

CPF-SK Meets with Commissioner of Official Languages

Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan was most fortunate to host Graham Fraser, the Commissioner of Official Languages; Jennifer Wessner, Liaison Officer for Saskatchewan, and Denise Lécuyer, the Commissioner's Representative for the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Region, at a meeting in Saskatoon on March 10th. CPF-SK was represented by Rose-Marie Bouvier, President of the Provincial Board, from Regina; Elizabeth Moar, Director to the Provincial Board, from Prince Albert; Natasha Vetter, Youth Advisory Director to the Provincial Board, from Saskatoon, and Karen Pozniak, Executive Director for CPF-SK, in Saskatoon.

Graham Fraser was appointed Sixth Commissioner of Official Languages on October 17th, 2006. The Commissioner's visit to Saskatchewan demonstrated his strong commitment to and support for French-second-language programs in this province. The meeting focused not only on the challenges we face but also on the successes we have seen. Discussion centered on French immersion, core French and intensive French provincial enrolments. Mr. Fraser was encouraged that French immersion enrolments for the 2006-2007 school year had increased by 2.26% after seeing a decline for several years. French post-secondary learning opportunities in Saskatchewan were also discussed.

He was also interested to hear how the amalgamation of school boards in January 2006 has affected enrolments. We talked at length about the challenges that some of the smaller rural communities face in light of declining enrolments and of their efforts to save French immersion programs locally.

With the rapid population increase of First Nations and Métis students, the Commissioner spoke of his particular interest in knowing more about the Cree and Dene first-language programs in the province. Mr. Fraser was pleased to hear that a dialogue has already begun with the goal of developing partnerships with the First Nations and Métis peoples.

In spite of challenges that still remain, Mr. Fraser said, "I am very impressed by the collaboration that is occurring within Saskatchewan". There is a great deal of cooperation between the Provincial Government, governmental agencies, Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan, and the Francophone community. Mr. Fraser found this to be very positive. Mr. Fraser concluded the meeting by asking the CPF-SK representatives what his office could do to move our goals forward.



Graham Fraser with (L-R) Natasha Vetter, Elizabeth Moar, Rose-Marie Bouvier, Karen Pozniak and Jennifer Wessner

Mr. Fraser, a core French student who learned French as a teenager, is a journalist by profession. He has penned many books including the bestselling *Sorry, I Don't Speak French*. Mr. Fraser signed the office copy of *Sorry, I Don't Speak French* as follows: "For CPF-Saskatchewan – Keep up the good work! From a big fan, Graham Fraser".

The Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages is an invaluable resource for Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan. We want to thank Mr. Fraser, Ms. Wessner and Ms. Lécuyer for this most productive and encouraging meeting.



The coalition for the Promotion of the French Language and the Francophone Culture in Saskatchewan is pleased to invite Saskatchewan students from French and immersion schools, as well as the Fransaskois community to *Francofière*.

For the second time in the history of the province, nearly 2,000 French-speaking teenagers and the Fransaskois community will gather in Regina for this single event on April 25th. Don't miss it!

President's Message



Many of us work together to achieve a common goal. By 'us' I mean parents and children, teachers and students, teachers and parents, administrators and school boards, parents and school councils, school divisions and communities, and universities and high schools. CPF works not only with all of these, but also with various government departments and agencies and francophone associations. The goal is the best French education for our students and as many opportunities for that education as possible.

Sometimes these partnerships can be challenging and problematic, but it is crucial that the commitment continues. Parents must continue to encourage and support children in their learning; teachers to motivate the students and keep the parents informed; administrators, school boards and parent councils to retain and improve the French programs; and communities and associations must continue to support all.

Everyone must cooperate and have open and regular communication. The sharing of information and ideas will provide the direction for the betterment of process, programs and decision-making. These results will benefit our common goal. If we all work collectively we will contribute to a thriving environment that will encourage and support the development of our children, their future, and that of French education in our province.

Ensemble nous avons la responsabilité d'effectuer des changements et de faire une différence. Je remercie tous les individus et les partenaires avec lesquels nous travaillons en collaboration.

Rose-Marie Bouvier

CPF-SK Supports Peer Tutoring Literacy Program

Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan is pleased to announce that grants have been issued to two schools to assist with purchasing resources for the Peer Tutoring Literacy Program. Congratulations to École Lakeview in Saskatoon and Pre-Cam Community School in La Ronge for participating in this initiative.

The Peer Tutoring Literacy Program consists of one-on-one reading sessions where older peers from grades five and six are matched with readers from grades two and three. The program improves the literacy and self-confidence of readers while developing the leadership skills of tutors. For more information about the Peer Tutoring Literacy Program, or about how to apply for start-up grants please contact CPF-SK.



CPF-SK Board of Directors

President - Rose-Marie Bouvier, Regina
Vice-President - Gerri Riehl, Battlefords
Treasurer/Secretary - Georgette Chrispen, La Ronge
Director - Cory Fengstad, Nipawin
Director - Valerie Miller, Yorkton
Director - Elizabeth Moar, Prince Albert
Director - Suzanne Rollo, Regina
Youth Advisory Director - Natasha Vetter, Prince Albert

Local Chapters

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

Office Staff

Karen Pozniak
Executive Director
cpf.sk.ed@sasktel.net

Ginelle Gillett
Administrative Assistant
ginellegillett@sasktel.net

Lindsay Matheson
Chapter Development Officer
lindsaymatheson@sasktel.net

Michèle MacKasey
Youth Programming Officer
youthprogramming@sasktel.net

Tyler Klassen, Office Assistant

CPF-SK Office Information

303-115, 2nd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2B1
Phone: 306.244.6151 Fax: 306.244.8872
Or toll free within Saskatchewan:
1.800.561.6151
e-mail: cpfsask@sasktel.net

www.cpfask.com



Saskatchewan Rivers
School Division
is proud to

CPF-SK Welcomes New Patron

Canadian Parents for French-Saskatchewan welcomes the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, His Honour the Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, as its Honourary Patron.

"It is with great pleasure that we receive acknowledgement from the Lieutenant Governor's office that His Honour the Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart accepted the invitation to become Provincial Patron of CPF-SK," said Provincial Board President Rose-Marie Bouvier. "We are delighted that he has accepted the title and appreciate how this patronage will build on our success in the area of French-second-language education".

Celebrate/Célébrer 20 Years of French Immersion

A celebration of 20 years of French immersion in Prince Albert Public school system will be held from 2-4 pm on Saturday May 12th, 2007 at École Vickers School, 2800 Bradbury Drive, Prince Albert, SK. There will be an informal program beginning at 2:30 pm including speeches, local French-speaking entertainment, an open mike for story sharing, and a cake-cutting ceremony.

Current and former French immersion students, parents, staff and administrators are invited to attend. Please respond by April 15th, to Janet Loseth at (306) 763-0826 or at janetkate@hotmail.com

Ideas and Initiatives from Prince Albert

February 4th, 2007 was the launch of the Prince Albert chapter's Winter Carnival at Little Red River Park, for CPF members of all ages. The event was coordinated by Bryan Shier, Treasurer of CPF-PA. The agenda included hot dogs, maple taffy and coffee, hot chocolate, bottled water, and juice at 12:00 noon. At 1:00 pm there was game time with a treasure hunt, face painting, and other assorted activities. Everyone was then free to enjoy Little Red River Park's hills and ski facilities. This new initiative from the chapter has become a planned yearly event!

Another new fundraising idea! CPF - Prince Albert has been busy volunteering at coat-checks for various community events including the Citizen of the Year Dinner, Trade Shows at the Olive and John Diefenbaker Center and the city's Long Service Award. The chapter is always looking for French immersion high school students to volunteer for these events.

On Thursday, February 8th, 2007 a luncheon was held for French second-language teachers and administrators at Amy's on Second restaurant. The 59 people who attended were entertained by singers and musicians Alex Scott and Donovan Scheirer, guest speakers Brett Bolduc and Molly Yurach. *Mille Merci* to Amy Hadley and French immersion students for sharing their talents. At the luncheon, Amy Hadley was presented with a certificate and gift bag by CPF-Prince Albert chapter for her many years of contributions.

New CPF-SK Staff Member

Michèle Mackasey has been working as the Youth Programming Officer for CPF-SK since mid-January. She started working as a monitor for CPF-SK this past fall, and feels that this experience has given her a better understanding and insight into the



organization and its programming. Michèle was born in Northern Québec and raised in Ontario. She studied Fine Arts, specializing in drawing and painting, at the Ontario College of Art and Design, and graduated with honours. She continues to pursue her career as an artist, and is currently doing a mentorship program with CARFAC, a national organisation for visual artists.

Amongst her experience, Michèle worked as a substitute teacher for the *Division Scolaire du Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario* for a period of two years, and has taught art classes to children since she was a student. She has also worked as an Educational Facilitator at the Mendel Art Gallery where she gave tours and taught art classes; re-initiated french tours for both immersion and francophone students, as well as offering presentations in French to the general public. She has recently given workshops in drawing at both SCYAP and ÉCF.

Michèle has two children, aged 8 and 14, who both are students at l'École Canadienne-française. Prior to returning to Saskatchewan, she spent four years living in Québec with her children as well as living in Ontario for a period of two years.

Bachelor of Francophone Studies at the Institut français

A well-rounded, flexible yet focused initiation to the study of francophone culture and issues in Canada and abroad, including linguistic and cultural immersion and an introduction to applied research.

The Bachelor of Francophone Studies, the only program of its kind in Canada, is a four-year, multidisciplinary, bilingual program that prepares the French-speaking leaders of tomorrow. Students will gain an overall understanding of the Canadian and international Francophonie, while completing a 30-credit concentration in one of the following disciplines: history, anthropology/ethnology, literature, or linguistics. In this Faculty of Arts program administered by the Institut français, students take a minimum of 60% of courses in French.

Future Prospects

The Bachelor of Francophone Studies opens the door to a world of possibilities. It could lead to a career in:

- the federal civil service
- the cultural sector
- community development
- international relations

The 30-credit concentration, reinforced by required courses in related disciplines, puts graduates in a strong position to request admission to master's programs across Canada.

Partnership with Université Laval

All students spend their third year at Université Laval. This immersion in Québécois culture is an extraordinary experience for all students in the program. For more than twenty years, a close relationship with Université Laval has allowed the University of Regina to provide its students with an enriching linguistic, cultural and academic experience in Quebec City.

Financial Support

- Each student will receive \$7,000 in financial support over the first three years of the program, including \$2,000/semester while they are at Université Laval.
- The Institut français will also offer scholarships of \$1,500 on a competitive basis to students in each year of the program.

Student Support

- Personalized counselling on choice of courses and concentration
- Language support (non-credit courses, proofreading of texts)
- Access to Saskatchewan's francophone community
- Student service center (tutoring, employment assistance, etc.)
- Support services at Université Laval (housing, liaison with administration, etc.)

Why Study at the University of Regina

- The Fransaskois community is recognized throughout francophone Canada as dynamic and innovative.
- The University of Regina's Institut français is actively involved in the linguistic, cultural and professional development of French-speaking Saskatchewan.
- Located beside Wascana Lake, the University of Regina's modern campus is the only one in Canada that is home to the post-secondary institutions of three minority founding peoples of Canada: the First Nations (First Nations University of Canada), the Métis (Gabriel Dumont Institute), and francophones (Institut français).

Registering for the Program

This program is offered to all bilingual students across Canada wishing to develop a well-rounded appreciation of francophone culture and issues. Students interested in entering this program should have an intermediate level in written French and English, and meet the admission requirements of the University of Regina. For registration or more information, please contact us:

Institut français
University of Regina
Regina, SK Canada S4S 0A2
Phone: 306-585-4828
Toll Free: 1-866-214-8097
Fax: 306-585-5183
E-mail: institut@uregina.ca
Website: www.institutfrancais.uregina.ca



Spring-time Rendez-vous

Rendez-vous 2007 has been rescheduled for May 25-27, 2007 after being postponed due to poor travelling conditions. This exciting event for students in grades six to eight will be taking place at Champêtre County for a fun weekend with a western theme. Activities will include a western relay, coureur-de-bois, a cowboy demonstration, and building modern wigwams! Students will gather in Saskatoon and travel by bus to this rural destination. Bilingual monitors hired by Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan will supervise participants. Registration forms will be available at schools in early April, or watch the CPF-SK website for updated information. We look forward to seeing you at Champêtre County for Rendez-vous 2007!

Fête du soleil

Are you looking for a week-long French summer day camp program? Do you want to have fun?

Fête du soleil (the “Sun Party”) is the perfect answer. This very popular event is designed for children from kindergarten to grade five who have at least one-year experience in French. 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.

Fête du soleil is organized by CPF-SK in conjunction with local chapters. Bilingual students develop themes and activities in French in consultation with CPF-SK. They then lead the camp which travels throughout Saskatchewan.

For more details regarding this program, please visit our website at www.cpfask.com.

Camp ultime

Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan is pleased to announce Camp ultime 2007 at Arlington Beach Camp, Last Mountain Lake. This 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.

Camps are open to immersion, core and intensive French students. Camp activities will include sports and games, canoeing and swimming, science and ecology, music and drama, and arts and crafts.

Please note that payment must be postmarked no later than June 15th, 2007 to qualify for the early bird discount.

Keep a lookout for the Camp ultime 2007 brochure and registration form which will be distributed soon!

Francofièvre and French for the Future join forces to hold event in Regina

On April 25th, the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina will be the scene of the second annual *Francofièvre*, a French-language concert extravaganza! This year a new dimension has been added to *Francofièvre 2007*. French for the Future / *Le français pour l'avenir* will be held from 10:00 am to noon, at the same location. *Francofièvre 2007* will then run from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. The names of the entertainers will be announced at a later date.

Approximately 2,000 French immersion and Francophone students, from grades 7-12, will gather for this exciting event.

The main goal of *Francofièvre 2007* is to motivate youth to learn about and develop an appreciation for the French language and culture. By developing a sense of pride, our youth will discover that the French community is strong and vibrant. By giving them an opportunity to develop their leadership skills, our youth will become ambassadors of the French language and culture in Saskatchewan.

French for the Future / *Le français pour l'avenir* consists of workshops, plenary sessions and forum discussion groups where students in grades 11 and 12 learn the career benefits of continuing bilingual education. The program demonstrates a commitment to bilingualism and French language education through programs which provide information and encouragement to Canadian youth, while celebrating French language and culture.

In 2007, French for the Future programs will be held in Calgary, Fredericton, Halifax, London, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Regina.

Schools can register for *Francofièvre* by calling CPF-SK at 1-800-561-6151 or in Saskatoon at 244-6151. Students interested in participating in French for the Future should register by calling the *Assemblée communautaire fransaskois* at 1-800-991-1912 or 1-306-422-8689.

Calendar of Events 2007

March

- 31** Nominations due for Elmer Hynes and Inspiring Teacher Awards
- 31** Mini Rendez-vous (Estevan)
- 31** Institut français Bursary application deadline

April

- 12** Deadline to register for the Fransaskois Games
- 21** Mini Rendez-vous (Prince Albert)
- 25** *Francofièvre* and French for the Future (Regina)
- 28** Concours d'art oratoire Provincial Finals (Saskatoon)
- 28** CPF-SK Board Meeting, (Saskatoon)

May

- 10** Mini Rendez-vous (Yorkton)
- 11-12** Fransaskois Games (Regina)
- 25-27** Rendez-vous 2007
- 26** National Concours d'art oratoire (Ottawa)

June

- 8,9** Chapter Planning Meeting and CPF-SK AGM (Saskatoon)

July

- 3-6** Fête du soleil (Saskatoon)
- 9-13** Fête du soleil (Swift Current)
- 16-20** Fête du soleil (Yorkton and Regina)
- 30-August 3** Fête du soleil (Estevan)

August

- 6-11** Camp ultime week 1 (grades 4-6, Arlington Beach Camp)
- 12-18** Camp ultime week 2 (grades 7-9, Arlington Beach Camp)
- 20-24** Fête du soleil (Saskatoon)

Additional Fête du soleil dates to be confirmed

Grades 6-9 Grant Program

Congratulations to the following schools that have received grants for their programming initiatives with grades 6-9 students this fiscal year:

- Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools for *Francontre 2007* (a half-day of workshops, activities, and a guest speaker for grade eights)
- École St. Thomas School in Lloydminster for *Carnaval 2007*
- École St. Paul School in Saskatoon to support *Carnaval*, Cultural Day, French Folk Dancing, and Initiatives
- Churchill Community High School in La Ronge for a trip to Regina to tour the Science Centre
- St. Augustine School in Saskatoon for a trip to Waskesiu with bilingual exchange partners

Chapter Planning Meeting and AGM

June 8th and 9th 2007 will be the annual Chapter Planning Meeting for Canadian Parents for French-Saskatchewan. All chapters are required to send at least one representative to this important event. There will be an opening reception on the Friday evening where CPF-SK awards will be presented. Saturday's activities will include workshops designed specifically for chapter representatives, the CPF-SK Annual General Meeting, and opportunities to network with chapter members from around the province.

SEVEC Applications Now being Accepted

The Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges (SEVEC) is now accepting applications for the 2007-8 program year. Chapters and schools are encouraged to discuss these subsidised opportunities for outside the classroom language learning.

Each year SEVEC provides opportunities for 6,000 youth to go on exchange within Canada, approximately one half of these experiences are language exchanges, and they work! 99% of teachers believe that exchanges improve students' attitude towards second-language learning and 92 % of students feel they became more confident using Canada's other official language as a result of their exchange.

Please visit the SEVEC website at www.sevec.ca for more information on applying for an exchange.

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 cpfsask@sasktel.net for rates and publication dates.

Camp Director Wanted

CPF-SK is looking for a Camp Director for Camp ultime 2007, a residential camp which will take place from August 6th to 18th at Arlington Beach, Last Mountain Lake. This contract position will run from June 18th to August 24th.

For more information about this exciting and rewarding position, contact Karen Pozniak at CPF-SK at 244-6151 or 1-800-561-6151 (in Saskatchewan), or email inquiries to cpf.sk.ed@sasktel.net.

Monitors Wanted

CPF-SK is also looking for monitors for Camp ultime and Fête du soleil. Contact CPF-SK for more information.

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 **AMO** 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: _____

Return to: CPF-SK, Suite 303, 115 - 2nd Avenue N, Saskatoon, SK S7K 2B1

Prince Albert Student Travels to Ottawa by Jessica Harris

I am so grateful that my parents made the decision to register me in French immersion back in kindergarten. Such a decision is not always easy for many parents as the French language is not encountered often outside of the classroom when living in Saskatchewan. It is difficult to truly grasp the extent of the benefits that can be gained from a second-language education. Now, having graduated high school and moved away to the nation's capital, I can truly cherish this ability.

In my last year of high school, I undertook the process of applying to work as a Page in the House of Commons of Canada. This position is open to 40 first-year university students from across the country, who move to Ottawa for the year and attend one of the universities in the area. This opportunity was not one that I could pass up; how many chances does one have to work alongside Members of Parliament, those who make important decisions concerning our country?

One of the essential criteria for this position is that all applicants must be fully bilingual, a C-level in government terms. The effort I put in over my years of French immersion paid off in allowing me to apply for such a position. First of all, I had to send my application package in early December. Once I passed that stage, I had a telephone interview in early February, which was conducted in French. I had to speak on the phone for 30 minutes, allowing the program administrators to evaluate my second language comprehension. Once I passed that stage, I had an interview at the legislature in Regina at the beginning of March and then finally in May I was notified that I had been accepted. It became a reality that I would move to Ottawa in the upcoming fall and work as a Page in the House of Commons.

As a Page, my work entails many tasks. Pages work in the House of Commons for all members of Parliament. We answer phones and relay messages between offices and the MPs themselves, while they continue with their important work in the House. We also deliver packages into the House of Commons, as well as bringing water or anything else that may be needed for the MPs to fulfill their roles. On a day to day basis my second language is essential as many members speak little English. I correspond in French to all francophone MPs, my French colleagues as well as other employees of the House of Commons. I attend the University of Ottawa which is completely bilingual.

It has been an honor to work in such a prestigious position. I have gained so much over the year, most notably a better understanding of my second language as well as a greater knowledge of the francophone culture.



Jessica Harris with Speaker of the House of Commons, Peter Milliken (left) and Deputy Clerk of the House of Commons, Marc Bosc.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 41206512
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
CPF-Saskatchewan
303-115 2nd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2B1