

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH MILESTONES

Please note: The following list of milestone accomplishments does not include an impressive record of networking, letter-writing, meetings with key decision-makers, collaboration with other organizations, media releases and appearances, displays, volunteer training, fundraising campaigns, organizational development, etc. undertaken by CPF from the very beginning.

Authors have been mentioned only when they were external to CPF.

The month in which some activities took place has not been found, and so only the year is given.

1977

March – 30 people from all ten provinces attending a “Parents Conference on French Language and Exchange Opportunities” held under the auspices of Canada’s first Commissioner of Official Languages, Keith Spicer, found the new organization; a Steering Committee of five is established with Pat Webster as Chairⁱ

The first CPF news conference calls for “a national education policy with second language training as one of its keystones” and urges the federal government to adopt a charter “which would ensure all Canadian children have access to second language instruction.”

May – incorporated under *The Canada Corporations Act*. The object of the corporation is:

To promote and support opportunities for young Canadians to learn and use the French language.

June – first national CPF newsletter (the 100th issue was published early in 2006)

August – granted Registered Charity status

October – first national CPF conferenceⁱⁱ and first Annual General Meeting.

Establishment of a Board of Directors comprising a representative* from each provinceⁱⁱⁱ plus a nationally elected Chair.

The goals of the association, drafted at the founding meeting, are amended and ratified as follows:

- a) To assist in ensuring that each Canadian child have the opportunity to acquire as great a knowledge of French language and culture as he or she is willing and able to attain.
- b) To promote the best possible types of French language learning opportunities.
- c) To establish and maintain effective communication between interested parents and educational and government authorities concerned with the provision of French language learning opportunities.

1978

A one-room national office^{iv} opens in a historic schoolhouse near the Prime Minister’s residence in Ottawa, with Mary Ann Rainer as part-time Executive Secretary and Margaret Terry as volunteer treasurer/bookkeeper

Volunteers organize the first community-based chapters in Coquitlam BC, Regina SK, and Oshawa ON

April – national newsletter features the first Canadian directory of exchange programs, summer camps and summer language classes

September – national newsletter features the first Canadian “layman’s guide” to funding

* As provincial branches are formally established over the next couple of years, it is the President of each branch who is the member of the national Board of Directors, while the backup or “Alternate Director” is the branch Vice President

for French-second-language programs across Canada

1979

Jos Craven Scott becomes the national Executive Secretary (the position is later called National Coordinator and then, in 1986, Executive Director^v)

May – publication of *A Bibliography of Articles and Books on Bilingualism in Education*, an annotated bibliography edited by D. Anthony Massey and Joy Potter

July – paid memberships come into effect^{vi}

November – Secretary of State* -funded pilot project for a national study of parents' interests in French for their children

CPF begins to advocate for a renewed federal-provincial agreement for funding of second language education in Canadian schools (finally signed in December 1983)

1980

January – publication of the first book for Canadian parents on FSL education, *So You Want Your Child to Learn French!*

Spring – first annual directory of French immersion programs throughout Canada (beginning in 1982 it is called *The CPF Immersion Registry* and published in booklet form; last published in 1996)

Spring – the wordmark is adopted as part of a visual identity

CPF Canadian Parents for French

August – first computerized membership database

Publication of the pamphlet *How to be an immersion parent*^{vii}

Beginning of efforts to work with other stakeholder group towards the development of a national clearinghouse for information on second language learning

1981

April – national newsletter articles mark the start of a multi-year campaign to improve postsecondary opportunities for FSL graduates as well as FSL teacher training

June – first meeting with the Liaison Committee of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada

October – a Vice Chairman is added to the national Board of Directors; the positions of branch President and national Director are becoming separate in most branches, but the national Directors continue to be part of the branch Boards

CPF engages the Institute for Non-profit Organizations to carry out a major study of the organization and its fundraising

1982

Spring – mailout of CPF materials to all school boards offering immersion, provincial ministries of education, and faculty of education libraries (continued for several years)

October – first Honorary Life Members named (later called Distinguished Life Members)

The title of the head of the association is changed from Chairman to President.

1983

Spring – launch of a booklet for students in grades 6-9, *French Immersion: The Trial Balloon That Flew*, by Sharon Lapkin, Merrill Swain and Valerie Argue, co-sponsored by CPF and the Ontario Institutes for Studies in Education (published by OISE Press)

September – publication of the first Special Report^{ix}

* The cabinet position Secretary of State for Canada was in effect until 1996, when its remaining responsibilities were assigned to other cabinet positions and departments, particularly the new position of Minister of Canadian Heritage.

September – Ontario holds the first in a series of eight provincial conferences and meetings on French language learning at the post-secondary level, leading to a national seminar and report in 1986

1984

September – release of the results of a nation-wide opinion poll on FSL education conducted during the summer by Gallup for CPF

October – joint policy statement with La Fédération des francophones hors Québec (later the FCFAC) supporting the right of Canadian children to learn French as a first or second language

1985

Spring – first *Festival National d'art*^x

Spring – Governor General Jeanne Sauvé and her husband the Honourable Maruice Sauvé become CPF's first Vice-Regal Patrons^{xi}

May – publication of *Core French in Canada, Volume 1: A Survey of Programs* (updated in 1986)
CPF submits a brief to a Senate committee on youth and a brief to a Commons committee on equality rights, and makes a submission to a hearing of the CRTC on a proposed television youth channel

1986

January – launch of the multi-media “Making Choices” information campaign

January – launch of CPF's second book, *More French, s'il vous plaît!*

March – CPF national colloquium on French at the post-secondary level

March – publication of *Core French in Canada, Volume 2: A Guide to Resources*

June – presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Official Languages

November – joint statement with the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers to “together commit themselves to meet a challenge to achieve new levels of excellence in the spoken and written French of Canadian students”

1987

CPF is consulted by the Secretary of State during the drafting of a new Official Language Act

May – joint Statement with the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers recognizing each others roles in furthering French-second-language education, and core French programs in particular

August – presentation to the Special Joint Committee on the 1987 Constitutional Accord

October – publication of *French Immersion in Canada: Policies, Regulations, Procedures & Guidelines*

August – “French: It Makes a Difference” secondary/post-secondary information kit produced

1988

February – CPF appears before the Senate Committee of the Whole on the 1987 Constitutional Accord

February – Saskatchewan hosts the first in a series of provincial Rendez-vous Canada weekends for students in grades 7-8 funded by a grant to CPF from the CRB Foundation

April – presentation to the Legislative Committee of the Commons Committee on Bill C-72 (the new Official Languages Bill)

* Replaced by the federal government in June 2008 as the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008-2013: Acting for the Future*

October – the object of the corporation is changed to:

To provide educational opportunities for young Canadians to learn and use the French language.

1989

January – “Learning French Matters” public awareness campaign is launched

April – CPF surveys school boards about requirements for additional French teachers

October – based on the report of a Special Committee established to reconsider the name “Canadian Parents for French,” the AGM agrees unanimously that the name should not be changed

1990

January – publication of the revised edition of *So You Want Your Child to Learn French!*

February – release of the results of a CPF-commissioned Environics Research Group survey of attitudes towards French second language learning

October – special enlarged national conference to wrap up the Year of the Chapter

October – launch of CPF’s first video, *A Wider Vision/Elargir ses horizons*

December – CPF is the only English-speaking organization outside of Quebec to appear before the Belanger-Campeau Commission on Quebec’s Political and Constitutional Future

There are now 18,000 members and 200 local chapters within CPF^{xii}

1991

February – CPF participates in a hearing of the Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages

Brief submitted to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada re the teaching and learning of French as a second language at the postsecondary level and the need for efforts to alleviate the shortage of FSL teachers.

September – report “Attrition/retention of students in French immersion with particular emphasis on secondary school” by Dr. Nancy Halsall

December – CPF appears before the Special Joint Committee on a Renewed Canada

December – release of the short video *CPF and You: Helping Bilingualism Happen*



1992

January/February – CPF attends round table meetings on the constitution with minority language groups, hosted by Joe Clark, Minister of Constitutional Affairs, and Secretary of State Robert de Cotret

Spring – letter-to-the-editor campaign to rebut a statement by Alberta Premier Don Getty calling for an end to official bilingualism in Canada

Spring – beginning of a joint project with SEVEC to facilitate the exchange of videos between classes of French and English students (program lasts for about two years)

Spring – national newsletter article on the Official Languages in Education Program marks the beginning of a campaign to have this funding continued and improved. Over the coming months CPF is involved in the evaluation of the program and works closely with other stakeholders to ensure continued funding.

May – launch of the multi-media “Learning French Makes a World of Difference” public awareness campaign

November – Saskatchewan holds the first in a series of branch conferences on Meeting the Challenges of Secondary School French Programs, culminating in a session at the 1993 national conference

1993

Spring – “Write it up!” contest for students aged 10-13 launched with the Department of Canadian Heritage, CASLT and ACPI (discontinued after 2001)

Summer – newsletter announces that due to budget restraints the number of newsletters will be reduced from four to three per year

1994

November – CPF appears before the Parliamentary Standing Joint Committee on Official Languages

1995

May – results of a COMPAS survey for CPF on language instruction and immersion in Canadian schools

Spring – launch of public information campaign “Learning English and French Opens Doors to Tomorrow” featuring the slogan and graphic “Proud of Two Languages/Nos deux langues, notre fierté”

Spring – first paid advertisements appear in the national newsletter

October – “Proud of Two Languages” video launched

October – at the national conference, the beginning of the involvement of members and branch representatives in a major organizational renewal process, which leads to the adoption of a Values Statement:

In CPF, we value commitment to our mandate, the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge, and the taking of initiative and responsibility so that we achieve credibility and effectiveness.

1996

First year of a “Canadian Experience” session for students from CPF families as part of the “Encounters with Canada” program at the Terry Fox Centre in Ottawa (discontinued after 1999)

1997

Jan/Feb – a CPF article translated into French titled “Proud of Two Languages” is published in the Quebec magazine *Cité libre*

February – participate in a federal government-sponsored consultation re the OLEP funding, due to expire in March 1998; this begins another national campaign by CPF to ensure continued funding

Spring – launch of the CPF website

July 1 – CPF President and Past President meet Queen Elizabeth at Rideau Hall

Fall – CPF launches a “Proud of Two Languages” essay contest for high school students in grades 10 and up (discontinued after 2001)

November – new bylaws are passed at the Annual General Meeting; among the changes: the adoption of a policy governance model; a change to the way in which voting is done at national general meetings; the establishment of a seven-member nationally-elected Board of Directors comprising a President, Vice President, and five Directors; uniform bylaws for all branches and chapters

The following Mission Statement is ratified at the AGM:

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.

November – first multi-year agreement with the Department of Canadian Heritage



1998

Beginning of an intensive strategic planning process for all of the branches and the national association

CPF receives a letter of endorsement from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

September – CPF participates in a National Symposium on Canada's Official Languages

September – CPF President presents a paper at the Fourth European Conference on Immersion Programmes, held in Wales (in 2002 the CPF President addresses the Education and Life long Learning Committee of the National Assembly of Wales; over the years is consulted by representatives from other countries, such as Finland)

November – the AGM ratifies the following Vision Statement:

A Canada where French and English 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.

1999

Spring – website is now bilingual

Summer – signing of a 3-year Framework Agreement for Cooperation between CPF and the Department of Canadian Heritage which significantly increases funding for the branches

August – CPF enters a Francophile team in the first *Jeux de la francophonie canadienne* (a CPF Francophile team also participates at the next event in 2002)

Summer – CPF takes part in *L'Année de la Francophonie* by being visible at every stop as *Le Grand train* travels from Vancouver to Moncton and by having an information tent at *Le Village*, the social and cultural hub of the Francophone summit in Moncton

November – first CPF Excellence in Leadership Awards are presented (established by a donation from former Executive Director J. Elmer Hynes, the awards are continued until 2008)

2000

All nine branches now have Executive Directors

The national office begins the development of a research center and a searchable database of references available through the website

Spring – CPF begins to assist with the *French for the Future* gatherings for grade 12 students

May – results of a COMPAS survey conducted for CPF on French-second-language issues among English-speaking Canadians

August – release of CPF's first annual report on *The State of French Second Language Education in Canada* (the report is published in each subsequent year except 2007)

September – *The CPF Guide*, a searchable directory of French immersion and extended core French programs across Canada, is available on the national website and for purchase in print

2001

New members begin to receive the booklet *Helping Your Child Become Bilingual: A Toolkit for CPF Members*

CPF addresses the Committee of Deputy Ministers on Official Languages

Participation in "Dialogue," a year-long series of consultations by the Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne du Canada with representatives of Anglophone, aboriginal and multi-cultural communities throughout Canada

Fall – publication of the CPF School Self-Assessment Tool

2002

CPF warns of an anticipated shortage of FSL teachers and initiates a national study to gather data

Addition to the website of a directory for FSL graduates, “Where to Go and What to Do”

Spring – activity pages for students are added to the national newsletter

October – beginning of the development of the *Advocacy with Élan* workshop, which is given to volunteers across Canada in 2003-04 and is later captured in a brochure

2003

Spring – launch of the “I’m Learning/Staying in French Because...” multi-media promotional campaign, which was developed with ten national French first- and second-language partners

March – CPF is on hand as the federal government announces the *Action Plan for Official Languages* to reinforce linguistic duality (including doubling the number of graduates who are bilingual by 2013)*

June – first national *Concours d’art oratoire*

June – the participants in the “Concours” also have the opportunity to compete for a trip to France (*Allons en France*) offered by the Embassy of France; the following year this changes to the CPF/Embassy of France competition for teams of grade 11 and 12 students

2004

January – CPF pilots the Peer Tutoring Literacy Program (manual and DVD made available in June 2005)

March – CPF is a partner with the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, Canadian Heritage and Intergovernmental Affairs in the national symposium *Vision and Challenges for the 21st Century*, where stakeholders from various sectors to discuss the issues involved and propose methods of achieving the objective of the *Action Plan for Official Languages*

March/April – CPF branches (through a grant to CPF) hold provincial/territorial stakeholder consultations to discuss the findings of the *Vision and Challenges* symposium

April – CPF hosts a *National French-Second-Language Stakeholders’ Forum* to review recommendations from the provincial/territorial consultations and to develop strategies

Spring – launch of the “I’m Teaching in French Because...” campaign

November – CPF signs partnership agreements with the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers, the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers, the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada, and la Commission nationale des parents francophones

November – the profile of alternate core French programs, including intensive French and extended core, are raised through the State of FSL report and a panel at the national conference

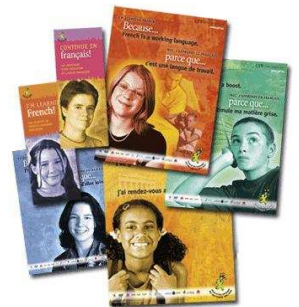
2005

CPF encourages the federal and provincial/territorial governments to sign a protocol and bilateral agreements for funding for second-language education, including the new *Action Plan* funding

February – presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages

CPF is awarded the *Prix d’excellence Lyse-Daniels 2005* by Impératif français, a French-first-language and culture advocacy group

July – CPF signs a partnership agreement with la Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française



November – CPF signs a partnership agreement with le Réseau des cégeps et des collèges francophones du Canada

2006

January – release of a CPF survey of university students re maintaining and improving their French skills with recommendations to address attrition beginning at the high school level; development of an inventory of postsecondary opportunities for FSL graduates

September – adoption of Position Statement re National French-Second Language Proficiency Testing and national standards for proficiency outcomes

Commissioned by Le Réseau des Cégeps et des Collèges Francophones du Canada to conduct a survey of high school guidance counselors

2007

The Department of Canadian Heritage officially recognizes the French Second Language Partner Network (CPF, Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers, Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers, French or the Future, Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada)

Spring – launch of the “I want my child to be...” promotional campaign targeted at preschool parents; this includes a new pamphlet, print advertisements, and an *Early Childhood Activity Book*

June – beginning of a consultative process leading to the development of a five-year Pan-Canadian strategic plan for CPF which is presented to the members at the 2008 AGM

June – CPF, the Institute of Official Languages and Bilingualism of the University of Ottawa, and the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers present the colloquium *Bilingualism in a Plurilingual Canada: Research and Implications*

August – CPF-sponsored special edition of the Canadian *Modern Language Review* presents literature reviews by Dr. Wally Lazaruk, Callie Mady, and Dr. Fred Genesee

2008

CPF responds formally to the proposed elimination by the Province of New Brunswick of early French immersion and core French in the early grades

April – adoption of Position Statements re: Equitable Access to French-Second-Language Programs, Quality French-Second-Language Programs, Full Range of French-Second-Language Entry Points and Program Choices, and Shared Responsibility for French-Second-Language Education

October – first CPF Volunteer Award presented

2009

March – launch of the video *I Want to Become Bilingual Because* and a revision of the video *Proud of Two Languages*

i National Presidents (province of residence):

1977 Pat Webster (Ontario)	1978 Janet Poyen (British Columbia/Alberta)
1981 Carolle Anderson (Alberta)	1983 Stewart Goodings (British Columbia)
1985 Carolyn Hodych (Newfoundland)	1986 Susan Purdy (New Brunswick)
1988 Kathryn Manzer (Ontario)	1990 Pat Brehaut (Alberta)
1993 Jan Finlay (Ontario)	1995 Laura Van Loon (Saskatchewan)
1996 Kate Merry (British Columbia)	1998 Carole Barton (Saskatchewan)
2000 Joan Netten (Newfoundland/Labrador)	2002 Ian Richmond (Nova Scotia)
2004 Trudy Comeau (Nova Scotia)	2006 Anna Maddison (British Columbia)
2008 David Brennick (Nova Scotia)	

ii Conference locations:

1978 Calgary	1979 Montreal	1980 Winnipeg	1981 Vancouver
1982 Charlottetown	1983 Regina	1984 Saint John	1985 Whitehorse
1986 Ottawa	1987 St. John's	1988 Winnipeg	1989 Banff
1990 Halifax	1991 Yellowknife	1992 Toronto	1993 Vancouver
1994 Fredericton	1995 Saskatoon	1997 Ottawa	1998 Ottawa*
2000 St. John's	2002 Ottawa	2004 Quebec City	2006 Ottawa
2008 Ottawa	2010 Ottawa		

* a joint conference with the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers and the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers

iii Branches:

- 1978: the national Board of Directors includes a representative from each province, and the work of establishing provincial branch Boards of Directors is underway
- 1985: the first branch offices with part-time clerical staff are established in some provinces
- 1981: the Yukon and Northwest Territories became full branches of CPF, with representation on the national Board of Directors
- 1994: CPF Yukon fails to elect a Board of Directors and becomes inactive
- 1997: CPF Quebec fails to elect a Board of Directors and becomes inactive
- 1998: CPF Northwest Territories fails to elect a Board of Directors and becomes inactive
- 2000: the western branch becomes "CPF British Columbia and Yukon"
- 2004: (May) with the election of a Board of Directors, Quebec is again a branch
- 2004: the Northwest Territories is again a branch of CPF

iv National offices:

- 1978: one room in a historic school-house in Ottawa, with a post office box mailing address
- 1983: 309 Cooper Street, Ottawa
- 1997: 176 Gloucester Street, Ottawa

v National Executive Directors:

1986 Jos Craven Scott	1994 J. Elmer Hynes	1998 Leaman Long
1999 Robin Wilson	2002 James Shea	

^{vi} **Membership fees:**

- 1979: \$5 for a full/family membership effect (\$3 goes to the branch, and the branch can, at its discretion, retain \$2 and give \$1 to a local CPF group); one national newsletter also offers an Associate Membership for educators and students (non-voting) for \$2
- 1980: Associate Membership for Organizations at \$35 for up to 15 newsletters
- 1982: for a short period around 1982 a Life Membership for \$100 if offered (in the membership database those individuals are now designated as “LM” along with the Distinguished Life Members)
- 1983: \$10 for individuals/families, \$50 for organizations
- 1986: 3-year \$25 individual/family membership introduced
- 1986: membership form states that half of the fee goes to the branch
- 1988: \$15/1 year or \$40/3 years for individuals/families, \$75 for AMOs
- 1991: \$25/1 year or \$60/3 years for individuals/families and \$125 for AMOs
- 1991 to 1999: individuals who donated specified amounts in addition to paying the membership fees were designed as Supporters, Patrons, or Benefactors
- 1997: (or earlier) \$95 for AMOs for up to 10 newsletters
- 2000: \$60 for AMOs for up to 10 newsletters
- 2000: the allocation of the membership fee is changed to 65% to the chapters, 25% to the branches, and 10% is retained by the national office
- 2006: 3-year \$150 AMO membership introduced

^{vii} **Pamphlets:**

- 1980: How to be an immersion parent
- 1982: Canadian Parents for French and You, What is French Immersion?
- by 1985: Canadian Parents for French and the Teacher, What is Early French immersion?, What is Core French?, What is Continuing Immersion?, What is Late Immersion?
- 1994: Why learn French?, You and CPF, Choosing a French Program
- 1996: French Immersion Q&A, Core French Q&A , Your Child, You and French,
- 2001: CPF and the Educator, Core French: An overview for parents, French Immersion: An overview for Parents, You and CPF (revised)
- 2002: French Immersion Programs: Math and English-Language Skills
- 2007: I want my child to be ...

^{ix} **Special Reports:**

- 1983 *Research Findings from French Immersion Programs Across Canada: A Parent's Guide* by Dr. James Cummins
- 1984 *Are Parents' Expectations of French Immersion Realistic?* by W.R. McGillivray
- 1988 *A Parent's View of French Immersion*
- 1988 *Summertime Fun in French*
- 1993 *Immersion and the New Core French: A Dynamic Partnership*
- 1996 *FAQs: French Immersion in Canada* by Dr. André Obadia
- 2000 *Using Research to Champion French-Second-Language Learning* by Dr. Nancy Halsall
- 2000 *FAQs: Core French in Canada* by Dr. Miles Turnbull

^x **National public speaking events:**

1985 to 1995: an annual non-competitive *Festival National d'art oratoire* showcases grade 7-12 winners of provincial *Concours d'art oratoire*. It is held in Ottawa each year except 1989, when it takes place in Charlottetown as part of the 125th anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference, and 1991 in Quebec City.

2003: first national *Concours d'art oratoire* is held at Glendon College in Toronto

2004: *Concours d'art oratoire* is held in Edmonton at Faculté Saint-Jean, the University of Alberta

2005: it moves to the University of Ottawa, which donates scholarships for the winners

2006: CPF signs a 5-year partnership agreement with the University of Ottawa

^{xi} **Vice Regal Patrons:**

1985 Governor General Jeanne Sauvé and Mr. Maruice Sauvé

1990 Governor General Ramon John Hnatyshyn and Mrs. Gerda Hnatyshyn

1995 Governor General Roméo LeBlanc and Mrs. Diana Fowler

2000 Governor General Adrienne Clarkson and Mr. John Ralston Saul

^{xii} **Memberships:**

31 March 1981: 3,210 "family members" and 12 AMOs

1 September 1990: 16,700 individual/family members plus 92 AMOs (each counted as 15)

16 November 2000: 11,005 individual/family memberships plus 67 AMOs (each counted as 15)

1 September 2005: 16,019 individual/family memberships plus 412 AMOs (each counted as 15)