



## Message from the President and the Executive Director

Official language bilingualism, the ability to understand and speak English and French, is more than an ideal. It is rooted in our history and culture, and today more than ever we understand its many practical benefits on the Canadian and global stage.

Four years ago, CPF Ontario launched a strategic course of action to increase the public's awareness of the benefits of bilingualism, improve access to quality French Second Language (FSL) programs and support parents and students on their journey to becoming official language bilinguals.

Our vital voice and sustained promotional efforts through print, online and social media platforms have contributed to the steady increase in French Immersion enrolment, which has grown an average of 5.4 per cent annually for eight consecutive years.

To strengthen our capacity to support this growing FSL community and our local CPF Ontario Chapters, we hired Rosemary Sutherland as Chapter Development and Outreach Officer.

It has been a stellar year for results and new beginnings! We thank our dedicated board of directors, our formidable volunteers and our hardworking staff, whose collective efforts contribute daily to CPF Ontario's success and the growth and improvement of FSL education.

*M. Cruden*  
Mary Cruden  
President

*B. Gormley*  
Betty Gormley  
Executive Director



### WE ARE

- ★ The Ontario branch of a national network of volunteers.
- ★ Dedicated to creating and promoting opportunities for youth in Canada to learn and use French.
- ★ Proud of Canada's two official languages.

### WE BELIEVE

- ★ All students in Ontario should have a right to access quality FSL programs.
- ★ Schools should reduce barriers to accessing and succeeding in FSL programs.
- ★ The Ministry of Education and school boards should be transparent in their allocation and expenditure of federal and provincial FSL funds.

### WE ENVISION

- ★ A Canada where French and English speakers live together in mutual respect with an understanding and appreciation of each other's language and culture.

## Impacting Policy

The CPF Ontario leadership team met this year with the Minister of Education and senior staff members. At every opportunity, we highlighted the need to provide all FSL students with access to TFO's French educational resources at no cost, in keeping with the practice for the French school boards.

**Our efforts proved worthwhile on August 27, 2014, when the Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs and Groupe Média TFO, announced that the Ontario government will now provide the 60 English school boards with free access to TFO Éducation, a website that hosts over 5,000 multimedia educational resources in French. CPF Ontario was invited to share the moment.**

Over the past four years, we have participated in FSL consultations led by the Ministry of Education and have presented briefs on best practices from the parent perspective. Our efforts are reflected within the Ministry's new FSL documents:

- ★ The new FSL curriculum for Ontario has embraced the spirit of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)



From left to right: Janine Griffore (Assistant Deputy Minister of Education), Mary Cruden (President of CPF Ontario), Madeleine Meilleur (Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs), Glenn O'Farrell (President and CEO of TFO), Julie Caron (Manager Educational Services of TFO)

with its "Can Do" benchmarks for French proficiency and a focus on spontaneous spoken interactions.

- ★ The Ministry released the Framework for French as a Second Language in Ontario Schools (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/amenagement/frameworkFLS.pdf>). This document provides the guiding

principles for all FSL education in Ontario and incorporates almost all the recommendations that CPF Ontario put forward during the consultation process. Implementation of the framework requires school boards to submit FSL plans with goals to improve student proficiency, retention in FSL programs and community engagement.

## Defending FSL Programs

Our CPF Halton Chapter demonstrated this year that parents can have an impact on the decisions made at the school board level. To deter trustees in the Halton District School Board from introducing an amendment to change the entry point of their French Immersion programs from Grade 1 to Grade 3, the Halton Chapter coordinated a strategic campaign that leveraged the expertise of CPF Ontario and CPF National to present the school board with evidence-based research in support of Early French Immersion.

Thanks to their campaign, the amendment didn't reach the floor.

**School boards often invite CPF Ontario Chapter executives to provide an informed parent perspective during FSL reviews and French Immersion accommodation reviews.**

## Forging Bonds with the Franco-Ontarian Community

As part of our strategic effort to strengthen our relationships with the Franco-Ontarian community, CPF Ontario signed a Memorandum of Understanding with two important francophone organizations: l'Assemblée de la Francophonie de l'Ontario (AFO) and the Office of the French Language Services Commissioner (OFLSC).



CPF Ontario President, Mary Cruden, and French Language Services Commissioner, François Boileau, signing the Memorandum of Understanding.

Website visits:

**85,640**

Brochures and information packages distributed:

**12,286**

Responses to enquiries:

**2,300**

L'AFO is the organization that speaks on behalf of the Franco-Ontarian community, and the OFLSC monitors the delivery of French-language services from the Ontario government. We are learning about our respective priorities and challenges and we are working towards opening doors for our young FSL learners to participate in authentic Franco-Ontarian cultural activities.

Supporting the passing of Bill 106, which established the OFLSC as an independent body reporting directly to the Ontario Legislature and not to a minister, was a significant indicator of the value CPF Ontario places on the country's francophone heritage and the vibrant Franco-Ontarian community that exists today.

## Engaging Parents and the Public

Over the years, CPF Ontario has established itself as a source of information on FSL resources and learning opportunities for school-aged children. Since the redesign of our website and our increased presence on Facebook and Twitter, we have been able to better support our membership and the public at large in providing this type of information.

Our Chapters engage and support parents in their local school communities by organizing networking events, such as "FSL Parent Survival Nights," and sharing information and resources like "Homework Help Tip Sheets."

This year, our Chapters ran 12 adult French courses. Thanks to these courses, parents learn some basic French using materials produced by CPF, and have the opportunity to network and build a support group.

CPF Ontario hosted workshops for members at our Symposium on FSL Education, and thanks to a grant from the Ministry of Education, we were able to reach a broader audience through two additional workshops (one in Cornwall and one in Kingston) and three webinars on the following topics:

- ★ Supporting Your Child's French Education: Multiple Intelligences & Learning Styles
- ★ Pathways to Bilingual Success: Retention to Grade 12
- ★ How to Support your School's FSL Community

## Pathways to Bilingual Success Conference

When French becomes optional after Grade 9, many students drop FSL programs. With the goal of encouraging students in Grades 7 and 8 to continue in French until graduation, we hosted a conference in Kingston with interactive workshops that stressed the benefits of bilingualism. Students also learned about youth exchanges and work programs.

We distributed to FSL classrooms across Ontario over **2,000** resource packages on reasons for staying in French to Grade 12.

## Engaging Students



These 1st-place winners from Grades 11-12 went on to compete at the national level for a \$32,000 scholarship to the University of Ottawa.

We thank our partners: the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association (recruited 70 volunteer judges) and York University's Glendon Campus (provided the venue).

*Le Concours d'art oratoire* is Ontario's largest French public-speaking event, and CPF Ontario's signature event. Participating students in FSL programs from Grades 4-12 research a topic and then write and deliver a speech in French in front of an audience and a panel of judges.

**An estimated 22,000 students compete at the local and regional level to classify for the provincial competition.**

**2014 was the 30th anniversary of this event and 289 finalists from 24 school boards and 7 independent schools participated.**

***"The breadth and depth of the topics covered were incredible, as was the high quality of the speeches given. [...] I congratulate Canadian Parents for French for their outstanding work and dedication to growing French as a second language education in Ontario."***

François Boileau,  
French Language  
Services Commissioner  
of Ontario

## O Canada! Tour



Francophone performers Justine Lewis and Renée-Claude Thériault.

**37,100** students participated in CPF Ontario youth initiatives

This was an interactive bilingual show where two young francophone artists first engaged FSL students from Grades 7 and 8 in a workshop, and then involved them in a musical performance in front of the school audience.

**The O Canada! Tour reached approximately 14,000 FSL students through 56 school performances in smaller communities in Ontario.**

O Canada! also toured western Canada as it was a collaborative project between CPF National and four branches: BC & Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. The project was funded by Canadian Heritage through an agreement with CPF National.

## Recognizing CPF and FSL Champions

CPF Ontario presented the following awards in the 2013-2014 fiscal year:

The Mlacak Award to Janet Holtham, from our CPF Toronto West Chapter, for her outstanding dedication and contribution to CPF and the FSL community.

The McGillivray Award to John Tancredi, for his outstanding contribution to FSL education in his role as Central Coordinating Principal, Teaching and Learning with the Toronto District School Board.



Canadian  
Heritage

Patrimoine  
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**CPF Ontario is grateful to receive financial support from:**

The Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage (Enhancement of Official Languages Program), and the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Education (Official Languages in Education Program and Parents Reaching Out Grant).