



# ANNUAL REPORT 2000 - 2001

## *Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon*

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT



*Anna Maddison, President*

#### *DEAR FRIENDS:*

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Canadian Parents for French BC Branch for the 2000-01 year.

This was a record year for French-second-language education in British Columbia. Enrolment in French immersion programs was the highest ever, with 30,423 students registered across British Columbia. CPF BC, at the provincial and Chapter level, played a significant role in this success both in promoting FSL programs and developing opportunities for students to use their French outside of the classroom. I am happy to identify some of the highlights of this exciting year for CPF.

#### CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITY

Our top priority as a board over the past year has been to support and encourage the work of CPF Chapters. To help meet this goal, we implemented a three-point plan.

- 1) An increase in the Chapter share of membership monies from 65% to 80% in order to increase membership and support CPF BC activities at the local level.
- 2) An allocation of \$30,000 from our main budget to the socio-cultural budget to offset a cut in socio-cultural funding. This helped ensure government budget cuts will not impact on Chapter socio-cultural activities. The flourishing of Chapter level activities is reflected in the record number of applications for socio-cultural funding this year.
- 3) Direction to staff to vigorously support Chapter activities in promoting French-second-language education in school districts.

Our provincial office produced 25 separate briefs in support of the creation of new French immersion programs, to eliminate capping, to expand core French and to address other local concerns. These briefs have been supported by many local visits and presentations by CPF staff to district officials.

The results have been favourable. Working with Chapters, we have succeeded in removing caps to French immersion enrolment in districts such as Nanaimo, Parksville, New Westminster, Langley and Vernon. New late immersion programs have been launched in West Vancouver (Fall 2001) and North Vancouver (Fall 2002) and we have made proposals for new immersion programs in Fernie, Castlegar, Prince Rupert, Kelowna and other communities across B.C. There has been a record number of socio-cultural activities at the Chapter level. And, our membership has expanded over the past year in every part of the province.

Clearly, many challenges remain. French immersion remains an optional program in B.C. and, consequently, a target for budget cuts. Many volunteers in CPF Chapters are stretched in their ability to contribute the time and effort required to support FSL programs. And, we can do more to help as a provincial organization. However, we believe we are on the right track with a "Chapters First" approach.

#### EVENTS

CPF BC had a very successful **AGM** last year hosted by our Maple Ridge Chapter. Last November, we had by far the largest delegation at the CPF National Conference in St. John's Newfoundland. I am looking forward to an excellent AGM this year in Victoria hosted by our Saanich Chapter.

With over 230 competitors and 600 people in attendance throughout the day, **Concours d'Art Oratoire** was a great success this past April. With the support of BC Hydro, CPF BC was able to offer a travel subsidy for the first time to this event. Susan Asaph deserves enormous credit for organizing this record-breaking Concours!

**Rencontre Française** also set an attendance record this past May with 150 Grade 7 and 8 participants from around British Columbia. Freda Heinrichs was our coordinator for Rencontre this year and did a great job.

A huge thank you to Susan and Freda!

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In addition, CPF BC took the lead in supporting John Ralston Saul's **French for the Future** conference this April in Vancouver. We are pleased with the continuing success of this annual event and are working to see it expanded to the Yukon for April 2002.

### PARTNERSHIPS

This year, CPF BC has developed and enhanced partnerships to support our advocacy and socio-cultural activities across British Columbia. Canadian Heritage continues to provide extraordinary support to our efforts and other organizations such as BC Hydro, Radio Canada, the Canadian Club and ICBC gave financial support to our events. Thank you to all of these organizations for their tremendous support.

In addition, we are involved in the following partnerships:

- A partnership with the Begbie Historical Society in support of the Begbie History Contest. This ensured that this unique competition would take place in French as well as English;
- We launched a partnership with Éducacentre to provide adult French language education courses across B.C.;
- A partnership with *L'Express du Pacifique*, B.C.'s French-language newspaper, to provide a forum to publish the work of French immersion students;
- We supported and participated in the B.C.'s Bilingual Debating Championship and the first Canada-wide Verbathon tournament;
- Continue to work with our partners in the Immersion Coalition to address issues such as teacher shortages and capping;
- Participate and support the work of the Federations des Francophones de la Colombie-Britannique. In particular, this year, the FFCB published an important study on the creation of a truly bilingual post-secondary institution in B.C.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, the CPF BC board gave two \$2,000 scholarships for future French immersion teachers enrolled in B.C. universities. This was a fourfold increase. Also, CPF BC, in partnership with BC Hydro and the Canadian Club gave out almost \$5,000 in scholarship prizes at Concours d'Art Oratoire.

### COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

CPF BC increased its profile in the media this year with over 60 separate provincial or local press releases. Our organization received coverage on television, radio and in daily and local newspapers across B.C. We believe increasing the profile of CPF BC and French-second-language education is an important advocacy tool.

In the past 12 months, we have sent out five newsletters to our members covering a wide range in topics. Our Newsletter

Editor Karynn Oxley is simply the best in Canada at what she does. Thank you Karynn.

In addition, our Website Coordinator Laurelle Keashley from the Burnaby Chapter has developed an excellent website that serves our organization extremely well. It is an excellent resource for CPF members, students and the general public. All of us appreciate Laurelle's outstanding work.

CPF BC advocates for French-second-language education with federal, provincial and local officials. We are working hard with our partners to develop a comprehensive strategy on teacher shortages. We have pursued proposals such as the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Scholarship for language education in B.C. We have made specific proposals to the Deputy Minister of Education and other senior government officials on capping, enshrinement of French immersion in the School Act, made presentations to the CRTC to expand French language broadcasting services, a proposal to the BC College of Teachers to remove barriers for new French-language teachers to come to B.C. and have followed up on a resolution from last year's AGM to develop a new French-language Communication 12 course.

### YUKON

I had the opportunity on behalf of CPF BC and Yukon Branch to travel to Whitehorse to celebrate the 20th anniversary of French immersion in the Yukon. The event organized by CPF (Yukon Chapter) and the Yukon government was attended by over 100 guests. Our Chapter in the Yukon is growing and enjoys an excellent relationship with the Yukon Ministry of Education. I wish to recognize the work of Jonathon Parker, Doug Lorenzen and Debbie Noseworthy in building CPF and French immersion in the Yukon.

### A FINAL WORD

I want to express my thanks and admiration for my fellow board members, Melanie Tighe-Lovsin (Vice President), Sherry Taylor, Dianne Quinn and Barb Paullos. They all have made a huge contribution to our organization over the past year. It is an honour and privilege to work with them.

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*Members from across the province travelled to St. John's Newfoundland to take part in CPF's national conference in November 2000. CPF BC had the largest delegation at the event.*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Canadian Heritage continues to be a huge supporter of CPF BC. I would like to personally thank their B.C. representatives such as Nicole Laplante for their support and thank Minister Sheila Copps for her ongoing commitment to bilingualism.

This has been a busy year for CPF BC. I believe we are making progress in our goals as an organization. Of course, there are many more challenges to meet. We can do even better in the future.

As noted above, this has been a record year for French-second-language education. Our success is about partnership – parent/volunteers, teachers, administrators, students, government officials working together to provide unique learning opportunities for our children. I am proud to be a member of CPF BC and am honoured to serve as your President.

*Anna Maddison, President*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2000 -2001



*CPF BC's Board of Directors for 2000-2001. Seen left to right standing are Barb Paullos, Past President, Sherry Taylor, Director-at-Large, and Anna Maddison, President. Sitting (L-R) are Melanie Tighe-Lousin, Vice President, and Dianne Quinn, Director-at-Large.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) is the national network of volunteers which values French as an integral part of Canada and which is dedicated to the promotion and creation of French-second-language learning opportunities for young Canadians.

## STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2000 (GENERAL FUND)

### REVENUE

Canadian Heritage	\$	304,957
AGM Registration		4,650
Membership		47,083
Other		<u>1,048</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>357,738</b>

### EXPENDITURES

Programs and Projects	\$	329,795
Excess in Revenue over Expenditures	\$	<u>27,943</u>

*Excerpted from audited financial statements prepared by Helen Ross, CA.  
(Copies of the financial statements are available on request.)*

## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2000

### Assets

Cash	\$	249,666
Restricted Term		
Deposit Bursary		12,059
Accounts Receivable		11,245
Prepaid Expenses		<u>2,030</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>275,000</b>

### Liabilities

Current Accounts	\$	24,906
Deferred revenue		10,000
Prepaid Fees		<u>4,775</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>39,681</b>

*Excerpted from audited financial statements prepared by Helen Ross, CA.  
(Copies of the financial statements are available on request.)*

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*DEAR FRIENDS:*

The past year has been a tremendously positive experience for me as the Executive Director of Canadian Parents for French, British Columbia Branch.

I have had the privilege of working with a Board of Directors that has given both support when needed, but most importantly, clear direction. I have had the real pleasure to meet CPF members all over British Columbia and to learn about their extraordinary commitment to both their children's education and their willingness to give of themselves to make French-second-language education better for everyone.

I would like to again acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of CPF BC volunteers and staff, past and present, in building this organization. Our current successes build on a tremendous legacy.

I have travelled all over British Columbia to 25 of our 44 Chapters this year. I want to thank CPF members for welcoming me to their Chapter meetings and to presentations to school districts and other groups. Everywhere I go, I have been able to stay at the homes of our members and get to know them and their families better (not to mention save some money!). I wish to thank all of you for the generosity and kindness you have shown me.

This has been a year of growth and promise for CPF BC. Anna Maddison has detailed some of those successes in her report. We have broken down some of the barriers to French-second-language education. We have formed many new partnerships with businesses, governments and other non-profit

organizations. We have given priority to Chapter activity and the result has been higher membership, more extracurricular activity and greater influence at the school district level.

However, there are some significant challenges in the future and areas for improvement. Our fundraising has had some significant successes, most notably with BC Hydro and Concours, but we must continue to keep up the pressure to diversify the funding for our events. Our three-year agreement with Canadian Heritage expires next March and we have work to see that it is renewed and expanded. And we must continue to work with our education partners to ensure that budget constraints do not negatively affect language education.

To achieve these goals, we must continue to be positive and determined. Our message, as an organization, of ensuring opportunity and access for extraordinary French immersion and core French, is a positive one. Language education in our bilingual country and in the modern, global world is more important than ever.

I wish to thank my co-workers at the Branch office, Loraine Cassidy and Evelyn Funk for their patience, commitment and work over the past year. I am proud to work with such talented people and share in their achievements.

Finally, a huge thank you, in advance, to Marg Yandel, Nancy Taylor and our Saanich Chapter for organizing this year's Annual General Meeting and Conference in Victoria. Knowing the Saanich Chapter, it is sure to be a tremendous success.

— *Adrian Dix, Executive Director*



**French for the Future:** CPF BC took the lead in supporting John Ralston Saul's French for the Future conference, April 2001. Students attended workshops to learn about career opportunities such as working with the RCMP. CPF BC is working to see this event expanded to the Yukon for April 2002.



**Rencontre Française:** These students enjoy an art activity in French at CPF BC's weekend for French immersion students in grades 7-8. An attendance record was reached this past May with 150 participants from around B.C. travelling to Simon Fraser University.