

There's no question that the past 12 months have been challenging, with COVID-19 creating disruption, uncertainty and suffering for so many. Through it all, I am proud of how the Canadian Parents for French community has adapted to these challenges with resilience, creativity and flexibility.

Indeed, it has also been a year of growth and opportunity for CPF. At a national level, we continue to reconsider our governance model in a thoughtful process to remain an efficient and effective organization. In that vein, we have also made progress on addressing the inequities within CPF and society by engaging with an external Diversity, Equity and Inclusion expert to create a report with actionable changes we are committed to realizing.

There are currently exciting conversations around the extension of our mandate on both sides of the kindergarten to grade 12 academic spectrum. With increasing awareness around the importance of early exposure to second language opportunities, CPF hopes to support initiatives around bilingualism in preschool.

Additionally, we are seeing more and more bilingual programs in post-secondary contexts. This is the direct result of strong French Immersion and French as a Second Language programs graduating students wanting to extend their French education experience.

As a provincial branch, there continues to be acute advocacy efforts made on behalf of students and families seeking equitable access to French education. As a respected organization supporting French Education, we are often invited to sit at the table with education leaders and policy makers, exemplified in our involvement with the updating of the Official Languages Act. Additionally, and importantly, we seek to support grassroots, chapter-level advocacy initiatives in communities of every size.

CPF Alberta continues to encourage youth in their bilingualism through socio-cultural activities and projects. Recognizing that language learning is not simply an academic pursuit, CPF creates opportunities for our students to interact in French outside the classroom. From engaging performers touring schools in the province to offering events such as the French Family Fun Weekends, CPF Alberta directly impacts the depth and breadth of our students' experiences in French.

To that end, my thanks to our executive director, board members, staff and volunteers for their hard work and resolute commitment to our mandate of linguistic duality.

Emma Piayda President October 2022

