

New French Programs Needed in Saskatchewan to Meet Federal Government Action Plan Targets

In March 2003, the Government of Canada published a five year Action Plan for Official Languages in which they set the following target for second language learning: *to double the proportion of secondary school graduates with a functional knowledge of their second official language [within ten years]*. They also committed themselves to providing the provincial governments with 137 million dollars in new funding over five years to help them accomplish this goal. To obtain the new funds, the provinces are expected to match the federal contributions.

The financial requirements of this new federal initiative are difficult for Saskatchewan. Consequently, the provincial officials who are in charge of French language education have been looking to school divisions to provide the matching amounts and also to develop proposals that can be integrated into a provincial plan that will allow Saskatchewan to meet the Federal Action Plan targets.

CPF – Saskatchewan does not know what kinds of proposals that the school divisions have put forward. However, we have attempted to determine what might be needed by analyzing bilingualism statistics, general demographic trends and enrolment figures for French instructional programs. Our analysis demonstrates that completely new programs will be needed if the province is going to meet the federal target. That is because the programs that are currently available are either unable to produce bilingual graduates or are not recruiting and retaining enough students.

French Immersion and Francophone minority school programs appear to be producing most of the bilingual graduates in Saskatchewan. However, the size of the cohort that will graduate in 2013 is proportionately smaller than the one that graduated in 2003. We could make up part of the difference by reducing dramatically the rate of attrition in these

programs. That rate averages more than 65% from kindergarten to Grade 12 across the province. Averaged over five years none of the anglophone school divisions have managed to keep even 50% of the children who start in Immersion at kindergarten right through to Grade 12.

Conventional Core French programs also have a very poor record of student retention. Enrolment currently reaches a peak from grades 5 to 8 when approximately 65% of all student in those grades in the province study Core French. However by Grade 12 less than 10% of all students are enrolled and that percentage is decreasing. If that trend could be reversed, and if a higher proportion of the graduates of Core French programs were functionally bilingual in French, it would be possible to make up some of the ground lost by reductions in Immersion and Francophone program enrolment.

Unfortunately, by no means all students who study Core French at Grade 12 develop the capacity to carry on a conversation in French. Thus we can only conclude that new programs must be introduced. Intensive Core French programs which we reported on in our last newsletter appears to hold some promise. However, that program is still in the pilot stages and a follow-up curriculum would need to be designed to maintain the skills the students develop during their intensive exposure period. Large school divisions might also introduce Late French immersion programs. That would require Saskatchewan Learning to develop a new curriculum. Teachers who can teach advanced subject matter in French would also be needed. With a looming shortage of qualified French teachers, it would seem that option may not be realistic in the short run. In fact, our ability to train highly qualified French teachers who stay in Saskatchewan to teach may well prove to be the key to the entire future of French language education in this province. We can hope, therefore, that teacher training will be given the highest priority in Saskatchewan's Action Plan.

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Peer Tutoring Program

Two Saskatchewan Schools involved in Peer Tutoring Program

Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan is delighted to announce that Saskatchewan is one of two provinces involved in the first stage of a Peer Tutoring project that has been initiated by our CPF National office. This is a program that was introduced into the French Immersion program at Lord Tennyson Elementary School in Vancouver in 1998 by Nicole Roy, the school's learning assistance teacher and Mary Chipman, a parent volunteer. It is designed for children in Grades 2 and 3 who need a little extra help to become independent readers.

The Grade 2 and 3 students are involved in one-on-one reading sessions with students in Grade 5, 6 or 7. The older students are specially trained in helping their younger peers improve their decoding skills as well as their fluency and comprehension. The pairs work together twice a week for 30 minutes during special times in the school day when their classes are involved in such things as free read-

ing. That way no one misses any new instruction.

In order for these programs to work, they require the involvement of the entire school community. However, at the core of the program is the Learning Assistance teacher and a parent volunteer. They are responsible for promoting the program to administrators, parents, teachers and students. They also play essential roles in its implementation. For example, the Learning Assistance Teacher trains the older students and assesses the reading levels of the Grade 2 and 3 students whose teachers recommend them for the program. The LA teacher also rates the difficulty level of all the reading materials used in the program so that the peer tutoring pairs can easily select appropriate materials. The parent volunteer is responsible for recruiting other volunteers to maintain the reading materials and help supervise during the reading sessions.

Given the level of responsi-

bility placed upon them, CPF - SK would like to thank the two teacher/parent pairs who have agreed to pilot the program in Saskatchewan. They are Suzanne Styles (Teacher) and Wanda Phillips (Parent) from River Heights School in Saskatoon and Isabelle Campeau (Teacher) and Kathy Andvaag (Parent) at Massey School in Regina. We are also very appreciative for the support provided by the Principals of these schools, Wayne Dick and Aurèle Duperreault as well as senior staff in the Saskatoon and Regina Public School Divisions.

This project has been made possible through the very considerable efforts of Joan Hawkins, Manager of Research and Development at the National Office of Canadian Parents for French and the Department of Canadian Heritage who have provided funding. Nicole Roy and the staff and volunteers at Lord Tennyson School have also been very gracious in welcoming our teacher/parent pairs into their school to observe and be trained in the implementation of this program.

Green with Envy

Karen Taylor-Browne, Executive Director of Canadian Parents for French - SK, has informed the Board that she will not be requesting a renewal of her contract when it expires at the end of March, 2004. Her husband will be taking sabbatical leave from the University of Saskatchewan. They are planning to temporarily relocate to Australia in July. This will be followed with another academic year with no teaching duties that will allow them other opportunities for travel, etc. We have been fortunate to have Karen's energy, enthusiasm and expertise for the time that she has been on staff with us. We have had one of the longest

serving Executive Director's in the CPF organization so we have had continuity that many others have not enjoyed. It is with regret that we receive this letter but we wish Karen and Patrick all the best as they look forward to a time to recharge and reconnect.

The Board is now accepting applications for the position of Executive Director. Anyone interested in the position should contact CPF - SK President, Nancy Jefferson (njefferson@sasktel.net) or V-P Rose-Marie Bouvier (rose-marie.bouvier@uregina.ca). Applications must be received by February 16, 2004.

Call for Nominations

The Nominations Committee is calling for nominations to the CPF - SK Board of Directors. To submit a nomination or for more information, contact the office at (306) 244-6151 or 1-800-561-6151.

Summer Monitors

Students and teachers who are interested in working for CPF - SK this summer are invited to submit their resumes by e-mail to: cpfsask@sasktel.net. Please include *Summer Monitor* in the "Subject" line. For information about the available positions call 244-6151 in Saskatoon or from outside Saskatchewan and 1-800-561-6151 from elsewhere in Saskatchewan.

Foire des carrières

October 15th - 16th, 2003 were busy days for the students who participated in the French career faire held at the Ramada Hotel in Saskatoon. On each of the two succeeding dates roughly 150 senior secondary students from French Immersion and Francophone schools from across the province learned about the career opportunities available to bilingual youth.

The students spent the day participating in workshops and visiting kiosks set up by various employers and post-secondary educational institutions. Two workshops were compulsory for everyone: "What are the careers of the future?" and "How do you choose a career according to your interests?" This involved taking an occupational orientation test. The students could then choose six other workshops from among the following:

Tourism - an occupation for the future

Head Chef - 1001 aspects

The civil service - but what is it

The life of a writer

French - a know value

Electrician - an occupation that returns

Software programming

Occupations within the legal profession - a simulation

Theatre actor - a passion for the stage

Working for yourself - how to set up a business

Translator - two language = a career

Owning a restaurant

The ecology of Saskatchewan's lakes

Massage therapy, aromatherapy, esthetician:

caring for the body

Speech Therapy: re-educating for better communication

The world of numbers excites you? Think about accounting.

Other occupations were introduced by way of films: industrial electrician, small motor mechanic, food technology, airline technicians, helicopter pilot, animal health technician, sommelier, piano tuner, interior designer and physiotherapist. Students could take something of a break by going to speak one-on-one with the people staffing the various kiosks. Meal and snack time also provided a small period of relaxation for presenters and students alike.

Canadian Parents for French - SK was privileged to be part of the dynamic team that organized this event. The partners for the event were Guichet Unique and the Assemblée communautaire francosaskoise, Le service francosaskois de formation aux adultes, La division scolaire francophone, Le conseil de coopération de la Saskatchewan, Workinfolnet.ca, Human Resources Development Canada, Saskatchewan Learning and Radio Canada/CBC. We congratulate the coordinator for the event, Marie Leclerc, for a job well done.

The expressions of appreciation that we and the other members of the organizing committee received from the immersion students who participated provided ample demonstration of the value of this event. It is very obvious that these second language learners are looking for opportunities to develop and use their French language skills in the future.

Chapter Updates

Prince Albert

The Prince Albert Chapter has been busy this fall. A Mini Rendez-vous was held on November 1 at Vickers School. 50 students participated in music, science, fine arts, physical education and culinary experiences with the help of Saskatoon based monitors. At the same time 26 members met for the chapter's annual general meeting.

Parents were so enthused about the Saturday workshop that they wondered if there could be one every month! Another Mini Rendez-vous is planned for February along with a micro Rendez-vous for preschool children. There will be an information session held at the same time, for parents considering registering their child in French Immersion.

The Prince Albert Chapter will be holding its annual luncheon for teachers and administrators on February 12 at Amy's on Second. The executive of CPF – Prince Albert, along with parents, students and guardians take this opportunity to thank teachers and administrators for making their learning experience such a positive one. A special thank-you goes to Amy Hadley, CPF – Saskatchewan board member and Prince Albert restaurateur for hosting the luncheon.

The Prince Albert Chapter also offers a monetary award to a student in grade 10, 11 and 12 from Carlton Comprehensive High School and St. Mary's High school. This award is given to a French Immersion student who is involved in the community, helps others with their French skills and looks for opportunities to extend their own French language learning outside the classroom.

North Battleford

Twenty-five children, ranging in ages from 6-12, attended our winter Mini-Rendezvous in North Battleford on November 15, 2003. In the morning the kids made playdough, crafts and games in preparation for the afternoon's Penny Carnival. The fish pond, basketball shoot and bean bag toss were some of the highlights at the Carnival. Other activities throughout the day included Improvisational Theatre with costumes, outdoor games, pizza lunch and "make-your-own" sundaes. With the wonderful engaging support of the monitors the day was a huge success. We would like to thank the three French Immersion students from JPII Collegiate who voluntarily helped out for the day as part of their community service program. Merci.

Saskatchewan Well Represented on National Board

Although I have only been a member of the CPF National executive for a year, I would like to share some observations with you. First, I have been impressed by the level of expertise, dedication and commitment demonstrated by our staff in Ottawa. Second, the professionalism and cooperation enjoyed by National Board members is unprecedented. Indeed, the degree of mutual respect and the willingness to help on the variety of committees reflects a cooperation that is rarely found in most organizations. Third, the strengthening of genuine cooperation and sincere communication with the provincial Branches and Chapters have been the twin objectives of the National Board. Fourth, the leadership and selfless work demonstrated by the members of the Branches and Chapters are commendable. Last, the bedrock of any successful organization, especially in the non-profit sector, is its legion of volunteers. Without the devoted, indefatigable workers from Newfoundland to British Columbia, CPF could not endure. In closing, despite all the frustrations and disappointments experienced at all levels, we should never lose sight of the fact that the CPF is a bold vision that was born in a time of linguistic challenges. Our challenges are no less acute today. Together, we must convince politicians, and the public at large, that the CPF is indispensable in the promotion of a great bilingual Canada! - □□□□□□ □□□□□□

Dr. Richard Julien is an Associate Professor in the Curriculum Studies Department, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan. He joined the National Board of CPF in November 2002 and was re-elected for a two year term in October 2003.

Unlike his two children who are currently enrolled in the French Immersion program in Saskatoon, Richard learned French as adult. During his career he has used this skill both for teaching French and for teaching in French.

After graduating with a B.A. from St. Mary's University (Halifax) in 1969, he taught high school social studies and core French in Halifax until 1984. He eventually became a department head of Social Studies. Following a year of teaching in Florida as a participant in the American Fulbright Exchange Program he moved to Edmonton to begin post-graduate studies at the University of Alberta. He completed an M.Ed. in Intercultural Education (1986) and a Ph.D. in Second Language Education (1991) before joining the French Immersion Program at the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan.



Richard teaches general methodology and social studies courses at U. of S. both in English and French. In the non-teaching sphere, he served on a host of college, university, provincial committees, and is currently a member of the faculty executive. He was the Director from 1993 to 2001 of the Federal Government's Summer Language Bursary program operated at the University of Saskatchewan. He also served as Acting Assistant Dean for the College of Education (1996-97).

During his sabbatical leave in 1997-1998, he conducted research at the Centre for the Study of Canada (McGill University).

Mary E. Reeves currently works as an educational and organizational consultant in Regina. Mary retired in 2002 as a superintendent with Regina Catholic Schools. Her responsibilities included French Immersion, Core French and Special Education programs through the curriculum and instruction portfolio. The development and improvement of the FSL programs, resources and teaching practices were a major focus of her work. Assessment of program accomplishments and monitoring improvement became a focus of the last few years.

Mary's career in education began in Quebec. She was a French Immersion teacher both at the high school and at the elementary levels in mathematics, religious education, and other areas of the curriculum. As a principal of a French Immersion elementary single-track school, the added value of that setting was apparent in the oral language development of the students. The support of the CPF programs contributed to further enhancement of much needed opportunities for students to use their French in a non-classroom setting.



Mary (a New Brunswick native), her husband Philip, and children Nigel, Erin, and Ian moved to Saskatchewan from Schefferville, Quebec, in 1979. Becoming bilingual at the age of 18 through immersion experiences made Mary an advocate for immersion. All three of her children attended French Immersion. Mary's daughter, Erin, is currently a French Immersion teacher in Calgary.

The future of FSL in Canada continues to concern Mary. The decline in enrolment in Core French in Saskatchewan mirrors some other provinces. The advocacy for second language learning has waned to some extent at the federal and provincial level and is indicated by declining financial support for French programming. University programs do not as frequently require a second language for entrance (or exit). The unique bilingual nature of Canada and its cultural heritage continues to show signs of fragility.

Mary has her Master's degree from the University of Ottawa and a post-graduate diploma in Educational Administration from the University of Regina. Her current interests (in addition to French Second language instruction) are in the areas of student and program assessment, system and school accountability issues, and program improvement processes. Mary Reeves was elected to the National Board at the October 2003 Annual General Meeting. She is also CPF - SK's representative on the Advisory Board of the Institut français at the University of Regina.

Calendar of Events

2004

February

- 9 - 13 French Immersion and Core French Week
- 13 - 14 Rendez-vous in Regina
- 28 Mini Rendez-vous in Prince Albert

March

- 13 Mini Rendez-vous in Lloydminster

April

- 3 Mini Rendez-vous in Melville
- 20 French for the Future in Saskatoon
- 24 Provincial Final Concours d'art oratoire in Saskatoon

May

- 29 National Concours d'art oratoire in Edmonton

August

- 8 CPF - Saskatchewan Annual General Meeting
- 2-14 Residential Summer Camps

November

- 12-13 National AGM - Quebec City

Thank You note from
Thom Collegiate for
transportation to Foire



Moving??

Please forward your
new address to:

CPF National
176 Gloucester Street
Suite 310
Ottawa, ON
K2P 9Z9
Or call: (306) 244-6151,
toll-free within SK
1-800-561-6151

French for Parents

What motivates parents to go back to school for two hours once a week after a hard day's work? French for Parents! This fall, a group of 20 Saskatoon parents, grandparents and one young student came to class to learn some basic French. The lessons were lively and interactive thanks to the enthusiasm of the teacher, Jeanette Chicoine-Darroch. The students began with les jours de la semaine, learned how to ask questions, and were able to conjugate a few verbs by the end of the five weeks. Participants attended because they wanted to understand a little of what their children in French immersion and intensive core French programs were learning. Some adults had no experience in French, some remembered a little from their own days in school. Together they learned some basics and gained confidence in their use of the language. There will be another level one French for Parents class offered in Saskatoon after Christmas, and a level two class will be available at the same time. An introductory class is also operating in Estevan. If you are interested in bringing this program to your community, please contact the CPF – SK office to find out how!

Rendez- vous 2004

A French Language Overnight Conference
for Students In Grades 6-8
Regina, SK
February 13 - 14, 2004
Friday night "Spectacle" with Les Bûcherons

Pick from these Saturday Workshops!

Fascinating Aspects of Biology
The Firefighter at Work
Winter Survival
La cuisine
Folk Dance



Improvitational Games
Cross-country Skiing
Media Production
Visual Arts
"Musique"

Drop Off - February 13

5:00 pm - 6:15 pm

St. Mary School
140 McIntosh Street North
Regina, SK

Pick Up - February 14

6:15 pm

l'Institut français
University of Regina
Regina, SK

Multi-Media Kit

Coming soon to a school near you!

The CPF – Saskatchewan multi-media kits are off and running. This fall a new program began for schools that are Associate Member Organizations. Multi-media kits are made available to schools for a loan period of 6 weeks during the 2003-2004 school year. Students and their parents can take home materials from this kit in order to enrich their French second language learning. The kit contains resources for students in kindergarten to Grade 8 and consists of cassette tapes, CD's, CD-ROM's videos, books and games that can be signed out and used at home. French language activities outside the classroom will support and enhance what is being learned in the classroom. And perhaps parents will learn something too!

If your school would like to become an Associate Member Organization please fill out and send in the form on page 7.

Organizations Can Also Receive Our Newsletters

Any organization - be it a school staff, school board, French Club or university class - may become an Associate Member Organisation (AMO) of Canadian Parents for French in order to endorse the goals and activities of CPF. On paying an annual fee of \$60.00, the AMO is entitled to receive, at a single address, up to 10 copies of newsletters and other designated reports or mailings. While AMO status confers no right to vote at any level of Canadian Parents for French, AMO's **do qualify** for some special programs of CPF - Saskatchewan: for example, the Multi-Media Kit, and the **Grade 6-9 Grant** program described below. Call CPF - SK to learn more!!

Please send _____ (up to 10) copies of each CPF newsletter to:

Organization/Group _____	School Board/Division _____
Mail attention to: _____	Local CPF Chapter: _____
Telephone: () _____	\$60 to be paid by: <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque enclosed
E.mail _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa Card
Street _____	Card# _____
City _____	Name on Card: _____
Prov _____ Postal Code _____	Expires: _____ Date: _____
	Signature: _____

Return to: Canadian Parents for French
Suite 303, 115 - 2nd Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K 2B1

GRADES 6-9 GRANT PROGRAM

Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan is accepting submissions from Associate Member Organizations and Chapters of CPF - Saskatchewan who are seeking funding to help them develop extracurricular or enrichment projects, taking place in Saskatchewan, for Grades 6-9 students. Projects will accomplish some or all of the following objectives:

- 1) enhance students French language skills,
- 2) make students more aware of French Canadian culture and history,
- 3) make students more aware of French as the day-to-day language of millions of Canadians,
- 4) spotlight and support French-speaking residents of local communities and their language,
- 5) encourage students to study French at the secondary school level,
- 6) sensitize students to the career and personal enrichment opportunities available to Canadians who have a good knowledge of French,
- 7) foster a sense of belonging to a bilingual Canada, and
- 8) provide a meeting place where Francophone and Anglophone young people can communicate in French.

Applications for amounts up to \$1,500.00 will be considered.

For further information please contact us

By telephone in Saskatoon or outside Saskatchewan: (306) 244-6151

Toll Free in Saskatchewan (outside of Saskatoon): 1-800-561-6151

E-mail: cpfsask@sasktel.net (Note in subject line: 6-9 Grant Program)

www.cpfsask.com

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Chapter Updates for Website

Please forward your Chapter updates for publication on our website to:
 joanneillingworth@sasktel.net

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www.cpfsask.com

Membership Application Form

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

New Membership: Individual Family

Renewal: Membership # _____

Change of Information below:

Name _____

Address _____

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Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

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Membership: One Year (\$25) _____
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 Donation _____
Total _____

Donations to CPF - SK are welcomed and appreciated. Thank you for your support. (CPF - Saskatchewan Charitable Tax # 106865231RR0001)

For payment by: Visa MasterCard Cheque enclosed

Name on Card: _____

Card #: _____

Expiry: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Return to: Canadian Parents for French
 Suite 303, 115 - 2nd Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K 2B1

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.**