave de Chateaubriand
Montréal (Québec)
H2P 2A1
Home: 438-383-3600
Mobile : 438-985-5500

VILLA VM MARIA

Renée Périgny
Villa Maria High School
4245, boulevard Décarie
Montréal (Québec)
H4A 3K4

Montréal, August 14, 2014

Dear Renée Périgny,

I believe you may have possibly heard from me by a recruiter, however since it's taking them quite an unreasonable amount of time to get back to me about it, I've decided to take the initiative to write directly to you myself, in order to show my real interest in this particular position and to tell you more about my previous experience in IT and education. As you will notice while reading through my CV and reference letters, my experience during my last 10 years China is very much relevant to this particuliar position indeed. In fact, while reading the job description for **Information technology and techno-pedagogical innovation coordinator**, I felt like finally, this is it, I found **the** position I've been looking for in Montreal, especially as I've been doing pretty much **exactly** the same thing for many years in Shanghai, China. This is therefore with great enthusiasm that I am applying for this position, hoping it is not too late!

Here is my little story. In 2003, after many years working mainly as a web designer and developer in Québec City, I wanted to achieve quite a bit more with my life and so I took the bold decision to go on a bit of an adventure by moving to Shanghai, China, with just a backpack, big dreams and a lot of ambition. After a few months doing the usual freelance design and web development work, as well as teaching English to help pay the rent, I finally accepted a job offer for an educational institution in Shanghai, China, called the « Xiehe Education Group ». They are a very well established institution in Shanghai, now leading many schools around the entire country.

I was based at one of their International Schools (Shanghai United International School, Hongqiao campus), and this is where I finally had the chance to shine and develop my full potential, by sharing my passion for technology with everyone within the organization, in many various ways. I actually started working there by simply teaching English and ICT to students, but my role within the organization eventually grew really quickly, as I was extremely pro-active and solving, often on my own initiative, a lot of the IT problems the school had prior to my arrival. For example, by putting in place file-sharing and email servers, which are resources the school didn't have prior to my arrival. Before I knew it, I was promoted to ICT coordinator and ended up managing basically everything IT for the international branch of the organisation, covering five other campuses spread around Shanghai. I was also providing trainings to students and staff on new technologies, evaluating hardware and software solutions prior to purchase, taking part of teachers' planning meetings and helping them find ways to enhance their lessons through technologies or websites, administrating various servers and IT labs, etc.

I'm also the person responsible for implementing most of the IT infrastructure and IT policies within Shanghai United International School, and I also introduced the (Moodle-based) Learning Management System around 2005 which allowed teachers, students and parents to extend the classroom to the web. I even used some of my web programming skills to build and develop some unique internal web-based management tools using PHP/MySQL, which improved things quite a lot when it comes to reports writing and taking attendance, etc. I'm one of those people who like to know and master a bit of everything when it comes to IT, and I'm always hungry for learning and staying up-to-date with all bleeding-edge technologies. I've also realized, while working there, that I truly have a passion for technology in education, as I clearly saw how students and teachers can both benefit from it on various levels. I quite enjoy taking part of trainings, workshops and jobalikes as well, and exchanging professional advices with other schools and professionals about tools and software we use.

After working for nearly 10 years in China and partly because of the death of my father in 2009 due to cancer, I've decided in 2012 to come back to live closer to the rest of my family in Quebec. It's now been nearly 2 years that I am back, and after working as a web designer again, I sure have acquired new and interesting skills, mainly regarding HTML5 and « Responsive Design », however I really, really miss what I was doing in China, with all the responsibilities and gratifying feelings that comes with it. As I previously mentioned, I really felt, while reading your job description, that this is a much better suited job for me, and It would allow me to get back to where I truly belong and shine, doing what I really love, on a daily basis. So please consider my candidacy and this letter as a very sincere, serious and motivated testimony.

At this point in time I am looking for a full time job and so in case this position was no longer available, I want to let you know that I am also open to any other opportunities you might have within your organisation that fits with my skills and competences.

Thank you for your attention, and hoping to hear from you shortly!

David Gagnon