

## Win fabulous prizes! For your family or your chapter!



CPF Branches have new membership recruitment materials (TV, radio, print) to encourage people to join CPF for answers and support as their children discover French. Each Branch, Chapter and current member has the opportunity to participate in this membership drive until July 2002. This drive is aimed at increasing the number of new and renewing CPF members.

Throughout this newsletter, you will find examples of the campaign posters and print public service announcements. You may have already seen the TV ad. It was run during the Olympics on CBC and affiliated TV stations across Saskatchewan in alternation with our CPF Saskatchewan French Immersion ad. It will also run during the **2002 Canadian Sport Awards** night on March 27th. The radio version is also playing in some communities thanks to the work our Chapter

volunteers have done to obtain free play time. We have had the posters printed with CPF Saskatchewan's phone numbers, and website. They have been distributed to schools across the province. We encourage you to contact the office for extra copies of these materials.

### **CPF National are offering the following prize draws: INDIVIDUAL MEMBER RECRUITING THE MOST NEW MEMBERS**

\* Win a trip for four to Montreal!

### **GENERAL DRAWS FOR RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS**

\* Win family libraries of French books and CDs, French lessons and more!

\* All CPF members recruiting at least one other new member will be entered into a random draw!

### **FOR NEW AND RENEWING CPF MEMBERS!**

\* Win family libraries of French books and CDs! All new and renewing CPF Members joining during the campaign period will be entered into random prize draws.

### **CPF BRANCH WITH HIGHEST RENEWAL LEVEL**

\* Win a free sponsored delegate to the CPF 25th Anniversary Conference to be held in Ottawa in October 2002!

### **CPF CHAPTER RECRUITING MOST NEW MEMBERS**

\* Win a free sponsored delegate to the CPF 25th Anniversary Conference to be held in Ottawa in October 2002!

### **CPF CHAPTER WITH HIGHEST RENEWAL RATE**

\* Win a free sponsored delegate to the CPF 25th Anniversary Conference to be held in Ottawa in October 2002

*Contests runs until June 30, 2002. Where there is a tie, a random draw will be held. CPF staff are not eligible for prizes.*

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# Teacher Bursary

Marie France Boucher was awarded the *Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan Teacher Bursary* for 2000 - 2001. Ms. Boucher teaches French Immersion Grades 2/3 for the Regina Public School Board. This bursary enabled Marie to attend the Sixth National Institute of the Canadian Association of French Immersion Teachers held in July in Montreal. This year's theme pertained to the Integration of Reading, Writing and Culture in immersion teaching.



Ms. Boucher summarizes her experience in one word: emotion. She believes that passionate emotions are essential for learning. She considers teaching a privilege and a responsibility. She says, "We must help the students to become interested in reading, in writing and in the French culture. We not only learn to read and to write but we learn to read and to write in order to understand our world."

Ms. Boucher believes words have emotions, power, and music. They also make sense. Reading must therefore be critical and must push the individual to reflect. She says, "Writing in all its entity must favour communication. The philosopher Freire explains the students' behavior with respect to the written word. 'The kids should come full of spontaneity - with their feelings, with their questions, with their risk to create, getting their own words 'into their own hands' in order to do beautiful things with them.'"

Ms. Boucher felt that meeting and having exchanges with professors, facilitators, editors, authors, illustrators and other immersion educators was an enriching and emotional moment in her professional development. She has since been able to share her knowledge and enthusiasm by offering her colleagues a workshop based on her experiences.

Ms. Boucher says, "I would like to thank C.P.F. for providing me with an opportunity to participate in such an enriching activity. I am returning to my classroom filled with ideas and enthusiasm. Merci!"

## Concours

### *Dates to Remember*

**March 29, 2002**

Divisional finals should be held by this date

**April 13, 2002**

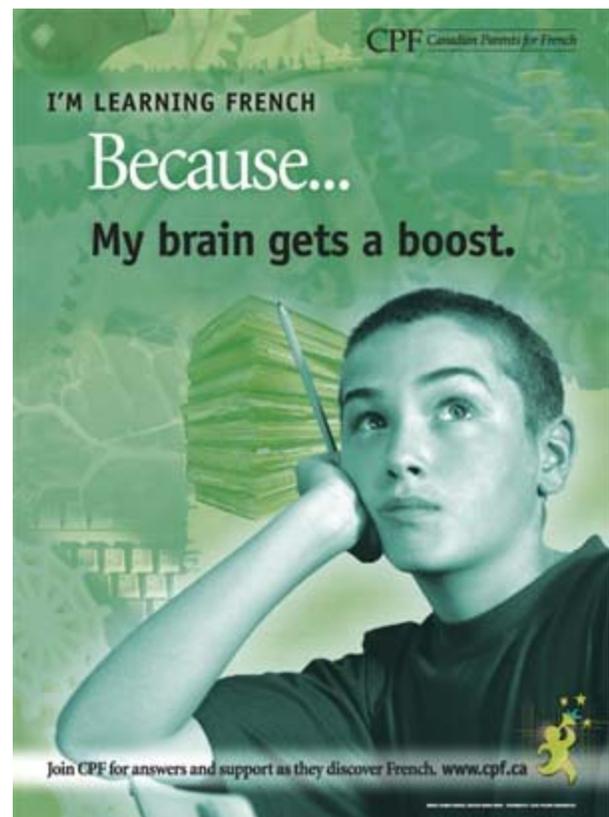
Grades 4 - 8 Regional finals.

CPF Prince Albert is hosting the Northern finals.

CPF Yorkton is hosting the Southern finals.

**May 4, 2002**

Grade 9-12 Provincial finals in Saskatoon.



# President's Report

Since the annual general meeting in June 2001, the Branch Board has been busy. We met with the National Board on its western tour in August and discussed issues particular to Saskatchewan: e.g. rural depopulation, falling enrolments, quality of teaching, the fate of the Language Institute at the University of Regina, our school system, and access to French immersion and core French. We were lucky enough to be among the first to view the new promotional materials—posters and videos—that the National has prepared for our use.

Unfortunately, by late September, the Board came very close to closing the office because of lack of funds. A series of events, outside of our control, resulted in delays in receiving an instalment of funding from the government. Although we managed to keep the office running, we were unable to have a meeting with the Chapter presidents or a launch of the second State of FSL report as we had wished to do. Several other projects were also delayed. We are now trying to catch up. A great thanks to the PEI Branch of CPF who lent us money to keep our doors open during a difficult time.

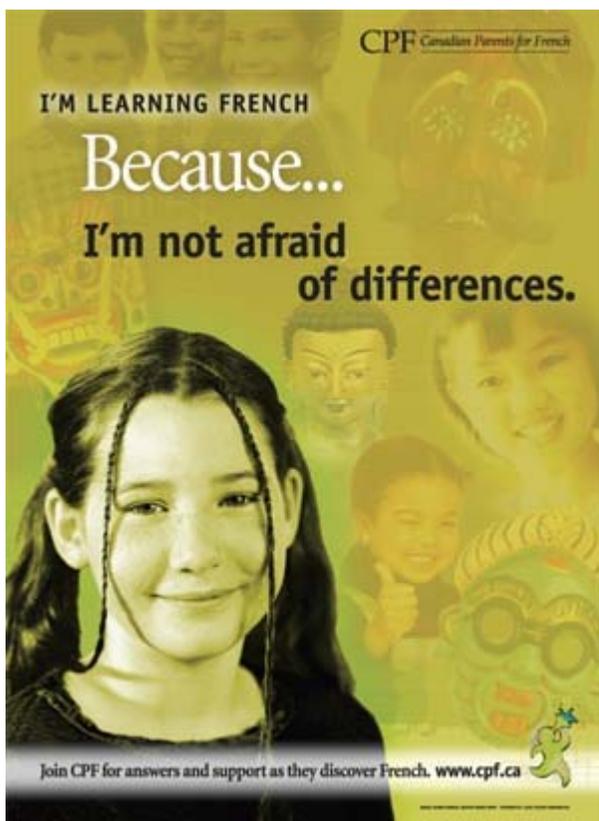
In November, the Board sent our Secretary/Treasurer, Rose-Marie Bouvier, and our Executive Director to the CPF National Annual General Meeting in Calgary where they were briefed about things that have been happening at Canadian Heritage that have a direct impact on our funding agreements, budget development and reporting procedures. CPF at all its levels had to complete, by the middle of December, a very lengthy and comprehensive report of our activities for the period April 1, 1998 to March 31, 2002 - the date when our current funding agreement with Canadian Heritage expires. The National organization and each Branch has since had to submit detailed Action Plans with project budgets for a new two year agreement that will begin April 1, 2002. This is all part of Canadian Heritage's effort to have complete information in order to respond to requests for funding in a responsible way.

We are very grateful to all of you who helped us gather the Report information and who contributed to the development of the Action Plan by completing the survey/evaluation of our activities. Our staff deserve a special Thank You for the extraordinary efforts they made to put together the 700 plus page Branch report, the new Action Plan and the new funding proposal.

One of the staff members who helped with this was Lindsay Matheson, our newly hired Chapter Development Officer. She will be working closely with all our chapters across Saskatchewan but making particular efforts to do chapter revitalization in Saskatoon. Two students from the University of Regina's Baccalaureate en éducation program, Kara Pilon and Mathew Conley, are assisting chapters in the southern half of the province with youth programs and information events.

The Branch Board is now busy revising our bylaws and trying to recruit new Directors to join the Board. I know how busy we all are but I would hope some of you would take some time to think about this. We need people with vision and energy to plan for the future. We would love to hear from you.

Louise Bray, President  
Board of Directors, CPF - Saskatchewan



# New Office

Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan  
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S7K 2B1



Phone: (306) 244-6151  
Toll Free outside of Saskatoon: 1-800-561-6151  
Fax: (306) 244-8872

The office moved into the new premises during the third week of July this past summer. We are now located on Second Avenue North, in the Macro Building. We are 3 doors north of the Bank of Montreal on 22nd Street and 2nd Avenue. The space isn't as large as the old School Board building, but it is bright with windows in both of the rooms and we now have the convenience of air conditioning in the summer. The Branch has accumulated quite a number of files since its inception, and we are now in the process of archiving those files. Our office hours are still 9 am to 5 pm and if you find yourself in the neighbourhood, please drop by!

## Congratulations!

Two pupils will represent the *North of the Saskatchewan* in the *Grande Finale internationale of La Dictée P.G.L.* that Radio-Canada will broadcast next June.

*Chantal Mougeot*, from the *Valois School*, in *Prince Albert*, has distinguished herself in the *French Category* while *Emma Thorpe*, from the *Saskatoon French School*, took first place in the *French Immersion Category*. The two were declared Regional Champions at the Regional Finals held last March 9 at the *Saskatoon French School*, where 10 participants tested their knowledge of French.

*Jessica Stuart*, a Grade 7 *Core French* student at *Lawson Heights School in Saskatoon*, won the poster contest for *French Immersion and Core French Week 2002, Two Languages, twice as good!/La Semaine de l'immersion française et du français de base 2002, Deux langues, deux fois mieux!* Jessica's teacher is, *Tammy Boychuk*. The poster is distributed by the Official Minority Language Office, Saskatchewan Education who partner with Canadian Parents for French, the Saskatchewan Association of Teachers of French, the Baccalaureate en éducation program at the University of Regina, School Divisions and Students to celebrate French Immersion and Core French week.

## Rendezvous 2002

Participants from across the province, including, Regina, Estevan, Lloydminster, North Battleford, Swift Current, and Moose Jaw, came together on March 1-2, at the Language Institute in Regina for Rendezvous 2002. The kids enjoyed workshops throughout the day, including activities at Laser Quest and the Regina Racquet & Fitness Club. **Thank you** to everyone who helped out by driving and staying to chaperone.



# Chapter Reports

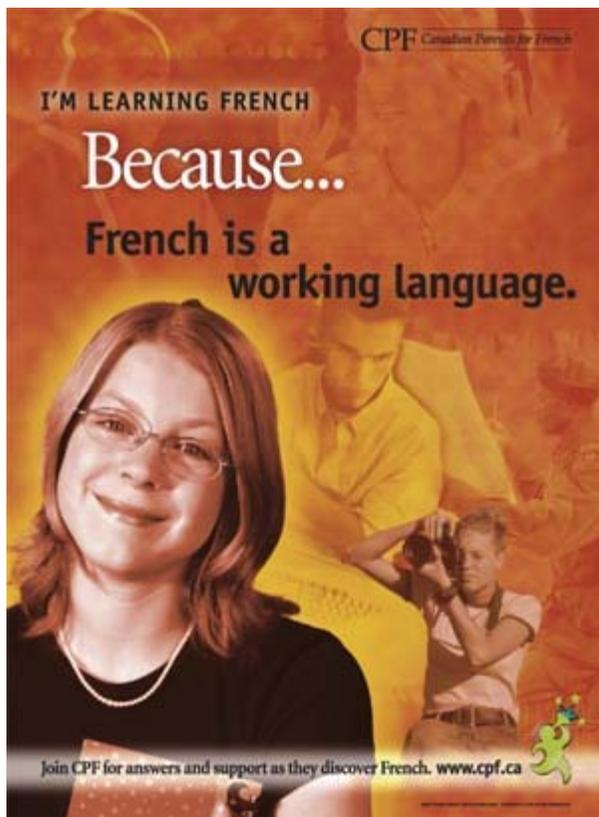
## **The Battlefords**

On November 26 an after school art activity was held. Two exchange students from Quebec and a local High School student facilitated the event. Thirteen participants practiced their French while they enjoyed collage and printmaking activities!

On January 26th, twenty-four children attended our Mini Rendez-vous. It was a great day and we would like to thank the two monitors, Carla Ramage and Christian Berard, for the extra efforts they made to manage a much larger than expected group.

## **Estevan**

We have been delighted with the reponse we have had from our local newspaper and radio station to our request to run the membership campaign materials. We are now looking forward to the Mini Rendez-vous we will be hosting on March 16.



## **Lloydminster**

A very successful fundraiser was held in the fall and the Chapter was able to donate the proceeds to two local schools. Holy Rosary High School library received funds for the purchase of French books. École St Thomas was the recipient of both a DVD player for showing French movies, and Sports Jerseys. Nicole Beausoleil has received a CPF scholarship, which will go towards continuing studies. The Chapter has had great success using the CPF Public Service Announcement. A local FM radio station broadcasted the advertisement frequently before Christmas and will continue in the New Year. We are also looking forward to our Mini Rendez-vous on March 23, 2002.

## **Melville**

We were really pleased that our school division agreed to transport our Grade 11 and 12 students to the Foire des carrières in Regina in October. Our own Mini Rendez-vous on January 12 was so successful that we are hoping to have another one on April 20th. We were also delighted to have five new families attend the kindergarten information night we hosted March 7th.

## **Moose Jaw**

The Chapter held a successful Mini Rendez-vous on February 16. We invited 4 year olds to participate for a half-day in hopes of stimulating interest in registering for French Immersion Kindergarten. Our pre-school 'Bonjour House' continues to be a major preoccupation of the chapter.

## **Nipawin**

The Chapter has been hard at work with our various activities. These include a fundraising hot dog sale, a Mini Rendez-vous on March 2 and a French Language Award at the music festival.

## **Prince Albert**

In addition to offering an after school 'Read with Me' program we have been busy with lots of special events. An exciting Mini Rendez-vous was held in November with 35 participants. This was followed by a Chapter operated Micro Rendez-vous in January for younger students. We also had a busy French Immersion and Core French week including a luncheon for French Second language teachers. We are now looking forward to hosting the Grade 4-8 Northern Concours d'art oratoire final on April 13th. Of course, we also hope that the team of students who we have encouraged to apply for *Les Jeux de la francophonie* in August will be successful.

## **Yorkton**

The French Immersion Drama class from the Yorkton Regional High School presented a play in early January. The Chapter supported the event and served sugar pie. On February 2, we held a Mini Rendez-vous which attracted 21 children. We are now working hard to get ready for the Concours d'art oratoire Southern Finals for Grade 4-8 children. We have also been busy making sure that the membership campaign posters are up in all of the schools in the city where French is taught.



## What's On-Line

*Featuring Employment Opportunities*

<http://jb-ge.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/>

<http://www.skillnet.ca/>

<http://www.careerowl.ca/jobseekers.asp>

<http://www.interjob.com>

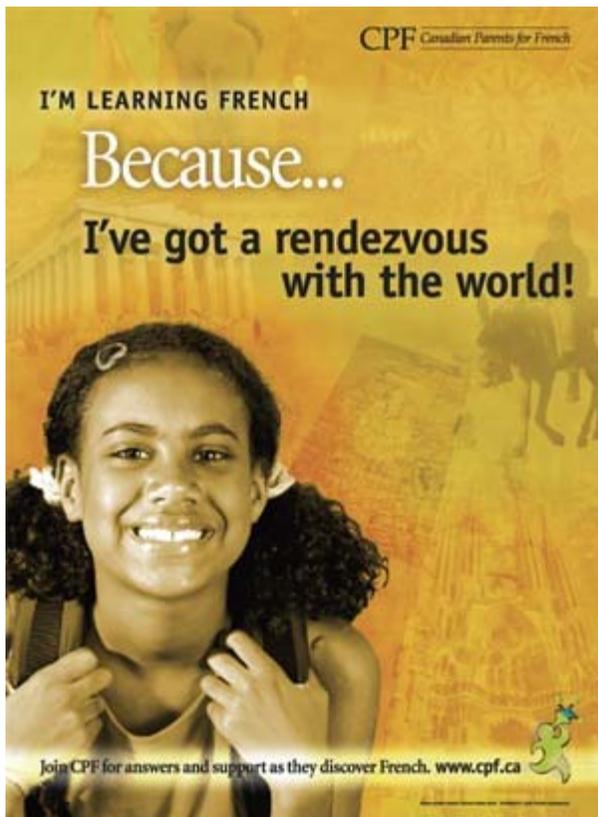
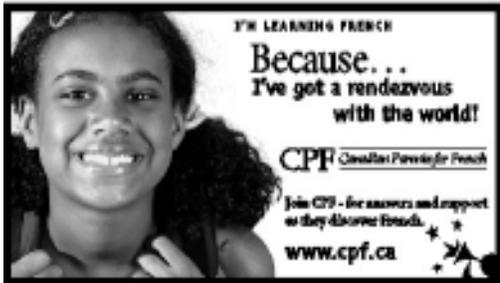
<http://www.canadiancareers.com/>

<http://www.canadajobsearch.com/careerspecific.htm>

<http://www.careers.org/regional.html>

<http://www.ijive.com/canada/students.htm>

<http://home.netinc.ca/~jtraeger/careers.htm>



## Video Exchange

*Canadian Parents for French - PEI is looking for French Immersion or Core French classrooms interested in doing a video exchange.*

### Enriching learning experiences

For students and teachers unable to participate in an exchange but interested in experiencing another culture, discovering their country and practicing their French second language skills, the Video Exchange Program provides definite benefits. The program is a venture of Canadian Parents for French - PEI, part of a national network of volunteers creating and promoting opportunities for young Canadians to learn and use French as a second language.

### Objectives

The video Exchange Program gives your students the opportunity to:

- ♦ develop a greater awareness and deeper appreciation of the similarities and differences which exist between different regions of the country
- ♦ take pride in their own language and cultural heritage
- ♦ improve proficiency in a second language
- ♦ use their second language communication skills in a meaningful way beyond the classroom
- ♦ interact with other students studying a second language

### How does the program work?

Teachers of students in Grade 7-9 studying Core French or French Immersion may register with CPF-PEI. You and your students will prepare a 20 minute video presentation in French. The production gives you a chance to create a real-life situation for your students where they need to use the French they are learning in a meaningful way as they communicate with their twinned class.

# French for the Future

His Excellency John Ralston Saul, C.C. was in Saskatoon on March 11 and 12 to promote French for the Future. This event will be taking place for the first time in Saskatchewan on April 16 2002. Grade 11 and 12 Francophone and Immersion students from Saskatoon will have the opportunity to attend. They will join more than three thousand students from nine cities across Canada for a day of workshops, presentations and a nation wide satellite hook-up to discuss French and its importance for their future.

His Excellency was the founder of this initiative. Three hundred students in Saskatoon were able to talk to him about the event at a rally. Saul spoke of stability in the number of French language high school graduates, but also of the need to invest in bilingualism at the university level.



## Calendar of Events - 2002

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>March</b>   | <b>16</b> Mini Rendez-vous in Estevan<br><b>18</b> French for Parents Language Classes - Session II begins in Saskatoon.<br><b>23</b> Mini Rendez-vous in Lloydminster<br><b>29</b> Divisional Finals for <b>Concours d'art oratoire</b> will be completed   |
| <b>April</b>   | <b>13</b> Regional Finals for <b>Concours d'art oratoire, Grades 4 - 8</b><br><b>Northern - Prince Albert, Southern - Yorkton</b><br><b>16</b> French for the Future in Saskatoon – one of a series of simultaneous French language conferences offered to Immersion and Francophone<br><b>20</b> Mini Rendez-vous - <b>Melville</b> |
| <b>May</b>     | <b>4</b> Provincial Finals for <b>Concours d'art oratoire, Grades 9 - 12, Saskatoon, University of Saskatchewan</b>  |
| <b>June</b>    | <b>8</b> <b>Annual General Meeting</b> of CPF Saskatchewan in Saskatoon  |
| <b>July</b>    | Travelling <b>Fête du Soleil</b> day camps for French Immersion students in grades 1-5<br><b>15-19</b> <b>Fête du Soleil</b> in Moose Jaw<br><b>22-26</b> <b>Fête du Soleil</b> in Regina  |
| <b>August</b>  | <b>1-5</b> <b>Jeux de la Francophonie</b> - Rivière du Loup<br><b>5-17</b> <b>Residential Camps</b> for French Immersion students and for Core French students ages 9-15 – Arlington Beach, Last Mountain Lake   |
| <b>October</b> | <b>18-20</b> <b>National CPF Conference</b> in Ottawa 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CPF!   |

# Career Faire

The “Foire des carrières” (Career Faire) was held at the Language Institute, U of R, on October 25 and 26th. More than 225 immersion students from Yorkton, Melville, Regina, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, North Battleford and Prince Albert took part in the “Immersion” day on the 25th. Francophone school students attended on the 26th.

This grand effort was due to the collaboration of various associations and spearheaded by Guichet unique: the agency within the Assemblée communautaire francosaskoise which provides employment services to the francophone community. The other organizations which contributed directly were the Language Institute at the

attended practical workshops that included Communications, Entrepreneurship, Aeronautics, Cultural Careers and Resume Writing. Also available were employees from Career Employment Services who helped students work on their resumes and look for career-related sites on the Internet.



*Cutting the ribbon to officially start the career fair: Catheline d’Auteuil (Master of Ceremonies,) Rose-Marie Bouvier (on behalf of CPF), Mme Jennie Baudais (president of l’Assemblée communautaire francosaskoise, Florent Bilodeau (director of OCAF (l’Office de coordination des affaires francophones), Ronald Labreque (director of Guichet unique).*



University of Regina, Human Resources Development Canada, Official Minority Language Office of Saskatchewan Education, Department of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training, Canadian Parents for French - SK, Division scolaire francophone #310, Conseil de la coopération de la Saskatchewan, Service francosaskoise formation aux adultes and Radio-Canada.

The opening ceremonies occurred on Thursday (for the Immersion students) while on Friday the Francophone students enjoyed a “virtual visit” from astronaut Chris Hadfield by teleconference. The all-day events provided the students with the opportunity to visit 26 exhibitors representing various universities, technical institutes, colleges, government agencies, entrepreneurs, youth programs and other employers. Participants also

Dear CPF,

Thank you very much for organizing our participation in the Career Faire. Before going, we didn’t know the career choices that we had because of our bilingual diplomas. We spoke to a lot of people at the Fair. They gave us lots of suggestions and ideas for our futures. The workshops were very informative and interesting. The information that we received will help us choose a post-secondary institution. We really enjoyed participating in the Fair.

Our thanks for all your help.

The Grade 11 and 12 classes  
Sacred Heart School, Yorkton

# Report Reveals need for FSL Program Examination

CPF - Saskatchewan staff spent the better part of the two months prior to the Christmas break preparing an evaluation report on our operations throughout Saskatchewan for the period April 1998 to March 2002 for our major funder - the Department of Canadian Heritage. In order to assess the effectiveness of some of our programs, we also examined background issues that influence the implementation of French Second Language programs in this province. What we discovered has convinced us that educational leaders in Saskatchewan must begin immediately to address underlying demographic and administrative problems that are currently affecting FSL programs but are likely to have an even greater impact as time goes by.

Of particular to concern to us is the fact that the school age population of non-aboriginal children in Saskatchewan is declining at an alarming rate. The number of children now in kindergarten through grade 3 is approximately 12% less than the number in grades 4 to 8 who are, in turn 6% fewer than those in Grades 9 to 12. Because the decrease in numbers is not distributed evenly across the province, the declines are even greater in most small communities and in rural areas. However, consolidation of school boards is not keeping up with that decline. As a result, there are increasing numbers of schools and school divisions that are too small to be able to offer courses such as French that require specialist teachers. Since there is already a dearth of French teachers in the province and a looming shortage across the country, that situation is likely to get worse before it gets better - particularly if relatively large numbers of such teachers start retiring within the next few years.

These very basic demographic and administrative factors are already quite apparent in French Immersion programs in Saskatchewan. We have more very small programs than any other province in the country. An increasing number of these require triple-graded classrooms to continue operating at the elementary level and even more innovative solutions if they are to provide sufficient French language instruction at the secondary

***Immersion kindergarten enrolments in Saskatchewan are the highest they have been since the 1995-1996 school term according to statistics collected by the Government of Saskatchewan at the end of September 2001. This news would appear to refute the suggestion that has been presented by some media outlets in the province that parental interest in immersion is waning.***

***Total school registrations in Saskatchewan are down by more than 3500 children from 2000-2001.***

level to allow the students to obtain a 'bilingual mention' on their high school transcripts. They, and many much larger programs, lack qualified resource room teachers who can work with children who have learning difficulties that may be quite unrelated to the acquisition of oral language. Too many of these children end up being counselled out of immersion because of the lack of help available to them. Of course, there are also children who are lured out of immersion in order to attend enrichment programs that could be offered in French but are not.

Unfortunately, the good news concerning kindergarten enrolment are not necessarily matched by those for registrations at other levels. The statistics reveal that less than 30% of the children who start an immersion program continue

until the end of Grade 12. Furthermore, only 50% of the children who start in Kindergarten are still in the program by Grade 8.

Immersion programs in Saskatchewan are still plagued by a series of problem that CPF - Saskatchewan feels must be addressed through a broader assessment of how French Second Language programs are being implemented in the province at present and how we can ensure that high quality FSL programs can be made available to the largest possible number of children across the province in the future. We know, for example, that less than 30% of the children who start school in an immersion program continue in the program until the end of Grade 12. Furthermore, only 50% of the children who start in Kindergarten are still in the program by Grade 8. What happens to these children has not been adequately

examined. We know that there are a number of factors that have an impact: lack of support for children who are experiencing learning difficulties, competition from enrichment programs that could be made available in French but are not, closure of schools which force parents to chose between their community school and an immersion program, limitations in French

language course options that create scheduling problems for secondary students.



Planning for Les Jeux de la Francophonie Canadienne 2002 is underway, and CPF is going to be a big part of it. The francophile delegation, including 110 athletes and visual artists, musicians and leaders, coaches and chaperones will descend upon Rivière-du-Loup, Québec, from August 1 to 5 2002, for this second edition of these games. Once there, we'll meet and compete with teams composed of francophone youth from every province and territory.

Athletes will compete in track and field events, volleyball, badminton and swimming. The arts component includes improvisation, visual arts and musical awakening. In the third section, youth will have an opportunity to develop their leadership skills. All participants will also be able to take part in a range of other activities, including creating a mural, playing Ultimate frisbee, enjoying street performances, and best of all, getting to exchange ideas and experiences with youth from across the country.

The Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française (FJCF) organizers of the event, are preparing to accommodate over 1500 participants ranging from 14 - 19 years old. Participants and adult organizers, coaches and chaperones will function in French throughout the Games. It'll be a great opportunity to live the language.

### **Requirements for Youth Participation**

The requirements for youth participation are as follows:

1. Students must be between the ages of 15 and 18 years, with extension possible to 14 year-olds in sports and arts categories.
2. They must be registered in a secondary school during 2001-2002.
3. The registration fee is \$200.00 per participant.
4. The participant's parent/guardian must be a current member of CPF.
5. There will be a very strict language restriction. All participants, trainers and assistants must speak French at all times. If this condition is not respected, they will be sent back home immediately at their own expense. This is a wonderful opportunity both to become fully immersed in a French milieu and to promote our students' ability to fully participate in this French milieu. Let's make the most of it!

### **Competitive events:**

#### **SPORTS**

Athletics (maximum 2 athletes per field)

\* Track (100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 3000m, 4 x 100 , High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump)

\* Field (Shot put, Discus, Javelin)

#### **Team and individual sports**

\* Volleyball

\* Badminton (Boys singles, Girls singles, Boys doubles, Girls doubles, Mixed doubles)

#### **Demonstration sport:**

Aquatics (events t.b.d.) Results from the swimming meet will NOT be added to the delegations results, though participants will be awarded medals as in other disciplines. Participants from different delegations will be mixed to create new "teams" for this demonstration sport.

#### **Participation events**

Multiple activities are being planned in a "Coin des jeunes" to let the participants get to know each other outside their delegations. Activities include ultimate frisbee, a skateboard park, a graffiti wall, busking, and a rest area.

#### **ARTS**

##### **Improvisation**

\* National improvisation tournament

##### **Visual arts**

\* Exhibition

\* Artistic Creation

##### **Musical awakening**

\* Study Camp

\* Musical group competition

#### **LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

This component is mainly for 17-18 year old participants.

Training will be available in the following areas:

Leadership, communication, activity planning, community development

\* The leadership participants will likely go to Rivière-du-Loup a few days before the games to begin their training and to prepare for the arrival of our delegation; they would assist in the organization of the games and with our group as well as being involved in the closing ceremonies of Les Jeux.

#### **Trainers**

Nineteen adults will be required (8 women, 8 men) to act as assistants (one for each category of Sports, Cultural and Leadership) and trainers (9 total for sports (1 in Badminton, 4 in Volleyball, 2 in Athletics, 2 in swimming), 6 total for cultural (2 in Visual Art, 2 in music and 1 in Improvisation + 1 referee). CPF will cover the registration fee for the assistants and trainers. As with all participants, trainers must be able and willing to function completely in French. The trainer's main responsibilities will be:

1. To motivate the students to help create a team spirit.
2. To act as chaperones
3. To oversee all the details related to their field of event.

All participants, trainers and assistants must speak French at all times. If this condition is not respected, they will be sent back home immediately at their own expense.

# French-Second-Language Education Gets a Boost With New School Self-Assessment Tool

## **Canadian Parents for French (CPF) Unveils Second Annual Report *The State of French Second Language Education in Canada 2001***

OTTAWA – Schools offering French-second-language (FSL) programs will have access to an important new tool as their pupils troop back to class next week.

Canadian Parents for French today unveiled its second annual report on *The State of French-Second-Language Education in Canada 2001*. The report compiles facts, figures and research into a comprehensive view of the current situation of French-second-language (FSL) education nation wide. New to the report this year is a school self-assessment tool.

The self-assessment tool, based upon extensive CPF research and testing, is intended to help schools assess, support, and improve their FSL programs as well as create and continue an open dialogue among parents, teachers, students and administrators.

Nearly 2 million Canadian students are studying French through core/basic or immersion programs. Today more than 318,000 students are enrolled in French immersion programs across Canada.

Presenting the report, CPF President Dr. Joan Netten stated, "Canadian Parents for French has already launched several research initiatives and has established an agenda for further study. It is our hope that the present report and future initiatives will help to create an environment in which all young Canadians will benefit from improved and increased opportunities to learn and use French."

CPF Executive Director Robin Wilson identified the need for action in a number of areas.

These included:

- lack of transparency on the part of some provinces with regard to how they use federal FSL funding.
- Action Plans, required as a condition of federal funding, have yet to made public by various provinces and territories.
- The need to encourage ongoing innovation and improvements in existing programs.
- The lack of accurate, comprehensive statistics to aid in formulating plans to improve FSL programs. Statistics are not currently collected by grade level, preventing a full understanding of the exact nature and causes of attrition (the rate at which students drop out of FSL programs).

## **CPF SCHOOL SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL**

### **What is the CPF School Self-Assessment Tool?**

A tool to help schools and school districts evaluate their support for FSL programs and improve existing support systems to FSL programs. Where schools and school boards do not yet have FSL programs, the Tool provides a model for the development of quality FSL programs.

### **For whom is the School Self-Assessment Tool intended?**

It is intended for schools to have discussions with all stakeholders (parents, teachers, students, administrators) about their FSL programs.

### **What is the Tool's purpose?**

- ♦ Help schools assess for themselves how their FSL programs are faring;
- ♦ Encourage all stakeholders to engage in productive dialogue; and
- ♦ Help identify actions needed to provide opportunities for all Canadian students to become bilingual citizens.

### **Who worked on the Tool and how was it designed?**

A "self-assessment tool design group" of research consultants and education experts was formed to develop the tool. Working with the school district and school criteria for quality FSL programs prepared for *The State of French-Second-Language Education in Canada 2000*, a draft self-assessment tool was prepared for use by schools to assess their areas of strength and scope for action. After several revisions, the draft tool was tested in focus groups with parents and teachers. It was further tested in telephone interviews with administrators, students, parents, and teachers as well as through an internal CPF survey. Feedback from both focus groups and interviews served as a validity check on the Tool.

### **What is CPF doing with the information?**

CPF is not collecting and comparing these assessments, but rather is encouraging dialogue among all stakeholders about the importance and performance of FSL programs in their local community.

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### Chapter Updates for Website

Please forward your Chapter updates for publication on our website to:  
joanneillingworth@sk.sympatico.ca

### Acknowledgements

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## Membership Application Form

CPF allows one or two adults (over 18) per family as voting members.

New Membership: Individual  Family

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Return to: Canadian Parents for French  
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Occasionally the CPF membership list will be made available to other groups/agencies to offer members benefits or education-related information. Use of the list will be carefully regulated and only permitted under a contract specifying confidentiality and one-time authorization. **If you do not wish to receive mailings other than directly from CPF, please check this box.**