

Francofièvre

Saskatoon rocked to the sounds of French music on Tuesday March 7 when 1500 students from grades 6-12 converged at TCU Place. This gathering of Francophone and Francophile youth featured a series of musical groups from across the country, DJ performances, light shows, special effects and big screen projections. Francofièvre was created to give Saskatchewan youth an exciting experience in the French language and Francophone culture and to give them the opportunity to see, hear and feel that French in Saskatchewan is contemporary, inclusive and dynamic. It was designed to give a sense of pride to all who speak the French language in Saskatchewan.



Despite poor weather outside there was lots of enthusiastic clapping and dancing inside, where spirits were high. Two thousand students from Francophone and French second-language programs in all corners of the province registered for Francofièvre. All those who came enjoyed the rhythms of the groups Dingus and Moh from Saskatchewan. Project Orange and The Respectables came from Quebec, and Swing from Ontario. Those present were also greeted by Jocelyn Frenette of the Saskatchewan Roughriders and Andy Iwanchuk representing the Government of Saskatchewan and MLA for Saskatoon-Fairview.

The event marked the launch of a five-year initiative from the Coalition for the Promotion of the French Language and the Francophone Culture in Saskatchewan to promote the benefits of speaking the French language and of appreciating the

Francophone culture. CPF-SK is an active member of this coalition.

At the press conference before the event, Rose-Marie Bouvier, President of the Board of Directors of CPF-SK, commented that "learning another language allows one to enter a world of different cultures. By learning French, you not only access the language, but the culture. The French culture is alive in Saskatchewan; we have the opportunity to take notice and participate in a culture that has been part of the province since its beginnings. This is a chance for our children to learn and live a language that is part of Canada's history and part of our heritage."

Thanks to this successful event, French speaking youth will understand that the Francophone culture is alive and very well in Saskatchewan, and be proud to be part of it all.



une folie contagieuse

President's Report



Firstly, I would like to officially welcome Karen Pozniak to the CPF-SK family. She has taken on the position of Executive Director and I know that her experience and enthusiasm will bring another perspective and many benefits to the operations of CPF-SK. *Bienvenue Karen*, we look forward to working together to provide direction and solutions regarding issues related to French-second-language education in our province.

Karen was initiated to CPF with a bang! Since the beginning of the year the board and office staff have been very busy. In January we have seen a Federal election and the launch of the annual Report on the State of French-Second-Language Education in Canada. This publication not only focuses on French education at the post-secondary level but also reported on the support for FSL programs and the trends in enrolment across Canada. Although Saskatchewan does show a decrease in the percentage of change in 2003-2004 in both core and immersion programs, this is close to the same rate of decline of the general student population. We will continue to monitor the statistics and also

continue to evaluate how the intensive French programs in the various schools will improve the enrolment and retention in core French.

On February 4th a Special General Meeting of the membership was held in Saskatoon. The main purpose of the meeting was to change the date of the Annual General Meeting to be June 10th (from the original date in May). We are looking forward to the Chapter Planning Meeting to be held on the same weekend.

Post-secondary education in Saskatchewan also received a boost recently. On January 19th I attended the grand opening of the new offices of the Baccalauréat en éducation program at the University of Regina. The Bac is now located next to the Institut français in the Language Institute Building. This new location will create an even more vibrant French *milieu* where students wanting to learn or speak French may gather to work, study or socialize. (The Rendez-vous participants had the chance to see this wonderful setting as the event was held in the Language Institute.) Also, at the beginning of January, Erika Fox and I had the opportunity to meet with the President and CEO of SIAST, Dr Bob McCollough and Claude Naud the Vice-President of Programs. We discussed future collaboration and the feasibility of further courses or programs offered in French.

The latest news is the formal launch of the Coalition for the Promotion of the French Language and the Francophone Culture in Saskatchewan. This Coalition, of which CPF-SK is a proud member, is composed of members from different communities, the private sector, the government, and the public sector who have made it their goal to promote a dynamic, modern and inclusive image of the French language. The objectives of its 5-year promotional campaign are: to raise awareness among target groups of the benefits of the French language and the Francophone culture, to increase the registration numbers and the retention of students in Francophone schools and in French-second-language programs, and to improve access to activities held in French.

A press conference was held on March 7th to announce the Coalition and this was immediately followed by the Francofièvre which was a gathering of almost 2000 French immersion and Francophone students from across the province who rocked to the French music of bands from Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec. This event was the first of its kind in Saskatchewan, and possibly in the western provinces.

Discussions will soon begin regarding a new 2-year agreement with Canadian Heritage. CPF-National has already set the path for this by meeting with many representatives from Canadian Heritage and presenting the goals and aspirations of Canadian Parents for French. The provinces will have to ensure clear and articulate objectives and commitments that are consistent from the local to the national levels.

Coming up in the next few months is the provincial *Concours d'art oratoire* on April 29th. As a further note on the public speaking competition, CPF-National has officially signed a 5-year agreement with the University of Ottawa to host the National *Concours* and provide a significant bursary to the winners. This national competition will be held on May 27 at which time meetings of the national board and provincial presidents, vice-presidents and executive directors will also be held. Then in June, as I mentioned earlier, is the provincial AGM and Chapter Planning Meeting.

As you can see, CPF-SK has been and will continue to be busy advocating for quality French-second-language learning opportunities in Saskatchewan.

Thank you again to all the members and our partners for your support of CPF.

Rose-Marie Bouvier

CPF-SK Welcomes New Executive Director

It was with great pleasure that I accepted the position of Executive Director with Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan. I saw this posting as a great opportunity to use my varied and rich work experience, as well as providing me with the perfect setting to continue studying and developing my French language skills, a personal goal I set for myself several years ago.

Allow me to introduce myself. I was born and raised on a farm in eastern Saskatchewan. I attended the University of Saskatchewan where I received my Bachelor of Science in Home Economics Degree, followed by a Bachelor of Education Degree several years later.

I have had the good fortune to work in a variety of sectors – education, retail, marketing, non-profit and government. I have been an entrepreneur, owning my own restaurant business. My passions are my family and friends, history, travel, volunteering, photography, foreign films, walking, and a good debate! I feel very confident that my work, management and life experience will fit perfectly with this new opportunity at Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan.

Since beginning my position on January 31, 2006, I have received such a warm welcome from everyone associated with Canadian Parents for French, both provincially and nationally. Thank you for that!

I look forward to working with you. The French milieu in Saskatchewan is vibrant and strong. Continuing to build on this shining success will be an exciting and welcome venture for me.

Take care,
Karen Pozniak



How French Immersion Has Helped Me

Natasha Vetter is Youth Advisory Director on the CPF-SK Board of Directors. She writes of her experiences in the French immersion Program:

It was Charlemagne who once said, "To have another language is to possess a second soul." I don't know if that is entirely true, but I know that to have a second language does improve life. I began speaking French when I was in preschool. I followed through with the French immersion program in Prince Albert up until my final year in high school. Through all those years I've had many French teachers, and every one of them was an inspiration for higher education. In the 9th grade, I was faced with the decision to remain in the French immersion program going into high school. I chose to stay because I knew that bilingualism would in some way help me in my future education, as well as help me communicate with my family, half of which is solely French.



What I found going through the French immersion program was that I had developed a strong work ethic in school, and I noticed this trend throughout my class. I was very strong in math as well as sciences and languages, and I truly believe that it is in thanks to my French education. Many studies have also shown that learning French can improve understanding in other subjects, most notably math, and I believe that. Many subjects incorporate various languages here and there within the material, be it terms, quotes or definitions, and because of French I've been able to more fully understand these subjects, even if by just a bit.

What I also enjoyed about the French immersion program was that many of the French immersion students I graduated with had been in the program for almost as long as I had been, and most of those students had been in my class since first grade. What I loved about the program was that, as a class, we were very close as friends, and still remain so today.

Now, because of my bilingualism, I know I have a greater chance at better jobs and careers in my future, not to mention it looks great on my resume. French is a major language in Canada, and soon, many jobs will require the ability to speak a second language. Even in volunteer activities, I've been able to use my French, most recently with CPF as a board member.

Here in University, I'm surrounded by many different ethnicities and languages, a lot of them being French. My ability to speak French has allowed me to fluently communicate with these students. Also, I've now got many more choices at learning new languages, just by the courses the University is offering, and soon my vocabulary will be incorporating a new language. Learning French will, I believe, make it easier for me to learn new languages, either by resemblance, or simply by the work ethic I've gained by learning a second language.

My mother's family lives in Quebec, and for that reason, my family has been to Quebec several times. Each time, it was a great experience and most of that is because I was able to clearly understand all that was happening around me. I've even had to translate for my father, who doesn't speak much French. Because of my travels to Montreal and Quebec, I've grown fond of the culture, and soon I hope to study there or perhaps even in France.

Overall, learning French through the French immersion program was the greatest decision my parents and I have made regarding my education. Many more opportunities are wide open for me, and the experience has given me a deeper appreciation for my education. Everyday, when someone realizes that I can speak French, they're impressed, and I love the feeling when I can proudly say, "I'm bilingual."

Congratulations!

Membership Drive Results

Congratulations to the Canadian Parents for French – La Ronge chapter. They increased their membership by the greatest amount during our fall 2005 membership drive. The chapter will be hosting a cultural event on March 22-23 featuring Annette Campagne, well known Fransaskoise artist and songwriter.

Congratulations also to John Rye, from Prince Albert, winner of the draw for the dictionary.



Le Festival Théâtral Jeunesse

Congratulations to Jeff Soucy and students from Marion M. Graham Collegiate in Saskatoon for winning seven awards at Le Festival théâtral jeunesse in Saskatoon on March 11-12. The awards included best theatrical production, best performance in a principal female role to Meagan Acorn, best performance in a male supporting role to Gerald Guenette. Jeff Soucy won the prize for best dramatic creation for the script of *Stobor*.



Katimavik

Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan has benefited this year from hosting two volunteers from Katimavik in our office. CPF-SK is part of a group of Francophone organizations offering this opportunity to youth. Since January, Joey and Danica, from Brooks, Alberta and Williams Lake, BC respectively, have been working in our office providing general office help and learning a little French along the way. Danica writes about her experience:

Katimavik is a non-profit organization that is funded through the Government of Canada. You learn how to develop skills, be part of a team and live with people from across Canada. You volunteer in three different communities. If you are between the ages of 17-21 and are interested in this program, this is a very cool opportunity.

My experience is going really well. My first placement was in Nova Scotia. I worked at a shelter for abused women and children. My second placement is in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. I work at Canadian Parents for French. Here I enter data on to the computer, answer the telephone and basically do whatever else is needed to be done. During Katimavik you go and stay at somebody's house for two weeks. It is cool, because you get to go and see what their life is about. This program is such an awesome program.



Danica and Joey join CPF-SK staff members Karen Pozniak and Mihaela Giurgiu at Francofièvre

Célébrons la Saskatchewan

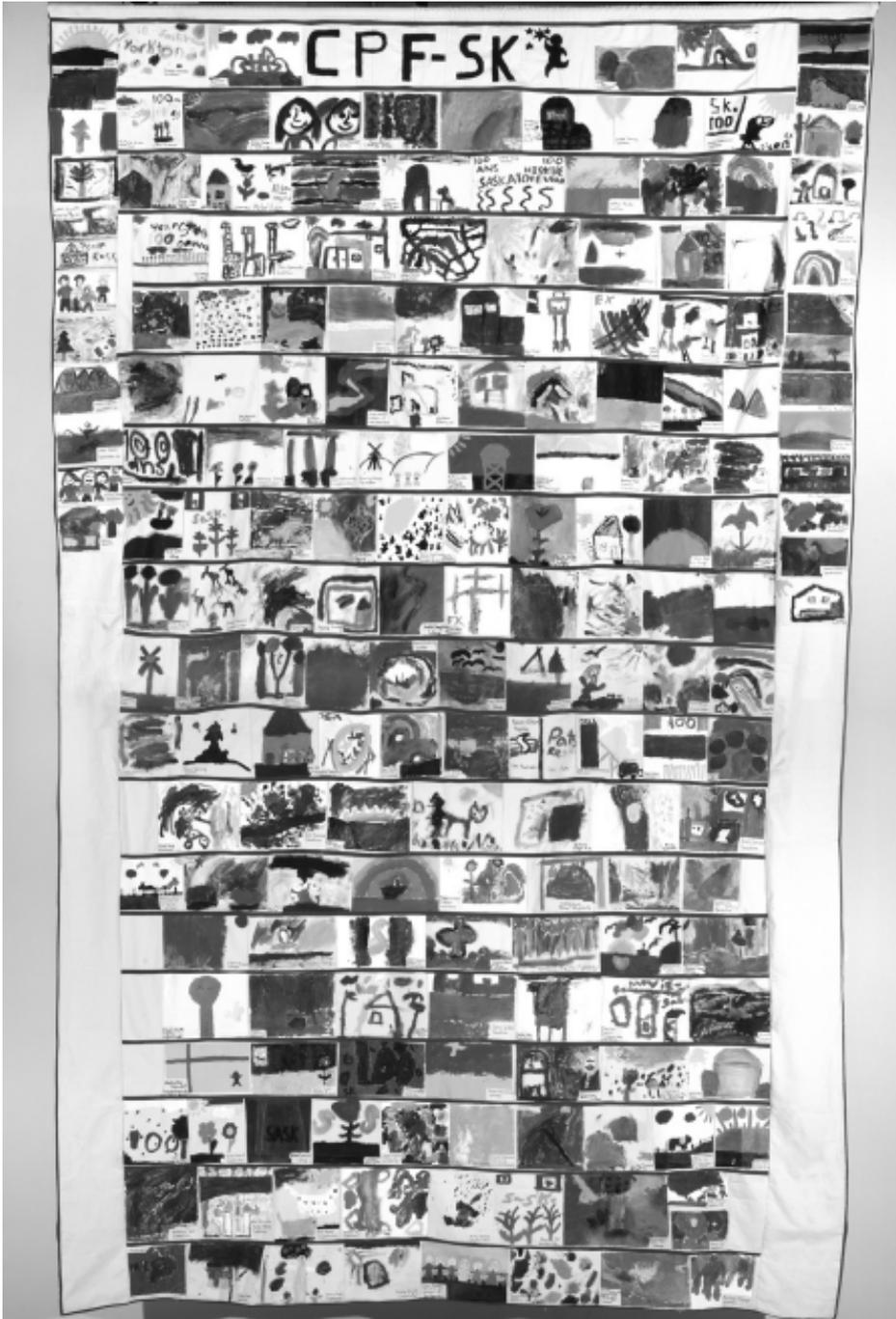
Designed and created to celebrate Saskatchewan's Centennial, this mural represents the hopes and dreams of French second-language students from kindergarten to grade 8 from Estevan, La Ronge, Lloydminster, Moose Jaw, Nipawin, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon and Yorkton and was created during Fête du soleil, the Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan (CPF-SK) traveling summer day camp. Its design was facilitated

by Saskatoon artist Eveline Boudreau and implemented with the students by French-language monitors. Each panel was created by children reflecting on bilingualism in Saskatchewan's multicultural milieu. The mural was assembled by Jacqueline Hounjet.

CPF-SK would like to thank all those who made this project a success: students, parents, CPF chapters, French-language monitors, and the artists who guided the design and completed the mural.

CPF-SK would like to acknowledge that this project was made possible through a grant from the Saskatchewan Centennial Initiative of Canadian Heritage; and by the sustaining funds CPF-SK receives from the Official Minority Language Office of Saskatchewan Learning and the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The mural has been photographed and made into a poster. Please contact CPF-SK if you are interested in obtaining one for your school.



Le Rendez-vous 2006, a weekend full of French and fun!



On February 24, 2006 students from all over Saskatchewan came together at the University of Regina to enjoy a full weekend of fun and fantastic activities in French. Sports events, swimming, music, improvisation and leadership were fully enjoyed by everyone involved in this year's Rendez-vous. The event was held February 24-26 at the Institut Français in Regina and was a huge success thanks to our enthusiastic French monitors who did a wonderful job throughout the whole weekend.

Friday evening students were treated to a pizza dinner followed by icebreaker activities. Of course the attraction of the night was MOH, the band that did an amazing job of hosting a live rock concert, all in French! Students had a wonderful time dancing as well as discovering new songs. On Saturday the students were

introduced to the world of workshops, all grouped under the same theme: "Discover your future" or "*Découvrez votre futur*". The purpose of these workshops was to provide motivation and tools for exploring different skills from different areas: mass media interviews, drawing tips, leadership, and of course music. Annette Campagne, one of the professional workshop leaders, helped participants to develop their vocal techniques and prepared French songs with the students who had the chance to perform them on stage later on. The weekend continued

with a delicious meal, followed by karaoke, outdoor activities and finished off with a movie in French

where everyone had lots of fun.



The event would have not been such a great success were it not for our team of monitors, the support of Canadian Heritage, L'Institut Français, Saskatchewan Learning as well as everybody involved. Many thanks to all who made this event possible. Rendez-vous 2007 will be held in Saskatoon. Stay updated by visiting our website: www.cfpsask.com

Opportunities for Youth

Fête du Soleil

Are you looking for a week-long summer day camp program where you can speak French? Do you like to have fun? "Fête du Soleil" (the "Sun Party") is what you are looking for. This popular event is designed for children in kindergarten to grade five who have at least one-year experience in French and is organized by CPF-SK in conjunction with local chapters. Bilingual university students develop themes and activities in French in consultation with CPF-SK. They lead the camp which travels throughout Saskatchewan.

Younger children will be introduced to basic French vocabulary in a fun atmosphere and older children will have the opportunity to use their French skills in an exciting way outside the classroom. For more details regarding this program, please visit our website: www.cpf-sask.com

Concours d'art oratoire

CPF's annual public speaking competition is underway for another year. Speeches are being prepared and presented in schools and school divisions across the country.

Grade 6 to 12 students, winners in their own schools and school divisions, will compete in a provincial final on Saturday April 29 at St Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Grade 11 to 12 provincial winners will receive an expense paid trip to Ottawa to compete in the national finals. As an added incentive national winners will be eligible to receive a \$20,000 bursary offered by the University of Ottawa. See the CPF-SK website for details.

Look for "Savez-vous", the newsletter all about opportunities for Saskatchewan French second-language students, in your high school now!

Camp ultime

Canadian Parents for French-Saskatchewan is pleased to announce "Camp Ultime 2006", an active residential summer camp that will take place at Arlington Beach Camp, August 7-19, 2006. If you are entering grades four to ten and learning French, you can register for this exciting camp. Please note that the payment must be postmarked no later than June 16, 2006 to qualify for the early bird discount.



Association Jeunesse Fransaskoise is an organization just for youth! L'AJF works with French-speaking youth from all across Saskatchewan and hosts activities for youth aged 14 to 25. The goal of AJF is to demonstrate how to live the French culture in Saskatchewan. The administrative council, made up of elected youth, decide not only the annual programming, but their official positions on any current events. If you know a youth who might like to get involved, have them call the AJF at 1-800-253-1424 or email info@ajf.ca. Here are some upcoming activities from AJF.

April 21-22, 2006

Chicane électrique-RAMDAM (Gravelbourg)

Do you like music? Do you sing? Do you know how to play an instrument? *RAMDAM* is a competition for young bands that will take place in connection with *le Gala de la chanson*. Come for training, fun and a group jam! Deadline for registration is March 24, 2006 (for youth aged 14 to 25).

May 12 -14

Camp de formation artistique(Regina)

For the artists in the province, the *AJF* will be offering two camps for beginning artists put on by professional artists across the province. For youth aged 14 to 18.

May 12-13, 2006

Les Jeux fransaskois (Regina)

Do you like to run, jump, and throw? Join the *AJF* for the 15th anniversary of *les Jeux fransaskois*. Get your friends together and register now! Deadline for registration is April 12, 2006. (For youth aged 14 to 18).



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Calendar of Events 2006

March

- 20** *Journée internationale de la Francophonie*
- 25** Mini Rendez-vous, CPF-Swift Current Chapter
- 30-31** Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association provincial finals (Saskatoon)
- 31** CPF-SK *Institut Français* Bursary application deadline

April

- 1** Mini Rendez-vous, CPF-Prince Albert chapter
- 21-22** Chicane électrique-Ramdam, Association jeunesse fransaskoise (Gravelbourg)
- 21-23** National Francophone Basketball Cup (Calgary)
- 25** French for the Future (St Thomas More College, Saskatoon, *Institut Français*, Regina)
- 28-29** CPF-SK Board meeting (Saskatoon)
- 29** Concours d'art oratoire provincial final (Saskatoon)

May

- 6** Mini Rendez-vous, CPF-Melville chapter and CPF-La Ronge chapter
- 12-13** *Jeux fransaskois, Association jeunesse fransaskoise* (Regina)
- 12-14** *Camp de formation artistique, Association jeunesse fransaskoise* (Regina)
- 27** National Concours d'art oratoire (Ottawa)

June

- 9 -10** Chapter Planning Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Saskatoon)
- 10** Annual General Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Saskatoon)
- 16** Early Bird deadline for camp ultime

July

- 10 - 14** Fête du soleil, Regina and Yorkton
- 24 - 28** Fête du soleil, Lloydminster
- 31 - Aug 4** Fête du soleil, Moose Jaw

August

- 7-12 and 13-19** Camp ultime (Arlington Beach Camp)
- 21 - 25** Fête du soleil, Saskatoon

October

- 20** Launch of the State of FSL Report (Ottawa)
- 20-22** CPF National Conference and AGM (Ottawa)
- 26-28** National Conference CAIT, CASLT, and SATF (Saskatoon)

For more information about these events and others please see the CPF-SK website at www.cpfask.com or call CPF-SK at 1-800-561-6151

Peer Tutoring Literacy Programme

In the 2005-6 school year the following schools received grants from CPF-SK to purchase resources for the peer tutoring program. This initiative from the CPF National office which was piloted in Saskatchewan, is designed to give beginning French second-language readers a boost. Grade 2 and 3 readers who are almost able to read independently are paired with trained tutors from grades 5,6 and 7. Tutors and readers meet twice a week for a 30 minute guided reading session during class time. The program is implemented by the teacher and parent coordinators. Please contact CPF-SK for more information:

École St Mary, Regina
École communautaire Wascana , Regina
École Connaught School, Regina
École St Matthew, Saskatoon
École française de Saskatoon
École Henry Kelsey, Saskatoon
École St Paul, Saskatoon

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 _____
City _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____
Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____
Fax: (____) _____ email: _____
School(s) _____
Local CPF chapter _____

Membership
One Year (\$25) _____
Three Year (\$60) _____
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
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.***

Organizations Can Also Receive Our Newsletters

School, school division, French club, university class - whatever your group, you are invited to subscribe to CPF national, provincial, and local chapter newsletters as well as other designated mailings (to one address only). This membership confers no right to vote or to hold office at any level of CPF, but your representative may attend our meetings, seminars, and conferences and have access to our programs and resources. Become an **AMQ** for just \$60/year by sending in this form today!

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FOR ORGANIZATIONS APPLICATION FORM

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

Organization/Group _____
Mail attention to: _____
Telephone: (_____) _____
Email _____
Street _____
City _____
Prov _____ Postal Code _____

School Board/Division _____
Local CPF Chapter: _____
\$60 to be paid by: Cheque enclosed
 MasterCard Visa Card#: _____
Name on card: _____ Expires: _____
Date: _____
Signature: _____

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Provincial Board of Directors

President - Rose-Marie Bouvier, Regina
Vice-President - Amy Hadley, Prince Albert
Treasurer/Secretary-Georgette Chrispen, La Ronge
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Director - Valerie Miller, Yorkton
Director - Suzanne Rollo, Regina
Youth Advisory Director-Natasha Vetter, Prince Albert

Local Chapters

Battlefords
Estevan
La Ronge
Lloydminster
Melville
Moose Jaw

Nipawin
Prince Albert
Regina
Saskatoon
Swift Current
Yorkton

Director

CPF-SK is currently accepting nominations to the Board of Directors. If this position is of interest to you, or you would like make a nomination, please notify:

Gerri Ann Barber,
Chair of the Nominations Committee
CPF-SK
303-115 2nd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2B1



CPF-SK Office Information

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Mihaela Giurgiu, Youth Programming Officer
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Moving?

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