

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

President's Report

This year has been marked by significant achievements, major milestones, the eighth straight year of record enrolment in French immersion, an ever-growing membership, and successes in surprising places.

Happy 30th Birthday, CPF-BC & Yukon Happy 40th Birthday, French Immersion in BC!

From its enthusiastic beginning in 1978, to the dynamic organization it is today, our branch's 30th anniversary is testament to the fact that parents are as passionate as ever to see their children learn both of Canada's official languages. Whether that learning is through early or late French immersion, intensive French or core French, parents are ensuring their voice is heard loud and clear. Thank you to our parent volunteers, past board members and current and past staff who have contributed to our proud history.

Who would have guessed 40 years ago that the French immersion movement would take us to where we are today? One thing is clear, French immersion is not a fad, it is here to stay. Parents who went through the program are now enrolling their children in it. Teachers who pioneered this program have in turn inspired their students to become FI teachers. The cycle continues... in another decade or even less, we will meet the third generation of immersion students!

Our Members, Our Greatest Asset

Following another successful membership drive last autumn, our membership rose dramatically from 6,799 in October 2007 to 8,753 this year. The increase is reflected not only in more associate memberships — schools, school districts, and partner organizations — but in individual memberships. An impressive one third of all members in CPF come from BC & Yukon.

Not only are parents willing to take out a membership



in CPF, they are also willing to volunteer their time to ensure their children have an array of extracurricular French activities outside the classroom. Once again, our members spent in excess of 40,000 volunteer hours organizing dynamic extracurricular activities *en français* for students, working on district French Advisory Committees to ensure long-term sustainability for FSL programs and providing resources and information to parents and teachers.

A major breakthrough occurred this year in 100 Mile House, a small community in the Cariboo-Chilcotin School District. Due to attrition and a small population base to begin with, it seemed there would never be enough French immersion students to warrant extending the secondary program past grade nine. Thanks to the never-say-die attitude of the local CPF chapter, the program has been given the go-ahead to continue on to grade 10. In 2011, the community will see its first graduating French immersion cohort since the program began there over 25 years ago.

FI Enrolment Continues to Grow

September 2007 saw BC's French immersion enrolment jump from 39,510 to 41,002. That represents 60 more classes across the province. In some districts, one in four students in the primary grades is enrolled in French immersion. And over the past four years, the number of students graduating with

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their double Dogwood has climbed by almost 20 per cent.

Even more compelling, French immersion enrolment in the Yukon jumped by almost 17 per cent in the last year, from 463 to 540. What makes this so amazing is that the program is only offered in Whitehorse, and only at one elementary school and one high school.

While many chapters strive to initiate new programs only to be denied because of a shortage of teachers or low enrolment, it is refreshing to hear of the newest French immersion program opening in School District #50, Queen Charlottes / Haida Gwaii. There are only 21 students spread over grades one, two and three, but interest is keen on the part of the district administrators, school staff and parents. It just goes to show that when the will is there, anything can be achieved!

Intensive/Core French Successes

Intensive French is gaining momentum as an alternative method of learning French with Surrey's program now in its fifth year, Vancouver's program in its second year and a new program just beginning this year in the small community of Invermere.

In the Yukon, three intakes of Intensive French are offered in two schools from grade 5. Students also have the choice to take Extensive Core French. This program offers students in grade 10 the option of taking Sciences Humaines as well as French.

Post-Secondary Choices in French

Our partners in the post-secondary milieu are offering an ever wider range of programs to ensure high school graduates have an opportunity to continue feeding their love of French with diploma programs and graduate/post-graduate degrees tailored specifically for immersion grades. Collège Éduca-centre offers online courses that provide students with dual credits. In other words, they can take college-level courses in French and have this coursework count towards their high school graduating portfolio.

Clean Bill of (Financial) Health

While the majority of our funding comes from Canadian Heritage and the BC Ministry of Education, we were successful in raising an additional \$132,000 from memberships, advertising revenue, registration fees and sales of CPF branded material.

Our chapters were reimbursed an astounding \$48,000 from membership sales. Many raised additional revenue through local fundraising initiatives such as magazine drives, summer camp registration fees, book sales and more.

Next March marks the end of our five-year contribution agreement with Canadian Heritage. Our branch and chapters have accomplished so very much during that time. Following pan-Canadian consultations, the federal government recently announced the new action plan called the "Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality." This agreement will take us to

CPF—BC&Yukon Board of Directors 2007-2008



Seen left to right: Sabine Schweiger (Whitehorse), Victoria Vaseleniuck (Nelson), Brittany Harris, Youth Director (Pitt Meadows/Maple Ridge), Debra Pool, President (Vernon) Heather Doty (Parksville), Marcela Navarro, VP (Prince Rupert).

2013. With continued stable funding over the next five years, just imagine what we will be able to achieve!

Getting the word out

Through our website, newsletter, monthly e-updates, brochures, fact sheets and media coverage, CPF is known as the one-stop shop for parents interested in learning how their children can benefit from French second language programs. In October 2008, we will be launching our new website, completely redesigned by our very own Dimitry Morales, offering easier access to information for the public, for members and for chapters. Check it out at www.cpf.bc.ca/!

Last Word

I would like to thank our partners at Canadian Heritage, the BC Ministry of Education and the Yukon Department of Education for their continued encouragement and financial support. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the hard-working staff who work so diligently to make our Board's vision a reality. As you know, I stepped in to the role of President in May. I wish to thank Marcela Navarro for her work as President for the first half of this year. I also wish to acknowledge the contribution of Joy Haley who left our Board in June. I am very grateful to my fellow volunteer board members who put in countless hours to provide strategic direction and governance for our organization. I have greatly appreciated your support and encouragement.

And last but by no means least; I thank you, our members who share our belief that knowing both French and English will open up a world of possibilities for our children. Merci!

— Debra Pool

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee of Canadian Parents for French-BC & Yukon is pleased to report for the April 2007 - March 2008 financial year that CPF-BC & Yukon remains in a solid financial position. This year our income statement showed a modest deficit of \$1,978 while our balance sheet figure is \$131,241.

We continue to ensure that all reports are complete and submitted on time to secure funding and to provide a consistent, predictable cash flow. At no time in the past year was CPF-BC & Yukon in a position of having to borrow money or delay payments.

The Finance Committee continues to streamline and fine-tune the accounting procedures to better reflect the actual expenditures and project areas. This critical step better substantiates funding proposals and supports more accurate forecasting of budgets.

Financial diversification adopted by the 2005-2006 Board as a strategic goal continues to ensure the long-term viability of the Branch. In 2005-2006, non-Canadian Heritage grants totaled \$200,593 or 38 percent of all revenues. In 2007-2008

non-Canadian Heritage revenue totaled \$312,806 or 52 percent. This diversification achieved through the signing of a four-year contribution agreement with the Ministry of Education, expanding our advertising revenue and producing a post secondary educational advertorial, organizing a successful membership drive, coordinating fundraising activities including marketplaces and an auction, and gaining donations and in-kind support from community-level businesses proves the current strategy successful. Moreover, the signing of Roadmap for Linguistic Duality in Canada 2008-2013: Acting for the Future will continue to secure our Federal Funding.

We look forward to another successful year serving you.

Respectfully submitted,

CPF BC & Yukon Finance Committee

Victoria Vaseleniuck – Board Member

Heather Doty – Board Member

Nancy Taylor – Executive Director

Susan Albion – Bookkeeper

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures Fiscal Year April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008

REVENUES	2007-2008	2006-2007
Canadian Heritage – Core Grant	287,105	287,105
Canadian Heritage – Other	0	23,465
Other Federal Government	0	16,500
BC Ministry of Education	181,158	166,123
Membership Rebates	51,563	79,783
Donations	13,550	10,850
Program Revenue	66,535	58,087
Total Revenue	599,911	641,913
EXPENDITURES	2007-2008	2006-2007
Education and Outreach	120,333	137,270
Chapter Support	231,010	223,935
Governance*	63,162	51,949
Programs	187,373	197,120
Excess in Revenue over Expense	(1,978)	31,639
Assets	255,934	310,756
Liabilities	124,693	173,536
Funds Balance	131,241	137,220

*Excerpted from audited statements prepared by Dickson, Stojak, Brown (CA).
(Copies of audited statements are available upon request.)*

* Note: The increased governance cost in 2007-08 is predominately due to costs associated with managing the change in Executive Director.

Message from the Executive Director

Given that this year marks several major milestones for our organization, you can imagine how delighted I was to be asked to step in as executive director for a one year contract when former executive director Rita Parikh embarked on an amazing adventure, travelling around the world with her husband and two young children.

Before I celebrate these milestones, however, we all owe our sincere gratitude to Rita for the compelling brief she presented with our Board of Directors to BC Minister of Education Shirley Bond and Ministry staff. Taking place at the legislature last November, the meeting resulted in the formation of a new **Provincial Ad Hoc FSL Committee**, or French Second Language Advisory Committee.

The committee includes associations representing immersion and FSL teachers, post-secondary administrators, urban and rural superintendents, language coordinators, senior Ministry officials and CPF. Key issues the committee will focus on include financial transparency of federal French funding allocated to school districts, the teacher shortage, French immersion and French second language policy, and barriers to access, to name but a few.

While the **BC & Yukon Branch's 30th anniversary** officially took place last month, we celebrated it in grand style in May at a press conference at École Lord Tennyson, a single track French immersion school in Vancouver. In attendance were CPFers from the very earliest days, former and current staffers and board members, parents, partners and the media. Our Masters of Ceremonies were the students of the school's grade seven leadership program.

The celebration gave us a perfect opportunity to publicly acknowledge the dedication, exemplary professionalism and



In 2008, Concours d'art oratoire turned 25. A record 289 students in grade six to twelve impressed the judges with their superb oratory skills. For the first time, 10 students from Intensive French were welcomed and presented with certificates of participation.

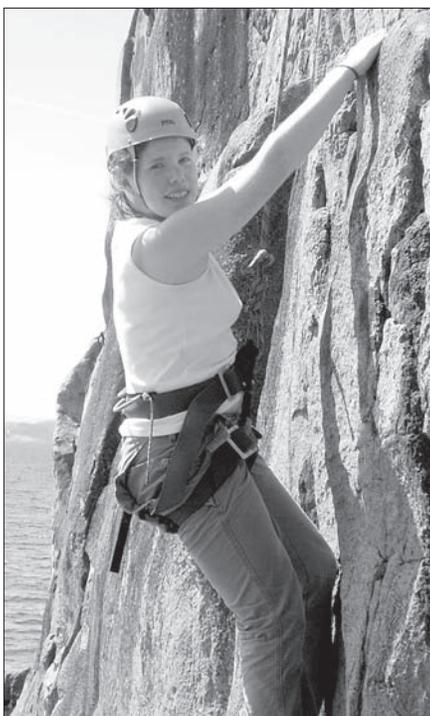
wonderful humour of our former Office Manager, Loraine Cassidy, who spent 19 years keeping the office running smoothly.

This is also the **40th birthday of French immersion in British Columbia**. Imagine — we have adults who went through French immersion now enrolling their children in the program! Back in 1968 when the fledgling program began in Coquitlam, no one had any idea BC parents would embrace French second language education for their kids to such a degree. Today BC and the Yukon have more than 42,000 students enrolled in Canada's most popular program of choice.

Another milestone of note: this year the **Concours d'art oratoire** turned 25. Parents, administrators and teachers organized more classroom and district competitions than ever before. A record 289 students in grade six to twelve impressed the judges with their superb oratory skills on topics ranging from young love to racial profiling. For the first time this year we also welcomed ten students from Intensive French who were presented with certificates of participation. Kudos to Lana Sanghara and staff for orchestrating this magnificent event!

Our perennially popular **Rencontre Française** was held for the 19th year at Simon Fraser University's Burnaby campus. With activities ranging from circus tricks to Kinball to art design, the students had a blast.

Building on the success of the Francopaloozas in 2006/07 and the Multicultural Project in 2005/06, we have been extending our **partnerships**. In my many years as a CPF volunteer and employee, I have seen a remarkable change in offerings for our children and the community at large, with francophones



◀ *Last October we offered the first ever Rencontre en Plein Air, a weekend of outdoor adventure at the Centre de leadership et d'aventure en nature (CLAN) in Powell River. With 33 French immersion and francophone students in grade 7 and 8 participating, it was an excellent inaugural event and the start of a new tradition.*

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Les jeunes artistes at Rencontre Française 2008.

and francophiles working closely together on an array of exciting initiatives.

Planning for the annual Membership Drive and Bilingualism Rocks Tour have been keeping staff very busy,

but not too busy to visit and speak to members and chapter representatives all year long. And exciting news for chapters in all parts of the province: starting in October 2008, our Chapter Support and Community Outreach Officer, Glyn Lewis, will be hitting the road to visit as many chapters as possible as he tours with our bands on the Bilingualism Rocks Rural Communities Tour.

I would like to thank the hard-working staff for bearing with me as I learned the challenging facets of the executive director position. Elyn Dobbs, Marie-Chantal Lepage, Dimitry Morales and Glyn Lewis— you have done a superlative job.

I know our members will extend a warm welcome to the branch’s new executive director, Robert Rethon. A passionate believer in the bilingual nature of our country, Robert will serve you well as an advocate, as a spokesperson and as a trail blazer in his leadership.

Finally, I wish to offer my most sincere thanks to the Board of Directors for giving me the opportunity to lead the Branch as executive director this past year. It has been an incredibly gratifying and inspiring experience to work with so many individuals who share my passion for CPF.

— Nancy Taylor

French Immersion Enrolment Statistics 2003/04–2007/08

In British Columbia

Year	French Immersion Enrolment	Total School Enrolment
2007-2008	41,002	582,691
2006-2007	39,510	587,816
2005-2006	38,007	599,492
2004-2005	35,519	606,385
2003-2004	33,407	614,664

In Yukon

French Immersion Enrolment	Total School Enrolment
540	4,963
463	4,985
444	5,225
410	5343
354	5415

Did you know that in BC and Yukon...

- 2,513 fewer students withdrew from Core French programs between 2006/07–2007/08 than did between 2005/06–2006/07.
- FI grew 4.29 per cent in 2007/08 compared with 3.51 per cent in 2006/07.
- District with the most growth over a single year — SD 73 Kamloops/Thompson with 19.72% growth.
- District with second highest growth over a single year — SD79 Cowichan Valley (Southern Vancouver Island) at 17.89%.
- Most dramatic growth in a Kindergarten intake — SD62 Sooke where K enrolment jumped from 38 to 62 in a single year.
- Grade 8 – 12 students staying in immersion programs crept higher this year over last year. There were 11,323 this year as opposed to 10,828 last year. This represents an increase of 4.75% over a single year.
- District with the most FI growth over a five year period is still SD40 New Westminster with 86% growth or enrolment increasing from 416 to 774 students. French immersion now accounts for 10.46% of the total district enrolment.

CPF Chapters Make Events Happen!



In New Westminster, the CPF Chapter organized a special evening called Bonjour, Bonne Nuit at three early French immersion schools. The events took place in the evening in the school library with early immersion kindergartners coming to the school after supper wearing pj's and toting their special stuffed animals. Older siblings and grade five immersion students read French books and helped with activities, and without even knowing it, improved their own leadership and reading skills! The event was also a great way for the kindergarten families to meet each other and for parents to learn more about CPF.

CPF Membership is the Ticket to Popular Summer Camp



Many happy memories await CPF members who attend BC Family French Camp.

Partnerships are the Key to Success

CPF-BC & Yukon greatly appreciate the support of our partners and sponsors/ Nos tenons à remercier nos partenaires et nos sponsors! These new and previous relationships have resulted in even more activities and opportunities for our French second language students.

- Alliance Française de Vancouver
- Association des professeurs professionnels d'immersion et du programme cadre
- Antenne du Quebec à Vancouver
- BC Association of Teachers of Modern Languages
- BC Family French Camp
- BC Teachers Federation
- Canadian Club of Vancouver
- Centre de leadership et d'aventure en nature
- Conseil Scolaire Francophone de la CB
- Éducacentre College
- Encounters with Canada
- Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique
- Fédération des parents francophones de la Colombie-Britannique
- French Consulate
- Language Coordinators Association of BC
- L'Express du Pacifique
- University of Ottawa
- Simon Fraser University — Burnaby
- Simon Fraser University — Surrey
- Simon Fraser University — Bureau des affaires francophones et francophiles
- Théâtre la Seizième

CPF-BC & Yukon Membership Stats

October 2008	8,753
October 2007	6,799
October 2006	6,498

And the Award goes to...

For the past sixteen years, CPF-BC & Yukon has been proud to offer a financial award worth \$2000 to students who are completing their post-secondary education and planning to teach French as a second language in BC or the Yukon. This award is designed to help alleviate the teaching shortage by providing students with the funds necessary to support their teaching education.

It was very difficult to select a recipient from this year's fourteen applications. After a rigorous selection process, however, the Award committee congratulates Kyla Bird!

Our CPF-BC & Yukon Office is working for you

Nancy Taylor.....Executive Director
 Robert Rothon..... Incumbent Executive Director
 Dimitry MoralesSystems and Office Manager
 Glyn Lewis Chapter Support/Community Outreach Officer
 Susan Albion Bookkeeper
 Karynn Oxley Newsletter editor
 Lana Sanghara Concours d'art oratoire coordinator
 Marion Laramie Rencontre Française coordinator
 Heidi ClarksonOffice support
 Karen CowlGraphic designer



CPF-BC & Yukon staff seen left to right: Marie-Chantal Lepage, former Events Coordinator; Nancy Taylor, Executive Director; Dimitry Morales, Systems and Office Manager; and Glyn Lewis, Chapter Support and Community Outreach Officer.

CPF-BC & Yukon can be contacted at:

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 Tel: 778-329-9115
 Toll free: 1-800-665-1222
 Toll free fax: 1-888-678-1780
 info@cpf.bc.ca
 www.cpf.bc.ca

*Did you know that in BC and Yukon....
 French immersion enrolment jumped 25 per cent
 over the past five years while overall enrolment
 dropped by almost four percent!*

Canadian Parents For French BC and Yukon presents/présente

BILINGUALISM ROCKS

BC & YUKON TOUR | TOURNÉE C.-B. ET YUKON

La Part du Quêteux Trad'badour

October 20 - 31 | 20 - 31 octobre
 February 23 - March 6 | 23 février - 6 mars

Another example of a successful partnership! Bilingualism Rocks!, a project funded by Canadian Heritage, brings great francophone music to K-7 schools whose students are learning French through core, immersion or francophone programs. Finally, even the smallest schools will have the opportunity to get students dancing, clapping and singing along with highly talented performers.



We sincerely thank Canadian Heritage and the BC Ministry of Education

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH 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.

OUR VISION

A Canada where French- and English-speakers live together in mutual respect with understanding and appreciation of each other's language and culture and where linguistic duality forms an integral part of society.