

# CPF *Canadian Parents for French* *Manitoba*



## **Annual Report**

**2009 – 2010**

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# CPF *Canadian Parents for French* **Manitoba**

## MISSION

“We are part of a National network of volunteers who are dedicated to the promotion and creation of French second language learning opportunities for young Manitobans.”

## VALUES

“We value commitment to our mandate, the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge, and the taking of initiative and responsibility in order to achieve credibility and effectiveness.”

## VISION

“A Manitoba where French and English speaking people live together in mutual respect with an understanding and appreciation of each other’s language and culture, and where linguistic duality forms an integral part of society to support the vision of a bilingual Canada.”

**Canadian Parents for French – Manitoba** has been instrumental in the growth and development of French second language programs in Manitoba since its incorporation in 1981. The organization receives funding from Canadian Heritage and Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth.



## Board of Directors 2009 – 2010

### **Philip Fenez, President (2009 – 2011)**

Philip and his wife have three school age children, ranging in ages from 9 – 13 years. They live on a small hobby farm located in La Barrière, Manitoba. Philip has been a member of the St. Norbert Immersion Advisory Council since 2004, serving in many different positions including President. Philip has also served on other Boards in the past. He has a strong sense of volunteering; believing that it is an integral part of community life. Since joining the Board of CPF-MB, Philip has had many opportunities to learn more about French-Second-Language learning in Manitoba and is passionate about French opportunities being available to all students.

### **Paulette Vielfaure Dupuis, Vice-President (2009 – 2011)**

From 1997 to 2002, Paulette was a Divisional Languages Coordinator and in this position she participated on various committees and informed parents and students about the benefits of French language learning. Her responsibilities also included supporting Basic French, French Immersion and Ukrainian teachers by preparing and presenting workshops on language teaching strategies and keeping them informed of curricula. Additionally, Paulette regularly consulted and collaborated with other Divisional Languages Coordinators in Winnipeg and throughout the province.

In 2002, Paulette became Principal of École Centrale, a French Immersion early years school. During this time, and aside from her administration duties, she represented the River East Transcona School Division as a member of L'Association manitobaine des directrices et directeurs d'immersion française (AMDI). Then, after 20 years dedicated to French language learning, Paulette retired in 2007.

Throughout, her career Paulette had an affinity with CPF-MB and so joined its Board in 2007. She now enjoys working with this team, as she continues to be committed to its mandate and it provides the perfect opportunity for her to continue contributing to French language learning in Manitoba.

### **Connie Lucian, Past-President (2009 – 2011)**

Connie grew up in Saskatchewan and graduated from Mount Royal Collegiate in Saskatoon. She attended the University of Saskatchewan before moving to Winnipeg where she enrolled in Red River Community College (RRCC). Here, she completed her Business Administration Degree in 1987. Connie worked in Winnipeg for a few years before moving to Vancouver where she met her husband. They have lived in The Pas since 1992 and now have two children in Grades 9 and 11.

Connie became active with CPF when her son asked to learn French and then moved into the Immersion program. She believes that children should be given every possible advantage in the competitive world of today and in light of this French language learning should be encouraged in our youth.

### **Pam Hutcheson, Director (2008 – 2010)**

Pam is an employment specialist who works with adults with disabilities. She has seven children; two are of school age and five are adults. Pam has been actively involved in parent advisory councils for the past 19 years. She believes that volunteering serves as a good role model for our future volunteers (our children).

Pam became a CPF-MB Director to be proactive in ensuring quality French programs for children. She strongly believes that French educational opportunities should be available for all students and supports French activities for all ages, particularly those that encourage the use of French both inside and outside of the school environment.

### **Rena Prefontaine, Director (2008 – 2010)**

Rena joined the CPF-MB Board of Directors in 2008 and came with previous experience of committee work, in a variety of roles including that of a Vice-President and Treasurer. She was attracted to CPF because she had 2 children enrolled in French Immersion and has first hand experiences of the advantages of being fluent in both of Canada's official languages. Rena studied in French throughout the entirety of her schooling. She proudly acclaims her use and knowledge of French and credits having French as her second language to her success as a professional. Her business and financial background continue to be of extreme value to CPF-MB.

### **Chris Chmelowski, Director (2009 – 2011)**

Chris was born in Québec and moved to Winnipeg at the age of seven to experience a "reverse immersion" in an English school for 3 years. She then resumed her education *en français* for the remainder of her elementary and high school education. After 3 years of working towards a combined Bachelor of Music / Education at Brandon University, Chris experienced a change of heart and returned to Winnipeg to earn her Hotel / Restaurant Administration Diploma from Red River Community College.

Today, Chris enjoys the best of both worlds, combining her administration skills with her love of music, as part-owner of a music store in Swan River; she also teaches piano, flute and music.

Chris and her husband Darren have 2 children who are both enrolled in the French Immersion program. Her involvement with CPF dates back 5 years and stems from a genuine willingness to help out in the schools, and a firm belief that every child should enjoy the opportunity to speak French.

### **Lisa Winning, Youth Director (2008 – 2010)**

Lisa is a French Immersion graduate who is continuing her studies in science (in French) at Collège universitaire de Saint (CUSB). Lisa considers French Immersion to be a great program as it has helped her in many aspects of her life, including enabling her to work in Québec for six months. She has found that being bilingual is extremely

beneficial and believes it is important that the French Immersion program be kept updated and as appealing as possible to students and parents. Lisa has been an active volunteer in a number of capacities.

Lisa contributes to CPF-MB by offering insights from her experiences of French Immersion and as a French-Second- Language student studying at a francophone post-secondary educational establishment. She also understands the challenges that FSL students sometimes face and has excellent time management skills.

## President's Report

As I look back over the past year, I feel very proud of what CPF-MB has accomplished. We have provided many opportunities that have enabled children to experience French outside the school room, we have diligently informed parents and students of the benefits of continuing studies in French and throughout we have remained focused on our vision:

***“A Manitoba where French and English speaking people live together in mutual respect with an understanding and appreciation of each other's language and culture, and where linguistic duality forms an integral part of society to support the vision of a bilingual Canada.”***

It is always encouraging when we hear students use French outside the classroom, and when we hear from former students about the opportunities that they have been able to take advantage of, solely because they are fluent in French. This keeps us motivated; particularly on those occasions when we struggle to keep a Chapter going, or have to meet once again, with those in authority to explain why French language learning is of such great and social value.

I thank my fellow Board members for their dedication and commitment over the past year. And, sincere appreciation goes to all our Chapter volunteers; your efforts have continued to play a significant role in keeping members well supported and French language learning strong, in communities throughout the province. I also send a “big bouquet” of gratitude to Catherine Davies our Executive Director, and to her staff for doing the leg work that is the core and catalyst of all CPF-MB activities and services. Please see Catherine's Executive Director Report; it is an impressive testimony of all that our organization has achieved over the past year.

Acknowledgement and appreciation also goes to the federal department of Canadian Heritage and Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, for their continued and valued support.

Philip Fenez  
President, CPF-MB



## Vice-President's Report

This past year has been a busy and most fulfilling one! It has been an honour to take part in the numerous activities, discussions and deliberations that have taken place.

I had the opportunity to collaborate with various partners and stakeholders of CPF-MB, by participating at several meetings and social events, and by being involved with a number of initiatives. I am proud to say that these partnerships are strong and our organization is recognized as progressive, supportive and dependable.

Amongst the many projects undertaken this year, CPF-MB was invited to participate in the planning of French speaking activities for the "Manitoba 2010 Homecoming" celebrations. We were also at the planning table for many French learning related undertakings with our partners in education, business, government, and administration.

It is exciting to see our organization evolve and branch out to meet new challenges, while always being focused on the "promotion and creation of French second language learning opportunities for young Manitobans".

It has been a pleasure to be part CPF-MB and I look forward with enthusiasm to working and learning with our excellent team in the coming year!

Paulette Vielfaure Dupuis  
*Vice-President, CPF-MB*



## Past-President's Report

Over the course of the year I was active in areas that included, but were not exclusive to the following:

- Participating in CPF-MB Board meetings and CPF-MB Management Committee meetings.
- Participating in the Annual Chapter Teleconference Meeting.
- Reviewing CPF-MB Branch By-laws and Policies
- Meeting with Shelly Glover, the Parliamentary Secretary for Official Languages.
- Attending local Chapter meetings in The Pas, as a provincial resource.

As I move into my second year as Past-President and my final year on the CPF-MB Board, I reflect upon the wonderful growth that I've seen within CPF-MB. I look forward to the coming year and believe that we need to maintain the positive spirit of Manitoba, as we work to promote French language learning for all!

Connie Lucian  
*Past-President, CPF-MB*



## Director's Report, Pam Hutcheson

It has been most rewarding and exciting to be part of such an enthusiastic and committed group of people; all of whom share the common goal of promoting and enhancing French language opportunities for our children, throughout Manitoba.

This past year, I attended all Board meetings; however the highlight of the year for me was Concurs jeune artiste du Manitoba (JAM). It was very exciting to be privy to this initiative from its infancy, right up to watching the finale when the very talented students performed. It was a truly memorable event, which I hope will be repeated in the not too distant future. Indeed, I had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Shelley Glover, the Parliamentary Secretary for Official Languages, to discuss this very matter.

Looking ahead, I am eager to attend my first CPF-National Conference and AGM in Ottawa. It will be interesting to connect with other Board members, from other provincial Boards across Canada; I am sure that a lot will be learned, as we share our successes and challenges.

I feel that Manitoba is very lucky to have CPF-MB; it is such a valuable resource for our children, parents, educators and the general public and I am proud to be part of it.

## Director's Report, Rena Prefontaine

The past year was a busy one. On a personal level, I changed careers and I am now working as a Realtor at Century 21. With regards to CPF-MB, I was also kept busy. I assisted with the logistics of the first Concurs jeune artiste du Manitoba (JAM) contest, acted as MC at the provincial Concurs d'art oratoire and attended regular CPF-MB Board meetings. I remain committed to the positive promotion of French language education and believe it is important to have a broad range of people serving on the CPF-MB Board of Directors.

## Director's Report, Chris Chmelowski

It's hard to believe that the first year of my term as a CPF-MB director is already over! With the help of my wonderful Co-Directors and the terrific CPF-MB staff, I have certainly gained a better understanding and appreciation of CPF-MB operations and governance at the provincial level. There are so many very busy Chapters and so many activities and projects; keeping track is no small task!

I was able to participate in all but one of the CPF-MB Board meetings; sometimes in person, sometimes by phone and for the 1<sup>st</sup> time ever in CPF-MB history, I attended one meeting via SKYPE! I also worked with VP Paulette Vielfaure Dupuis as a member of the CPF-MB Nominations Committee.

In March I traveled to Winnipeg to volunteer at the first-ever Concurs jeune artiste du Manitoba (JAM). What a great project! I was glad to be able to lend a helping hand and came away with a better understanding of the process, as well as some ideas from a rural / out-of-town perspective, to help make it even better in the years to come!

I embark on my second year with more confidence and experience and I have already laid claim to several little projects. I am also looking forward to connecting more with Chapters everywhere and working together to get everyone loving learning *en français*!

## Youth Director Report, Lisa Winning

I attended all CPF-MB Board meetings and was able to bring a youth's perspective to aspects of the organization's governance.

In addition to Board meetings, I also volunteered for the first ever Concours jeune artiste du Manitoba (JAM); it was wonderful to see so many Manitoba youth having fun and getting involved in the culture that surrounds and embodies the language they are studying!



## Executive Director's Report

Canadian Parents for French-Manitoba (CPF-MB) activities / initiatives / projects were enabled by funding awarded through:

- The federal department of Canadian Heritage under the *Enhancement of Official Language* program, *Promotion of Linguistic Duality* component
- The federal department of Canadian Heritage under the *Support for Innovations program*
- The provincial department of the Bureau de l'éducation française under the *French Second Language Revitalization program*
- The provincial department of the Bureau de l'éducation française under *The Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Minority Language Education and Second official Language Instruction*

In 2009-2010 CPF-MB managed / facilitated / coordinated the following initiatives / projects:

- French for Life (Maintenance Project)
- French for Life Poster Campaign
- Québec City DVD / CD ROM Package
- Concours jeune artiste du Manitoba (JAM)
- French for Career Options
- French Theatre Project
- French Immersion Drama Extravaganzas
- French Cultural Tours
- French Immersion Summer Camps
- Concours d'art oratoire
- French Multi-Media Kits

All CPF-MB initiatives / activities were successful due to the valuable contributions of:

- Committed volunteers from Chapters across the province
- Dedicated provincial Board members
- Devoted provincial staff
- Supportive partners such as Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface (CUSB), Société franco-manitobaine (SFM), Éducatrices et éducateurs francophones du Manitoba (EFM), L'Association manitobaine des directrices et directeurs d'immersion française

(AMDI), Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) and 100 NONS.

Throughout 2009-2010 and through its activities concerning Chapter Support, Membership Services and Communications, CPF-MB continued to **increase reinforcement of positive public attitudes toward linguistic duality and promote the benefits of French Second-Language (FSL) learning**. Highlights / items of note during the period April 01, 2009 – March 31, 2010 were as follows:

- Branch representatives visited attended events / meetings with Chapters in Morden, Beausejour, Selkirk, Portage, Powerview, Flin Flon, The Pas, Swan River, Dauphin and Springfield. These visits provided opportunities to discuss local issues and enabled suggestions and ideas to be exchanged.
- French Immersion programs in Flin Flon and Selkirk turned 25 years old and the celebratory events publicly acknowledged the importance, success and longevity of those programs.
- Sixteen students who graduated from the French Immersion program with more than 7 and less than 14 FI credits were each awarded a *CPF-MB Certificate of Merit*.
- Financial support was provided to Chapters through the *CPF-MB FSL Initiative Incentive Fund*. As a result, Chapters were able to facilitate community events such as: *Did you Know? FI Advertising Campaign, French Movie Night for the Family, Festival du Voyageur Week, Une Soirée de Conscience, K-4 FI Evening Presentation and Dinner, Family Games Night; in French!, Reveillon and Fête du Patiner*.
- Particular questions and concerns of parent groups regarding the career and life advantages that are available to students who graduate from the French Immersion program were addressed; 14 presentations were made to 465 parents attending K information sessions in Winnipeg, Stonewall, Neepawa, Brandon, Dugald, Selkirk, Lorette, Dauphin and St. Norbert.
- French language learning options, the positive effects of French language learning in relation to the development of the brain, and the value of linguistic duality in Canada were emphasized via: 241 presentations to a total of 7,177 FSL students in Grades 4-12 , 25 presentations to volunteers, Chapter Executives, partners etc, association events (e.g. the ACPI conference with 600 delegates), [www.cpfmb.com](http://www.cpfmb.com) - 8,769 visits / 134,850 hits, and [www.frenchforlife.ca](http://www.frenchforlife.ca) - 28,859 visits / 309,722 hits.
- The visibility of the topic of French language learning was enhanced through the dissemination of approximately 7,000 FSL promotional items, the distribution of over 2,000 copies of CPF-MB News, and use of the CPF-MB and French for Life banners and displays at public venues.
- The general public was informed about French language learning issues and CPF-MB activities via public media: 5 radio interviews with CBC French Radio, one TV interview with CBC French Television, 3 articles La Liberté (the French newspaper) and advertisements in each of the local 15 community newspapers of Manitoba.

Throughout 2009-2010 and through its activities concerning influencing / sharing research and organizational recognition / collaboration, CPF-MB continued to use **research based advocacy to inform and influence decision makers**. Highlights / items of note during the period April 01, 2009 – March 31, 2010 were as follows:

- Meetings with the Minister of MB Education and the Representative of the Commissioner of Official Languages provided opportunities to advocate for continued support for the French Immersion program, the mandating of Basic French, standard strategies / plans for recruitment of FSL teachers, a provincial review of French language learning, language competence of graduates and implementation / support for the Common European Language Framework Reference.
- Meetings with the Minister of Canadian Heritage and the MP for St. Boniface / Parliamentary Secretary for Official Languages, provided opportunities to share information relating to the role of CPF-MB and its context within Manitoba. Issues of commonality and mutual concerns were also determined and discussed by referring to the June, 2009 *Report of the Standing Committee on Official Languages*, the January 2005 Public Service Commission update on *The French as a Second Language Assessment Project*, the Jim Cummins article “*Immersion Education for the Millennium.*”, and the Scott P. Kissau study “*The Relationship Between School Environment and Effectiveness in French Immersion.*”
- Current partnerships were maintained and strengthened through collaboration of varying degrees with several organizations including the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT), the Bureau de l’éducation française (BEF), L’Association manitobaine des directrices et directeurs d’immersion française (AMDI), Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface (CUSB), La Société franco-manitobaine (SFM) and Éducatrices et éducateurs francophones du Manitoba (EFM).
- New and mutual partnerships were established with 100NONS, Foolish Wit Productions, Manitoba Homecoming 2010 and Encounters with Canada.

Throughout 2009-2010 and through its activities relating to assisting young Canadians to learn about the French language and culture, CPF-MB continued to **provide and promote extracurricular activities and cultural forum for youth**.

Highlights / items of note during the period April 01, 2009 – March 31, 2010 were as follows:

- **The French for Life (Maintenance) project** served to effectively and dynamically promote French language education. Motivational and informative presentations were delivered to 6176 K-12 students, 30 adult students, 410 teachers and 320 parents. The website [www.frenchforlife.ca](http://www.frenchforlife.ca) had 317,239 hits i.e. 26,437 average hits per month, and 30,121 visits i.e. 2,510 average visits per month. Approximately 6,500 promotional items were distributed and public advertising was orchestrated via billboards and Winnipeg City transit.

Of note and concerning the impact of the French for Life project are the following statistics for the 3 year period of 2005-2008:

\*The total of the Manitoban school population fell by 3,997 students or 2.6%. However, French Immersion enrolment rose by 866 students or 4.9%.

And, more recently, for the most recent one year period of 2008-2009

\*The total of the Manitoban school population fell by approximately 296 students or 0.16%. However, French Immersion enrolment increased by 540 students or 2.91%.

Although it may not be justifiable to state that this is a direct result of the impact of the French for Life project, it would be equally unjustifiable to totally discount the possible impact of this project. The activities of the project continue to receive much attention and stimulate interest in French language learning, not only in Manitoba, but throughout Canada.

- **The French for Life Poster Campaign** incorporated inspirational slogans created by Manitoban students. Thirty-thousand posters were produced (15,000 in French and 15,000 in English) i.e. 2,500 sets of 12; one set for each school in Manitoba, parent and teacher groups, and FSL stakeholders
- **The Québec City DVD / CD ROM Package** comprises of a bilingual movie style dramatization that accurately depicts significant historical events related to Québec City and interactive lesson plans that complement the content of the drama production. This quality teaching resource serves to foster and motivate the learning of the French language and inspire youth to continue using and experiencing both official languages. The package is also a user-friendly, age appropriate and time enduring educational tool, which complements social studies curricula criteria. All materials have been designed to provide students with an enjoyable, unique and memorable educational experience. However, the package as a whole also addresses the need for young learners to grasp the concept of French culture and heritage and acquire an appreciation of the richness that linguistic duality has brought to Canada. Additionally, it demonstrates that French is a usable modern day language that has endured the passage of time throughout Canada's history.
- **Concours jeune artiste du Manitoba (JAM)** provided French-first-language (FFL) and French-second-language (FSL) Manitoban youth with the opportunity to participate together in a French cultural related extra-curricular activity that was fun, exciting and age appropriate. Through the exciting mediums of song and music youth were motivated to use their French. Significantly, this initiative addressed the issue of French language and cultural "opportunity gaps" for teenagers in Manitoba. This French cultural activity also challenged the abilities of participants and introduced them to new ways of communicating with and relating to their peers. Evaluations also attested that the experience will remain memorable for all those who were involved, for many years to come.

This unique initiative heightened awareness of elected officials and decision makers that the French language learning is a relevant part of the modern day culture of the youth of Manitoba. It also attracted a significant amount of attention from the media, which in itself drew attention to bilingualism as an important part of Manitoban society.

- **French for Career Options** was a two-day event; one day facilitated in French and English for Basic French students, and one day facilitated in French for French Immersion students. Two-hundred and sixty-five French Immersion students and 220 Basic French students participated from 21 schools located in Winnipeg, Elie, Lorette, St. Norbert, Portage la Prairie and Selkirk. Representatives from eight (8) industries provided interactive workshops and provided information concerning bilingual careers in the sectors of law, Health Care, Public Service Commission, Canadian Forces, Education / Teaching, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Tourism and Arts and Culture.

Student participants were provided with information that they could use to assist them in making pertinent career and life decisions that encompass the use of both official languages. Their understanding of the value of linguistic duality, and how it can affect one's life was enhanced, and consequently they were encouraged to maintain their participation in French language studies.

French for Career Options also responded to the needs of employers who are / will be seeking bilingual employees. It enabled them to showcase the bilingual opportunities within their profession and / or organization, thereby encouraging students to remain in FSL programs. It also motivated employers to consider the need for bilingual recruitment and plan strategies to satisfy the need in forthcoming years.

- **The French Theatre Project** visited 5 schools in Winnipeg, Oakville and Portage-le Prairie. Approximately 220 Basic French students in Grades 8-12 participated in the day-long theatre based workshops. The mediums of drama and script writing were used to broaden the views of students with regards to the uses and possibilities of using the French language as a means of communication and expression. All incorporated activities were designed to assist students to enhance their French language skills by making the language "real" and "useful" for them. They were also able to use their written and verbal French skills in a comfortable non-intimidating environment. Overall, the workshops were an excellent medium through which students were exposed to the cultural and artistic elements of learning and using French. They also served to develop the skills necessary to work cooperatively in groups and assisted them in acquiring new technical vocabulary and theatrical techniques.
- **French Immersion Drama Extravaganzas** were facilitated in 14 schools in Winnipeg, St. Norbert, Selkirk, St. Anne, Elie, Powerview, Thompson and The Pas. Approximately 500 French Immersion students participated; 240 from Grades 7-8, and 260 from Grades 9-12.

The program was presented entirely in French, and students were provided with an opportunity to learn expressive drama techniques and use their French vocabulary and language skills simultaneously. Students experienced an enjoyable "real life" event that was geared to enhancing aspects such as character development, communication techniques and styles, spontaneity, creativity, teamwork, mime and rules. Participants were also made more aware of their potential for communication in French, and therefore a positive attitude toward the French language and culture was nurtured.

- **The French Cultural Tours** provided approximately 2,500 Manitoban youth, living in urban, rural and northern areas with an opportunity to experience French Canadian Culture, which is an important aspect of language learning. A total of 15 schools were visited in the CPF Chapter communities of Seine River, Thompson, Flin Flon, The Pas, Swan River, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Morden, Powerview, Beausejour, Selkirk, Springfield and Stonewall. Each school participated in a full day of cultural activity comprising of musical performances and cartooning workshops. Participants were introduced to various dimensions of audio and visual creativity in a French language and cultural context and enjoyed an active learning experience in the French language, outside of the regular classroom situation.
- **French Immersion Summer Camps** were facilitated during the months of July and August. The Chapter communities of Beausejour, Stonewall, Portage la Prairie, The Pas, Morden, Pembina Trails and Brandon hosted the camps, which were attended by 130 students ages 6-10 years. Camp staff, fluent in French, facilitated the camps which were designed to encourage all participants to spend their entire day speaking French. For the first time the camp had a science based focus with a theme entitled *“Exploration and Experimentation.”* Aspects of Chemistry, Physics, Natural and Social Sciences were explored and experimented with, and incorporated into all activities including games, stories, day trips, crafts and sports. New and varied vocabulary that related to the theme was introduced to campers, and they were encouraged to use this in communication with fellow campers and throughout all activities.
- **Concours d’art oratoire** had 7,000 student participants at the school and divisional levels of competition. The Provincial Finals were held at CUSB on May 02, 2009; 118 Students in Grades 3-12 participated. All Students placing 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in each category received a plaque. Students placing 1<sup>st</sup> in each category received a plaque and a trophy for display at their respective schools. Also, 1<sup>st</sup> place winners in Grades 7/8 received a cash prize of \$100, and in Grades 9/10 and Impromptu 11/12 a cash prize of \$200.

New for this year were additional awards for Grades 9/10 Basic French and Impromptu in the form of a week long stay at the **Encounters with Canada** Camp in Ottawa. For the second year running, an award was presented by SFM to the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of the 11/12 Impromptu category. The **“Prix Société franco-manitobaine”** recognized the talent and valour of those students who compete in this category. These students were given a topic title on the day of competition and had only 15 minutes to develop a relating speech, which they then presented.

For the second time, the 5 students placing first in the Grades 11/12 categories were each eligible for a \$500 bursary for CUSB, and were automatically awarded a \$2,000 scholarship for the University of Ottawa. They also had the opportunity to compete for further \$20,000 scholarships when they went on to represent Manitoba at the National Concours event in Ottawa on May 30, 2009.

- **French Multi-Media Kits** served as travelling French resource libraries. Use of the kits was fully booked for the 2009-2010 school year and through a variety of interesting mediums FSL students and their families had access to materials that

enabled them to experience French as a living language, together and in their home environment.

Throughout 2009-2010, CPF-MB continued with activities that served to **ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the organization**. Highlights / items of note during the period April 01, 2009 – March 31, 2010 were as follows:

- **Operations** were managed efficiently and CPF-MB met its financial responsibilities and maintained a viable office.

Reports, evaluations and financial documentation were provided to Canadian Heritage and MB Citizenship, Education and Youth, on time and as required.

Funding was awarded for the following 2009-2010 initiatives: French or Life Maintenance, French for Life Poster Campaign, Québec City DVD Package, Concours jeune artiste du Manitoba, Concours d'art oratoire, French Summer Camps, French Cultural Tours, Basic French Theatre Workshops and Drama Extravaganzas.

Sponsorship for **Concours d'art oratoire** was secured from CUSB, SFM and Encounters with Canada.

- **CPF-MB Board Meetings** were held on a regular basis. This year organizational policies were reviewed and minor amendments were made. CPF-MB Directors also attended training at the Volunteer Centre of Winnipeg, regarding the legal responsibilities of volunteer Boards; this served to enhance knowledge of the responsibilities and personal liabilities of Board members.

CPF-MB Board communication with CPF-National was orchestrated via National Liaison Teleconference meetings (x3) with the CPF-MB Management Committee; national and provincial issues pertaining to the CPF Network Strategic and Actions plans were the prime focus of these meetings.

- **CPF-MB Provincial Annual General Meeting** and related activities were held in Winnipeg on October 03, 04 and 05, 2009. The weekend commenced with a **Chapter Appreciation Dinner**, which acknowledged the dedicated work of all CPF-MB Chapters and their commitment to supporting and promoting FSL learning at the grass roots level. This gathering enabled Chapter representatives to connect, discuss challenges and successes, and exchange ideas.

The formal agenda included a review of the **CPF-MB 2008-2009 Annual Report**, the election and appointment of Board members, presentation of Chapter reports and audited financial statements. Delegates included CPF-MB Board members, Chapter Presidents and representatives, CPF National representatives, 2 members of the Senate of Canada, the Commissioner of Official Languages, the Parliamentary Secretary for Official Languages / Member of Parliament for St. Boniface, the Leader of the Liberal Party of Manitoba, the Assistant Deputy Minister and representatives from the BEF, CUSB, EFM, SFM and AMDI.

Following the formal agenda, Board, Chapter and staff training was provided. Topics covered included respective roles in regards to the organizational strategic plan, language assessment tools, and communicating consistent organizational messages to parents considering a French language learning option for their children.

- **CPF-National Annual General Meeting** was held in Regina on October 16, 17 and 18 2009. CPF-MB representation comprised of the CPF-MB President, Vice President and Executive Director. As well as the formal agenda, candid discussions focused on the 5 year **CPF-Network Strategic Plan**. As a result, this plan was reviewed and amended in the months to come and a resulting **CPF-Network 2010-2014 Action Plan** was developed and submitted to Canadian Heritage in March 2010.
- **CPF Council of Presidents Meetings** were attended by the CPF-MB President who provided input from a parental, volunteer and Manitoban perspective.
- **CPF Branch Executive Director Meetings** focused on the **Organizational Impact Study** (initiated by Canadian Heritage), the implementation of the **CPF Network National Strategic Plan** and the development of a **CPF-Network Action Plan for 2010-2014**
- **Organizational Strategic / Action Planning** was led by the Management Committee and the CPF-MB Board successfully developed a **CPF-MB 2010-2014 Strategic / Action Plan**. This will serve to assist the organization to monitor progress and challenges as it works towards its 5 High Level Goals: 1). All students have access to a broad range of programs; 2). All students receive quality FSL programs; 3). Research-based advocacy is used to inform and influence; 4). Engage youth, parents, educators and the Public; 5) CPF is an effective and efficient organization.

The CPF-MB Executive Director also served as a member of the **National Strategic Planning Committee for High Level Goal 5**. The CPF-National Board directed this committee to focus on the development of recommendations concerning the 5 Secondary Level (Operational / Governance) Goals:

- 5.1) Ensure sufficient funding to achieve organizational goals;
- 5.2) Strengthen organizational governance and operations;
- 5.3) Attract and maintain active members;
- 5.4) Develop collaborative partnerships;
- 5.5) Develop and implement an internal communication strategy.

## Chapter Reports

### CPF – Beausejour Chapter

**President:** Debbi Bargenda  
**Vice-President:** Patty Sanclemente  
**Secretary:** Gillian Buss  
**Treasurer:** Lisa Carmichael

#### September:

- Provided welcome letters to the French Immersion Kindergarten students.
- Established monthly newsletters submitted for **EBEYS and EESS**.
- Attended CFP and PAC meetings.

#### October:

- Held the Chapter Annual General Meeting.
- Paid for new Kindergarten memberships.
- Attended the CPF-MB Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg.

#### November:

- Hosted a French Movie Night; pizza was provided.
- Provided French language reading materials for all classrooms.
- Raised funds by selling 50/50 tickets at the local Beaver Hockey games.
- Started advertising the fundraising raffle to support Chapter attendance at the 2010 Annual General Meeting in Ottawa.

#### December:

- Advertised Concours jeune artiste du Manitoba (JAM) and the CPF-MB “I choose French for my life because.....” poster campaign.
- Attended all Sunrise School Divisional Consultation meetings addressed the issue of transportation to Collège Pierre Elliot Trudeau.

#### January:

- Collaborated with the CPF-Springfield Chapter to advertise the Kindergarten Registration and offered support to inquiring parents.
- Distributed pamphlets to Day Care and Nursery School programs in area.
- Held the first annual BINGO event

#### February:

- Sponsored attendance to Festival.
- Hosted an information booth with French for Life at the local Louis Reil Day celebrations.

#### March:

- Baked cookies for staff appreciation for both local schools.
- Supported Petit Café; created and served by EESS students.

April:

- Offered CPF-MB Cultural tours at both schools.
- Attended Secretary Appreciation lunch buffet.
- Facilitated a Line Dancing Hoedown.
- Manned a French Immersion/CPF information booth at the Pre-school Readiness Clinic.

May:

- Donated CPF filled basket to EBEYS.
- Represented CPF during the Kindergarten Meet the Teacher event.
- Encouraged EBYES English teachers to participate in after school conversational French sessions

June:

- Submitted a letter to the Sunrise School Division re: the decision to support the French program completely, by advocating for Languages and Libraries Program Coordinator, to support the teaching administration.
- Awarded \$100 scholarship to A. May to assist with post secondary education costs.

August:

- Hosted Camp Soleil; this was attended by twelve students.

### **CPF – Brandon Chapter**

**Secretary:** Kelly Jackson

**Treasurer:** Barb Harrison

Report not submitted.

## CPF – Dauphin Chapter

**President:** Phil Fafard  
**Vice-President:** Rebecca Bray  
**Secretary:** Ryxie Dupas  
**Treasurer:** Cathy Fafard

In 2009-2010 the CPF-Dauphin Chapter:

- Provided CPF Chapter remarks at the 'Welcome Back Evening' at École Macneill in September 2009.
- Participated in the fall 2009 Cultural tour with Gerald Laroche.
- Organized and staffed the CPF-MB display booth at the Olde Market Square event in November 2009.
- Promoted the CPF-MB French for Life Information Evening for the elementary and middle years schools.
- Supported Kindergarten registration in the spring of 2010.
- Supported French speech competitions at École Macneill and MacKenzie Middle School and supported the respective school's winners participation in the provincial Concours d'art oratoire in Winnipeg,
- Fundraised for the Québec school trip in the spring of 2010.
- Participated in parent partnership meetings.
- Supported the Grades 7 and 8 classes during the "Semaine de la francophonie", as they provided various learning centers to the Grades 1 and 2 classes.
- Awarded a French Immersion Certificate to one student upon graduation.
- Hosted a successful Camp Soleil in July.

### **Objectives for this coming year include:**

- A 30+ years of CPF and French Immersion in Dauphin, with an evening of celebration on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Dauphin Regional Comprehensive Secondary School.
- To encourage more active participation of local members in Chapter affairs, and to conduct activities to encourage high school students to continue with French Immersion courses, so that there are more students graduating with a French Immersion Diploma.

## CPF – Flin Flon Chapter

**President:** Dianne O'Brien  
**Secretary:** Leotta Belcourt  
**Treasurer:** Crystal Kolt  
**Public Relations:** Jo-Anne Kiehlke

The CPF-Flin Flon Chapter:

- Awarded High School Bursary in June 2010
- Facilitated the CPF-Flin Flon Chapter Annual General Meeting 2010; this was attended by FI Parents and to encourage attendance it included a pizza party.
- Orchestrated Book Faire and Mom's Pantry fundraisers.
- Supported the students' trip to Festival du Voyageur in Winnipeg.
- Coordinated a Kindergarten information night / potluck.
- Organized Camp Jeunesse d'été 2010.
- Provided chaperons for a Skate Park Fundraising Band Night.
- Attended the French for Life community barbeque.
- Facilitated French Entertainer visits and Freeze Frame



## CPF – Morden Chapter

**President:** Maureen Terra  
**Treasurer:** Eleanor Zacharias  
**Secretary:** Chantal Zwiep  
Carol Schofield

The CPF-Morden Chapter continued to provide encouragement and support to French Second Language programs in Morden.

CPF-Morden once again agreed to support two \$100.00 awards for Morden Collegiate graduates of French 40S and French Language Arts 40S subject areas.

Camp Soleil 2009 was a huge success and blessed with one of the few warm and sunny weeks of the summer. There were 19 registrants, which resulted in 8 new membership applications. Due to the increased number of Chapters in Manitoba, CPF-Morden will not be able to host Camp Soleil in 2010; however, it is hoped that there will be an opportunity to host a camp again in 2011. Sincere thanks go to Casey and Andrea Labonte and Ken and Lynette Froese, for agreeing to billet the camp staff for the week of camp.

CPF-Morden sponsored the fall 2009 CPF-MB Cultural Tour; Gerald Laroche provided entertainment and workshops for Grades 5-6. This year the 2010 Cultural Tour will feature the talent of Damien Lussier, in “Damien et p’tit Joe en Canot,” with a workshop for Immersion students in Grades 5-8 in the morning, and a concert for Basic French/Immersion students in Grades K-4 in the afternoon.

On October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 the CPF-Morden President attended the 2009 CPF-MB Annual General Meeting. This provided a great opportunity to find out more about what CPF-MB is doing, and what activities other Chapters are hosting. As a result of a vote held by Special General Meeting on December 10, 2009, the 2010 CPF-MB AGM will be held in conjunction with the National AGM in Ottawa.

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the CPF-Morden President attended a French Immersion team meeting at Maple Leaf Elementary School and presented the school with a French board game, which was received at the CPF-MB AGM. Here, the benefits of having a CPF Chapter in Morden were also discussed, as well as ways in which more CPF members can be recruited, particularly members who may be interested in becoming involved at the Chapter Executive level. A letter outlining the points raised at the meeting was sent to all French Immersion parents at Maple Leaf Elementary School.

The 2009 CPF-Morden AGM was postponed from its usual spring date and was held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Michael Hudon from CPF-MB delivered a presentation on CPF-MB services and activities; a discussion then ensued about ways in which CPF-Morden can recruit more members and volunteers.

## CPF – Pembina Trails Chapter

**President:** Debbie Calvo-Yaworsky

**Vice-President:** Cori-Lee Paterson

**Treasurer:** Tammy Petriew

For CPF- Pembina Trails Chapter the year has just flown by! It started off with the annual Halloween Bash, which was even more successful than the year before; the word was out and everyone wanted to participate! There was an array of ghosts, witches, princesses and many more curious and fantastical “characters”, and all of them participated in a variety of different activities, while using their French.

In December, the staff and community of École St. Avila celebrated in traditional reveillon style. There was an authentic French Canadian band, horse and sleigh rides, good food and a whole lot of fun.

The Chapter also held its annual movie night and a new project was started this that offered an “Introduction to French” course to the surrounding community for a nominal fee. Paulette Dupuis, the CPF-MB Vice-President, graciously agreed to teach the course to parents. It is hoped that this course will continue in the future, as parents are already asking when the course will be held again.

CPF- Pembina Trails Chapter is now looking ahead and plans to continue enriching the lives of children and members of the surrounding community.



## CPF – Portage la Prairie Chapter

**President:** Jocelyn Jobin  
**Vice-President:** Delnora Rice  
**Secretary:** Tracy Vanstone  
**Treasurer:** Diane Wing

2009 started with another large kindergarten enrolment in French Immersion and 2010 has even greater numbers. Although this is great news for French Immersion in Portage, recruiting FI teachers is always a concern and there has been some discussion as to how to handle the demand.

CPF-Portage la Prairie Chapter facilitated two main events this year. A family games night was hosted at École Crescentview School; activities included twister, bingo, les vêtements, and musical chairs, all en français! This event was very well attended and had the added benefit of helping families get to know each other, while all involved had a blast!

A Café Haiti was hosted at École Arthur Meighen School; here the culture of Haiti was explored while supporting a deserving cause. The students did a great job with the food and had a great time cooking and serving en français. Parents bought tickets and were able to enjoy Haitian French toast, fruit salad, fried plantain and coconut pudding. Displays pertaining to different parts of Haitian society were placed around the room; these too were the work of the students.

Once again the Chapter donated medals for the Concours d'arts oratoire winners in the Portage area and it was good to see two local students moving on to participate in the provincial competition in Winnipeg. The Chapter also sponsored a graduation award for a student interested in lifelong learning in French; the award of \$300 was presented to Larissa "Nicki" Mekkes at the high school awards ceremony in June.

A transition meeting was held for Grade 8 FI students and parents; this served to promote the continuation of French at the high school level and provided information on how the high school credits work. The Chapter provided refreshments for the meeting and the French for Life video was part of the presentation. There was a good turnout of students and parents and feedback indicated that it was extremely well done and very helpful. Most of the Grade 8 students do plan to continue their studies in French this year. A similar event may be provided for students transitioning to middle school. A Welcome to Kindergarten event was held in May and here the Chapter manned a booth to promote CPF. FSL information and membership applications were also distributed and there was a draw for a free CPF membership.

Chapter representatives met with the School Board in June and provided information pertaining to Chapter activities. The School board was very appreciative of the Chapter efforts and offered its support. This meeting was covered by the local media and the Chapter was interviewed for the local newspaper and the radio.

Camp Soleil was held in Portage the first week of July. There were 24 campers this year and the feedback from participants and parents was very positive.

Overall, the year was a successful one for CPF-Portage la Prairie Chapter. There is still work to be done on recruiting new Executive members; however with the increased Kindergarten enrollments of the last few years, it is hoped that there will be new parents who are willing to step up.



## CPF – Powerview Chapter

**President:** Carrie Peloquin  
**Vice-President:** Tammy Johannson  
**Treasurer:** Colleen Boulette

In September the CPF- Powerview Chapter met with the school administration to discuss the year ahead. At this time, the Chapter also sent a letter to all parents with children in the Maternelle program; this welcomed them to École Powerview, introduced them to CPF and invited them to the first Chapter meeting of the year. These parents were also provided with a CPF Activity Booklet to help them share in the new language learning experience of their children.

In October, the first Chapter meeting of the year was held, but disappointingly no new parents attended. Never the less, plans were made to promote the benefits of having a CPF Chapter in the community.

The Fall Cultural Tour was facilitated by Gerald Laroche and it was a great hit with the K-6 students!

Students were encouraged to participate in the French for Life poster campaign, by completing the slogan “I choose French for my life because.....”, and Concours jeune artiste du Manitoba (JAM) was promoted to the older students.

In November, there were discussions regarding Powerview’s intent to participate in Concours d’art oratoire. Additionally, articles were included in the school newspaper to promote the Chapter and encourage attendance at the Chapter AGM. However, once again no parents attended.

In January, the Chapter was awarded funding through the CPF-MB FSL Initiative Incentive Fund, for an evening of entertainment for the parents of K-4 students. The evening went well with students performing in plays and skits that served to highlight their French language skills.

Concours d’art oratoire was held at the end of March for Grades 3-8. Fifteen students delivered their speeches in front of an audience comprising of approximately 60 family members.

In April, the Gosselin Brothers visited the school and provided a day of improv' activities for students in Grades 7-12.

The year ended with the presentation of the Grad Award and the CPF-MB Certificates of Recognition for those students with more than 7 but less than 14 French Immersion credits.

Currently, endeavors continue to be made to motivate parents to become part of the Chapter and take on Executive positions.

## CPF – Seine River Chapter

**President:** Leanne Fenez  
**Vice-President:** Tara Jago  
**Director:** Dana Ransom

### **Accomplishments:**

- Participated in second planning meeting with French Immersion Consultant & Assistant Superintendent of Seine River School Division.
- Held two Café Paris evenings in February at Divisional High schools that offer French programming. Families and students from Grades 5-8 across the Division were invited for a night of coffee and French pastries; here they learned about the French programming offered at each high school and the benefits of continuing studies in the French language. Over 50 people came out to the two nights.
- Published an article in the Division newsletter – Via the Seine.
- Hosted first Camp Soleil – August 9-13<sup>th</sup> for 11 children.

### **Challenges:**

- Limited membership in the Seine River Chapter area.
- Supporting development of high school programming within the division.
- Camp Soleil is not well known in the Seine River Chapter area.

### **Plans for 2010/2011 year:**

- To explore the possibility of hosting a French cultural event during Festival Du Voyageur week that involves multiple schools throughout the division.
- To work with division staff to analyze exit interview data from those students (and parents), who choose to leave French Immersion programming.

## CPF – Selkirk Chapter

**President:** Carmen Pedersen  
**Vice-President:** Pat Bird  
**Secretary:** Chris Selby  
**Treasurer:** Chrystal O'Brien

On November 17, 2009, CPF Selkirk held its 2009/2010 Annual General meeting. There was good representation from École Bonaventure, École Selkirk Junior High and Selkirk Regional Comprehensive High School.

Mme Lizanne Cormier, a teacher from the high school Immersion program, showed a video made by students from her classes. It was a presentation about a rally organized by "Conseil Jeunesse Provinciale". The grades 10, 11 and 12 students attended the rally in September 2009. CPF-Selkirk Chapter was pleased to help subsidize this important activity, which is held each autumn for all French Immersion high schools in Manitoba.

Michael Hudon (CPF-MB Project Coordinator) ended the meeting by presenting an informative video about French Immersion in the province and discussing the role and mission of CPF in Manitoba.

In November 2009, Carmen Pedersen met with a group of parents and their preschool children that attended "Rhyme Time en Français", held each week at the Selkirk Public Library. Carmen congratulated them and distributed packages filled with CPF information. This activity turned out to be successful and the CPF-Selkirk Chapter will be sponsoring it again in September 2010.

In April, the CPF-Selkirk Chapter contributed financially to two events at École Selkirk Junior High. The teacher from the Grade 9 Basic French class took her students 'au déjeuner chez Cora'. The students had a chance to put in practice what they've learned in their unit of Food in French!

The CPF-MB FSL Initiative Incentive Fund of \$250.00 was approved and the CPF-Selkirk Chapter added an extra \$50.00. The total of \$300 was then awarded to the Grade 7 French Immersion teacher, to assist in facilitating the "Soirée de Conscience: La Faim"; an awareness event about hunger around the world. Students and teachers invited parents and community members to participate in an evening of musical entertainment, stimulating activity and a video production by the students. There was also a Guest Speaker, Serge Kaptegain, who was forced to flee his country, Congo in Africa; he talked about his experience with hunger and war.

In March, during the Parent/Teacher conferences, the Chapter orchestrated a CPF membership drive.

In May, Carmen met with the parents who had attended the Kinderstart program at École Bonaventure; Carmen discussed Canadian Parents for French, its benefits and the services and resources that it provides.

In June, bags filled with CPF information and activities were distributed to all Kindergarten parents and Selkirk has 50 new French Immersion students starting Kindergarten for the 2010-2011 year.

Camp Soleil was held July 12-16, 2010 with 18 students registered. The camp was considered successful and enjoyed by the students.

CPF-Selkirk Chapter is continuing to stand by its mission, which is to promote and create (with the assistance) of the teachers, new opportunities for students and their families who are learning French as a second language.



## CPF – Springfield Chapter

**President:** Maja Kathan  
**Vice-President:** Pat Napier  
**Secretary:** Michele Trudel

In September 2009, the Sunrise School Division continued its consultation with the community regarding the French Immersion Programs. This was a very valuable experience, as it was an opportunity for parents and the School Board to discuss what is working and what improvements can be made. The decision was made to extend the Shared Services Agreement for the Springfield area students to attend College Pierre Elliott Trudeau in Transcona.

At the beginning of December 2009, the CPF-Springfield Chapter supported a Soiree En Francais at École Dugald School for the middle years students. This was the first time for this event and it was a great opportunity for the students to speak French in a fun, social setting, in the evening, at their school. The Chapter will continue to support this and hopes that it will become an annual event.

In January 2010, the Chapter shared costs with the CPF-Beausejour Chapter and put an advertisement in The Clipper (a local community newspaper). This will be done again this year, however this time the advertisement will be bigger and will run for two weeks. Also in January, Jayme from CPF-MB delivered a French for Life presentation at École Dugald School. CPF provided some great prizes and there was a draw for a one year CPF membership.

In February 2010, The Chapter supported the activities of Festival du Voyageur Week using monies that were provided through the CPF-MB French-Second-Language Initiative Incentive Fund. The students in the dual track school look forward to this every year, as it generates a lot of excitement in the middle of winter. It is also a great way to include the English Program students.

École Dugald School also took advantage of the CPF-MB Fall Cultural Tour, and once again, feedback from the students was very positive.

The Chapter will be holding its Annual General Meeting soon, and is hoping to pass the leadership on to other parents. The support from the CPF-MB office is tremendous and the benefits of French Immersion become apparent before and after our children graduate from high school.

## CPF- Stonewall Chapter

**President:** Monica Conger-Morrison

**Vice-President:** Karen Hunter

**Secretary:** Krista Edkins

The CPF-Stonewall Chapter continued to be busy in the community! In December the Chapter participated in the local Santa Claus Parade; volunteers handed out French for Life pencils and stickers and communicated the message that a French Immersion program is in the school division.

In January CPF-Stonewall donated 21 French-English Picture Dictionaries to the delighted students of the current kindergarten class!

In February the Kindergarten / Grade 1 class attended the Festival du Voyageur; this was enabled by partial sponsorship from the Chapter. Earlier in the month, during Staff appreciation week, the Chapter also donated an impressive fruit platter to the staff at R.W. Bobby Bend School.

In March, CPF-Stonewall held its first French Family Movie Night in the gym of the elementary school. There was a great turnout and everyone enjoyed popcorn while watching Ratatouille en français! It is hoped that this will become an annual event.

Future planned events include the CPF-Stonewall 3rd Annual Family Picnic in June, and another fun-filled week of Camp Soleil in August!

CPF-Stonewall is also pleased to announce that French Immersion Kindergarten will be offered in the morning in alternating years, starting in 2011. Since the inaugural class in 2008, it had only been available in the afternoon. It is hoped that this will assist the growth of the program, as there have been several instances where interested families decided against French Immersion due to the afternoon scheduling.

Looking ahead to the upcoming school year, CPF-Stonewall is encouraged to see three classes with good numbers. It is hoped that this trend will continue, so that we can encourage the Superintendent to hang the word "école" in front of "R.W. Bobby Bend School", as he has promised!

## CPF – Swan River Chapter

**President:** Kelli Riehl  
**Vice-President:** Tammi Connolly  
**Treasurer:** Charlene Behrman  
**Secretary:** Carla Lund

The 2009-10 school year was a time for change and renewal at CPF - Swan River. The Executive changed mid-year and the school's administration also changed. With the change in leadership came a change of focus for the group. It was decided that in addition to all of the school events that the Chapter is involved in (in volunteering and sponsorship capacities), it needed to make its presence known in the community and be proactive in promoting the French Immersion program.

In the early part of spring, CPF-Swan River began running weekly spots in the local newspaper. These highlighted various facts about the benefits of learning a second language and promoted upcoming events such as the French for Life presentation that was hosted in conjunction with the school's Maternelle information night. The Swan River Star and Times graciously gave the Chapter a large spot with prime placement and a discounted rate for eight weeks. This was paid for by the funds awarded through the CPF-MB French-Second-Language (FSL) Incentive Fund. The feedback from the community was very positive and it is hoped that such activities will continue in the future (if the budget allows!)

This year CPF-Swan River worked with the newly formed Parent Advisory Council (PAC) to supply hot lunches at the school, twice a month. The school is a dual track school (Elementary FI and Swan River's Junior High), so the PAC was formed to involve the parents of the Junior High students. It is challenging for both groups to find sufficient volunteers to commit to preparing and serving meals, so local restaurants were used to 'cater' the lunches, at a reasonable cost and to enable the respective groups to use the lunches as fundraisers. This will be continued in the coming year; hopefully with some new menus!

A major fundraiser of CPF-Swan River was the raffling of the framed print donated by CPF-MB, and various prizes donated by local businesses.

For many though, the highlight of the year was the week of Camp Soleil; this culminated with the kids (and counselors) smiling, waving, cheering, singing in French and tossing candy to the massive crowds, while riding a float in the North West Round-Up Parade. A local business sponsored the materials for the float, and as part of the camp's activities, the kids created two beautiful twenty-four foot long banners that read, "Say 'Oui To Opportunity", complete with their names and painted handprints. Two parents "jogged" beside the float handing out balloons, stickers, tattoos and candy. Camp Soleil was indeed a wonderful experience; seventeen children participated, but all FI students from M-Grade 5 were invited to ride on the float! The only way to describe the whole week and the parade is "HUGE SUCCESS"!! This is by far the biggest event in the community, with the greatest opportunity for publicity. There are plans to repeat this in the future, as the community feedback was overwhelmingly supportive!

Some of the other highlights of the year included the high school students travelling to France; the Grade 7 / 8 students travelling to Winnipeg; the CPF-MB Cultural Tours; the

CPF-SW Halowe'en Danse-en-français; Bingo-en-français; a French Movie night; Welcome Packages for every student registered in Maternelle, with paid CPF memberships, a copy of "My First French Words" book and a bag of goodies; making 'snow candy' at the school's annual Festival du Voyageur; making cookies and hot chocolate for the elementary Valentines Day skating Party; and perhaps most importantly, making sure that every staff member was shown several times throughout the year, how much their hard work is appreciated

CPF-Swan River really wants to continue the positive momentum that it has been able to generate. There has all ready been a large increase in the number of students registered in Maternelle and it is hoped that more parents will become active in the organization. Consultations have already begun with the administration of the school, as well as the high school, to determine what can be done to assist the high school program to grow and retain students in the FI program. Undoubtedly, the 2010-11 school year will be a very busy and exciting on for the Chapter!



## CPF – The Pas Chapter

**President:** Marni Streit  
**Secretary:** Melanie Young  
**Treasurer:** Sheryl Bernstrom

### **Promotion and Awareness**

In April, CPF-The Pas Chapter hosted a Kindergarten Information Night with the hopes of attracting new members/families. Four people attended; a 400% increase over last year. The evening went well and the Chapter will host another sometime in the future.

In May, French for Life came to The Pas and delivered a variety of FSL promotional presentations. It was an open house affair, which was open to anyone in the community with an interest in learning about French for Life and the various French language learning options available. Five people attended and these were all members of the Chapter. However, the lady who catered the event did show some interest in the program and consequently years her granddaughter may enter the French Immersion program, in a couple of years time. This evening was promoted in the local newspaper, on the radio, on the local TV channel and by word of mouth. While the schools seem to enjoy the information sessions, it is not clear if school meetings are being very effective. Additionally, the Chapter awarded a \$500 bursary to a Grade 12 student who had been active in the French Immersion Program, as well as in Chapter activities.

### **Fundraising**

This year there were two fundraising activities. Just before Christmas, a cheese fundraiser was orchestrated. Approximately, 75 students from the three French Immersion schools participated by selling various cheese products. This was a success and the Chapter hopes to do it again. The second fundraiser was held in March and funds were raised by selling French foods from Del's Meats in Lorette. This was popular with a small group, who really enjoy French cuisine. Twenty orders were placed and the Chapter may repeat this activity again.

### **Children / School Activity**

Monthly French Movie nights were held again this year. These were open to anyone in the community and admission was free. Funds raised from selling popcorn and drinks, covered the costs of these events. Attendance ranged from zero to twelve people; so more work needs to be on promoting the information to the public.

In April, the Chapter ran a PJ tales at the French Immersion elementary school; 30 students participated. A few weeks later, the Chapter financially supported the French Immersion teachers with a sleepover PJ tales at the same school; this time 15 kids participated. The Chapter plans to run more PJ tales in the coming year. The Chapter also supported the annual French walk by supplying the main prize and some volunteers; the walk itself was coordinated by French Immersion teachers.

In the Spring, CPF-The Pas Chapter supplied all the prizes for the Concours d'art oratoire and renewed its commitment to support the French poetry competition at the Arts Festival in May by covering the cost of the awards. Funds awarded through the CPF-MB FSL Initiative Fund were used to buy learning materials for a French Immersion

Pre-school. The Chapter also helped offset the cost of transportation for a group of high school students to attend a two-day Excel course in Brandon.

The Chapter Annual General Meeting was held on June 16<sup>th</sup>; twelve members attended.

An occasional Chapter newsletter was sent to all schools; however this needs to be done on a more regular basis.

In an effort to recruit new members the Chapter offered a free 1 year membership to all new Kindergarten parents; a few parents accepted this offer.

Finally, Scott McConnell-Hore was asked to advocate for a parent who was trying to get her son back into the French Immersion program. This student had been in the program the year before, but had pulled out because of a lack of support from the school and some differences of opinion between the parent and the administration. A meeting was held with the administration, which finally agreed to take the family back, they did agree to.



### **CPF – Thompson Chapter**

**President:** Lynn Saindon

**Secretary:** Erin Krokosz

**Treasurer:** Dora Anderson

Report not submitted.