

2009 - 2010 Annual Report

President's Report



As we conclude another year, it is with great pride that I say 2009-2010 has been very productive. Driven by the CPF Ontario Strategic Plan and our action plan for implementation, CPF Ontario had numerous meetings with Minister of Education Leona Dombrowsky, Assistant Deputy Minister Raymond Théberge, policy advisors and ministry staff. In addition there has been increased consultation and collaboration between CPF Ontario, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Ontario and the Government of Canada have signed the Protocol for Agreements for Official Languages in Education (OLEP) under the Official Languages Act. While the details of the Action Plan have not been made public, the federal and provincial funds that flow from it have. There is still no requirement for school boards to account for how they use these funds. CPF Ontario has asked for amendments to the Action Plan, accountability requirements, and the introduction of French-as-a-Second Language (FSL) Advisory Committees (FSLACs).

The Ministry of Education is currently reviewing FSL curricula. It is expected that the Core curriculum scheduled for implementation in September 2011 will include a new focus on oral proficiency and cultural awareness. CPF Ontario did a very thorough analysis of the initial proposed curriculum documents from a parents' perspective on expected students outcomes and influencing policy. We compared the Core French curriculum document to other curriculum documents, forwarded research and collected feedback from parents before responding to a Ministry survey and submitting a comprehensive report to the curriculum review team. The review of the French Immersion (FI) curriculum is just beginning.

Equipped with new promotional materials now translated into fourteen languages, CPF Ontario launched a multicultural outreach program aimed at informing allophones about FI programs. In the greater Toronto area 49 % of the population speak a language other than French or English at home. CPF Ontario is playing an important role advocating for equitable access and ensuring that the opportunities to become proficient in both of Canada's official languages are known to all parents.

Current enrolment and retention statistics can be found in the State of FSL Education in Ontario Report for 2010. Despite overall declining enrolment, FI programs continue to grow at an average annual rate of 4.6% adding an average of eighteen FI or Extended French sites per year for the past five years in Ontario. High demand for the FI program brings with it the challenge of supplying qualified, proficient FSL teachers. The ministries and the Ontario College of Teachers are beginning to tackle this issue through inter-provincial agreements, education, and professional development for teachers.

Too many school boards still control access to FI programs by denying transportation, admission, and counselling out as a means to stem growth. Increased demand for FI programs despite overall declining enrolment has resulted in a growing number of accommodation reviews. More and more CPF Chapter representatives are being called on as the voice for FI parents to ensure the potential for growth of quality programs. The CPF Ontario branch continues to support our CPF Chapters by providing a provincial perspective and identifying best practices in other school boards.

While there are many positives in Ontario including increased participation in FI, increased sites and initiatives to support FSL students and teachers through special education, professional development and increased course selection, the lack of accountability requirements and consultation at the school board level compromises the effectiveness of those advocating on behalf of these programs. CPF Ontario has made recommendations to the Minister of Education and other related ministers articulating the need to work in concert to develop policies and programs that establish a continuum from Kindergarten to post-secondary graduation. Knowledgeable FSLACs are needed at the provincial and school board level to develop plans that improve access, to plan for growth in participation, proficiency, retention and graduation, and to ensure that funds are allocated accordingly.

Once again driven by our CPF Strategic Plan, CPF Ontario endeavoured to provide better tools and training opportunities for Chapter representatives this year at the Provincial Conference and AGM held in Mississauga in October 2009. Chapter delegates participated in training sessions on: FSLACs as an opportunity to ensure parental influence on FSL program access and quality at the school board level; introducing parents to a proficiency measurement tool called the Common European Framework; OLEP funding; best practices for running extra-curricular Chapter events; the new Chapter websites.

In concluding I thank the staff, board and Chapter members for their amazing efforts at promoting access and quality programming and for providing engaging activities for children and parents in support of the opportunity to become proficient in both of Canada's official languages.

Heather Stauble

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report on the fiscal health of the CPF Ontario organization which operated at full capacity, executing an expanded number of initiatives and ended the 2009-2010 year with a modest surplus of \$3,468.

Advertising revenue and Keys to French sales are showing a slight decrease over the previous year but are balanced by a similar decrease in advertising, publicity and awards expenses. Of significance is the core funding contribution from the Department of Canadian Heritage in the amount of \$280,000 as well as the funding received from the Department of Canadian Heritage for the Pathways to Bilingual Success Conference and Le Club CPF in the amounts of \$75,000 and \$20,000 respectively. The discrepancy from the previous year for consultants reflects the significant additional IT contract in this fiscal year.

Finally, I would like to report on the vigilance of the office staff in executing daily financial operations as per the budgetary requirements of the organization and all signed agreements.

Nancy McKeraghan

Below please find extracts from the March 31, 2010 audited financial statements. The complete set is available upon request.

Auditors' Report

To the Members of
Canadian Parents for French (Ontario)

We have audited the statement of financial position of Canadian Parents for French (Ontario) as at March 31, 2010 and the statements of operations and changes in net assets 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 Canadian 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 at March 31, 2010 and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Walsh & Company Chartered Accountants

Toronto, Ontario
June 2, 2010

Chartered Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT MARCH 31,

| | 2010 | 2009 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current | | |
| Cash | \$ 107,576 | \$ 55,402 |
| Short-term investments | - | 26,063 |
| Accounts receivable | 23,307 | 57,973 |
| Inventory | 21,319 | 25,140 |
| Prepaid expenses | 2,079 | 1,663 |
| | <u>\$ 154,281</u> | <u>\$ 166,241</u> |
| LIABILITY | | |
| Current | | |
| Accounts payable & accrued liabilities | \$ 88,281 | \$ 103,709 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Net assets | <u>66,000</u> | <u>62,532</u> |
| | <u>\$ 154,281</u> | <u>\$ 166,241</u> |

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2010

| | 2010 | 2009 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Canadian Heritage | \$ 280,000 | \$ 280,000 |
| Pathways Conference | 75,000 | 0 |
| Memberships Note 4 | 50,752 | 52,306 |
| Le Club CPF | 20,000 | - |
| Publications and other revenue | 15,789 | 15,494 |
| Keys sales | 14,937 | 20,783 |
| Concours | 13,350 | 12,515 |
| Advertising revenue | 10,665 | 13,443 |
| Esprit registrations | 3,360 | 3,150 |
| Interest earned | 343 | 1,563 |
| Donations | 1,384 | 1,837 |
| Multicultural grant | - | 125,900 |
| Total Revenue | 485,580 | 526,991 |
| Expenses | | |
| Advertising and publicity | 13,404 | 21,216 |
| Chapter rebates - Note 4 | 29,266 | 29,594 |
| Conference fees | 3,032 | 2,320 |
| Consultants | 12,440 | 4,240 |
| Esprit expenses | 2,418 | 3,819 |
| Grants, donations and awards | 26,534 | 36,730 |
| Insurance | 673 | 1,028 |
| Le Club CPF | 22,440 | - |
| Meals and accommodations | 16,265 | 19,883 |
| Multicultural expenses | - | 125,884 |
| Office and general | 10,631 | 17,966 |
| Outside services | 672 | 540 |
| Pathways Conference | 75,151 | - |
| Postage and courier | 9,685 | 9,694 |
| Printing and photocopy | 11,974 | 12,950 |
| Professional fees | 7,304 | 6,232 |
| Publication purchases and other | 6,013 | 4,001 |
| Rent | 20,282 | 20,289 |
| Repairs and maintenance | 1,702 | 1,845 |
| Salaries | 183,255 | 184,209 |
| Telecommunications | 3,807 | 3,082 |
| Travel | 25,164 | 19,319 |
| Total Expenditures | 482,112 | 524,841 |
| Excess of revenue over expenses for the year | 3,468 | 2,150 |
| Net assets, beginning of year | 62,532 | 60,382 |
| Net assets, end of year | \$ 66,000 | \$ 62,532 |

Extracts from the notes to the financial statements.

Note 4 - Related party transactions

During the year, in the normal course of operations, Canadian Parents for French (Ontario) had the following transactions with related parties:

Membership rebates received of \$40,517 (2009 - \$40,820).

Grants and rebates paid to various chapters situated in Ontario of \$29,266 (2009 - \$29,594).

The above transactions are measured at the exchange amount which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

Executive Director's Report



CPF Ontario was able to accomplish a number of its targeted objectives and initiatives in 2009-2010 by improving communications, supporting Chapters and diversifying funding sources to realize specific projects. Currently we have 5,359 members which include an increase of 16 Associate Member Organizations (AMOs) and one revitalized Chapter, CPF Ottawa.

Governance and Support to Chapters

CPF Ontario participated on the National Action Plan Committee, the National evidence-based research Advocacy Committee and the Advisory Committee to the national multicultural project. Board members and the Executive Director prepared an Action Plan for the upcoming 2010-2014 period. Fifty-four delegates attended the CPF Ontario Conference and Annual General Meeting held in Mississauga in October 2009.

Partnerships and Networking to Affect Change

CPF Ontario continued to make presentations and work with partner organizations and French Second-Language (FSL) stakeholders. Meetings were held with the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages in Ontario, the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association, French for the Future, OISE Centre for Language Research (University of Toronto), Glendon College, the University of Ottawa, the Ministry of Education, school boards and individual schools. The prominent initiatives, challenges and accomplishments of the CPF Ontario Advocacy Committee related to equitable access and improved programming for FSL students are covered in the President's Report. Of note are the CPF Ontario consultation on the new Core French curriculum, our brief on the Early Learning Program and its possible impact on French Immersion programs and our submitted recommendations for change to the Ministry of Education's Parent Engagement Policy in order for it to include an official voice for parents with children in FSL programs.

Projects and Diversification of Funds

Pathways to Bilingual Success Conference and Bilingual Career Fair: Funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage-Support for Official Languages Program, this event which was held in Toronto, exposed 650 Grade 11 and 12 students to the benefits of continuing their bilingual education at the post-secondary level with a focus on the added value that bilingualism brings to any chosen career.

Le Club CPF: Also funded by Canadian Heritage, Le Club CPF is a ten-week extracurricular French club for children ages 6 to 12. This program was piloted with the assistance of two CPF Ontario Chapters and student interns from Glendon College. CPF Ontario Chapters will subsequently have access to these new materials, a bilingual operational guide, and a supportive grant to run the club as a viable, sustainable activity.

Communications

The Branch has strengthened its external and internal communications. The What's New section on the CPF Ontario website continues to expand with 96 new links and a blog, together with advertisements to the promotional banner. Thirty-four Chapter websites have been developed as well as Chapter email addresses. Branch communiqués were distributed regularly to Chapters, FSL consultants and stakeholders. Three issues of CPF Ontario News were printed.

Activity Highlights

The Concours / festival d'art oratoire was a resounding success this year with over 324 students from 31 school boards and 7 independent schools participating. 2 Ontario students each went on to win a \$20,000 scholarship to the University of Ottawa.

The Esprit Leadership Camp: Held in February at Scanlon Creek with Grade 7 to 9 French Immersion students participating.

Summer Camps: CPF Ontario sponsored 11 French summer camps with an estimated 600 participants.

CPF Ontario Chapter Activities

Adult French Courses: Fourteen courses were offered to 211 participants this year.

French Immersion Information Nights: Chapters assisted at or delivered information nights to inform parents of Kindergarten students or pre-school children about the benefits of French Second-Language (FSL) learning and the program options available to them.

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

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

Performances in French: Eight Chapters sponsored performances by French-language artists to students in a school setting.

A Final Note

The branch's success can be attributed to its ability to retain seasoned board members for renewed terms and build stronger partnerships with this continued momentum. Two new board members will be joining CPF Ontario in October 2010, making way for smooth governance succession. Operationally, we have also been able to retain experienced staff and provide for their ongoing development. However, we recognize that capacity restraints may hinder our ability to meet the growing demands of the strategic plan for 2010-2014.

Betty Gormley