



Media Release

FRENCH IMMERSION GRADUATE ELECTED AS CPF-SK'S YOUNGEST PRESIDENT

Saskatoon, June 20 – Every year, the Board of Directors, staff, and chapter representatives of Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan (CPF-SK) gather in Saskatoon to celebrate French as a Second-Language (FSL) and each other.

This year during the Chapter Planning Meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 11, there was much cause for celebration.

Suzanne Rollo, the outgoing board president was pleased to announce that her successor would be Natasha Vetter, who has been an integral part of CPF-SK for several years.

At 23 years of age, she is the youngest to take this post, and the first president of CPF-SK who is a graduate of French immersion. She has been learning and using the language since a very young age, and her passion for FSL and the organization has only continued to grow. She now follows Lisa Marie Perkins, the CPF National President, who is also the first French immersion graduate in that position as well.

Vetter first became involved with CPF-SK in August 2005 as the organization's first Youth Advisory Director. This is a position in which she served until June 2008 when she became Secretary/Treasurer on the Board of Directors.

She said she is looking forward to the learning process that will come with her new responsibilities.

"I am humbled by this new position, for sure," said Vetter. "It will definitely be a learning curve, but I feel prepared. I feel flattered to follow in Suzanne Rollo's footsteps. She has done a lot of positive work for CPF-SK and I'm happy she will be acting as Past-President. It's a new experience, but I am confident, along with the support of the Board of Directors, that we will continue to work together to promote CPF-SK's vision."

Also at this meeting, CPF-SK's newest chapter was given the seal of approval by the CPF-SK Board of Directors. Former Board Director Monique Myers of Wawota left her position last June with the goal of fostering volunteers and members in her region to create a chapter. She was very successful in this endeavour, hosting information meetings with the guidance of CPF-SK's Executive Director, Karen Pozniak.

Myers is a core French teacher with a deep passion for the language. So far, there are a total of 11 members from Wawota and she has high hopes that the number of members and awareness of FSL will just keep on growing.

She, along with other chapter representatives from across the province, shared an abundance of ideas for upcoming events and fundraisers during the chapter report section of the Chapter Planning Meeting.

The Volunteer of the Year Award for 2011 was awarded to the President of the CPF Lloydminster Chapter, Nadine Benning. Her nominators said that she "is a dedicated chapter president that goes above and beyond the expected volunteer duties to promote French-language education in Lloydminster." She was a huge part of several extracurricular activities including Carnavale at a local school, folk dance lessons and even a French movie evening at the local theatre. Benning is also working at establishing an adult French club as a method to help retain French immersion teachers in the city. She has been an active member of the CPF-Lloydminster chapter for a number of years, and well deserving of the recognition.

Another highlight of the day was the afternoon workshop presented by Louise Pelletier-Robichaud, an Educational Consultant with the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT). The session, entitled *Leadership for Successful FSL Programs: Building Dialogue Within Your Local School Community*, was very well received by those in attendance. She presented six key leadership strategies for teachers, administrators and parents alike, which included recruiting and retaining teachers, supporting professional growth, organizing effective programs, maximizing learning, assessments for learning, and promoting success for all learners. Pelletier-Robichaud engaged the audience with an interactive discussion of these topics and her wonderful sense of humour and personable nature.

Attendees at the Chapter Planning Meeting departed at the end of the day feeling energized, motivated and filled with ideas to help enrich their communities with even more FSL opportunities.

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) is the national network of volunteers who value French as an integral part of Canada and are dedicated to the promotion, creation and support of effective French-Second-Language (FSL) learning opportunities for youth in Canada.

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