



CPF *Canadian Parents for French*

British Columbia & Yukon | Colombie-Britannique et Yukon

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013 RAPPORT ANNUEL



PRESIDENT'S REPORT | RAPPORT DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

2012-2013 was an exciting forward-looking year for CPF BC & Yukon. It was marked by: stronger working partnerships, concerted Federal, Provincial, and School District advocacy efforts, sound fiscal management, and a focus to help our chapters *build from the ground up*.

Governance

Our Board continues to focus our strategic energies on 1) Advocating For FSL Program Access 2) Membership Development and 3) Partnership Development. I am happy to say that we – along with our Branch staff – have made significant progress on all three fronts.

2012-2013 also marked the completion of our three-year strategic plan. Our Board drafted the basis of a renewed three-year plan that the Branch staff have taken, built upon, and developed into a three-year operational plan.

Fiscal Oversight

The Branch remains in good financial health finishing the year with a modest operational budget surplus. The finance committee continues to meet regularly to review and approve quarterly financial reports in addition to taking part in an annual face-to-face budget design exercise with the Executive Director, the Office & Financial Administrator, and our bookkeeper.

Building Partnerships

The Branch has continued to forge closer working partnerships with a number of key Francophone and Educational associations.

At the Branch level we have worked with our partners at *la Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* to advance an appreciation that 300,000 British Columbians speak both French and English, making French one of the most commonly spoken languages in our province. We have also worked to facilitate closer working relations between Francophones and Francophiles at the community level.

Native and non-native French speakers are a powerful collective voice and will benefit greatly in developing a socio-linguistic space where French speakers can come together, learn from one and other, reinforce the French reality, appreciate the vibrant French culture, and work together to address common needs of a new *Francophonie*.

It has been inspiring to witness local Francophone associations in Prince Rupert, Chilliwack, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Victoria, and Nelson, to name a few, working with local CPF Chapters to co-host French socio-cultural events and in some instances even working together to lobby school boards for new or strengthened French

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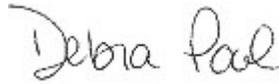
PRESIDENT'S REPORT | RAPPORT DE LA PRÉSIDENTE (suite)

immersion programs. This is the foundation of closer community-based collaborations and partnerships that will add to the vitality and continued development of the French language and culture here on Canada's most western edge.

Awards

The Branch maintained its tradition of supporting French Second Language teachers with the BC & Yukon Award for Future Teachers, of recognizing outstanding volunteers through the Bouquet de Merci, of by financially assisting chapters in their volunteer appreciation efforts.

I thank my fellow Directors, our hardworking staff, and the hundreds of chapter volunteers for everything you do to help bring the French language and culture to all young students.



Debra Pool
President 2007 - 2013
Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT | RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

If 2011-2012 was a year of change, 2012-2013 was a year of growth.

Advocacy – A Vision Moving Forward

Our authority to speak to the needs of Francophiles, the quality and accessibility of French second language (FSL) education, and the development of a *new Francophonie* has strengthened over the past year. The Branch made waves with our inaugural 2013 *State of French Second Language & A Roadmap Moving Forward* 32-page bilingual report. The CPF BC & Yukon *Roadmap Moving Forward* highlighted important program delivery successes, but also focused on three key areas for future improvement: *Improving program access, supporting students with learning disabilities, and addressing the inadequate French language proficiency amongst a majority of early Core French teachers.* This was the basis of our Federal, Provincial, and local school board advocacy work in the past year, and will continue to be in the years ahead. Our objective is to help build support amongst key stakeholders and help set the priorities moving forward on behalf of our 7,000 CPF BC & YK members, 47 chapters, and 360 active parent volunteers.

The full *Roadmap Moving Forward* report is available online: www.FSLinBC.ca.

Advocacy – Federal & Provincial

2012-2013 marked the 15th year of consecutive French immersion enrolment growth in BC. 47,857 – or 8.4% of the entire student population – is now registered in the incredibly popular second language program. Unfortunately BC's Core French enrolment continued its decline.

In 2003-2004 224,676 BC students were participating in Core French, by 2010-2011 that number had dropped to 187,964 – a 17% decline over seven years. According to a 2007 UBC study only 30% of elementary and middle school educators teaching Core French reported "being at ease conversing in French." We believe a lack of French language proficiency amongst early educators, coupled with no requirement for students to take French as a second language, has weakened the Core French program. This will be an area of advocacy focus for CPF BC & Yukon in the years ahead.

In March, Canadian Heritage Minister Hon. James Moore – a local product of the French

immersion program himself – announced a renewed commitment by the Federal Government to the promotion and development of Canada's two Official Languages. The multi-year multi-billion dollar *Roadmap To Official Languages 2013 – 2018* is a critical investment and will continue to support French second language educational programs across Canada. Canadian Parents for French was amongst the invited honourary guests at the Federal announcement, a key indication of our important pan-Canadian role in promoting and supporting our linguistic duality.

In April, the Francophone school board, *le Conseil scolaire francophone de la C.-B.*, passed a unique resolution that broadened their school's admission criteria to include families who are able to speak French, as well as students with a Francophone grandparent. The families who do not qualify as *ayants droit* will be subject to an interview with a selection committee to assess language proficiency and their desire to integrate into the francophone community. This decision is already having a noticeable impact. CPF chapter volunteers in Chilliwack and Tri-Cities, B.C., used this new admission policy as an argument for their school districts to create and or strengthen their local French immersion programs. Every school district in BC & Yukon receives core education funding per student. The threat of losing students, and funding, to the Francophone school board has already compelled school districts to increase their focus to attract and retain French immersion students. The full implications of this new policy are yet to be seen. CPF BC & Yukon will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Finally, CPF BC & Yukon representatives advanced recommendations identified in our CPF BC & Yukon *Roadmap Moving Forward* report with: Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Official Languages – Senator Maria Chaput, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language – Hon. Michael Chong, the Director of the Council of Ministers of Education - Jean Gilles Pelletier, the BC Minister of Education – Hon. Don McRae, the BC Ministry of Education Director of French Programs – Nicole Couture, and finally with the Yukon Deputy Minister of Education –

Valerie Royale. We also sent the bilingual report to 35 key Francophone partners, 20 school board chairs, and 30 educational stakeholders.

Every one of these key decision makers and stakeholders has praised the efforts of CPF BC & Yukon and a majority expressed their support. Our Branch office is now seeking to express a number of our recommendations into the BC FSL Action Plan – which is currently being re-drafted along with the Victoria-Ottawa bilateral agreement.

Advocacy – Chapter Lead

As of February 2013 parents in 12 BC communities were lobbying school trustees for the creation of new and or additional immersion programs including: Tofino, Nanaimo, Gibsons, Squamish, Vancouver, New Westminster, Chilliwack, Agassiz, Penticton, Vernon, Mackenzie, and Fernie. The demand by families is exceeding the capacity of many school districts to supply enough French immersion program space.

At the time of writing, parents were successful in creating new and or additional French immersion programs in Chilliwack, Trail, Vancouver, Whistler, and Squamish. We will be doubling down our efforts to support parents who aspire their children to be able to access quality French second language education.

Moreover, parents in Tri-Cities lobbied to save their well-respected French language coordinator, Sophie Bergeron. The position was amongst many being proposed for cuts given the district's \$12 million budget shortfall. The Branch and local Tri-Cities Chapter mounted a strong grassroots effort to save the position; we are still awaiting a final decision.

Membership & Chapter Development – Building From The Ground Up

The heart and soul of our organization has always been the incredible parent volunteers at the community level. Last year 27 Chapters hosted 71 local socio-cultural activities that reached 36,400 students in the public education system. Together they dedicated close to 34,000 volunteer hours. Our

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Branch office is primarily oriented towards meeting the needs and supporting these incredible local organizing activities.

To help strengthen and assist our local chapters we hosted three regional conferences: Prince George, Parksville, and Kelowna. Over 60 delegates attended the three weekend conferences. The networking, workshops, and presentations have been incredible tools in helping our chapter volunteers build their respective chapters.

In February Kirsty Peterson lead a pilot "Membership Retention" campaign that aimed to contact all lapsed CPF Members.

Operations – An Innovative, Strategic, and Dynamic Branch Office

2011-2012 saw a number of core staff move-on to explore new opportunities. Our new staff members Heather Bartlett – Project Coordinator, Benjamin Wong – Office & Financial Administrator, and Kirsty Peterson – Outreach Officer, have proven to be an exceptional, collaborative, goal-oriented, and hardworking group. They never cease to impress with their desire to grow, their dedication to advance and improve our organization, and their ability to support our chapters, our members, and

our volunteers. It has been an absolute pleasure working with this group day in and day out.

Summary

CPF BC & Yukon commands great respect amongst our partners, stakeholders, and key decision makers for our capacity to promote and create French social, cultural, and educational opportunities for young students in small towns and big cities.

This past year was marked by a sense of renewal, energy, and strategic focus within the organization, *building from the ground up.*

I thank the dedicated Branch Board of Directors, our hard working staff, and the hundreds of Chapter volunteers for their contributions to help us bring quality and accessible French second language opportunities to all young students in British Columbia and the Yukon.



Glyn Lewis
Executive Director
Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Financial Position As at March 31, 2013

	General Fund	Socio-Cultural Fund	Special Purpose Fund	Total March 31, 2013	Total March 31, 2012 (Note 2)	Total April 1, 2011 (Note 2)
ASSETS						
CURRENT ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 65,457	\$ 61,274	\$ 145,594	\$ 273,325	\$ 328,151	\$ 323,573
Accounts receivable	19,004	–	–	19,004	11,061	24,000
Grants receivable	15,183	–	–	15,183	15,188	15,188
Due from related parties (Note 3)	9,886	–	–	9,886	7,174	8,530
Cash and cash equivalents	3,874	–	–	3,874	5,796	7,026
	\$ 113,404	\$ 61,274	\$ 145,594	\$ 321,272	\$ 367,370	\$ 378,317
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES						
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 7,705	\$ –	\$ –	\$ 7,705	\$ 9,338	\$ 23,494
Due to related parties (Note 5)	60,311	–	–	60,311	59,886	64,804
Deferred contributions (Note 4)	–	61,274	–	61,274	66,361	74,356
	68,016	61,274	–	129,290	135,585	\$ 162,654
FUND BALANCES						
Unrestricted	\$ 45,388	\$ –	\$ –	\$ 45,388	\$ 88,483	\$ 78,361
Internally restricted (Schedule 2)	–	–	146,594	146,302	143,302	137,302
	45,388	–	146,594	231,785	231,785	215,663
	\$ 113,404	\$ 61,274	\$ 145,594	\$ 321,272	\$ 367,370	\$ 378,317

Excerpted from audited statements prepared by The Raber Mattuck Group. (Copies of audited statements are available upon request.)

NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT | RAPPORT DU COMITÉ DES CANDIDATURES

Dear Chapter Members,
The 2012 - 2013 Nominations Committee (NC), CPF BC & Yukon Board Directors, Patti Holm and Daphne Lu, along with two Chapter Presidents, Dorte Kargut (Richmond) and Angela Pinette (Kamloops) had the opportunity to interview candidates for nomination to the CPF BC & Yukon Board on July 16, 2013 by teleconference.

We are pleased to report the results of the Nominations Committee's efforts to prepare a slate of candidates for the 2013 Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon Board of Directors elections.

The Nominations Committee recommends the following nominations to the CPF BC & Yukon Board:

For a (first) two-year term:

Greer Cummings – Vancouver Island
(Parksville / Qualicum)

Rebecca Beuschel – Cariboo (Quesnel)

For a (second) two-year term:

Diane Tijman [Current Director] –
Metro Vancouver (Richmond)

The following members remain on the Board for a 2nd year:

Patti Holm – Thompson Okanagan (Kamloops)
– second year, second term

Daphne Lu [Youth Director] –
Metro Vancouver (Vancouver)
– second year, second term

The following Directors have submitted their resignations from the CPF BC & Yukon Board effective October 3, 2013: **Khue-Tu Nguyen** (Youth Director), **Victoria Vaseleniuck** (Vice President), **Debra Pool** (President).

Khue-Tu Nguyen has participated actively with Canadian Parents for French for several years as a Concours d'arts oratoire National winner, an office volunteer, a paid summer student and one year as a BC & Yukon Board Youth Director. Thank you to Khue-Tu for all she has contributed to CPF.

Victoria Vaseleniuck (Vice President), has worked assiduously for Canadian Parents for French in Saskatchewan, in her Nelson Chapter, and on the Board of Directors of the BC & Yukon Chapter for more than 20 years. Victoria has demonstrated judicious work as Chair of the Finance Committee as well as Vice President for the past several years. As a previous Bouquet de Merci recipient, Victoria has been recognized for the depth and breadth of work she has done to further the mandate of CPF. Victoria has continued this exemplary dedication and commitment during the 9 years she has spent on the CPF BC & Yukon Board. A huge thanks to you, Victoria!

Finally, we wish a very grateful thank you to retiring president, Debra Pool, who has given so many hours and much expertise to the Board over the past 6 years.

Debra has been very active in Canadian Parents for French for close to 17 years of combined service to her chapter and on the BC-Yukon Board. Her service to CPF is very much appreciated. Debra has also served on the Board of the BC Family French Camp for 17 years. In her chapter, Debra successfully averted a planned cap to early French immersion and initiated late French immersion in her district. Debra has tirelessly supported inclusion of all students in French immersion programs.

Merci mille fois, Khue-Tu Nguyen, Debra Pool, and Victoria Vaseleniuck for all you have done for Canadian Parents for French!

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Holm (Nominations Committee Chair)
Daphne Lu
Board Directors, Nominations Committee

ELECTIONS | ÉLECTIONS

For a (first) two-year term:
GREER CUMMINGS
Vancouver Island
(Parksville / Qualicum)

Born in Ottawa 1973, Greer spent the early part of her life immersed in Canada's rich capital culture. She moved west with her Montreal born parents in 1987, planting the seeds of her interest in bridging and blending the cultural heritages of eastern and western Canada. Her

high school and university experiences afforded numerous opportunities to develop cross-cultural understanding. Greer has worked as a financial advisor for the last 10 years, having spent much of her career in the financial services industry, focused primarily on investments and holistic financial planning. She is also a certified yoga instructor, and enjoys helping others reconnect with their inner resources to assist them in finding steadiness and ease along their journey. Greer was meaningfully involved with the founding of the Oceanside Montessori School in Parksville/Qualicum in 2008-10 and has served as Oceanside CPF chapter president (she prefers co-chair, as it has most certainly been a team effort) from 2010-13. She hopes that her experience and passion for evolving the role of immersion programs assist in effecting progressive policy and action in the ongoing efforts to enhance the educational experiences of Canada's youth as ambassadors of our future.


REBECCA BEUSCHEL
Cariboo (Quesnel)

I grew up in Melbourne, Australia in a large family (I am the 7th of 9 children). I studied and completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree at Melbourne University and then went on to focus on teaching English as a second language. In 1995, I travelled to Canada alone to see what a cold winter was really

like! In 1996, I arrived at Becker's Lodge at Bowron Lake, BC (about 120kms East of Quesnel) to spend my last 3 months waitressing and enjoying the scenery, before leaving Canada. There I met my soon-to-be-husband (who had immigrated from Germany) and returned to Australia in 1997 to marry him and pack up my things for a life in the Northern Hemisphere. We decided to stay in the Quesnel area and now have 3 children who are 13, 11 and 9 years old. I work as a Literacy Outreach Coordinator for Literacy Quesnel Society, as well as holding various contracts as a trainer for literacy and parenting facilitation courses. I live with my family just outside of Quesnel on a 5 acre hobby farm – we have chickens, turkeys, sheep and other critters to keep us entertained year round! Our 3 children (2 boys and 1 girl), all play hockey in the winter and soccer in the spring. My hobbies include running around after and with the kids, and I enjoy walking, reading, baking and playing a game from Germany with my husband called "Carcassonne". We enrolled our children in French Immersion in Kindergarten to give them opportunities to benefit from learning another language.

AWARD COMMITTEE REPORT | RAPPORT DU COMITÉ DES PRIX

To: CPF Board of Directors
 From: Patti Holm, Daphne Lu
 RE: Award Report

Applications Received and Reviewed

Three candidates completed the application process. Following the deadline, the Award Committee ranked the applications against the application evaluation criteria. All three were excellent candidates; one candidate had the university professional year to complete and could be ready to re-apply for the Award in a year. Both successful candidates for 2013 fulfill all of the Award criteria and it is anticipated that both will become valuable teaching members in BC/Yukon communities.

Recommendations

1. The 2013 Award be presented to **Alyshia Kitchen** and to **Natasha Viens**, \$2,000 per Award.
2. Letters be sent to the two applicants advising of their status with the Award.
3. Awards to be released upon written confirmation from the BC/Yukon School where the successful applicant is employed as a French Immersion or Core French teacher or teacher on call within two years.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Holm
Daphne Lu
Board Directors

Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon branch wishes to thank the following for their support:



Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien



Ministry of Education

Service Canada

Young Canada Works/Jeunesse Canada au Travail

Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique/School District #93

BC Family French Camp

Canadian Club of Vancouver/Le Cercle Canadien de Vancouver

Canadian Maple Delights – Gastown, Canoe Island French camp, Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver, Consulat général de France à Vancouver, Educacentre College, Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique, French Bestsellers, L'Express du Pacifique, National Film Board of Canada /Office national du film du Canada, Radio-Canada Colombie-Britannique, Simon Fraser University (BAFF/OFFA), Simon Fraser University Surrey, Société de Développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique, Théâtre la Seizième, University of Alberta (Campus St-Jean), UBC (Centre for International Communication), University of Ottawa, Vancouver international Children's Festival

Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon Branch wishes to thank all our Chapter volunteers for their outstanding work throughout the year.

We particularly wish to thank the following CPF - BC & Yukon volunteers for their leadership in helping to launch, revive, or re-build their chapters: Richmond, Dorte Kargut, Tofino, Denise Aujila

Additional thanks to the following individuals and organisations for their hard work with, or on behalf of, CPF:

Susan Albion, Dona Friesen, Charlene Dobie, Dorte Kargut, Colin Redford, Robert Routhon, Canadian Club of Vancouver, Dr. Real Roy, Mylene Letellier, Hon James Moore, Charlene Dobie, Surrey Chapter, La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique