



**CANADIAN
PARENTS
FOR FRENCH**
ONTARIO

2015-16
Annual Report





President's Message

As Canadian Parents for French, we have a longstanding and deep commitment to Official Language Bilingualism. Supporting youth in becoming proficient in French is of great benefit to each individual student and to the strength of Ontario and Canada. We are rightfully proud of what has been accomplished over the last 50 years but there is still much to do to ensure that every student in Ontario has access to effective French Second Language (FSL) programs.

Our growing membership includes not only parents but also grandparents, graduates, educators and supporters of Official Language Bilingualism. Our outstanding volunteers are very busy in their school communities and help to facilitate school and community activities for students that support the learning of French. Whether it is organizing French classes for parents, French movie nights, French story times at local public libraries, French camps, exchanges with Quebec or engaging with their school boards, our communities and our children's French-language skills are being strengthened through the commitment of every member of Canadian Parents for French.

During 2015-16, with the support of the Ministry of Education, we launched a new website, Frenchstreet.ca, which is an interactive database to help connect students with opportunities to use their French outside the classroom. We also created and delivered webinars and resource material for parents to help them support their children's French learning. Our dialogue with the Ministry continues on improving opportunities for exchanges within Canada and on strengthening policy and aligning funding with federal and provincial FSL goals.

Enrolment in French Immersion continued the ten-year annual growth trend of 5.7 percent. Retention in Core French and Immersion increased. We are seeing support in local schools for the Ministry's 2013 FSL Framework which included goals to increase student achievement in FSL. The release of "Including Students with Special Education Needs in FSL (2015)" is very welcome and will further break down barriers to equity and inclusion in FSL programs across Ontario.

Our challenges in 2015-16 were FSL reviews by three of the 60 English-language school boards. We continue to challenge decision makers at the Ministry of Education and at local school boards to strengthen FSL teaching and learning across Ontario.

A big thank you to my fellow directors who bring a wealth of expertise to the governing process, our outstanding Executive Director who keeps our wonderfully dedicated support staff motivated and working so effectively, and to our members across Ontario who support and contribute to our success as an organization and to the success of Ontario youth in achieving Official Language Bilingualism.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Cruden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Mary Cruden
President

Proud of Who We Are and What We Do

The Ontario branch took great care in supporting the entire CPF network again this year. We embraced the new CPF National strategic plan and were active participants in the consultation process leading toward the organization's renewed national bylaws, policies, and branding. We worked collaboratively with the National staff who supported our advocacy efforts this year in three key Ontario school boards and funded the production of a video on the merits of Early French Immersion.

A Loud Collective Voice

As of August 2016, we are 7,181 members strong in Ontario! Our recruitment campaigns, chapter development, and new partnerships have all contributed to a 17 percent increase in membership over a one-year period.

17%
INCREASE
IN MEMBERSHIP

**OVER
7,100
MEMBERS**

Impacting FSL Education and Policy

Guided by our strategic plan to improve access to quality FSL education, CPF Ontario continued to play a vital role on the Ministry of Education's FSL Provincial Working Group, including an opportunity to input directly to a new parent guide produced by the Ministry of Education entitled "*Supporting Your Child's Success in French Immersion and Extended French*".

FSL reviews by three of the 60 English-language school boards included staff recommendations to reduce the intensity of French Immersion, change entry points and cap enrolment. Our board and staff worked closely with our local chapters to get parents involved and to provide research to inform school-board decision making. Trustees in three school boards rejected the original recommendations. As final outcomes, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board softened its stance on the proposed reduction of the intensity of its French Immersion (FI) program. The Halton District School Board voted to delay the FI entry point from Grade 1 to Grade 2 but strengthen the intensity of the program. The Upper Grand District School Board voted to maintain its Junior Kindergarten FI entry point with 100 percent intensity in French in the early years. All three boards will not cap their FI enrolment.

Informing the Public

CPF Ontario was front and centre in the media this year with effective television (CTV News) and radio coverage (CBC-Radio Canada) on the growth of French Immersion and the benefits of Official Language Bilingualism, often in sharp contrast to controversial coverage of the French Immersion program. Our counter point was highlighted in mainstream daily newspapers including The Globe and Mail, with a circulation of over 69,000 readers.

Our capacity to reach a wider and wider audience is growing through social media with over 1,700 followers on Facebook and Twitter who share with others to expand our reach. On Facebook we had a total of 1,421 likes per post confirming the relevance of our content. 112,811 visitors downloaded 8,186 documents and resources from the CPF Ontario website.

We engaged with the public on a variety of platforms including the old-fashioned telephone and distributed 11,000 promotional brochures and information booklets at school board conferences, community events, and festivals.



Engaging Students

The *Concours et festival d'art oratoire*, our provincial French public-speaking event, drew 299 top contenders from among 22,500 Ontario participants from 25 school boards and 9 independent schools. Ontario students placed 1st in the French Immersion category, 2nd place in the Extended French category, and 3rd place in the Core French category at the CPF National competition subsequently held in Ottawa.

677 students were directly supported by our chapter after-school and peer-tutoring programs. Our chapters also delivered six independent summer day camps, as well as 21 varied socio-cultural activities for the kids and their families including French story-time, book fairs, games nights, treasure hunts, cooking crepes, and cafes...with close to 4,200 participants!

CPF Ontario's new partnership agreement with Camp Tournesol supported more than 1,800 campers this summer and their parents will enjoy the benefits of CPF membership throughout the year. It's a win-win partnership!

CPF Ontario staff with a student participant and her mother at the provincial *Concours et festival d'art oratoire*.



Supporting Parents - Symposium on FSL Education

The Commissioner of Official Languages, Graham Fraser, set the tone for an impressive day of programming as the opening keynote speaker at our Symposium on FSL Education held in Toronto. The event was well attended by parent leaders from across the province who expressed their overwhelming satisfaction with the quality of our presenters, panelists, and the opportunity to learn about the history of French Immersion and CPF in a political context by author Matthew Hayday. The Symposium hosted the launch of Mr. Hayday's new book entitled "So They Want Us to Learn French".

CPF Ontario parents participated in 12 adult French courses and four local workshops. With funding from the Ministry of Education, the branch delivered four additional regional workshops for parents from eight school-board jurisdictions and presented webinars on Supporting your Child in FSL Programs: Homework Help, Apps and Other Interactive Technology Tools, the Benefits of Bilingualism and Program Retention; and Special Education to Support your Child in FSL programs.



Author Matthew Hayday launches his book entitled "So They Want Us to Learn French" at the CPF Ontario Symposium on FSL Education.

Supporting Teachers - Taking French to the Streets

We launched the new FrenchStreet.ca website! This is a searchable database of experiential learning opportunities to enrich a child's FSL education. It is a treasure trove of field trips, exchange and workplace opportunities, cultural organizations, performers and programs, community events, and contests designed to encourage French-language learners to use French in their daily lives.

The Concours et festival d'art oratoire was reviewed to ensure that our long-standing public speaking event adheres to the principles of the new Ontario FSL curriculum. While the traditional Concours aligns with many aspects of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), the review funded the development of a new Impromptu Category, focused on spontaneous oral production, which was piloted in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. Plans are underway to promote the new category which lends itself to entire classroom participation.



Strengthening our Partnerships

Our organization is strengthened by the show of support we continue to receive from our partners and their collaboration on joint initiatives. We wish to thank the Ontario Modern Languages Teachers' Association, Glendon College, Collège Boréal, l'Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario, TFO, our community partners the Toronto District School Board and Camp Tournesol, and, of course, the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, and the Office of the French Language Services Commissioner.

CPF Ontario participated in the consultation on the development of the new TFO educational platform designed specifically for FSL learners. Now rebranded as IDÉLLO, the resources are accessible to parents and children at home as well as educators in all 60 English school boards.



COLLÈGE **BORÉAL**



Franco-Ontarian Day 2016

We joined the Franco-Ontarian community in recognizing Franco-Ontarian Day on September 25th, participated in Franco-Fête, and in the final celebrations around the 400 years of Francophone presence in the province.



CPF Ontario President, Mary Cruden, (front right) receives the 2015 Prix de la Francophonie de l'Ontario Award. Seen here with other award winners, nominators, and the Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs, Madeleine Meilleur.

CPF Ontario President Honoured

CPF Ontario President, Mary Cruden, was honoured by the Government of Ontario as the recipient of the 2015 Prix de la Francophonie de l'Ontario Award in recognition of her leadership and exemplary work on behalf of CPF at building effective partnerships and rapprochement between the Francophile and the Francophone communities. The award was presented to her by the Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs, Madeleine Meilleur, on behalf of Premier Kathleen Wynne.

Strong Governance and Effective Administration

The CPF Ontario Board of Directors has diligently carried out its roles and responsibilities throughout the year and the organization successfully completed all financial, legal, and contractual obligations.

The firm of Gilmore & Company conducted the annual audit of our financial records for the 2015-2016 fiscal year confirming a small surplus, which will augment our emergency reserve in accordance with our guiding policies. You may contact the branch office to receive a copy of the 2015-2016 audited financial statements.

Outstanding Contributors

Congratulations to **Mercédès Gagnon** (Ministry of Education) on winning the McGillivray Award for her outstanding contribution to FSL education and to **Nancy Ballantyne** (Trillium Lakelands Haliburton Chapter) on winning the Mlacak Award for her outstanding dedication and contribution to CPF and the FSL community.



Mercédès Gagnon
McGillivray Award Winner



Nancy Ballantyne
Mlacak Award Winner

Merci!

We thank the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage (Enhancement of Official Languages Program) and the Government of Ontario (Official Languages in Education Program) for their continued financial support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Betty Gormley'.

Betty Gormley,
Executive Director

Canada



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien



Ontario



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