



ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003

Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Melanie Tighe-Lovsin

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Canadian Parents for French – BC & Yukon Branch for 2002-03.

We are particularly pleased to have our Annual General Meeting in Whitehorse this year, as the Yukon continues to be a national leader in French immersion and core French programs.

CPF and FSL flourish

The past year has been one of continuing progress for our organization and for French-second-language education in BC and the Yukon. Consider the following:

- In 2002-03, there were 31,990 students enrolled in French immersion in BC – an all-time record and one we expect to break in 2003-04. Yukon has doubled Kindergarten enrolment this year and is building towards a stronger future as we work to bring late French immersion to the Whitehorse area.
- As a direct result of Branch and Chapter advocacy, six new French immersion programs were launched in September 2003 (New Westminster, Salmon Arm, Quesnel, Prince Rupert, Vernon and Pitt Meadows) – the largest one-year increase in French immersion access in BC since the 1980s. We continue to pursue new programs in communities such as Terrace, Kitimat, Mackenzie, Princeton, Fraser Lake, Williams Lake, 100 Mile House and many more.
- By September 2004, SFU will have launched its bilingual program, *Éducacentre* will have started its new French-language community college and CPF-BC & Yukon will have implemented its partnership with the University of Ottawa to provide scholarships to BC and Yukon French-second-language students.
- The Dion Plan was announced this past March. The plan will expand annual federal funding for French immersion by 80% starting in March 2004. CPF-BC & Yukon played a key role in advocating for this initiative and I was proud on your behalf to join Minister Stéphane Dion at McRoberts Secondary School as he made the announcement.
- His Excellency John Ralston Saul met with students and parents in Penticton, Kelowna and Vernon in November and demonstrated once again his strong personal connection with CPF.
- CPF-BC & Yukon continues to lead the country in membership, programs and events for students, Chapter activity and support, and media attention for our message.

Chapters – Our Number One Priority

In short, it has been a terrific year for CPF-BC & Yukon, our Chapters and members. Some of the highlights follow.

- CPF-BC & Yukon has more than 5,200 members organized in 47 Chapters. It continues to be our goal to reach 6,000 by the end of our current agreement in March 2004.
- As a board, our first priority has been support of Chapter activities. Over the past year, this support has taken several forms. CPF-BC & Yukon Chapters received 80% of membership money throughout 2002-03. During the present membership drive, we have increased the Chapter share to 90% in order to give Chapters more resources to achieve their goals.
- We also supplemented provincial socio-cultural funds to support even more Chapter activities in the past school year.
- Our staff and board have worked tirelessly to support Chapter advocacy efforts. Whether it is bussing in Terrace or Comox, class configuration in Burns Lake, the creation of new programs in Vernon, Salmon Arm or Whitehorse, the establishment of French Advisory Committees in Langley or New Westminster or working to maintain a popular program location in Mission, the CPF-BC & Yukon Provincial Office has been there working with you and on your behalf.
- During last fall's municipal elections in BC and territorial election in the Yukon, our Branch office and Chapters combined to send out questionnaires to candidates and political parties. This raised the profile of our issues and revealed the strong support of candidates from all walks of life for language education.
- Our briefs to the provincial and federal governments on rural education, graduation requirements and the Dion Plan ensured that French-second-language education and expansion of school choice remain priorities for our governments.

Finally, the *Théâtre de la Seizième*/Terasen/CPF-BC & Yukon tour brought outstanding theatre last spring to the interior of British Columbia. And our partnership with the Canadian Club gave Lower Mainland students access to first-rate public speakers in French.

Contribution Agreement with Canadian Heritage

CPF-BC & Yukon is presently in the second year of a two-year Contribution Agreement with the Department of Canadian Heritage. In their evaluation of our operations earlier this year, the Department described CPF-BC & Yukon as delivering an "outstanding level of service."

It was an honor for CPF and Chapters across BC and the Yukon to take part in a conference call with the Honorable

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Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, in March along with senior officials of the department. The Minister's participation was an acknowledgement of the extraordinary efforts of CPF-BC & Yukon parent-volunteers in pursuing the goals of linguistic duality.

Our present agreement with Canadian Heritage currently expires on March 31, 2004. CPF National and CPF Provincial Branches are presently negotiating a 5-year agreement that will ensure a stable level of funding for our organization through the 2008-09 fiscal year. Adrian Dix, CPF-BC & Yukon Executive Director, is on the National Negotiating Committee for this agreement on behalf of CPF National and Provincial sections.

We wish to thank Linda Johnston, Chris Natuik, Angelina Munaretto, Hilaire Lemoine, and Liliane L  of Canadian Heritage for their ongoing support and generosity. And a special thanks to the Honorable Sheila Copps who has contributed so much to linguistic duality as Minister of Canadian Heritage.

Partnerships

CPF-BC & Yukon is proud of its partnerships. These partnerships bring greater force to our advocacy and new opportunities to French immersion and core French students. As a result, more than 50 French immersion students took part in the Francophone Youth Parliament and the Francophone Games, 500 parents took advantage of French for Parents classes, 200 young people in BC and another 60 in the Yukon took part in French for the Future, 800 young people and adults went to BC Family French Camp, 150 young historians wrote the Begbie History Contest in French, 120 Lower Mainland students attended Canadian Club luncheons in French and several thousand young people saw *Th  tre de la Seizi me* in the BC interior. This does not include exchanges, contests, socio-cultural events and tournaments — the list simply goes on and on.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2002 -2003



Melanie Tighe-Lovsin
President



Sherry Taylor,
Vice-President



Margaret Davidson
Director-at-Large



Jonathan Parker
Director-at-Large



Anna Maddison
Past-President

We wish to acknowledge our partners including Radio Canada, the French for the Future Society, the Vancouver International Writers Festival, the Artist Response Team, *Th  tre de la Seizi me*, the Canadian Club, the Begbie Historical Society, French Family Camp, Exchanges Canada, ICBC, Terasen, BC Hydro, Alcan, *La Source* newspaper, *l'Express du Pacifique*, the *Alliance Francaise*, the *Consulat de France*, *la Federation des Francophones de la Colombie Britannique*, APPIPC, the BC Language Coordinators' Association, BCCPAC, the BC Teachers Federation, the UBC and SFU Faculties of Education, the BC Bilingual Debating Tournament, the Council for Canadian Unity, *le Conseil Scolaire Francophone*, the BC Ministry of Education, the Yukon Department of Education, Kwantlen College and the National Organizers of Verbathon.

We wish to recognize in particular this year Denis Simard of the Francophone Youth Council, Andrew Winstanley of the Canadian Club, France Vachon and Annie Buteau of * ducacentre*, Brenda Berck of French for the Future, Charles Hou of the Begbie Society and Kathi Thompson of Terasen for their outstanding contributions to our joint efforts.

Yukon

It was a great year for our Whitehorse Chapter. We were proud to support the Yukon's participation at the *National Concours d'Art Oratoire* in Toronto. CPF again, through partnerships with the Yukon's Francophone community, helped provide summer camps for French immersion and core French students. Sabine Schweiger and her team are preparing what should be a terrific AGM and Conference. And together we are working with the Yukon government to bring late French immersion to Whitehorse. If we succeed, the Yukon could be the first jurisdiction in Canada to double the number of bilingual graduates under the Dion Plan.

Concours d'Art Oratoire and Rencontre Fran aise

In April, the 2003 *Concours* at Kwantlen College in Surrey was another great success with more than 700 participants, volunteers, judges, parents and supporters. It is so gratifying for me to appreciate not just the quality of French at *Concours*, but the power of ideas expressed by the students. Our thanks go out to our Chief Judge Joanne Neveux of Abbotsford, the French Consulate and all of our volunteers.

For the first time in almost a decade, CPF National organized a national *Concours* held at Glendon College in Toronto. Our Branch sponsored four students from BC and the Yukon to go to Toronto. Tamara Slade of Port Coquitlam (Immersion category) and Rebecca Soquier of Vancouver (Francophone category) each finished second in Canada.

Susan Asaph did a remarkable job as our *Concours* coordinator again this year. This was Susan's third year as coordinator and she has decided to step down and become the Chapter president in Abbotford. Thank you Susan for your energy, humor and commitment.

Rencontre Fran aise also tied an attendance record with 175

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moniteurs and students taking part during May at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby. Freda Heinrichs again did a great job as the coordinator for this signature CPF-BC & Yukon event. Thank you Freda and a wonderful team of *moniteurs* from all over BC led by Port Alberni Nathalie Ladouceur-Thomas.

Communications – Newsletter, Website and Media

Karynn Oxley is simply the finest newsletter editor anywhere. She continues to do an exceptional job producing the *CPF-BC & Yukon News*. And our website, *www.cpf.bc.ca* under the direction of Laurelle Keashly, is a constantly up-dated and valued source of information for our members, supporters and the general public. We set records for web visits in March and April and subsequently broke them in September. Thank you Laurelle and Karynn!

CPF-BC & Yukon's media profile as a source of information on French immersion and core French education in BC continues to grow. In January, a CPF press release made the front page of the *Vancouver Sun*. In March, a full hour of CBC Almanac was devoted to CPF and its issues. BCTV covered prominently CPF-BC & Yukon events. And CPF board, staff and volunteers were featured in dozens of local media – television, print and radio – over the past year.

We also distributed almost a thousand posters across BC with the themes “I’m learning French because” and “I’m staying in French because” that presently adorn bulletin boards in schools and community centers in every community where we have Chapters.

Scholarships

Annamarie Sember of Merritt and Nadine Evans of Castlegar were the winners of the CPF-BC & Yukon Bursary this year. Annamarie will be teaching in Merritt and Nadine has found a job in the French immersion program in Vanderhoof. We had a record number of applications this year and Sherry Taylor, who chairs our Scholarship Committee, had a difficult job in making a recommendation from such a fine group of candidates.

Board of Directors

Our Board had a busy year with four full board meetings, another eight board teleconference calls, participation in Presidents and Vice Presidents meetings, daily e-mails among ourselves, CPF members and the Executive Director, all in support of Chapter efforts.

CPF has never been stronger financially and in terms of membership, credibility and dynamism. I know I speak for all Board members when I say that this is a record of achievement that everyone in CPF – Board, staff, Chapter executive, members and parents – can be proud.

A Personal Perspective

I want to thank Anna Maddison, Margaret Davidson and Jonathan Parker who are all stepping down from the Board
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STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2003

GENERAL FUND

REVENUE

Canadian Heritage	\$	334,245
AGM Registration		7,800
Membership		61,260
Other- Fundraising and Interest		<u>18,270</u>
Total	\$	421,575

EXPENDITURES

Programs and Projects	\$	359,511
Excess in Revenue over Expenditures	\$	62,064

*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, 2003

ASSETS

Cash	\$	235,800
Restricted Term Deposit Bursary		13,134
Accounts Receivable		16,537
Prepaid Expenses		<u>15,581</u>
Total	\$	281,052

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$	30,045
Prepaid Fees		<u>13,965</u>
Total	\$	44,010

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dear CPF Members:

I get to meet and work with some remarkable people as Executive Director of CPF-BC & Yukon Branch. Here are just a few of them.

Judy Riddell, a long-time member and supporter in Prince Rupert, led an effort to bring late French immersion to her community. The new program will not directly benefit her children in any way. Yet, she worked tirelessly and effectively to make it happen.

Denis Simard directs the Francophone Youth Council in BC. He and his group have been open to including French immersion and core French students in his groups programs. Denis' energy, his good humor and determination have made

the BC Francophone Games and Francophone Youth Parliament events that bring young people together to reach common goals, exchange ideas and have a remarkable amount of fun.

Andrew Winstanley was President of the Canadian Club this year. Andrew put on two events for Francophone and French immersion students in the Lower Mainland that brought young people together with the Francophone business community. These events were a reflection of his deep commitment to linguistic duality and his generosity. Each year, the Canadian Club contributes substantially to a prize at *Concours*. Only insiders know, however, that the Canadian Club's contribution is from Andrew personally.

Janet Brine has just stepped down as Chapter president in New Westminster. In three years, she helped overturn a cap on enrolment, established a new early French immersion program in the Royal City and reenergized her Chapter. Janet is a French immersion teacher herself and in her spare time offered her own French for Parents classes to New Westminster Chapter members.

Loraine Cassidy, our long-time Administrative Secretary who sometimes pretends that her work is a job, but can always be found going the extra mile to help members and her colleagues. Loraine gives us her talent, her organizational memory and her sense of humor and is a pleasure to work with.

I could go on and on about the people I get to work with at CPF-BC & Yukon – board members, parent-volunteers, partner groups and educators – they share a remarkable commitment to offering new opportunities for young people and making our communities better places to live, learn and prosper.

Thank you.

CPF-BC & Yukon continues to thrive as an organization. I want to personally thank my colleagues at the Branch office – Loraine Cassidy, Nancy Taylor and Laurelle Keashly and our wonderful coordinators Freda Heinrichs, Charlene Dobie, Susan Asaph, Karynn Oxley and Sabine Schweiger.

As we negotiate a new five-year funding agreement with Canadian Heritage, CPF-BC & Yukon is in a sound financial position. Over the next five years with stable funding, we can achieve even more together.

I wish to thank Melanie Tighe-Lovsin, Sherry Taylor, Jonathan Parker, Margaret Davidson and Anna Maddison for their support and commitment. They have been an excellent Board of Directors – thoughtful, questioning and always willing to pitch in and work.

Finally, thank you to the Whitehorse organization committee. This is going to be a truly special AGM and Conference for Canadian Parents for French - BC & Yukon Branch.

— *Adrian Dix, Executive Director*

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this year. Each has made an extraordinary contribution to CPF-BC & Yukon. I know I speak for our members when I thank them for their selfless efforts on behalf of French-second-language education in BC and the Yukon.

I would like to thank the office staff: Loraine Cassidy, Laurelle Keashly, and Nancy Taylor for their contribution to the enormous accomplishments achieved this year. Their enthusiasm and expertise is appreciated.

As Branch President, I have had the opportunity and pleasure of working with Executive Director Adrian Dix on many Branch initiatives and challenges. I would like to acknowledge his dedication, his integrity and commitment to the objectives of CPF-BC & Yukon. Adrian has been a tireless advocate of French-second-language programs in our region and is a well respected force in Ottawa and across the country. I thank him on behalf of the Board of Directors and the membership.

I would also like to thank you, the membership, for the hard work you do in your Chapters. I am fully aware of the hours it takes to organize events and advocate for educational change. You are making a difference and providing a better future for your children.

I am grateful to the membership for entrusting me with the role of President and all its rewards.

There are many challenges to face us in the coming years. Education budgets are always tight. Declining enrolment can undermine French immersion programs in rural communities. We need to take new steps to reverse the trend of attrition in French immersion programs at the secondary level and to ensure that every student has fair access to a program in their community.

Together, we can meet the challenges of the future. Thank you – all of you – for your efforts and support.

— *Melanie Tighe-Lovsin, President*