

CPF Saskatchewan

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH

SASKATCHEWAN BRANCH

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2001

2002

President's Report

by Louise Bray

Twenty-five years ago, a small group of interested parents got together to promote French second language education in Canada. At a recent conference in Charlottetown, PEI, I had the memorable experience of listening to a presentation on the history of Canadian Parents for French and of how far we have come as a nation in accepting linguistic duality.

Twenty-five years is a generation, and I am not too young to remember many bitter battles about language, language rights, and access to language education. Sometimes we get discouraged and wonder if anything has changed.

But, fundamentally, we know that the world is evolving into a global community and that we are moving along with the times. In working towards better educational opportunities for the next generation, we know that they will be ready to take up their own challenges and that we will have done what we could to prepare them.

We are grateful for the ongoing financial support of Canadian Heritage, the Official Minority Language Office of Saskatchewan Education, Human Resources Development Canada and Young Canada Works. We also depend on the in-kind support of a myriad of partner organizations including school divisions, the Official Minority Language Office of Saskatchewan Education, L'assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, and many of its associated organizations, The Language Institute and Baccalaureate en éducation program at the University of Regina, the Department of Languages and Linguistics at the University of Saskatchewan, and French for the Future. However, it is the support of you, our members, and all our volunteers that makes it possible for us to accomplish our goals. Your efforts make all the difference.

At the end of my term, I am happy to have served my community as president of CPF - Saskatchewan, and I wish the incoming Board every success in pursuing our mission.

Married to a French-Canadian and with three bilingual children, I am of that generation that has benefited from twenty-five years of bilingualism and can joyfully celebrate living with two languages and two cultures.

I would also like to congratulate Radio-Canada on their fiftieth anniversary, and I note that it is true—we do have “tant de choses à se dire” and also “tant de choses à célébrer”...“so much to say to each other” and “so much to celebrate.”

Annual General Meeting Agenda

Saturday, June 8, 2002

Delta Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order | 8. Appointment of Auditors |
| 2. Approval of Agenda | 9. Nomination Committee Report |
| 3. Approval of minutes of 2001 AGM | 10. Election of Officers |
| 4. President's Report* | 11. Bylaw Committee Report |
| 5. Executive Director's Report* | 12. New Business |
| 6. Presentation of Financial Report* | - Date & location of 2003 AGM |
| 7. Approval of Audit | 13. Adjournment |

*See attached summary

Executive Director's Report

by Karen Taylor-Browne (PhD)

The fiscal year 2001-2002 has been a difficult one for CPF – Saskatchewan. Late receipt of funding meant that we experienced serious problems in operating both our office and our regular programs for a significant period during this year. At the same time, the administrative load on our reduced staff was significantly increased from previous years by the extensive reporting requirements of our largest funding agency, Canadian Heritage.

The impact of this situation on our ability to fulfil the objectives that we had set for ourselves in our 2001-2002 Action Plan was most crucially evident in the area of Information and Advocacy. In late August we had no money to join CPF National and other Branches to do a launch of the *State of French Second Language Reports* we had proposed. We also lacked the funds to produce and distribute the Youth Bulletin that we had prepared at the end of the 2000-2001 fiscal year and we never found the time to update it so that it could be sent out later in the school term. We were also unable to send out a late summer newsletter when the information was current. Consequently, only two of the three projected newsletters were produced. New, professionally printed pamphlets about the Branch and about Immersion programs in Saskatchewan that we had proposed to develop were also kept on hold for want of the time required to revise the photocopied pamphlets we have been using. Most disappointing of all, however, was the fact that a conference addressing the future of French language programs in Saskatchewan for educational leaders such as senior school division administrators and trustees had to be at least temporarily abandoned because we were unable to secure sufficient specific funding for this important initiative and had no funds in our operational budget that we could transfer into the project at the point when a coordinator needed to be hired and publicity materials needed to be sent out to prospective attendees.

Delays caused by our funding situation also impacted on our ability to hold a joint planning meeting of the Branch Board and Chapter Presidents at a time when we could get a sufficient turn out to make such a meeting worthwhile. We also found it necessary to cancel the first of two sessions of the pilot French for Parents classes we wished to operate in Saskatoon because our backlog of work meant we could not get information concerning this program into the schools soon enough to attract sufficient subscription. A late start on Chapter development activities has also meant that we ended the fiscal year without a chapter in either Saskatoon or Swift Current to operate children's programs that we had hoped would take place in these centres in the 2001-2002 school year and during the summer holidays of 2002.

While this list of set-back is quite long, our list of accomplishments is considerably longer. We actually succeeded in meeting most of the objectives of our 2001-2002 Action Plan. The remainder of this report will summarize our activities in reference to the three general categories of programs outlined in our Action Plan: Youth, Information and Advocacy, and Organizational Support and Development.

Youth Programs

CPF – Saskatchewan hoped that 2001-2002 would witness an increase in the numbers of children involved in the fee paying programs we, or our chapters, have been operating for some time: summer residential camp for Immersion students 9-15; summer day camps or Fêtes du soleil for children 5-10; the provincial youth conference for Immersion students in grades 6, 7 and 8 which we call Rendez-vous; and the Mini Rendez-vous program for children in kindergarten to Grade 5 which are operated by our chapters with our support. We also wished to offer more programming opportunities for secondary school students by working with a number of partner organizations. Our long running Concours d'art oratoire was also a high priority. We wished to update this program so that it would conform to the Concours organized by other CPF Branches. We felt this was a necessary step if students from Saskatchewan were to be prepared to attend a National Concours which CPF National plans to hold in May of 2003. This meant expanding Concours on a pilot basis to students studying Core French in school divisions that also have French Immersion. Core French students were also to be included in our Summer Residential camping program. Core and immersion teachers could both apply for support through our Cultural Visits program although no group actually did make use of this program.

Thanks to a much more aggressive publicity program, participation in Summer Camp increased quite dramatically. Fees were received for 122 camper weeks compared to 79 in summer 2000. However, the number of different individual

children rose from 58 to 110. Of these, 87 were French Immersion program students and 23 had been receiving Core French instruction. Summer day camps or Fêtes du soleil also had a modest total subscription increase from 131 in summer 2000 to 140 in summer 2001. They were operated by our Chapters in Regina, Yorkton, Lloydminster, North Battleford and Estevan but staffed by students trained, paid and equipped by the Branch. In order to ensure that we met our obligations to the students as well as the requirements of the agencies from whom we received summer grants to employ students, the Branch staff also operated two weeks of Fête in Saskatoon. Unfortunately, the Branch staff found that operating camps in Saskatoon without support from local organizers was far too demanding a commitment in time. As a result, we are being more cautious in hiring students for summer 2002 and we will need to have volunteer committees to plan and oversee these events in all locations where they operate.

Volunteer committees are also required for the operation of our Mini Rendez-vous program. However, it would seem that the considerable support provided by the Branch has made this program particularly rewarding for the Chapters that did operate them this year: Prince Albert, Melville, Battlefords, Yorkton, Nipawin, Estevan and Lloydminster. Most of them wanted to offer a second one before the end of the 2001-2002 school year. In doing so they hoped to extend them to pre-school children in order to provide parents of prospective Immersion students with an introduction to the kind of programming the children would experience in a French Immersion kindergarten. A total of 197 children participated in the first round of events that were held. This is actually lower than the 240 we counted in 2000-2001 because Lloydminster's events for the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school years both fell within our 2000-2001 fiscal year. In addition, the absence of a chapter in Saskatoon meant that the *Une Nuit et un jour* that the previous chapter executive had organized for many years did not take place. An excursion to Bellevue that the Prince Albert chapter has, in the past, organized for slightly older children also did not go ahead in 2001-2002 because of lack of sufficient enrolment. However, Prince Albert did operate an afterschool reading program using funds generated through memberships brought in through their Mini Rendez-vous.

The Branch used a modified version of the Mini Rendez-vous to support the rather isolated immersion programs in Willow Bunch and La Ronge. Two of our student employees spent a day in these schools in May doing fun activities in French with the children. The events were very well received. However, they were not tied to memberships or to fees. Were we able to charge a modest fee or sell an Associate Organization Membership to schools to cover the differential between the amounts we receive in student grants and the amounts we pay our students, it is possible that this type of programming could be extended to other schools.

Of all our youth programs it was Rendez-vous which was most disappointing in terms of numbers: only 47 students registered compared to 96 last year. The primary problem was booking space at the Language Institute - the traditional venue for this event. This led to delays in sending out registration materials which was further complicated by problems printing the program. We believe the booking problem may be intensified next year because the University of Regina has decided to dismantle the Language Institute and has yet to determine how organizations such as ours will interface with any successor units. We are thus looking at the possibility of using a different site. However, the fact that we have a relatively large Restricted Asset Account for our Rendez-vous program may make it possible for us to operate two events: one in the north and one in the south.

Another Rendez-vous with which we had some involvement in 2000-2001 was the *Rendez-vous four* that the *L'association Jeunesse francophone* operates each year. This year, the funds we had set aside to help with that program and the French Debating and Youth Parliament also operated by *AJF* ended up being used for *French for the Future/Le français pour l'avenir* and *Les jeux de la francophonie canadienne*. Our Branch staff was extensively involved in planning the former. We also subsidized the transportation of all Grade 11 and 12 Francophone and French Immersion students in Saskatoon so they could attend a rally with the patron of the event, His Excellency John Ralston Saul. *French for the Future* itself occurred on April 16, 2002 so does not properly fall within this reporting period. That is also the case for *Les jeux de la francophonie canadienne*. However, we can say of the latter that our efforts at publicity

combined with the organizational work done in Prince Albert by our Chapter President there, Jara MacFarlane, have resulted in Saskatchewan having the biggest representation of any province on the Francophile team that Canadian Parents for French as a national organization is sending to Les Jeux.

Another program for High School students that we felt was particularly successful was the French language Career Faire that took place at the University of Regina in October. This project had been deferred from 2000-2001 because we could not operate such a large project alone and the francophone organizations that had organized a similar event in 1999-2000 decided it was not possible to do it on an annual basis. The lead organization this year was the employment agency of the *Assemblée communautaire francasquoise, Guichet Unique*. A number of other partner organizations in the francophone community, including the francophone school division, were also involved on the organizing committee. So too was the Language Institute. However, CPF - Saskatchewan was the only organization specifically representing the interests of students learning French as a second language. We were thus very pleased that 225 Grade 11 and 12 students from eight different school divisions attended on the day reserved for Immersion students.

Had 225 Grade 11 and 12 students enrolled in divisional finals of Concours d'art oratoire, we would have been ecstatic. As is the case with other Branches across Canada, CPF - Saskatchewan finds it difficult to convince high school teachers and students to participate in the Concours program - even though there are cash prizes for first and second place finishers in the Grade 9 to 12 provincial finals. We did attract a slightly larger number of participants at the high school level this year compared to last and the number of children involved in Grades 1 to 8 was up by approximately 800 to a total of more than 3800 Core French and Immersion pupils. We feel this increase is partly due to the new information packages for teachers and Concours organizers that we developed and distributed. They demanded a considerable amount of staff time as well as an extensive volunteer commitment on the part of Suzanne Styles who was on administrative leave following the completion of her term as French Consultant for the Saskatoon Public School Division. However, even with her help, it was impossible for the Branch to complete the whole of the Concours process by the end of our fiscal year. Funds had to be carried forward to pay for the North and South Regional Finals for grades 4 to 8 held on April 13th and the Grade 9 - 12 provincial finals held May 4th.

The youth programs mentioned above are designed to develop cultural awareness and enhance the French language skills the students are developing at school. However, they have an additional benefit. Many of the monitors we hire for the programs are post-secondary students with an interest in teaching. By giving them experience in a closely related area, we are indirectly supporting the development of French language education programs. We provide additional support by giving two \$250 bursaries to the University of Regina which, through a matching dollar program, can award two \$500 bursaries to future teachers. Practising teachers who are members of CPF were also eligible to apply for a \$1000 bursary to allow them to attend a summer study program to enhance their linguistic and/or pedagogical skills. The recipient of this year's award, Marie France Boucher, was able to attend the Canadian Association of French Immersion Teachers' summer institute and has used the knowledge she gained both to enhance her own teaching and to enrich that of her colleagues in the Regina Public School Board by offering a workshop based on her experiences.

Information and Advocacy

As is the case with our Youth Programs, much of the front line publicity and advocacy work of Canadian Parents for French in Saskatchewan is done by individual members and our Chapters with support from the Branch. Publicity materials and information provided by our staff over the phone, on our website or in person is used to support the chapters. We also distribute information to schools, school divisions and the general public. This year, we had a new set of publicity materials produced by CPF National for a membership campaign to add to our existing bank of materials. Once we received our major grant monies we decided to use some of them to increase public exposure to the television advertisement National had produced. We did this by arranging some province-wide paid playtime during the Olympics. We also paid for some playtime for the award winning French immersion advertisement the Branch produced in 1999. The print and radio ads National produced were distributed to our chapters who worked hard to get their local media outlets to use them. Chapter volunteers and the Branch staff also distributed posters to schools across the province.

As has been the case in the past, Branch staff attended meetings of partner organizations and made public presentations at events organized by the chapters, individual members or other organizations. Of particular note was the fact that at least one member of staff attended every French immersion kindergarten information session offered by the two Saskatoon school divisions. The student employees we had working out of Regina on a part-time basis also attended information nights whenever they were invited. However, the impact of our student speakers was most noticeable in May and June of 2001 when three of them did publicity in the schools. They were able to talk to principals, teachers and pupils about our programs, about CPF in general and about the value of learning French. Based on the quite dramatic increase in registrations for our summer camp, it was evident that the information they provided on that subject had a positive impact on the children they spoke to.

The presence of CPF as an organization was also made very evident to parents in Saskatoon through the one session of French for Parents classes that we operated this year. A total of 52 people enrolled in the two levels offered. The refinements made to the syllabus and materials were well received by the instructors and students and we feel we are close to having a package that we will be able to make available to our Chapters for use throughout the province.

Organizational Support and Development

The move of our office and the retirement of our dedicated long-serving Provincial Coordinator, Marj Scharf, required considerable changes in office organization. I continued to have overall responsibility for staffing, reporting, budgeting and fundraising. I am the principal contact for other organizations, the media, other Branches of CPF, our National staff and our Branch Board. I also prepare French-language materials required for our programs and I taught one section of the French for Parents course in order to get a better feeling for the requirement of the course. I do research and use my background knowledge to respond to the more complex requests for information. The chapter development work I used to do has been taken over by Lindsay Matheson who is our part-time Chapter Development Officer. She has worked very hard to try to encourage the development of school based chapters in Saskatoon but has yet to see the fruits of her labours manifested. She has also been providing ideas and support to the established chapters by responding to calls, attending meetings, writing a regular 'Chapter Chat' newsheet and coordinating youth events. Kara Pilon and Mathew Conley, the University of Regina Baccalaureate en éducation students who shared a part-time position based in Regina, provided additional support to our southern Chapters for three months beginning in January.

Our Executive Administrative Assistant, Joanne Illingworth, is responsible for bookkeeping, payroll, membership management, office management, the computerized set-up of all of our publications and she tries to find time to do web-site updates when she is not answering phones and supporting Lindsay, myself and our Branch Board members when we need information or outside services. This includes making arrangements for meetings and conference calls for our Board as well as travel and accommodation bookings. Her work has been made significantly more complex in the past year as we have changed our accounting practises so that we can track the real costs of all of the projects that we undertake.

Overseeing all of our activities is our Provincial Board: Louise Bray, President; Nancy Jefferson, Vice-President; Rose-Marie Bouvier, Secretary-Treasurer; Amy Hadley, Director; and Jackie Rathgeber, Director. The need to deal with our funding problems required their participation in several conference calls over the summer and a meeting that we were lucky to have coincide with a visit to Saskatoon by our CPF National Board in August. Meetings like this help CPF to operate effectively as a national organization. Our President and Vice-President normally attend two meetings a year of Presidents and Vice Presidents with one coinciding with the National AGM. However, personal circumstances meant they only attended one while our Secretary-Treasurer represented the Branch at the Annual General meeting. Our President or Vice President have participated in regular National conference calls. With the additional responsibility of responding to correspondence and conveying information back and forth between National and the Branch, the work load of our President has been significant and her sacrifice of time considerable. We hope that many of you will be on hand at our Annual General Meeting to join us in bidding her Farewell and thanking her for the two and half years of leadership she has provided our organization.

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AUDITORS' REPORT

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH SASKATCHEWAN INC. March 31, 2002

	2002	2001
ASSETS		
Current	\$56,694	\$86,410
Capital assets and lending library	<u>\$5,733</u>	<u>11,042</u>
	\$62,427	\$97,452
LIABILITIES		
Current	\$ 1,264	\$4,729
Deferred Contributions	<u>19,328</u>	<u>54,581</u>
	20,592	59,310
NET ASSETS		
Net assets internally restricted	23,919	15,253
Net assets invested in capital assets	5,320	10,630
Unrestricted net assets	<u>12,596</u>	<u>12,259</u>
	<u>41,835</u>	<u>38,142</u>
	\$62,427	\$97,452

To the Members

The accompanying summarized statements of financial position, revenue, expenditures, unrestricted net assets and changes in financial position are derived from the complete financial statements of Canadian Parents for French Saskatchewan Inc. as at March 31, 2001 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated May 23, 2002. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the entity's financial position, results of operations and changes in financial position, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.


CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANTS

Hounjet Tastad
Certified General Accountants
SASKATOON (Saskatchewan)
May 23, 2002

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Revenue		
Grants	\$190,070	\$220,765
Memberships and chapter fees	12,212	10,257
Registration fees	27,899	18,356
Other revenue sources	2,264	3305
Deferred contributions	<u>35,254</u>	<u>(6,994)</u>
	\$267,699	\$245,689
Expenditures	<u>258,697</u>	<u>248,314</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	<u>9002</u>	<u>(2,625)</u>
Appropriations to Internally restricted net assets	(8,665)	2620
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 337	\$ (5)
Unrestricted net assets, beginning of year	12,259	12,264
Unrestricted net assets, end of year	12,596	12,259

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Cash provided by (used for)		
Operations	\$9,002	\$(2,625)
Changes in non-cash working capital	<u>(71,442)</u>	<u>4,807</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash	(62,440)	2,182
Cash, beginning of year	<u>76,880</u>	<u>74,698</u>
Cash, end of year	\$14,440	\$76,880