

Two Official Languages define us as Canadian

Sounding out public opinion from time to time is essential for understanding where Canadians stand on official languages and for assessing the evolution of their attitudes. For this reason, the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages asked Decima Research to include some additional questions concerning official languages in an omnibus survey. Since most of the questions are identical to those asked in 2003 during a similar exercise, it is possible to identify a number of trends.

The results suggest that Canadian policy on official languages is increasingly part of Canada's social fabric and of what defines us as a country.

Here is the overall portrait that emerges from the inquiry into public opinion:¹

- A strong majority of Canadians say they personally favour bilingualism for the entire country (72%). This represents a significant increase since 2003, due to greater support from Anglophones. Among young adults aged 18 to 34 years, support for Canadian bilingualism is 80%. In Saskatchewan support for bilingualism for all of Canada has increased by 24% since 1988. Support for provincial bilingualism has increased in Saskatchewan from 41% in 2000 to 63% in 2006.
- Certain additional questions make it possible to better evaluate the basis for support for bilingualism and linguistic equality. For example, 77% of Canadians feel that if more resources are required to guarantee the same quality of education for a Francophone minority (or an Anglophone minority in Quebec) as that provided to the children of the majority, such resources should be made available.

Not only have the two official languages made 21st century Canada a more open society, they have also encouraged greater solidarity among the two official language groups. 82% of Francophones and 74% of Anglophones believe that the two official language groups should enjoy equal quality of education, and are willing to provide more resources to the minority in order to meet that standard.

Moreover, the Canadian public continues to view bilingualism as an advantage, both in personal and economic terms. Bilingualism is one of the most fulfilling things one can do for oneself (84%) and constitutes a

success factor, within the country (84%) and around the world (89%). For most Canadians, bilingualism means learning a second official language, although interest in learning other languages is on the rise. In Saskatchewan 78% of respondents felt it important to learn to speak a language other than English, and 64% felt that French would be the most important language to learn.

Finally, 7 out of 10 Canadians think that living in a country with two official languages is one of the things that really define what it means to be Canadian.

To view the complete report please see http://www.ocolclo.gc.ca/archives/op_ap/stat/epon_e.htm#summary

¹ *This survey was conducted by telephone in February 2006 among a sample of 2,000 respondents aged 18 years and older. It has a margin of error of within plus or minus 2.2%, 19 times out of 20.*

Meadow Lake parents work to establish French immersion program

Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan is pleased to announce the formation of a chapter in Meadow Lake. The chapter will play an important role in solidifying the link between CPF-SK and the local community, and is working towards establishing a French immersion program in Meadow Lake to begin in the fall of 2007, the first new program in Saskatchewan for at least ten years.

This is a significant development for CPF-SK and for the province of Saskatchewan. "Parents in Meadow Lake will now benefit from the many initiatives offered by CPF-SK, as well as the research, information and support it offers to its members," says Rose-Marie Bouvier, CPF-SK Board President. "The development of another French immersion program in the province would show that Saskatchewan continues to embrace the promotion and implementation of French-second-language opportunities for our youth."

In coming months the chapter hopes to become more visible in the community and the schools in order to better support French-second-language learning opportunities and issues. Please contact the chapter President Joy Stang at 306-236-3336 for more information about events, meetings and dates.

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Peer Tutoring Program Celebrates Three Years of Success!

submitted by Isabelle Campeau,
Program Coordinator, École Massey School, Regina

It is incredible that it was only three years ago that I had the opportunity to travel to Vancouver to experience first-hand what is the Peer Tutoring Literacy Program. Along with colleagues and parent volunteers from New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, I attended a two-day workshop at École Lord Tennyson School where the program first started. The sessions provided us with the information necessary to organize, implement, and run the program successfully.

At our school, we started the Peer Tutoring Program in the spring of 2004 and we have been going strong since then. In the 2005-2006 school year we had unprecedented participation from everyone involved: twenty-two readers (eleven students from grade three and eleven from grade two), twenty-two full-time tutors and twenty-four part-time tutors from grades five and six (some tutors helped out in both capacities during separate sessions of the program), nine parent volunteers, six classroom teachers (with students in grades two, three, five and six), the teacher-librarian, the learning resource teacher, and the principal. We are very excited about all the happenings in our Peer Tutoring Program and this coming January, our first-ever group of readers will have the opportunity to become tutors.

Looking back to the past three years, we have found that the Peer Tutoring Program is now a vital component of our French immersion program. Each spring, at our kindergarten orientation meeting, part of the presentation is devoted to the Peer Tutoring Program. All the stakeholders involved with Peer Tutoring are extremely supportive and have seen the multiple benefits offered by the program. For readers, the main benefit is improved reading proficiency, especially in comprehension and fluency skills. Our readers also experience an increase in self-confidence and a change of attitude towards reading. The reading and leadership skills of our tutors are reinforced and/or developed. We also hope that it will help retain students in the French immersion program.

The Peer Tutoring Literacy Program has become an integral part of the culture of our school. It fosters literacy, enhances the development of life-long reading habits, and improves the communication and French language skills of our French immersion students.

CPF-SK supports Peer Tutoring Literacy Program

Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan offers grants for starting up Peer Tutoring Programs in Saskatchewan elementary schools. Schools receiving grants must be Associate Members of Canadian Parents for French. Please contact CPF-SK for information about membership and the Peer Tutoring Literacy Program.



Season's Greetings
from the Board and
Staff of CPF-SK

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Estevan	Prince Albert
La Ronge	Regina
Lloydminster	Saskatoon
Meadow Lake	Swift Current
Melville	Yorkton
Moose Jaw	

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President's Message



A major event this fall was the National Annual General Meeting and Conference held in Ottawa on October 19-22. This was also a celebration of 30 years of CPF. We welcomed a new National Board and bid farewell to outgoing president Trudy Comeau. There was a good representation from Saskatchewan and our delegates were able to take advantage of insightful presentations and practical workshops.

Parents, teachers and students alike received evidence-based information about the benefits of French-second-language learning. Renowned researcher Dr Fred Genesee presented his findings on the suitability of immersion for all students, and the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) presented research on the intensive French program. More information can be found on their website at www.caslt.org. The Federal Public Service provided information on their student work experience program, and lastly, presentations were given on the Quebec student exchange programs. Please contact your local chapter president or CPF-SK for further information on all these informative presentations.

Also headlining the weekend was the launch of the "State of French-Second-Language Education in Canada 2006 Annual Report" (a.k.a. FSL Report). This year's report focused on the provincial/territorial agreements signed by the Ministers of Education and the Government of Canada and their associated action plans, and the evaluation of the progress of the Federal Action Plan for Official Languages (2003).

The participants of this conference not only benefited from the weekend by learning useful information that will help them to meet challenges that may come, but also left with a renewed sense of energy and enthusiasm.

It is crucial to remain aware of the status of the FSL programs in our schools. I encourage all parents to maintain communication with school administration, become involved with the parent councils of their local schools and, where possible, with the parent advisory councils of the school divisions. It is your knowledge and involvement that will maintain the FSL programs in our schools.

A Canada-wide poll released by the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages showed increased support for bilingualism in Canada and Saskatchewan. This news received in September certainly supports CPF's position and our purpose to support FSL programs in our schools but we do have to continue to convince parents and students of the benefits of FSL programs so they can make informed decisions.

Thank you everyone for your continued support.
Rose-Marie Bouvier

CPF-SK Board of Directors announces awards

The Inspiring Teacher Award is presented in recognition of the contribution of a teacher who promotes French-second-language education in their school or community and inspires students of all abilities and backgrounds to learn French.

The Elmer Hynes Award is presented in recognition of the contribution of a volunteer who is a CPF member, provides outstanding leadership in promoting and creating French-second-language learning opportunities for the young people of Saskatchewan, celebrates cultural and linguistic diversity in their community and provides a positive influence at the chapter or board level.

The Volunteer of the Year award is presented in recognition of the contribution of a volunteer who is a CPF member, demonstrates initiative and dedication and gives volunteer service to CPF above and beyond the call of duty.

The CPF-SK Awards will be presented at the annual Chapter Planning Meeting in June. Further information including nomination forms can be found at www.cpfask.com.



The Saskatchewan delegation to the CPF-National AGM:
Back Row L-R: Jara MacFarlane, Dave Roang, Lindsay Matheson, Gerri Riehl, Jackie Kerr, Amanda Nickel, Paula Kirk, Mary Reeves, Patrick Dubois. Front Row L-R: Kimberley Sarich, Maureen Young, Rose-Marie Bouvier, Karen Pozniak.

Chapter Reports

Meadow Lake: *Merci* to everyone for your interest in and encouragement of our new chapter in Meadow Lake. We are very excited with the opportunities we now have available to our children and community through Canadian Parents for French.

The primary objective of our new chapter is to assist in the start of French immersion in Meadow Lake for kindergarten, grade one and grade two students in September 2007. Our petition of 20 students is now before the school board, and we are waiting for the Order in Council designating a school as the location for a French immersion program. There is also interest from many other parents in the community, and we expect that enrollment in French immersion will increase by fall.

In addition to working with the school board on the implementation of French immersion in Meadow Lake, other projects we hope to undertake within the next year include:

- hosting introductory French classes for parents of French immersion students;
- expanding our CPF-Meadow Lake chapter membership through local parents and businesses;
- fundraising to assist with the purchase of library resources;
- raising community awareness and acceptance of French immersion.

We are looking forward to a very interesting and busy year!!

Swift Current: The chapter is planning several activities this year including a French for Parents course starting in the new year, a Mini Rendez-vous Saturday in March 2007, and a Fête du soleil in the summer. From these activities, we hope to increase our chapter membership. A letter promoting the French for Parents course was sent home with the École Oman School report cards in November and 16 parents expressed interest in taking the course.

Battlefords: The good news is that the French immersion school is bursting at the seams and the parent organization is offering all sorts of family oriented activities (in English). The challenge is attracting people to after school activities in French. The chapter continues to work to find exciting ways to provide support and opportunities in French for the young people of their community.

Nipawin: The 2006/07 school year is off to a great start. Our efforts in the spring have produced the results we were hoping for. Our kindergarten and grade one classes were reinstated and a working relationship with our school division has been established. One result of this is a letter from the school division office, mailed to all eligible kindergarten students for the 2007/08 school year. This letter included a registration form, a French Immersion Parent Handbook, from Saskatchewan Learning, a Say "Oui" to French handout from CPF and an invitation to an informational and fun night for parents

and four year olds sponsored by our chapter. We have begun an intense awareness campaign which will include radio ads, posters and newspaper ads all in an effort to create greater awareness of the French immersion program in Nipawin.

Melville: We are excited that our grades six to nine students are heading to Quebec during the February break. So far, we've had a Halloween dance and auction which raised over a thousand dollars, a hot dog/hamburger sale at the Co-op grocery store and a pancake breakfast at our parish. The parents have really rolled up their sleeves to make this trip happen. Bouquets to them all! Also, we're in the second year of introducing our playschool children to French. It's a "sesame street" approach for them to have fun and sneak in some learning. For the children in the middle, we had a Mini Rendez-vous at the end of September and it was our most successful one yet. In early spring we want to do another Mini Rendez-vous that the pre-kindergartens will be invited to for half the day at no charge.

Saskatoon Catholic: We are excited to have hosted a Mini-Rendezvous at École St.Paul for kindergarten to grade five on Saturday November 25th. This a great opportunity for our students to use their French outside the classroom which helps to enhance their knowledge of the language and empowers them in their ability to speak French. St. Catherine's Day was celebrated with some toffee making which the students really enjoyed. For the New Year we are hoping to run an art themed day camp for our older students as well as another Mini-Rendez-vous. *Joyeux Noël a tout!*

Lloydminster: French immersion parents in Lloydminster have been busy setting up their new Parent Council. The first meeting was held on November 20th. A committee has been formed to work towards establishing a Pre-school, and they are looking for resources and information.

Prince Albert: An AGM was held on November 4th and many new ideas were generated. In addition to the usual activities which include the very popular luncheon for teachers and administrators, and CPF membership tea, the chapter is working on a family winter carnival and considering a summer family camp.

Estevan: The chapter has been busy with a Fête du soleil in the summer and planning for another French cuisine night. There is growing interest in CPF in the community and plans are being made for future activities.

La Ronge: We had a Mini Rendez-vous and Fête du soleil this past year. Those who attended enjoyed it. We haven't had a need to fundraise but the chapter will be making a donation to the grade eleven French immersion class which is going to Paris this year.

News from Yorkton

submitted by Paul Laverdure

St. Michael's Catholic Elementary School has a thumping number of students in French and French immersion classes. As the only elementary school in the entire city offering French immersion, it has developed a special character, reflecting a different kind of cultural and, naturally, linguistic diversity than other schools. The majority of our CPF members have their children in this school.

The big news at St. Michael's: Students in grades five to eight immersion are planning to go to the Festival du Voyageur in St. Boniface, Manitoba during the February break. They will be leaving February 11th and returning February 11th, to take part in the French and Metis activities, tour the Canadian Mint, and visit the Manitoba Museum. This activity has been organized by the many dynamic teachers at the school. The local CPF chapter supports it wholeheartedly and looks forward to receiving a request for funding.

There are a dozen students in French immersion at Sacred Heart Catholic High School. Hélène Tremblay-Boyko is their teacher. Their big news is a trip to Paris in 2008. Tremblay-Boyko announced her imminent retirement and decision to end her last year, 2007-2008, with another tour of France. She has chosen E.F. (Educational Foundation) Tours and is recruiting students this year to begin the planning and fundraising necessary to visit France during the Easter break in 2008. The Yorkton chapter supported the Easter 2006 "Tour de France" with Mrs. Tremblay-Boyko, who brought eight students (five in immersion and three in core French) and a bemused chaperone (myself) from Sacred Heart to climb the Eiffel Tower, visit French castles, the Louvre museum, Versailles, castles of the Loire Valley, the battlefields of Normandy, Jacques Cartier's St. Malo, and the famous pilgrimage monastery of Mont St. Michel. The excitement is already building for the next tour; about a dozen students have indicated their interest and some parents (me, especially) are wondering how we might get in on the fun.

We have naturally found greater interest among students going from grade eight French immersion at the elementary level into grade nine at the high school level to stay in French immersion once they know that there are some exciting trips they can join and which require that they be in a French class. We've seen some students enroll in core French to qualify for the France trip.

It looks like another busy year for Yorkton's CPF chapter, to raise funds, run a Mini Rendez-vous, and plan another summer day camp.



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Calendar of Events

December 2006

27-Jan 1 CPF-SK office closed

February 2007

3-4 CPF-SK Board meeting (Saskatoon)
5-9 FSL Education Week, Let's do it in French/
Faisons-le en français
16 Grades 6-9 grant application deadline for
projects taking place Apr 1-Aug 30, 2007
23-25 Rendez-vous 2007 (Champêtre
County, St Denis)

March 2007

18 CPF-SK Board Meeting (Saskatoon)
24 Mini Rendez-vous (Swift Current)
25 Mini Rendez-vous (Regina)
31 Nominations due for Elmer Hynes and
Inspiring Teacher Awards

April 2007

28 Concours d'art oratoire Provincial Finals
(Saskatoon)
28 CPF-SK Board Meeting, (Saskatoon)

May 2007

10 Mini Rendez-vous (Yorkton)
26 National Concours d'art oratoire (Ottawa)

June 2007

8,9 Chapter Planning Meeting and AGM
(Saskatoon)

August 2007

6-11 and 12-18 Camp ultime (Arlington Beach)

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Les journées du patrimoine - Heritage Days

submitted by Louise Schmidt

Assistant coordinator, Journées du Patrimoine, 2006

On September 29 2006 *la Société historique de la Saskatchewan* organized a provincial historical event at the Sukanen Ship and Pioneer Village Museum just outside Moose Jaw. French immersion and francophone schools were invited. What made the visit particularly interesting was the fact that inside certain buildings there was live action with people dressed in costumes of the era, actors who demonstrated how life was from the late 1800's until 1960. The tour guides were also part of the scene. It was like going back in time. Those who came learned about the ownership of the first French newspaper and how the French language was not allowed in the province for a period of time. There was a threshing display with the old threshing machines hard at work and of course, the men as well. The general store was open, and hand churned butter was being made. The railway and the ship were also on display.

Times have changed and many of the hardships of those days are gone. That day we were able to accommodate over 1000 students, teachers and parents. Of those, over 700 were from French immersion schools. They came from as far as Prince Albert, Willow Bunch, Yorkton, Regina, Moose Jaw, Estevan, Gravelbourg, and Swift Current. There were 23 schools represented of which 17 were French immersion schools.

The day turned out to be a great success thanks to everyone who participated. If you wish to relive the experience next year, please allow for some travel time in your 2007 budget. If all goes according to plan there will be a similar event at the Saskatchewan Western Development Museum in North Battleford next fall. For more information call Frederic Beaulieu at (306) 565-8916.

Planning ahead: Opportunities for youth

Camp ultime, the CPF-SK residential camp will be held August 6th to August 11th for students entering grades four to six, and August 12th to 18th for students entering grades seven to nine at Arlington Beach, Last Mountain Lake, Saskatchewan. Camps are open to core, intensive and immersion students. Activities include sports, games, canoeing, swimming, science, ecology, music, drama, arts and crafts.

Rendez-vous 2007 will be an exciting weekend at Champêtre County outside Saskatoon. Youth in grades six to eight will enjoy a hayride, games and activities all in a western setting, and all in French! Mark February 23-25 in your calendar now and look for registration forms in the schools immediately after the Christmas break.

The CPF-SK newsletter contains information about products and resources of interest to FSL students, their parents and teachers. Publication does not imply endorsement by CPF-SK. To place an advertisement in this newsletter please contact CPF-SK at 1-800-561-6151 or cdfsask@sasktel.net for rates and publication dates.

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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.***

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Youth Parliament

submitted by Guylaine Patenaude

Coordonnatrice de projets, l'Association jeunesse fransaskoise



What is the *Parlement jeunesse fransaskois* (PJF)? PJF is a weekend of parliamentary style debate, workshops, and interesting meetings and the only French-language youth parliament in Saskatchewan. It is also only one of three youth parliaments which are held in the Provincial Legislature in Regina. A program of *l'Association jeunesse fransaskoise* (AJF), the PJF has now taken place 11 times.

After each youth parliament in October, the young parliamentarians elect a Cabinet consisting of a Premier, House Speaker, Deputy Premier, Deputy House Speaker, House Leader, Leader of the Opposition, two Members of the Opposition and four Ministers. These youth help AJF to organize the next edition of the PJF. The Premier helps to confirm the dates and the facilities needed as well as sending the invitations to the event. The Ministers, with help from the Deputy Premier, write bills that they would like to see brought to debate in the Chamber. The House Leader helps with the logistics of the event, such as preparing the agenda for the entire weekend. Each member of Cabinet is assigned various tasks once AJF starts to organize the event. Youth between 14 and 25 years of age register throughout the year to participate in the next PJF.

Activities for the PJF usually begin on the Thursday night when everyone arrives for the welcome and ice breaker games, as well as workshops on proper procedure when within the Chamber and getting a better understanding of the proposed bills. Everyone stays at a hotel for the entire length of the PJF, which is fun especially when

waterslides are involved! On the Friday morning, everyone participates in the opening ceremonies and another workshop. The opening ceremonies proceed exactly as do the official opening ceremonies for the Legislative Assembly, with bagpipes and a Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor is usually a recognized and honoured member of the Fransaskois community. During the lunch hour on the Friday, the young parliamentarians have the chance to participate in the MLA Luncheon. This luncheon hosts many members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and some Members of Parliament. We also invite many people from the Fransaskois community. This year, we were honoured by the presence of the Honourable Premier Lorne Calvert. For the rest of the afternoon, everyone returns to the Chamber to start or continue debating the bills. In the evenings there are social activities planned to take a break from all the seriousness earlier in the day. On Saturday, all the participants spend the day in the Chamber. We offer breaks and another workshop in the afternoon if time allows. Depending on the year and the circumstances, the closing ceremonies and the elections take place either on the Saturday night or the Sunday morning. During the closing ceremonies the Lieutenant Governor grants royal assent to the bills that were passed and that will be made into laws.

We cannot forget one of the ongoing workshops throughout the weekend, which is the journalism workshop. During the last few editions of the PJF, there was an opportunity to learn about the inner workings of journalism in politics for an additional group of youth. In the past, the workshops were based on how to put together a paper/journal, however this year the journalists were focused on radio journalism. We try every year to invite more people come to fill up the Legislative Chamber during the PJF. We welcome the participation of immersion students.

The event itself costs only \$70 for everything, and when AJF says everything we mean it includes transportation, accommodation, meals, workshops, and most times a small souvenir from the event. You will get the chance to meet many people from every corner of this beautiful province and sometimes people from even further. It is an event that is not to be missed and we never know what might happen next year!! Contact the AJF at info@ajf.ca or call 653-7447 for information about how you can be involved in 2007.

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