

President's Report

By Nancy Jefferson

“For every end, a new beginning!”

I'm stealing my daughter's grad theme to sum up my thoughts on the 2003-2004 year of CPF-SK and for my term as President of this organization. We have come to the end of one funding agreement with Canadian Heritage and are on the verge of a new agreement. This has allowed us to evaluate what has been accomplished and where we want to see the organization in the next three to five years. This is where the diversity of our Board shows itself as we dream and plan for the future of Saskatchewan children in their progress towards bilingualism.

This spring we had to bid farewell to our Executive Director, Dr. Karen Taylor-Browne who has been a driving force within our organization for several years. Karen's attention to detail, her drive and determination, and her vast knowledge of CPF and French second language education in general will be greatly missed. She gave countless hours to the work of CPF and we could never thank her adequately for her contributions. With that end though, we have a new beginning and so we are excited to welcome Christiane D. Guérette as our new ED. Her energy and enthusiasm combined with her creativity and her many contacts within the community have already made her an incredible addition to the CPF-SK team.

March and April were exciting months as the National organization in cooperation with Branches facilitated the Stakeholder Consultations on the educational aspects of the Government of Canada's Action Plan for Official Languages. This was a time to celebrate successes and identify challenges with many of the key players in the Saskatchewan and Canadian educational scene. Our Branch has put together an Action group to follow up on some of the key points that came out of the meetings. You can find more details at www.cpf.ca. These are exciting times!

It was my privilege to attend both the Branch and National Concours d'Art Oratoire this year. When I sit and listen to young people speaking French so easily and so well on such diverse topics, I know that what we do in CPF is valuable to individuals and Canadians in general. We have lots of work to do, but we are “on the right track” and we have made great progress towards a bilingual Canada.

As I come to the end of my term as President, I am very thankful for the wonderful people who have made up our board. These are all busy people, but they have a vision for the educational opportunities of young people that makes them give their time and talents. Thank-you for your patience and your support! We've laughed, we've cried and we have done good work together. The office and summer staff both past and present is also amazing. You are the voices, faces, hands and feet that many people recognize as CPF-SK. Thank you for all that you do. ...continued on page 8

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Executive Director's Report

by Karen Taylor-Browne (PhD)

The 2003-2004 Fiscal year has provided CPF-SK with some special challenges that have extended the work we normally undertake in the areas of youth programming, information and liaison and advocacy. March 31, 2004 marked the end of a two-year agreement for core operational funding we had with the Department of Canadian Heritage and we have thus been working with the National Office and other Branches to develop a proposal for the next three years to ensure continued funding from Canadian Heritage. We have also contributed ideas to the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan concerning a new Accord for the funding of official languages education through the Official Minority Language Office of Saskatchewan Learning. The fact that the Honourable Pierre Pettigrew asked CPF to hold provincial and territorial stakeholder consultations on the Federal Action Plan of Official Languages at the end of March 2004 provided us with a particularly good opportunity to share the research we had undertaken with federal and provincial officials as well as representatives from school divisions, universities, Francophone and First-Nations organizations. The extremely favourable response we received from the participants in the meeting provide evidence that CPF-SK is a vibrant and resilient organization that can be proud of the contributions it makes to the promotion and development of linguistic duality in Saskatchewan.

The Financial Statements included in this report provide a summary comparison of CPF-SK's financial situation at the end of the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 fiscal years. Members who wish to see a complete version of the 2003-2004 audit can request a copy from the office. Copies will also be available at the Annual General Meeting. The review of programs that appears below and in the Chapter reports is meant to document the activities we have completed over the course of the year.

Youth Programs

The **Concours d'art oratoire** provincial final for Grades 6-12, involving 54 students, concluded the 2002-2003 school year and was held in Saskatoon. These students represented the Core French and French Immersion program winners from 11 different school divisions. The Grade 11-12 provincial winners in these categories were sent to the National Concours in Toronto together with the winner of the Grade 11-12 provincial concours held by la Division scolaire francophone #310 (DSF). We received very positive feedback from the students about receiving a trip to Toronto. For the 2003-2004 school year, more than 4000 students from 19 different school divisions prepared speeches for school or divisional level events. This is a significant increase from 2002-2003 when there were just over 3000 students. The increase in numbers is coming primarily from schools and school divisions with Core French. This indicates that the efforts we have been making to create a data base from raw input provided by Saskatchewan Learning's Grants division is worth the effort as teachers and students in the core schools do seem to appreciate the opportunity to be involved in this event.

Rendez-vous was held on February 13th & 14th, 2004 with 39 participants from Lloydminster, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Estevan and Gravelbourg. The weekend began at St. Mary School with a Friday night concert and continued on Saturday with a wide range of activities that were very well received by the participants and given very good reviews by the teachers, parents and presenters as well as the monitors. However, the low overall level of participation suggests that this event must either be cancelled or operated at a different time of year since the per capita cost is very high.

Grade 6-9 Rendez-vous grants were provided for six projects: a Radio enfant pilot project; a Grade 7-8 trip to Festival des voyageurs in St. Boniface; a 'Le soleil se lève' CD development project; CPF – Moose Jaw's excursion to Wanuskewin with SEVEC exchange students from Québec; a Francontre for Grade 8 immersion students; and a Carnaval for all immersion students at Archbishop O'Neill and its feeder schools. The Radio enfant project was

particularly interesting as over 270 immersion students in the school had an opportunity to make productive use of their French as they broadcast radio programs for two days to listeners within a 100 km radius of central Regina. The Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, which was the major organizer with the school for this project, has since received approval to expand the program to other immersion schools. The other projects did not involve as many students and CPF-SK has since decided that we cannot afford to support projects that involve taking students out of the province.

Mini and Micro Rendez-vous continue to be very popular events for our chapters and appear to help in attracting and retaining immersion students at the elementary level. Either one or two events were held in Melville, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Estevan, Nipawin, La Ronge and Lloydminster and involved over 330 children, compared with 284 participants last year.

”Le Camp ultime” also saw increased participation. Registrations reached an all-time high of 170, compared with 150 last year. A ‘Monitor in Training’ program was introduced this year as a way of involving students in Grades 11-12 who are too old to attend Camp but wish to make use of their French. They assist the experienced monitors and teachers. Their presence helped us maintain camper/monitor ratios without increasing overall costs for camp despite the increase in numbers. Participants, monitors and parent reports were excellent for this program.

“La Fête du soleil” were held in eight communities this year with over 190 participants, an increase compared with 175 participants. The additional children exactly matched the number of participants in Nipawin, which was the added location this year.

Programs for Secondary School Students CPF-SK works with other organizations to provide French programming for secondary students. We were involved with Le français pour l’avenir/ French for the Future, which was held in Saskatoon on April 8th, 2003 and attracted approximately 90 participants in total. La Foire des carrières French language employment fair held October 15th and 16th, 2003 at the Ramada hotel in Saskatoon was the other major event. The immersion students were very forthcoming in telling organizers how much they appreciated the opportunity to learn about the opportunities available to them if they had knowledge of French.

Opportunities for Post-secondary students In 2003-2004 CPF-SK had 5 students working for us for at least 8 weeks while a considerably larger number worked for shorter durations at either summer camp or at Rendez-vous and Mini Rendez-vous. In February we were also able to hire Melissa McLeod, a bilingual graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, through a six month career development internship program.

Information Programs

Approximately 4000 e-messages were dealt with by office staff this year. The volume of phone calls was similar. Our Website received approximately 7800 hits during the year. This is a significant increase from 2002-2003 when the total was 4350 with a monthly average of 363. Staff also researched and prepared an entry about CPF-SK for the Saskatchewan Encyclopaedia that will be published to celebrate Saskatchewan’s 100th anniversary. We received requests to provide contact information for people that The National Post, Western Living, and Radio Canada could interview for articles they were preparing concerning the status of French second language learning and use in Saskatchewan. In addition we were involved in the production and distribution of well over 15,000 pamphlets and at least 1000 sets of posters. These included materials related to our youth programming, French immersion in Saskatchewan, French immersion kindergarten, and CPF-SK as well as the “I’m learning French” and “I’m Staying in French” campaign developed by CPF National. Three newsletters were also prepared and sent to both members and educational authorities as well as MLA’s and MPs and they also received the State of FSL Report prepared by CPF National with input from all the Branch offices. All these materials were also made available when our chapter volunteers and staff prepared and staffed our information booth at parent information nights and cultural events operated by CPF or our partner organizations. This activity was complemented by the broadcast of our award winning publicity announcement “Gift of a Second Language” which aired across the province on such programs as the Harry

Potter movie and the World figure skating championships.

Liaison and Advocacy

CPF-SK has continued its involvement with the University of Regina by having CPF-SK on the Institut's Advisory Committee. Staff and members of the National, Branch and Chapter Boards have also worked to preserve the Immersion programs in Nipawin and Melville. Interventions with Saskatchewan Learning have also been made by CPF chapters and Branch staff to ensure that distance education programs previously operated through Collège Mathieu were available to immersion students after operation of the Collège was taken over by la Division scolaire francophone. We have also worked to encourage the North Battleford Public School Division to put in place an Intensive French program since the closure of their French Immersion program at the end of the 2002-2003 school year. Staff have also been working with parents in Humboldt to inform parents and school officials about Intensive Core French in the hope that such a program can be opened in that jurisdiction. We have also been supporting parents from St. Paul's school in Saskatoon who are concerned that their single-track immersion school may be closed at the end of the 2005-2006 school term. The close relations that CPF-SK has with Francophone organizations in the province has been supported by the brief we made to the Standing Committee on Official Language of the Senate in October when our presentation was made to complement those of la Division scolaire francophone, l'Association des parents fransaskois and le Service fransaskois de formation aux adultes. We also have regular communication with the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise and the Agent of the Commissioner of Official Languages in Saskatchewan. These contacts are being intensified through our participation in a special "Valorisation" committee that is looking at ways of raising the profile of French in Saskatchewan. Of course, the Stakeholder consultation on the Federal Action Plan on Official Languages has also provided a major opportunity for liaison and advocacy activity.

Governance, Parent Support and Special Educational Initiatives

Branch Board meetings, the Branch Annual General Meeting, meetings involving chapter representatives and the Branch Board as well as meetings and activities organized by CPF National which involve Branch Board members and staff are all included in this type of programming.

In the 2003- 2004 fiscal year the Board met in person four times and held four conference calls. One of these meetings coincided with the Annual General Meeting held on June 8th, 2002. Policy based governance has been discussed in several meetings organized by CPF National. Our Branch Board have taken these instructions very seriously as they have set about providing CPF-SK with a full set of policies to guide the governance of our Branch. The Branch has also worked with National on a new Peer Tutoring Initiative, which involved parent-teacher pairs from two Saskatchewan schools in a training program in Vancouver. Funds obtained from the Official Minority Language Office of Saskatchewan Learning will allow this program to be expended to at least six more schools. The Chapter Development activities performed by Lindsay Matheson, have included publication of Chapter Chat publications sent to all Branch and Chapter Board members. She also has regular phone and e-mail contacts with chapter executives and has worked with Chapters to ensure that new reporting protocols provide us with more accurate information about Chapter activities. Lindsay has also been administering a new program for Associate Members Organizations, which includes the publication of "Newsletter Nuggets": information about French language education that schools can use in their newsletters. Two Multi-media kits have also been in constant circulation among the schools that hold AMO status. French for Parents classes offered in Saskatoon this year have also been a success. Lindsay has been significantly helped in preparing French for Parents materials by Joanne Illingworth whose activities on behalf of CPF-SK have often gone unnoticed although they have been essential for the financial and administrative well being of our organization. However, just as our Board has been able to find a replacement for me, I am sure that our new Executive Director Chris D. Guérette will find enthusiastic and efficient staff to ensure that CPF-SK continues to provide our members, the educational community and the public with the support for French second language education that are province needs so much.

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH SASKATCHEWAN INC.

March 31, 2004

	2004	2003
ASSETS		
Current	\$49,266	\$69,682
Capital assets and lending library	<u>867</u>	<u>1,608</u>
	\$50,133	\$71,290
LIABILITIES		
Current	\$9,778	\$38,274
Deferred Contributions	<u>2,931</u>	<u>0</u>
	\$12,709	\$38,274
NET ASSETS		
Net assets internally restricted	\$15,715	\$11,517
Net assets invested in capital assets	455	1,196
Unrestricted net assets	<u>21,254</u>	<u>20,303</u>
	<u>\$37,424</u>	<u>\$33,016</u>
	\$50,133	\$71,290

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Revenue		
Grants	\$209,344	\$205,136
Memberships and chapter fees	14,682	13,050
Registration fees	49,433	48,910
Other revenue sources	4,487	5,522
Deferred contributions from prior year	0	4,202
Deferred contributions from end of year	<u>(2,931)</u>	<u>4,202</u>
	\$275,015	\$276,820
Expenditures		
Youth Program	\$149,931	\$161,420
Information Programs	34,171	18,293
Liaison and Advocacy	21,758	6,219
Administrators and Trustees Conference	0	36,700
Action Plan	7,843	0
Peer Tutoring	1,019	0
Parent Support Programs and Governance	<u>55,144</u>	<u>67,228</u>
	<u>\$269,866</u>	<u>\$289,847</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	<u>5,149</u>	<u>(13,027)</u>
Appropriations to Internally restricted net assets	<u>(4,198)</u>	<u>12,401</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	951	(7,626)
Unrestricted net assets, beginning of year	20,303	20,929
Unrestricted net assets, end of year	21,254	20,303

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Cash provided by (used for)		
Operations	\$5,149	\$(13,027)
Changes in non-cash working capital	<u>(26,671)</u>	<u>15,975</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash	(21,522)	2,948
Cash, beginning of year	<u>17,388</u>	<u>14,440</u>
Cash, end of year	(\$4,134)	\$17,338

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members,

We have audited the balance sheet of Canadian Parents for French Saskatchewan Inc. as at March 31, 2004, and the statements of revenue, expenditures, fund balances, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as of March 31, 2004, and the results of its operations and the changes in cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.



Lizée Gauthier
 Certified General Accountants
SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN
 June 2, 2004

Chapter Reports

Battlefords

The Battlefords chapter held two Mini Rendez-vous this year. The first had a spring theme and 25 participants made wind chimes and birdhouses. At the fall Mini RV, participants spent part of the day in preparation for a carnival in the afternoon. Students, organisers and monitors were pleased with the results. A Fête du soleil was held in August with the highlights being the excursion, water day and trips to the pool and police station. The provincial French Immersion teacher's conference was held in North Battleford. CPF donated door prizes, helped prepare orientation packages and set up a display table. They also delivered greetings at the meeting. At the end of March the Chapter set up a display table during parent-teacher interviews to promote their spring Mini Rendez-vous, the residential camp at Arlington Beach, and the local Fête du soleil.

Estevan

The Estevan chapter held both a Fête du soleil and Mini Rendez-vous this year with 12 and 29 participants respectively. An exciting new development for the chapter was offering an adult French class using the French for Parents materials from the Branch office. 13 parents participated in the class that was held 1.5 hours per week for 8 weeks. The chapter also supported Rendez-vous in Regina by helping with the transportation costs. The Annual General Meeting was convened at a Barbecue held at the end of Fête du soleil.

Lloydminster

It's been an exciting year for the Lloydminster chapter. The 2003-2004 school year saw the size of the Kindergarten class practically double to 42 students compared to 24 in previous years. The 2004-2005 class enrollment is already in excess of 40 students. This has had a similarly positive effect on CPF membership, bringing out new volunteers and members to the executive. Events such as Fête du Soleil, Spectacle and Concours have been well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by those who took part. The President would like to thank all the volunteers who helped to make this year such a success and looks forward to 2004-2005. French language learning is very much alive in Lloydminster.

Melville

The Chapter raised the visibility of CPF and French Immersion when they entered a truck in the parade in June. CPF posters and banner were displayed and French music was played so that the children could sing along. K-9 Immersion students from Melville travelled to St. Michael's School in Yorkton to enjoy a performance by Marc Tardif. They were grateful to Yorkton schools for giving them the opportunity to attend and to the local CPF chapter for providing funds to help defray the cost to the students.

Moose Jaw

The Moose Jaw chapter has had a transitional year. They have seen excellent growth in their preschool, Bonjour House, throughout the year with over 30 students attending. Highlights from the school year included field trips to a farm, pizza, and participating in the Moose Jaw Christmas parade. The adults also had some fun with pasta and steak night fundraisers for the school. The chapter executive has had some frustration this year trying to recruit

Chapter Reports

people to help with some of the activities that have been offered in the past. They are certain that in the next year they will be able to have these programs again. The board has worked well in the past year and has made a positive difference in their community.

Nipawin

The Nipawin chapter held a Mini Rendez-vous in January of 2004 that attracted 16 children. A very positive sign was the fact that 11 children attended the Micro Rendez-vous held at the same time. The chapter has been very active in establishing a Parent Advisory Committee to the local school division. This year the chapter celebrated the 20th anniversary of CPF in Nipawin. A former teacher spoke of her enjoyment in seeing the accomplishments of French Immersion students over the years. Everyone celebrated with coffee and cake.

Prince Albert

The Chapter continued this year with programs including Lire avec moi, an after school reading program for children in Kindergarten to Grade 6. A luncheon for local French Immersion teachers and administrators was held at Amy's on Second and the chapter was instrumental in having French Immersion/Core French week proclaimed by the mayor and city council. At the end of the school year bursaries were presented to students by CPF – Prince Albert. The chapter held two very successful Mini Rendez-vous. During one of these, a workshop was offered entitled “How can I help my child in French?”. The Chapter was involved in Concours d'art oratoire and supplied materials for the local school divisional finals.

Regina

A new Executive was elected at the Annual General Meeting. The first event of the year was Fête du soleil with 27 children attending. The chapter was involved with kindergarten orientation events in January and February where they gave brief talks about CPF and distributed literature. The chapter set up displays at St Mary's School during their winter Carnival, as well as at L'Institute français at the University of Regina in celebration of La Semaine de la Francophonie. The Regina chapter was very much involved with Concours d'art oratoire and supplied treat bags and refreshments to students who participated in the Regina Catholic and Regina Public School Division finals.

Yorkton

Members of the Yorkton chapter attended Kindergarten registration events in the Catholic and Public Schools. French Immersion graduates were on hand to make a presentation. A Fête du soleil was held at the end of August with 14 children attending. There has been cooperation between the Melville and Yorkton chapters in an effort to combine resources for CPF programs and local French cultural events. In Yorkton, there has been much effort made in the distribution of pamphlets and other information about French programs and the advantages of learning French. The local chapter concluded the year by providing refreshments and a display for their Evening of Oratory Presentation.

2004 Annual General Meeting

Sunday, August 8th, 2004 **Arlington Beach Camp Auditorium** **Last Mountain Lake, Saskatchewan**

- 3pm** Call to Order and Welcome
Approval of Agenda
Approval of the 2002 AGM Minutes
President's Report
Executive Director's Report
Presentation of Financial Report
Approval of Audit
Appointment of Auditor for 2004-2005
Nomination Committee Report
Election of Officers
Bylaw Committee Report
New Business
-Date and location of 2005 AGM
- 4pm** Adjournment

President's Report continued....

I also want to thank you, the members, for your dedication, creativity and the countless hours you put in. You do make a difference! As an organization, we also want to thank Canadian Heritage and the Official Minority Language Office of Saskatchewan Learning for their encouragement and their financial assistance.

A generation of students whose parents had the courage and foresight to enroll them in French second language education are now in the workplace. Many of them are having children of their own and planning for them to have the same or better educational opportunities to learn French. That is a testimony to the value of what we do! Keep it up CPF! "For every new end, a new beginning!"