



## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) Alberta Branch has been exceptionally busy this past year. The total number of students in French immersion has risen to almost 47,000, while the number of students in French second language (FSL) classes are at close to 147,000. The number of chapters has declined, but with the advent of our new “CPF Teams” model, we are hoping that we will actually be able to increase our representation across Alberta. We have - and continue to -advocate for teacher recruitment and retention, French immersion (FI) distance (home-based) learning programs, and increased financial support for FI and FSL programs across the province. Here are our highlights:

- The CPF Alberta staff team has been busy supporting the members and volunteers of CPF Alberta and CPF Northwest Territories this year. Here is who they are and what they have been up to:
  - CPF Alberta hired Isabelle Yeo in January as its Branch Outreach Coordinator. Isabelle is Francophone, married to a Brit and has three (3) children ranging from 6-12 years old. She is currently working from home.
  - Morgan Shervey has just finished up her Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Alberta. She is teaching Social Studies and English full-time at the Lycée Louis Pasteur in Calgary. Morgan will be staying on a casual basis to continue handling our website and social media.
  - Candace Resch has been with CPF Alberta for 13 years and still handles all things financial for both Alberta and the NWT branches. She also manages the books for a local private school when she is not at CPF.
  - Trish Rognvaldson continues to work from her home office in Cochrane handling marketing and chapter development. She also coordinates the two (2) French for the Future Calgary Forums and will be assisting with the Yellowknife forum this winter.
  - Kieron Testart has also joined our staff team as the new Project Coordinator for CPF NWT. Kieron has a son in immersion, speaks French, was on the CPF NWT board for a couple of years and was most recently a member of the territorial legislative assembly.
  - I have now also added assisting the CPF NWT Branch with their operations and management to his portfolio. The majority of my time continues to focus on advocacy.
- Alberta's UCP government has now been in power for almost 1.5 years. The CPF Alberta office continues to respond to issues and is still trying to figure out what the United Conservative Party is going to do next. This has been quite challenging as there has been limited truly public consultations, announced policy appears to have no rhyme nor reason, and attempting to obtain information, support and resources has been next to impossible. We are actively working with several education partners in addressing the challenges and needs of Alberta's French second language programs.
- CPF Alberta once again partnered with the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages to deliver a program entitled *Hello, Bonjour!* This program was delivered to over 225 secondary French immersion students before COVID-19 hit us. The program promotes lifelong linguistic duality and encourages them to remain in French programming in school.
- We continue to run our *French Family Fun Weekend* in Jasper and are at our fourth *Falling into French Family Weekend* in Canmore. We have been averaging 30+ families for each event and participant

evaluations have been very positive. We continue to have a great partnership with the Parks Canada's Palisades Stewardship Education Centre, Mountain Park Lodges and the Coast Canmore Hotel. Our first summer *Camping en Français* French Family Camp Out Weekend which was to take place in the Cypress Hills of south-eastern Alberta around Canada Day was postponed due to COVID-19.

- On May 31, 2019, CPF Alberta ran our last ever Concours d'art oratoire. The number of participants was around 20 contestants registered in three categories, but they were all from one school. At the national competition, Alberta had a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the Level 2, Core French Category.
- CPF Alberta continues to strongly support programming for youth. Over this last year, we once again supported the participation of 203 French Immersion students at the Jeux Francophones. We are very excited to be coordinating two Calgary and area forums in March of 2020 – one for grade 7-8 and another from grades 9-12 – but they were also canceled due to COVID-19.

Canadian Parents for French Alberta is also pleased to acknowledge the ongoing support of the Department of Canadian Heritage. **An application for three (3) years of funding was approved this year which will take us through to March 31, 2023.**

Federico Fellini – an Italian Film director and screenwriter from 1940-1990 - stated:

*Une langue différente est une vision différente de la vie.  
A different language is a different vision of life.*

Congratulations on providing your children with a different vision of life.

Michael Tryon  
October 2020