

2011 - 2012 Annual Report

President's Report



Seventeen years ago I attended a CPF Chapter meeting. Like many of you, I became involved because I was faced with a need in my own school board. I was a single mother with a young son at the time. We were dealing with funding cuts, strikes, threats of program closures, reviews, transportation, information nights, French camps and library story-time. It seemed impossible to

me that in a country that has two official languages, you had to fight to get access to a program that would allow you to learn both of them well. Most people who come to this country believe that it is officially bilingual. Many believe that we have the right to learn both languages but that is not the case. I joined the Board of Directors of CPF Ontario because I felt it was important that we all have that opportunity. We need to close the gap between expectations and reality.

We have come a long way. Over the last seven years enrolment in French Immersion programs has gone up consistently in overall numbers and as a percentage of total enrolment. Most recently, we have also seen a small but significant increase in retention of Core French students to Grade 12. Many school boards are managing the growth effectively while some are still resorting to lotteries and capping. Most offer transportation to French Immersion and Extended French programs. We now have a provincial French Second Language (FSL) Working Group and we have reporting from the province on the FSL allocations to the school boards. We have a new FSL curriculum coming forward with a focus on oral proficiency for every day use and more attention has been drawn to the need for special education support for students in FSL programs. In addition, there are more French Immersion course options available at the post-secondary level.

CPF Ontario has developed position statements on all the major issues: access, proficiency, accountability, transportation, special education, and EQAO. We have built relationships with our various Ministers of Education and ministry staff and we have made a point of reaching out to the Ministers of

Training, Colleges and Universities; Francophone Affairs and Intergovernmental Affairs; Canadian Heritage; as well as to individual MPPs and MPs; and partners and stakeholders in the FSL, French First Language and multicultural communities.

Much of the progress in FSL education is due to a growing awareness that literacy in both official languages offers benefits on so many levels: cognitive, socially, and academically. It is a definite asset to each individual as well as business, industry, government, the francophone community and society in general. CPF Ontario has made a number of recommendations to the Minister of Education and other related ministers articulating the need to work in concert to plan and develop policies and programs that establish an effective and accessible continuum from kindergarten to post-secondary graduation.

While we have made progress there is still much to be done. French Second Language Advisory Committees (FSLACs) are emerging at the school board level to develop plans that improve access and allow for growth in participation, retention and graduation, with strong proficiency outcomes. This practice has resulted in healthy growth and a focus on resources and programming with student achievement in mind. More school boards should follow this example.

The Ministry of Education is continuing to review the FSL curriculum with a focus on oral proficiency and cultural awareness. Keeping parental expectations in mind, CPF Ontario provided a very thorough analysis of the proposed curriculum as well as the new Ministry FSL Framework document that is also in development.

The introduction of full-day kindergarten has presented many accommodation challenges causing a few school boards to review the Senior Kindergarten entry point for French Immersion (FI) in favour of a Grade 1 start. Early entry points in full immersion are the strongest, most accessible model. The loss of any one of these years represents a drop of up to 600 hours in French instructional time. It is important that parents be aware and fight against the weakening of the FI model as recommendations like these are being considered.

Today, I know CPF Ontario is in very capable hands. We have excellent staff and a very strong board with enormous experience and expertise in FSL education and issues. I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve in this role. It has been an immense privilege and honour. I have learned so much.

Heather Stauble
President

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Members of,
Canadian Parents for French (Ontario)

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Canadian Parents for French (Ontario), which comprise the financial position as at March 31, 2012, and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Canadian Parents for French (Ontario) as at March 31, 2012 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations.

Other Matter

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to note 3 to the financial statements, which describes that Canadian Parents for French (Ontario) elected to early adopt Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations on April 1, 2011 with a transition date of April 1, 2010. These standards were applied retrospectively by management to the comparative information in these financial statements, including the financial position as at March 31, 2011 and April 1, 2010, and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year ended March 31, 2011 and related disclosures. We were not engaged to report on the restated comparative information, and as such, it is unaudited.

Mississauga, Ontario
June 15, 2012

Gilmore & Company LLP
Chartered Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT MARCH 31,

	2012	2011
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	\$ 3,963	\$ 31,464
Short-term investments	100,171	50,000
Accounts receivable (Note 5)	25,905	35,542
HST receivable	11,451	8,621
Inventory	18,187	20,145
Prepaid expenses	2,113	4,467
	<u>\$ 161,790</u>	<u>\$ 150,239</u>
LIABILITY		
Current		
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	\$ 100,728	\$ 91,987
NET ASSETS		
Net assets	<u>61,062</u>	<u>58,252</u>
	<u>\$ 161,790</u>	<u>\$ 150,239</u>

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

	2012	2011
Revenue		
Canadian Heritage	\$ 294,450	\$ 294,450
Memberships - Note 6	48,871	45,919
I Am Bilingual Tour - Canadian Heritage	30,000	-
Publications and other revenue	20,146	10,300
Key sales	13,973	14,861
Concours	14,350	14,675
PRO Grant	-	9,000
Advertising revenue	12,773	7,606
Esprit registrations	-	3,075
Donations	415	784
Rentals revenue	-	525
Interest earned	421	522
HH Needs - Ministry of Education	-	59,177
Total Revenue	435,399	460,894
Expenses		
Advertising and publicity	10,103	8,670
Chapter rebates - Note 6	31,232	27,511
Conference fees	2,538	1,927
Consultants	6,821	8,275
Esprit expenses	-	3,323
Grants, donations and awards	21,777	30,202
HH Needs Analysis	-	58,622
Insurance	666	1,422
Meals and accommodations	44,529	29,858
Office and general	11,311	14,152
PRO Project	-	8,856
Postage and courier	8,432	10,437
Print and photocopy	14,331	16,467
Professional fees	6,450	5,585
Publication purchases and other	962	2,863
Rent	23,027	20,818
Repairs and maintenance	2,193	2,417
Salaries	202,016	190,400
Telecommunications	3,970	4,598
Travel	10,333	22,239
I Am Bilingual Tour	31,898	-
Total Expenditures	432,589	468,642
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	2,810	(7,748)
Net assets, beginning of year	58,252	66,000
Net assets, end of year	\$ 61,062	\$ 58,252

These financial statements are only an excerpt of the audited financial statements provided.
Extracts from the notes to the financial statements.

Note 6 - Related party transactions

During the year, the Association entered into the following transactions with related parties:

- a) Membership rebates received from Canadian Parents for French (national division) of \$43,376 (2011 - \$37,350).
- b) Rebates paid to various chapters situated in Ontario of \$31,232 (2011 - \$27,511).

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount as established and agreed to by the related parties.

Executive Director's Report

This year we experienced an invigorating sense of collaboration within the CPF network. After the long and arduous task of conducting an internal business review, consultations and drafting recommendations, the organization is poised to move forward with clarity of purpose and direction. Members have witnessed tangible elements of change such as the hiring of the new CPF National Executive Director, Robert Rothern, as well as the less obvious but equally welcomed methods of collaboration that are enveloping our daily work and governance.

It is under that veil of optimism that I have taken stock of what we have accomplished in Ontario with only a small branch office staff, a volunteer board of directors, and chapter executives sparsely scattered across this immense province. Together, we recognized the long-standing support of members as a contributing factor for the organization's success and we honoured outstanding volunteers like Anne Scrafield-Goulart from CPF Halton, the 2011-2012 recipient of the CPF Ontario Mlacak Award, presented yearly to a CPF Ontario volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to CPF Ontario.

Two initiatives stand out as highlights among many successful activities: our provincial conference and our growing relationship with the Franco-Ontarian community. Every year we forge ahead in some unique way. This year, we broadened the scope of our provincial conference by inviting educators and school board administrators to participate alongside our members (on a Saturday, on their own time!), giving parents the opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives directly with them in a professional forum. The turnout and the outcomes were positive with all the participants expressing a sense of collaboration.

CPF Ontario also worked diligently to build on its relationship with the Franco-Ontarian community. Our objective was met by simply imparting a clear understanding of the state of French second language (FSL) education in Ontario and the successes and challenges that parents and students experience on their FSL journey. The Franco-Ontarian community reciprocated by inviting CPF Ontario to share our perspectives at two public forums and by inviting French Immersion students to play a role at this year's Franco-Fête de Toronto, an authentic francophone cultural festival held at Toronto's Harbourfront.

Supporting our chapters, individual members, and the public at large remains a significant part of the branch's daily operation. With close to one million students in FSL programs in Ontario, substantial growth in French Immersion enrolment, and close to 6,500 CPF members in the province, staff responded to over 4,000 direct inquiries.

Partnerships, networking, and consultation to affect change

CPF Ontario prepared a submission to Canadian Heritage on reflections for the future Canada-Ontario Protocol Agreement. We participated on the Ministry of Education's Provincial FSL Working Group and worked with partner organizations and FSL stakeholders to influence changes that support access to quality FSL programs.

Projects and diversification of funds

We were successful in receiving project funding through the Department of Canadian Heritage to coordinate the "I am Bilingual" Tour with artist Helene-Nicole Richard, an interactive production that engaged over 20,000 FSL students in 92 schools across the province.

Communications and social media

Communication is paramount to keeping members, stakeholders, and the public informed. CPF's presence on the web, Facebook and Twitter was enhanced by updating content on a weekly basis and attracting more viewers. The plan yielded a 15 percent increase over the previous year with 65,005 visitors viewing an average of 14 pages. We added 100 new direct links to a broad range of French-language services and resources. We continued to host 34 chapter websites that are increasing the distribution of relevant information locally. Twenty-four communiqués and media releases were issued. Three issues of the CPF Ontario News were distributed.

Concours d'art oratoire

Concours d'art oratoire, the French public-speaking competition, remains the signature CPF Ontario event that is supported by teachers in classrooms and regional competitions across the province. This year's provincial competition was a resounding success with 1,100 audience guests and 330 student participants from 29 school boards and 6 independent schools.

Chapter and regional activities

Summer Camps: CPF Ontario sponsored 13 French summer camps

Le Club CPF: Two CPF chapters ran Le Club CPF as a weekend or after-school program.

Adult French Courses: 20 courses were offered throughout the province this year and continue to attract new parents to the CPF organization.

French Immersion Information Nights: Chapters assist at or deliver information nights to inform parents of Kindergarten students or pre-school children about the benefits of the program and community support available to them.

Library Story-time Grants: Three library grants were disbursed this year.

French Trade Shows, Parent Survival Nights and Book Fairs: French resources are made available to the FSL parent community.

Performances in French: Four chapters sponsored socio-cultural events by French-language artists to students in a school setting.

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that we will bid Adieu to our President, Heather Stauble, who will be leaving the CPF Ontario board of directors after ten years of dedicated service. Under her leadership, the board of directors embraced its role and responsibilities and set the strategic stage for CPF Ontario's future success!

Betty Gormley
Executive Director