



## CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH Joins “*Marathon de Lecture*” Initiative in Support of UNICEF Canada

- *The Marathon de Lecture is a joint initiative of the Embassy of France in Canada, the Canadian Association of Immersion Professionals (ACPI), the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) and Canadian Parents for French.*

**Ottawa, January 18, 2020** — Canadian Parents for French is joining other French second language learning organizations to launch the *Marathon de Lecture* (French Reading Marathon), a fundraising project looking to make a social impact while promoting the pleasure of reading in French among young Canadians.

CPF is inviting parents, tutors, teachers and community group organizers across its network to encourage youth to join the *Marathon de lecture*. Until the end of the school year, FSL students can read graphic novels and comics available on a digital platform free of charge through the Culturethèque website, coordinated by the Embassy of France in Canada. Students can invite family and friends to sponsor their reading efforts, by donating funds to the UNICEF Canada’s “Back to school better” program, which supports children’s access to education in Burkina Faso.

For teachers and group organizers with students participating in the Marathon, pedagogical resources that link to the graphic novels and comics offer excellent learning tools designed and written specifically for French second language students, to strengthen their reading skills and encourage the joy of reading in French.

“We are always looking at new ways of offering French learning experiences to students. CPF is proud to support the *Marathon de lecture* initiative, which helps motivate students to read, improves their access to quality French reading materials, and even more importantly, brings awareness to an important social issue. Funds raised will purchase bicycles, radios and other supplies for students to attend school,” said Nicole Thibault, Executive Director, CPF National.

Registration for the French reading project is now open. Visit the Culturethèque website for more information or to register at: [www.culturetheque.com/CA/marathondelecture-teacher.aspx](http://www.culturetheque.com/CA/marathondelecture-teacher.aspx). The fundraising component in support of UNICEF Canada is an optional aspect of the initiative.

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*Canadian Parents for French is a nationwide, research-informed, volunteer organization that represents 25,000 members across Canada and champions the opportunity to learn and use French for all those who call Canada home.*

### **For more information, please contact:**

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