



# ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002

## Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT



*Anna Maddison*

*Dear Friends:*

This year was a successful one for CPF BC & Yukon. We set a new record for membership. French immersion programs set a new milestone for enrolment. CPF BC & Yukon established new partnerships with francophone groups and other partners.

There was more Chapter activity than ever before. And,

working with school districts, we established two new French immersion programs – one early and one late – to further increase access to French-second-language education in our communities.

In the past year, CPF parents and volunteers organized, or helped organize, 120 socio-cultural events, eight summer camps and 60 information sessions for parents; made 27 presentations to school districts; offered 36 post-secondary scholarships to French-second-language students; held just over 270 Chapter and Branch regular meetings across 46 chapters and signed new partnerships with francophone organizations. Our 5,000 members contributed some 69,000 volunteer hours to this effort. As President of CPF BC & Yukon, I am proud of our remarkable record of effort and success in a challenging period for education.

As a Board, our focus continues to be to support CPF Chapters in their important work. We have continued to provide 80% of membership monies to Chapters to provide additional revenue for their activities and promote membership.

Our staff has traveled extensively across B.C. in support of Chapter advocacy efforts. We have allocated extra monies from our general revenue fund to supplement socio-cultural grants to Chapters. New programs from the provincial office have increased access to French extracurricular activities for students. The results of these efforts have been extremely positive.

#### MEMBERSHIP

CPF BC & Yukon now has more than 5,000 members – a new record. As part of our successful membership campaign, we saw a net increase of more than 700 members over the year. We also won the National Membership Prize for retention of existing members.

These positive results are a reflection of the value of membership in CPF BC & Yukon. We hope for continued growth in the coming year with a goal of more than 6,000 members by March of 2004.

#### FRENCH IMMERSION – A NEW RECORD FOR ENROLMENT

According to 2001-02 enrolment statistics released in January by the B.C. Ministry of Education, there are 31,136 French immersion students in 46 communities across British Columbia.

This growth in French immersion enrolment reflects the growing popularity of the program across the province. It represents an increase of 713 students over last year (also a record year), and an increase of 1,157 students, or 3.9% over two years.

These increases in French immersion enrolment have taken place while the overall student population in B.C. has dropped.

Most significantly, the number of French immersion students in Kindergarten and Grade 1, the most important entry points for FI programs, have increased by 9% over two years from 5,962 to 6,490. This indicates that enrolment will continue to climb as these increases in registration for French immersion work their way through the school system in the coming years.

We expect a new record of more than 32,000 FI students when the new statistics are released for the 2002-03 school year this coming January.

#### CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT WITH CANADIAN HERITAGE

Our previous Contribution Agreement with Canadian Heritage expired on March 31, 2002. This past year, we participated in an extensive evaluation of the past three years of the agreement and negotiated a new Contribution Agreement through March 31 2004.

In our meetings with Canadian Heritage, CPF BC & Yukon was repeatedly described as a “model of success” for CPF provincial sections across Canada. We wish to thank Canadian Heritage for their strong and continuing support over the years. In particular, we wish to express our appreciation to Minister Sheila Cops and CH officials Christopher Natuik, Nicole Laplante, Linda Johnston and Angelina Munaretto.

#### ADVOCACY

In 2001-02 the CPF BC & Yukon provincial office prepared a significant number of briefs and presentations to the provincial government in B.C., the Yukon government, educational stakeholders and school boards on issues such as capping of enrolment, early vs. middle French immersion, the creation of new early and late French immersion programs, education policy, rural education, middle schools, expansion of core French and teacher shortages. These briefs and presentations led to the cre-

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ation of new programs or the removal of caps in several districts.

At present, working closely with Chapters, we are actively involved in efforts to create new late French immersion programs for September 2003 in Terrace, Kitimat, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Whitehorse, Williams Lake, 100 Mile House, Dawson Creek, Quesnel and Vernon. As well, we continue to work with School District 57 to establish a new early French immersion program in Mackenzie. We believe these efforts will achieve breakthroughs this year.

In the past year, we saw the opening of a new late French immersion program in North Vancouver and the establishment of an early French immersion program in New Westminster.

We also distributed more than 1,500 copies of CPF's *State of French Second Language Education, 2001* to stakeholders – school districts, francophone groups, schools, parents, organizations of educators and universities. The report is a useful tool in our advocacy efforts and we are looking forward to the 2002 report and its groundbreaking study of the FSL teacher shortage.

Finally, we are preparing briefs now for the B.C. review of rural education, the separate review of graduation requirements and a paper on secondary attrition.

#### **PARTNERSHIPS**

The last year has seen the successful establishment of new partnerships with francophone organizations and other groups. Our partners now include: **le Conseil Jeunesse Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique** (Francophone Youth Parliament and the BC Francophone Games), **Educacentre** (French for Parents programs), the **Canadian Club** (joint events and financial support), the **Begbie Historical Society** (Begbie History Context), **ICBC**, **BC Hydro** (financial support), the **BC Bilingual Debating Competition**, the French language newspapers *L'Express du Pacifique* and *La Source* (joint projects), **Radio-Canada** (an exciting new partnership to develop programming), the **French for the Future Society** (the French for the Future Conference), **Exchanges Canada**, **le Consulat de France**, the **Alliance Francaise** (joint ventures), **la Federations des Francophones de la Colombie-Britannique**, **APPIPC**, the **BC Language Coordinators Association**, **BCCPAC**, the **BC Teachers Federation** (joint advocacy initiatives), the **BC Ministry of Education** (socio-cultural grant program), the **UBC** and **SFU Faculties of Education** and, of course, the **Department of Canadian Heritage**.

I especially wish to underline the success of our partnership with Educacentre. The new French for Parents program was an extraordinary success with some 450 parents taking part in more than 20 Chapters across B.C. We are looking to expand on this success during 2002-03 with a renewed partnership. Thank you to France Vachon and Annie Buteau of Educacentre for their remarkable efforts.



**Partnerships:** Senior students packed the French for the Future conference held in April. CPF BC & Yukon is proud to be a partner in this event.

#### **YUKON**

This was a successful year for Canadian Parents for French in the Yukon. As President, I visited Whitehorse to promote French-second-language education across the Yukon. Working with our Chapter in Whitehorse, we prepared an extensive brief on core French and French immersion issues. We also established the first-ever core French summer camp in the Yukon and successfully worked to bring French for the Future to Whitehorse.

I am pleased to report very significant growth in Kindergarten French immersion enrolment and CPF membership in the Yukon. One of the reasons for this success has been the presence on the CPF BC & Yukon Board of Jonathan Parker from Whitehorse. Thank you and congratulations Jonathan!

#### **CONCOURS D'ART ORATOIRE**

With more than 700 participants, volunteers and supporters in attendance, the provincial Concours d'art oratoire was held this year in May at Kwantlen College in Surrey. It was again a resounding success due the effort of the students, their parents and supporters, our sponsors and most especially, our volunteers. We have a fantastic and dedicated Concours Coordinator in Susan Asaph. Thank you Susan for a terrific job.

#### **RENCONTRE FRANÇAISE**

170 students and moniteurs took part in Rencontre Française at Simon Fraser University during the second weekend of May. Good weather and an outstanding program of events made this year's conference for Grade 7 and 8 students a positive experience for all. Freda Heinrichs, our Rencontre Coordinator from the Surrey Chapter, did an outstanding job. I also wish to recognize the work of Nathalie Ladouceur-Thomas from Port Alberni and our terrific team of camp moniteurs. We continue to be proud of the success of this signature CPF BC & Yukon event.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS – NEWSLETTER, MEDIA AND WEBSITE**

Over the past year, our Newsletter Editor Karynn Oxley prepared five separate newsletters for CPF members across B.C. and the Yukon. Karynn is simply one of the best in the business and we are extremely fortunate to benefit from her work here at CPF. Thank you Karynn.

The [www.cpf.bc.ca](http://www.cpf.bc.ca) website is growing in popularity thanks

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to our Website Coordinator Laurelle Keashly. For example, this past April, our website received some 2,800 visits and over 68,000 hits. As the months go by, the website becomes more and more popular with CPF members and those interested in FSL education. As well, several Chapters have taken part in a program organized by Laurelle to set up Chapter websites. Laurelle has done a great job. Thank you again Laurelle.

Over the past year, we have prepared some 70 separate press releases for distribution to the media across B.C. CPF is a prominent voice in the education debate with many appearances on province-wide radio and television as well as significant coverage in the print media with a focus on community newspapers. We have used the media to deliver a positive message about CPF and French-second-language education. As a result, CPF has developed an increasingly higher profile across British Columbia and the Yukon.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, we gave two CPF BC & Yukon Scholarships of \$2,000 to future FSL teachers Lisa Neilson of Maple Ridge and Alain Raoul of Vancouver. Congratulations to Lisa and Alain.

In addition, CPF Chapters provide 34 Chapter scholarships for post-secondary education. In total, these scholarships are worth almost \$30,000 annually.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I wish to express my strong appreciation to our CPF BC & Yukon Branch Board of Directors – Vice President Melanie Tighe-Lovsin, Sherry Taylor, Jonathan Parker and Margaret Davidson for their support and outstanding work. I have been proud to serve with them over the past year and to share in their insights and accomplishments.

### THANK YOU

I will be leaving the position of President at the upcoming AGM in Surrey. It has been a wonderful two years working with the staff and parent-volunteers of CPF BC & Yukon and CPF provincial organizations across Canada. This has been a period of growth for our organization.

Our growing strength will be tested in the coming year. Funding issues and change in our education system presents both opportunities and challenges to FSL education in British Columbia. A big MERCI to CPF members for their support!

—Anna Maddison, President CPF BC and Yukon

## 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 EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2002

### GENERAL ACCOUNT

#### REVENUE

Canadian Heritage	\$	247,877
AGM Registration		8,867
Membership		56,039
Other- Fundraising and Interest		<u>18,821</u>
Total	\$	331,604

#### EXPENDITURES

Programs and Projects	\$	331,792
Excess in Revenue over Expenditures	\$	(188)

*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, 2002

#### ASSETS

Cash	\$	242,015
Restricted Term Deposit		
Bursary		13,004
Accounts Receivable		13,650
Prepaid Expenses		<u>1,317</u>
Total	\$	242,015

#### LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$	54,832
Prepaid Fees		<u>6,930</u>
Total	\$	61,762

*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:*

As Executive Director of CPF BC & Yukon, I am proud of our successes in the 2001-2002 year: a growing membership, growing FSL programs, particularly French immersion, more options for French-second-language students, a continuing strong relationship with government, particularly our main financial supporter the Department of Canadian Heritage, and growth in our profile in the media.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to CPF members for their generosity and support. As I travel across B.C. and the Yukon, members have offered me accommodation in their homes and a welcome to their communities. This not only allows us to save money for more trips, but it has provided me with a deeper understanding of the commitment and vision of CPF Chapters and members. Thank you to everyone I have met for your personal kindness and support.

These are challenging times for education. Budgets in every school district are tighter. More demands are being placed on parents for fundraising and participation in the education system. Many of these changes are positive, though some are clearly



*Volunteers: CPF volunteers come in all ages. These young French immersion students helped out with registration at the well-attended 2001 Provincial Conference hosted by the Saanich Chapter.*

not. We will continue to succeed by being both positive and determined in our approach. Over 25 years, CPF parent-volunteers have helped to create – with our partners – extraordinary French immersion programs and core French programs.

I wish to thank my co-workers in the B.C. office, Loraine Cassidy and Evelyn Funk for their work over the past year. It is a pleasure to work with them and share in our joint successes. Thank you to our coordinators, Susan Asaph, Karynn Oxley, Laurelle Keashley and Freda Heinrichs for your tremendous efforts on behalf of CPF.

I was recently in Hazelton to meet with French immersion students, teachers and CPF parents. In Hazelton which is one of the smallest communities to have a French immersion program in Canada at John Field Elementary, students benefit from an outstanding early French immersion program. It was an extraordinary and moving experience. Students not only take FI courses, they all also study 90 minutes of Gitksanimx language and culture every week. More than 50% of aboriginal students at the school are enrolled in French immersion.

In Hazelton, as in many other communities across B.C., people are using language education to bridge cultures and languages and come together as communities and individuals. CPF Chapters are leading the way in building a more generous and open Canadian society.

In an age of change and conflict, French-second-language education is making a huge difference for young people and communities across B.C. and the Yukon. It is an honor to play a small role in support of these efforts and to represent an organization such as CPF BC & Yukon with such a proud tradition of success.

Finally, a huge thank you to our Surrey Chapter for their terrific organizing work in hosting this year's CPF BC & Yukon AGM and Conference. Thank you, thank you, thank you Surrey. I am sure the conference will be a tremendous success.

— *Adrian Dix, Executive Director*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2001 -2002



*Anna Maddison,  
President*



*Melanie Tighe-Lousin,  
Vice-President*



*Margaret Davidson,  
Director-at-Large*



*Jonathan Parker  
Director-at-Large*



*Sherry Taylor,  
Director-at-Large*

*Our 5,000 members  
in B.C. and the  
Yukon contributed  
more than  
69,000 volunteer  
hours in  
2001-2002.*