

Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan

Chapter Chat

June 2007



The Chapter Executive: How to Keep a Good Thing Going

As I travel the province visiting with chapters, one question is raised again and again: How to find new people to serve on the chapter board.

There are several considerations in creating an effective executive. And these apply to leadership at any level. Recruitment is the first of these. As a member of a chapter executive you will know that this can sometimes be a difficult task. How were you recruited for your position? Was your arm twisted, or were you offered irresistible perks? Was it a case of "if I don't do it, nobody will". Or were you drawn towards a group that runs exciting programs and performs a valuable service in your community?

It is easier to recruit a good board member in the first place than to develop a strong leadership team from those who simply don't have the required skills or interests. Recruitment is a year-round task which involves making contact with those who may have an interest in French second-language education but no association with CPF, as well as nudging those who are already involved to take on more responsibility.

A potential recruit for a leadership position needs not only to be enthusiastic about CPF, but also to have to a vision that is broader than his or her own interests. When recruiting for a chapter executive, look for those who can work for the good of all French second-language students, not just their own. If your Chapter's jurisdiction includes several schools or both immersion and core French programs, this person needs to be able to look beyond their own programming needs.

When recruiting, it is important to make your expectations clear. How many meetings per year are executive members expected to attend? What additional duties and time commitments will there be? Are you looking for someone to take on responsibility for a program such as Mini Rendez-vous or Fête du Soleil? Or perhaps you can administer the chapter with a smaller board and ask others to take on specific time-limited programmatic duties.

You also need to be clear what kind of volunteer is needed. Do you need specific skills, contacts, or someone with lots of time? A Board needs the right mix of people: both those who are visionary, and those who have the ability to make things happen, along with an understanding of the tension between the two.

The second component of building effective leadership is development. This includes not only orientation and education, but also the question of how the chapter or board works together. It is important for new executive members to be informed about how the organization functions

and what its history is. Some groups provide a new member package, which includes minutes and financial statements from the past year, and possibly a manual, which indicates how the chapter operates and how it relates to the rest of the organization. Other groups hold an orientation or handover event where new and returning executive members learn more about CPF. This is a good time for a new board to develop their plans for the next year's events and activities.

The question of group dynamics is an important one when it comes to chapter executives. Where there is trust and respect between the board members it is easier to build consensus within the group. If there are disagreements, the group members will want to work through them rather than simply give up. This trust and respect can begin with an orientation event and continues to be developed when time is spent working together. Some social or celebratory time can also help build relationships.

Does all this sound like a tall order? It might be helpful to know that Saskatchewan has the highest rate of volunteerism in the country. We are good at this! Parents who have made the decision to access French second-language programmes for their children and teachers who have spent time teaching in these programmes have a vested interest in the ongoing provision of the kinds of opportunities that CPF offers, and make good candidates for the chapter executive. Teachers, administrators and parents who can see the larger view are good candidates for the CPF-SK board.

No matter when you need new board members, the time to begin looking is now. Think ahead, develop networks and build a board that is enthusiastic and effective.

Some of this information was taken from an article by Jim Campbell entitled "Time to Take Boards Seriously". Look for this and other useful information at www.charityvillage.com/charityvillage/research/

Chapter Planning Meeting

On June 8th and 9th chapter representatives, CPF-SK provincial board members, and staff met in Saskatoon for the annual planning meeting and AGM. We were joined on Friday evening by guests including representatives from Canadian Heritage, and francophone and French second-language organizations for the presentation of the CPF-SK awards. In addition to the AGM on Saturday morning, Mary Reeves, CPF-National Board Member, presented a workshop on Bilingualism in Saskatchewan after 40 years. There was much to think about as we learned the history and challenges of supporting French second-language learning opportunities in our province. A highlight of the day was the presentation of chapter reports as we all learned more about the variety of activities that chapters are involved in around the province. The day concluded with a review of CPF-SK programs and discussion of future directions and possibilities. Thanks to all who attended and made the Chapter Planning Meeting such a success.

Calendar of Events

June 2007

15 Early bird registration deadline for Camp ultime



July 2007

3-6 Fête du soleil (Saskatoon)

9-13 Fête du soleil (Swift Current)

13 Grant application deadline for projects taking place between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2007

16-20 Fête du soleil (Yorkton and Regina)

23-25 Fête du soleil (Lloydminster)

23-27 Fête du soleil (Moose Jaw)

30-August 3 Fête du soleil (Nipawin and Estevan)

August 2007

August 6-11 Camp ultime (Arlington Beach Camp, Last Mountain Lake) for boys and girls entering grades 4-6

August 12-18 Camp ultime (Arlington Beach Camp, Last Mountain Lake) for boys and girls entering grades 7-9

20-24 Fête du soleil (Saskatoon)

20-24 Summer Day Camp, Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association (Saskatoon)

CPF-SK Awards

On Friday June 8, 2007 at the opening President's Reception for the Chapter Planning Meeting the provincial board of Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan presented awards to deserving recipients:

The **Elmer J Hynes Award** was presented to Amy Hadley from Prince Albert for

- Providing outstanding leadership in promoting and creating French second-language learning opportunities for the young people of Saskatchewan
- Celebrating cultural and linguistic diversity in her community
- Providing a positive influence at the chapter or board level

The **Volunteer of the Year Award** was presented to Joy Stang from Meadow Lake for

- Demonstrating initiative and dedication
- Giving volunteer service to CPF above and beyond the call of duty

The **Inspiring Teacher Award** was presented to Monique Myers of Wawota for

- Promoting French second-language education in her school and community
- Inspiring students of all abilities and backgrounds to learn French
- Promoting participation in CPF activities

Congratulations to all the recipients of these CPF awards. Further information about the awards can be found on the CPF-SK website. The Volunteer of the Year is nominated by the chapter. Each chapter is entitled to nominate one person for local recognition in December. Of these nominations, one is selected by the CPF-SK board to be recognized at the annual Chapter Planning Meeting. The deadline for nominations for the next Volunteer of the Year award is November 15th, 2007.

Faites le en français!

Your chapter will soon be receiving a copy of the directory of French-language services in Saskatchewan. Published by the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, it provides a regional listing of businesses, services, the arts and schools which offer service in French.

Congratulations to a Saskatchewan winner in Ottawa!

Congratulations to Kyle Gamble from Thom Collegiate in Regina for placing first in the extended core category at the national finals of Concours d'art oratoire in Ottawa on May 26th, 2007. Kyle won a \$20,000 scholarship to continue in French studies at the University of Ottawa. All the other national finalists were offered a \$2,000 entrance scholarship.

L'art en lys.

Are you looking for a Francophone artist or entertainer? L'art en lys may be a place to start. The website is a reference and research tool for cultural organizations, communities, teachers, students, and provides general information on artists which can be used a tool to help plan cultural activities, workshops, etc.

The artists are grouped in 6 categories: Literary Arts, Visual Arts, Dance, Music, Theatre and Groups. Consult each section to find the person or group you are looking for. Each artist's page features a short biography as well as his/her contact information. You can find the website at:

http://www.culturel.sk.ca/repertoire/index_e.html

Summertime

This will be the final issue of Chapter Chat for this school year. The office will continue to be open throughout the summer while CPF-SK staff takes holidays on a rotating basis. There will always be someone here to answer your call! Remember that the early bird deadline for camp ultime is **Friday June 15th**.



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