

Canadian Parents for French - Manitoba



ANNUAL REPORT

2008-2009

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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 so 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-MB 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 2008-2009



Connie Lucian, President (2007-2009)

Connie grew up in Saskatchewan and graduated from Mount Royal Collegiate in Saskatoon. She attended the University of Saskatchewan for two years before moving to Winnipeg and enrolling at Red River Community College, where 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 7 and 9. She became active with CPF when her son inquired about, and then moved into, The Pas' French Immersion program. In the competitive world we live in, Connie believes that children should have as many doors open to them as possible, and learning a second language is one way of achieving this. Besides this, Connie brings to CPF-MB an insight into some of the challenges faced by our northern communities and schools.

Philip Fenez, Vice-President (2007-2009)



Philip and his wife live on a small hobby farm located in La Barrière, Manitoba (between St. Norbert and LaSalle) and have three school age children between the ages of 8 & 12. Philip has served in many different positions on the St. Norbert Immersion Advisory Council since 2004, including President, and has sat on a variety of other boards as well. He believes that volunteering is an integral part of community life. Since joining the CPF-MB Philip has had many opportunities to learn more about French-second-language (FSL) training in Manitoba. He enjoys meeting other FSL stakeholders and is passionate about French opportunities becoming more readily available to all students.

David Hyckie, Past President (2007-2009)



David is retired from 31 years of teaching and administration in French. He is a parent of a French Immersion graduate and strongly believes in the benefits of learning a second or even third language. He fondly remembers his family's great experiences teaching and studying in France for two years.

Jocelyne Godin, Director (2007-2009)

Jocelyne Godin was born in The Pas and raised there by her Francophone family, which is where her interest and enthusiasm for French stems from. She attended university in Saskatoon, where she completed a Bachelor of Education with a major in French. Jocelyne then ventured to Paris, France for 10 months where she worked as an "Au Pair" and continued her French studies. From there she returned to The Pas and became one of two teachers in the new French Immersion program. After teaching Kindergarten and Grade 1 for a total of seventeen years, she taught Grade 5 immersion and basic French for 6 years. During her time in The Pas, she was the French Immersion representative for 5 years, which entailed attending meetings in Winnipeg at least 3 times a year and reporting back to her school's staff. A change in her life brought Jocelyne to Selkirk where she teaches grade 6. Her dedication and enthusiasm towards the French Immersion program has brought her to participate in many extra-curricular activities throughout her career.

Jocelyne's children, André and Emmanuelle, went through the French immersion program and are currently pursuing post-secondary studies in Brandon.

Paulette Vielfaure Dupuis, Director (2007-2009)

Not only was Paulette Principal of École Centrale, an early years French Immersion school in Transcona, but she also represented the River East – Transcona school division as a member of AMDI (MB Association of French Immersion Principals). Not to mention that she was her school division's Languages Consultant from 1997 – 2002. This entailed fulfilling responsibilities such as addressing parents and students on the benefits of French-second-language learning, hiring and supporting French and Ukrainian teachers in 27 schools, preparing and presenting workshops on second-language teaching strategies, informing teachers of curricula changes, and representing second-language programs and teachers on divisional and administrative committees. After 20 years of dedication, Paulette retired in June of 2007; however, she is proud to be a working member of the CPF-MB team who has a mandate with which she is still very committed.

Rena Prefontaine, Director (2008-2010)

Rena Prefontaine is a Career Communicator under Manitoba Hydro Customer Service. She also has experience as a Special Needs Educational Assistant and has served on a number of committees in a variety of roles including Vice-President and Treasurer. Rena joined the CPF-MB Board of Directors because she currently has 2 children enrolled in French Immersion, not to mention that she took French throughout the entirety of her schooling. She is an outgoing, energetic and enthusiastic individual who is committed to the positive promotion of French language education and believes it is important to have a broad range of people serving on the organizational Board of Directors. CPF-MB has benefited both from her personal and career-related abilities.

Pam Hutcheson, Director (2008-2010)

Pam Hutcheson works with adults with disabilities seeking employment. She joined the CPF-MB Board of Directors because she has an interest in ensuring quality French programs for her children and is passionate about French educational opportunities being available for all students. She is keen to gain knowledge of French programs available to children of all ages, especially those that encourage the use of French both inside and out of school. Pam has 2 school-aged children and 5 adult children, and has therefore been actively involved in parent advisory councils for the past 17 years. She believes that volunteering is an integral part of communities and schools, and that it serves as a good example for children, the future volunteers.

Lisa Winning, Youth Director (2008-2010)

Lisa Winning is a French Immersion graduate who is presently studying sciences in French at Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface (CUSB). French Immersion has benefitted Lisa in many aspects of her life, including enabling her to work in Québec for six months. She has found that being bilingual is extremely helpful and believes it important for French Immersion to be made as appealing as possible to students and parents. Lisa has been an active volunteer in a number of capacities. She was a team leader for Grace Hospital's youth volunteers at, a camp counsellor at the Fort Whyte Nature Centre, the co-chair of her high school's recycling committee, and is currently a member of CUSB's environmental committee and science club.

Lisa contributes to CPF-MB by offering insights from her French Immersion experiences and, as a French-second-language student studying at a francophone post-secondary educational establishment, she understands the challenges sometimes faced by FSL students.

President's Report – Connie Lucian

Over the course of the year the CPF-MB Board of Directors was active in areas that included, but were not exclusive to the following:

- Reviewing reports relating to Branch activities, initiatives, projects and finances.
- Meeting with the *division scolaire franco-manitobaine* President and Superintendent to discuss areas of commonality and the possibility of partnering in future activities.
- Providing details in relation to Manitoba to CPF-National so to be included in "*The State of FSL Education in Canada 2008*".
- Approving the submission of proposals to Canadian Heritage for initiatives related the 400th Anniversary of Québec City.
- Meeting with EFM (Éducatrices et éducateurs francophones du Manitoba), to provide general information concerning CPF-MB activities as well as the concept and benefit of *Concours d'art oratoire*.
- Facilitating and participating in the Annual Chapter Teleconference Meeting.
- Approving a reciprocal agreement with Encounters with Canada.
- Participating as a member of the National CPF Strategic Planning committee; assisting in developing a 5 year Strategic Plan, which was approved at the CPF-National Annual General Meeting.
- Orientating and providing appropriate mentorship to two new Board members.
- Developing a CPF-MB Strategic Plan, based on the approved CPF-National Strategic Plan.
- Working with the CPF-MB Executive Director to incorporate facets of the CPF-MB Strategic Plan into the next Canadian Heritage funding submission.
- Providing information for an organizational impact study, as initiated by Canadian Heritage.

- Approving the establishment of a Seine River Chapter.
- Reviewing CPF-MB by-laws and policies.
- Discussing the establishment of a scholarship fund using proceeds accrued from the sharing of French for Life project materials with other Branches.
- Meeting with the CPF-National Liaison Representative to discuss organizational challenges and concerns.
- Participating in the President's council meeting, which considered the position of CPF as a whole, giving all Branches an opportunity to share common concerns and identify strategies to make CPF a stronger, more efficient organization.

Overall, it was a very busy and productive year and I would personally like to thank all Board members for their dedication to CPF-MB and all staff for ensuring the smooth running of organizational operations.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Lucian
President, CPF-MB

Vice-President's Report – Philip Fenez

This past year I have had the chance to attend Board development workshops at Volunteer Manitoba. I have applied the skills I learned at these sessions at regular CPF-MB Board meetings, and they have become great examples of teamwork. We are also working to keep CPF-MB current and at the forefront of people's minds.

I have had the opportunity to bring our voice to the Minister of Education and the MP for Provencher. These meetings showed me how important CPF-MB is to the governments of Manitoba and Canada alike. I came away with the feeling that our voices *are* being heard, even if we do not always feel that they are.

I observed the fruition of many individuals' attempts to get our newest Chapter up and running in the Seine River School Division, and attended the French Immersion conference held by the *bureau d'éducation française* again this year. During the French for Career Options event and the provincial *Concours d'art oratoire*, I worked collaboratively at the hands-on level with the staff of CPF-MB. All my dealings with the staff have been wonderful; I am very proud of the hard work and effort that they put into all that we do as an organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Fenez
Vice-President, CPF-MB

Director Reports

Jocelyne Godin

I attended all Board meetings and was an active member of the French for Life Steering Committee. As I come to the end of my final term with CPF-MB, I look back on my experience as a very positive one. It has been exciting to see the organization evolve and take on new and exciting initiatives, all of which have positively contributed to FSL learning opportunities and experiences for youth in Manitoba.

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyne Godin
Director, CPF-MB

Pam Hutcheson

My first year as a Director for CPF-MB has been very interesting and informative. I started off my experience at the 2008 Annual General Meeting. I attended all the meetings, the highlight being the Christmas meeting with the “*Stadacona to Québec*” production. It was amazing to watch history come alive. In general, my experience on the CPF-MB Board has made me a better parent as I am more aware of the opportunities and activities available for my children.

One of my other passions is Occupational Health & Safety. I offered my assistance to Catherine Davies and the Board to develop a Workplace Health & Safety manual to include policies and procedures. It is refreshing to be part of an organization that wants to be proactive about safety. Another interesting occasion was meeting Ms. Shelley Glover, the Parliamentary Secretary for Official Languages; comments and observations were enlightening and thought provoking. It is always interesting to hear a political perspective especially about the future of education.

I look forward to the 2009 Annual General Meeting and another year of CPF-MB action packed activities. I believe that one of the highlights will be the *Concours jeune artiste du Manitoba* in March 2009!

I would like to thank Catherine, CPF MB staff and the Board members for welcoming me and making my experience a very enjoyable one.

With thanks and respectfully submitted,

Pam Hutcheson
Director, CPF-MB

Rena Prefontaine

As one of the newest members to the Board I have had the opportunity to watch, listen and learn many great things this past year.

As well as attending regular Board meetings I had the pleasure of being an MC at the *Concours d'art oratoire*, watching the Québec City dramatization, as well as being invited to attend the official announcement regarding the partnership formed between Canadian Heritage and the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada given by Canadian Heritage Minister, Mr James Moore.

I look forward to next year!

Rena Prefontaine
Director, CPF-MB

Paulette Vielfaure Dupuis

- Attended five planning meetings prior to April 29th, 2008 with the *Français pour l'avenir* committee.
- Attended six planning meetings prior to June 02, 2008 for *l'université d'été* at CUSB.
- August 18, 2008 attended CPF interviews for French For Life
- September 19, 2008 presented to *Éducatrices et éducateurs francophones du Manitoba* with Catherine Davies and Michael Hudon

- November 27, 2008 attended **CCFL** meeting at the MTS Centre
- February 06, 2009 attended French Immersion conference at the Victoria Inn
- March 18, 2009 presented to French Immersion kindergarten parents at Van Bellegham School

Respectfully submitted,

Paulette Vielfaure Dupuis
Director, CPF-MB

Lisa Winning

I attended all Board meetings and was able to bring a youth's perspective to aspects of the organization's governance. I was also allocated the task of going to see a movie in French, and I shared my perspectives of that experience by writing an article about it. The article was published in the June 2009 special edition of CPF-MB News.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Winning
Youth Director, CPF-MB

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Catherine Davies



2008-2009 was another active and productive year for Canadian Parents for French – Manitoba (CPF-MB).

CPF-MB initiatives/activities 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 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.**

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

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

- Manitoba Association of Teachers of French (MATF)
- Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT)
- *Conseil jeunesse provincial* (CJP)
- 100 NONS
- Foolish Wit Productions

A number of CPF-MB activities were also specifically sponsored by:

- CUSB
- SFM
- Service Canada
- Encounters with Canada

CPF-MB continued to **increase reinforcement of positive public attitudes toward linguistic duality**. A number of highlights and/or matters of particular note during the period April 01, 2008 – March 31, 2009, are as follows:

- April 2008, the second annual Chapter teleconference meeting was held. Chapters had an opportunity to discuss local issues with the Branch President and Executive Director, and open communication was enabled between the Branch office and its Chapters. Consequently, allowing the Branch to be better equipped to respond to Chapter needs, and for suggestions and ideas to be exchanged.
- A new Chapter was established in the Seine River School Division, bringing the total number of Manitoban Chapters to 15; in 2003 there were 9. New Chapters are viewed as a positive addition to CPF-MB as they provide further community catalysts through which the benefits of FSL learning and bilingualism can be further disseminated. However, as the number of Chapters had increased, so have the demands on Branch resources and services. A negative impact of this has been that each Chapter now receives a French Summer Camp every alternate year instead of every year.
- Once again Chapters had the opportunity to apply for funds of \$200 or \$250 through the CPF-MB FSL Initiative Incentive Fund. Funds were awarded to those initiatives that served to increase reinforcement of positive public attitudes toward linguistic duality and/or provide young

Canadians with opportunities that would assist them to learn about the French language and culture through extra-curricular activities. Applications were of high quality this year and as a result Chapters in Beausejour, Seine River, The Pas, Portage-la-Prairie, Powerview, Selkirk, Pembina Trails, Stonewall and Springfield facilitated the following initiatives:

- Purchase of memberships for new families
 - Vivre le Festival du Voyageur
 - Supporting CPF memberships
 - Fun in French Play Centre Puppet Theatre
 - Café au Paris
 - Tour of St. Boniface
 - Festival du Voyageur pancake breakfast
 - Mini French-English dictionaries
- Twelve Certificates of Merit were provided to Powerview and Thompson for French Immersion High School graduates. These certificates addressed the need to acknowledge students who acquired more than 7 and less than 14 credits.
 - Membership numbers were less constant and fluctuated between 1575 and 1750, despite the orchestration of a Branch based membership drive. Again, this is a result of increasing demands on existing membership resources and services; in 2003 memberships were approximately 1,100. This scenario has made it more difficult for CPF-MB to market membership, as its means to offer tangible membership benefits are now stretched to capacity.
 - Partners, members and other interested parties were encouraged to use www.cpfmb.com to access pertinent information relating to Chapters, membership, National, Provincial and Chapter events, FSL news and research, FSL resources and opportunities incorporating FSL learning and/or bilingualism; there were 9,094 visits and 134,317 hits in the 12 month period.
 - All Junior and Senior French Multimedia Kits were fully booked for the 2008-2009 school year, representing use by approximately 7,000 users.

The Kits provided a variety of French learning resources to FSL students and their parents. 80% of Senior Kits bookings were made by schools with students in Basic French programs. This is indicative of a definite need being addressed, as this group does not typically have easy access to French materials in their English program schools.

- The CPF-MB newsletter continued to be a valuable medium through which pertinent MB related FSL information was disseminated and brought to the forefront. One thousand of the June 2008 and of the January 2009 CPF-MB newsletters were distributed to CPF-MB members, partners, funders, FSL stakeholders, CPF-MB Chapters, CPF Branches, MLAs, and MPs. The June publication was a “French for Life – Special Edition”, which highlighted the successes of the French for Life initiative since its launch in September 2005, and encouraged readers to use French for Life tool and visit www.frenchforlife.ca.
- French for FSL Parents courses were facilitated in Flin Flon, Thompson and Beausejour. Evaluations from parent participants were excellent. Once again this initiative proved to be an extremely valuable parent support program. Specifically designed to help parents understand the basics of the FSL curriculum and learning, the course covered basic French language and strategies to assist parents to support their children as they progress through FSL programs. It also served as a catalyst by which interest in activities of CPF were stimulated.
- The French for Life (FFL) promotional project continued to be managed, facilitated and coordinated by CPF-MB, in partnership with the MB Association of French Immersion Principals (AMDI) and the MB Association of Teachers of French (MATF). FFL served to promote FSL learning with students, parents, teachers, administrators and school trustees as the primary target groups. Related activities included the delivery of presentations, conducting radio interviews, advertising via billboards, benches and transit mediums, answering inquiries from the general public, teachers and administrators, researching and updating information on the website and distributing promotional items. The FFL Parent and Teacher Handbook, DVD and CD ROM were completed, and

copies were distributed to all schools and FSL stakeholders in Manitoba. The following statistics for a 12 month period demonstrate the scope of this project: website hits - 277,640 hits; promotional items distributed – 8,000, estimated billboard viewings - 8,540,380, estimated bench advertisement viewings - 35,925,120, estimated transit advertising viewings - 10,456,140, presentations delivered - 203 (delivered to 4,368 students and 819 parents and teachers).

CPF-MB continued to **reinforce its capacity to influence policy and decisions**. A number of highlights and/or matters of particular note during the period April 01, 2008 – March 31, 2009, were as follows:

- Officials attending and participating in events such as provincial *Concours d'art oratoire* were directly exposed to parents, students and teachers involved in FSL programs and activities. Such situations provided the opportunity for information regarding the challenges and successes experienced to be shared with decision makers who are able to influence the future of FSL in Manitoba.
- As a result of the discontinuation of the Early French Immersion program in New Brunswick, CPF-MB met with the MP for St. Boniface, the Education Critic for the PC party and the leader of the liberal party in MB. As a result these elected decision makers communicated with the government of New Brunswick expressing disappointment with this decision. CPF-MB also communicated by e-mail and telephone with the office of the MB Minister of Education, who responded with reassurances that the immersion program in MB was not at risk. Electronic communication, articles, press releases etc., which concerned the New Brunswick scenario were forwarded to funders, politicians and other elected officials on an ongoing basis to keep these influential groups fully informed. This process was mirrored in a number of other provinces. Overall, such actions were important in effecting the retraction of the original decision of the government of New Brunswick and a compromise for the delivery of the program was made between the government and parent groups.

- CPF-MB took a proactive role in supporting a parent group by meeting with representatives of the Interlake School Board. The goal of the group was to establish a French immersion program in the community of Stonewall. A number of presentations, including French for Life, were made to the board over a period of several months. Initially, the Board was not in favour of the idea; however, with parental and CPF-MB perseverance the French Immersion program was approved with a majority vote and 22 Kindergarten students from the Interlake region commenced their French Immersion education in September 2009.
- Meetings with the French for Life Steering and Advisory Committees enabled utilization of valuable FSL educational expertise to develop FFL materials and tools such as the FFL DVD/CD ROM and Parent and Teacher booklet. It also served to further develop and maintain partnerships with other FSL associations.
- Meetings with the French Immersion Liaison Officer for the *Bureau de l'éducation française* (BEF), focused on ideas for future FSL revitalization initiatives and the development of a Career and Life Planning workshop for inclusion in the 2009 French for Career Options event. CPF-MB also provided input for the 2009 *Bureau de l'éducation française* French Immersion conference; this was attended by 3 CPF-MB Board members and served as a valuable information gathering and sharing medium.
- Two CPF-MB Directors attended a Canadian Association of Second-Language Teachers workshop concerning language assessment. This was beneficial as the knowledge acquired has assisted CPF-MB to share pertinent information with parents, teachers and other FSL stakeholders.
- CPF-MB and French for Life also showcased services and resources at events such as the Resource Day for Divisional Language Coordinators, Manitoba Teachers' Society Special Area Groups, and the CPF-National Annual General Meeting.
- CPF-MB and *Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface* worked collaboratively in the planning of FSL Revitalization projects/activities for the 2008-2009 school year: French for Career Options, French for FSL Parents, and French for Life. CPF-MB also collaborated with CUSB, CJP

- and 100 NONS for 3 new initiatives. One of these “Quebec City – Visually Reflecting upon 400 years” was successful with funding being approved for July to Dec 2008. The 2 other proposals (“Quebec City – DVD CD ROM package” and *Concours jeune artiste du Manitoba*) were also approved for July 01, 2009-June 30, 2010.
- CPF-MB attended the CUSB convocation ceremonies to recognize and congratulate graduates who had completed post secondary education courses in French.
 - The partnership with *société franco-manitobaine* (SFM) continues to grow and strengthen. This was demonstrated in May 2008 by SFM sponsoring an award for the impromptu category of *Concours prix société franco-manitobaine*, its involvement in the award ceremonies, and provision of volunteers for this event. SFM also continued to direct parents of FSL students to CPF-MB, and in turn CPF-MB directed many inquiries to the SFM informational services 233-ALLO.
 - CPF-MB provided a donation to SFM to support the *French for the Future* event and one of the CPF-MB Board of Directors sat on the event organizing committee and attended and participated in 6 related planning meetings. Also, CPF-MB attended the French for the Future Ambassadors Dinner. This served to practically demonstrate CPF-MB’s support of this Francophone managed initiative. It also provided an occasion to meet with the board responsible for French for the Future, which comprises of partners such as SFM and influential dignitaries such as John Ralston Saul. Such interaction was invaluable for CPF-MB in that it provided an appropriate opportunity to bring Manitoba FSL related successes and challenges to the attention of those who can influence policy and legislation related to official bilingualism and second-language learning.
 - The partnership with *l’association manitobaine des directrices et directeurs des écoles d’immersion française* (AMDI) and Manitoba Association of Teachers of French (MATF) resulted in the successful development and production of French for Life materials as previously described in this report.

- The relationship with the BEF also remained positive; an example of a very positive result being that the BEF French Immersion Liaison Officer facilitated the Chapter Development workshop at CPF-MB Annual General Meeting in October 2008.
- CPF-MB delivered a presentation to the EFM Executive in September 2008. This presentation served to inform *éducatrices et éducateurs francophones du Manitoba* (EFM) about the mandate, goals, services and initiatives of CPF-MB. The result was that EFM acquired a better understanding of CPF-MB and is now actively fostering support of CPF-MB and its activities.
- CPF-MB attended a gala that celebrated the 100th Anniversary of St. Boniface. This event provided an opportunity to demonstrate that CPF-MB champions its local Francophone community. A number of dignitaries commented that it was refreshing to see an Anglophone based organization supporting such an event.
- CPF-MB met representatives of the BEF and CUSB for the purpose of gathering information and feedback for inclusion in The State of FSL Report 2008; this was launched at the CPF-National AGM in October 2008 and distributed to Manitoban FSL Stakeholders accordingly.

CPF-MB continued to **assist young Canadians to learn about the French language and culture through extra-curricular activities**. A number of highlights and/or matters of particular note during the period April 01, 2008 – March 31, 2009, were as follows:

- The CPF-MB Cultural Tours provided approximately 3,300 Manitoban youth, living in urban, rural and northern areas with an opportunity to experience French Canadian culture. A total of 17 schools were visited: Winnipeg, Thompson, Flin Flon, The Pas, Swan River, Dauphin, Portage-la-Prairie, Brandon, Morden, Powerview, Beausejour, Selkirk, Springfield and Stonewall. New for this year was the Justin Lacroix Rock Band. This band delivered and coordinated French cultural activities including a concert and French song writing workshops. All activities targeted

- French-second-language students from Grades K – 12. Participants were able to enjoy and participate in a day-long, age-appropriate cultural experience, in hopes of demonstrating that French is a modern-day and artistic communication medium.
- The Theatre Project took place in April 2008. Six schools in Winnipeg and rural Manitoba were visited and 220 Basic French students in Grades 8-12 participated. The mediums of drama and script writing were utilized 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. One month before the scheduled events, teachers were provided with a list of vocabulary that would be used during the project activities, thus enabling teachers to prepare students in advance. The students were then provided with an original play written by the Gosselin Brothers with the theme “Academic Cheating: Bad, Worse and Ugly”. The students went on to write their own conclusion, much like the famous books “Choose Your Own Adventure”. They then presented their final productions to their peers and in some cases had audiences comprising of students from other schools. All related activities enabled students to use their written and verbal French skills in a comfortable environment, and many discovered they had the ability to develop and utilize French skills in a variety of creative ways.
 - Improvisation workshops were held in May 2008 in the City of Winnipeg, Thompson, The Pas, Swan River, Dauphin, Portage-la-Prairie, Powerview and Elie. A total of 11 schools were involved and approximately 540 FSL students participated; 380 from Grades K-8, and 160 from Grades 9-12. The workshops were presented entirely in French. Drama, theatre and improvisation were incorporated into all activities and students were provided with an opportunity to learn the expressive story-telling technique of improvisation and use their French vocabulary and language skills simultaneously. Participants experienced an enjoyable “real life” event that was geared to enhancing aspects such as character development, communication, techniques and styles, spontaneity, creativity, team work, miming and rules. Older students were encouraged and motivated to

- continue their FSL learning, were made more aware of their potential for communication in French, and therefore a more positive attitude toward the French language and culture was enhanced.
- CPF-MB completed the development and creation of “Québec City: A dramatization of 400 Years”. The schedule for performances was fully booked and this bilingual dramatization visited 25 schools and approximately 2,500 French-first-language and French-second-language students in Grades 4 – 8 participated. Also, the booklet “Québec City: A Reflection in Pictures” was developed and created, with each school in Manitoba with French-first-language and French-second-language students in Grades 4 – 8 receiving a copy. Both the dramatization and booklet were primarily designed to inform and educate, and in these ways, the initiative was tremendously successful. However, because the said mediums were entertaining in nature, they also ensured that acquisition of knowledge concerning Québec City was an enjoyable, positive and memorable experience for all students. Additionally, this initiative served to inform and educate young French-First-Language and French-Second Language Manitobans with regards to the history of the city of Quebec in particular and French-Canadian history in general, the contributions of Francophone and Anglophone communities to Canada’s history, the role of the Québec Anglophone community in Canada’s history and the significance of the history of bilingualism within Canada.
 - In 2008, 8,206 French-first-language and French-second-language students competed at the school and divisional levels of *Concours d’art oratoire*. As with last year there were 25 categories due to the inclusion of Extended Core French categories. This ensured that Manitoba was inline with the national *concours* criteria. The provincial final was held on May 3rd at *le Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface* (CUSB), and was attended by 124 finalists. All participants were able to develop and utilize French skills in public speaking, research and writing. They were also provided with an opportunity to participate in an exciting and fun event, which for many served to enhance confidence and self-esteem. At the provincial level of competition those students placing 3rd and 2nd in each

category received a plaque. Students placing 1st in each category each received a plaque and a trophy for display at their respective schools. Also, 1st place winners in Grades 7/8 received a cash prize of \$100, and in Grades 9 – 12 a cash prize of \$200. The students placing first in the Grades 11/12 categories were each automatically awarded a \$2,000 scholarship for the University of Ottawa and this year, for the first time, they also received \$500 bursaries for CUSB. Additionally, they also had the opportunity to compete for up to \$20,000 worth of scholarships while representing Manitoba at the National **conours** event in Ottawa. Provincial prizes and awards were presented by dignitaries representing the Commissioner of Official Languages, the Government of Manitoba, CUSB, SFM and the Liberal party of Manitoba.

- The travelling summer French camp visited 8 MB communities; Pembina Trails, Portage-la-Prairie, Selkirk, Beausejour, Morden, Dauphin, Stonewall and The Pas. They were attended by approximately 123 students aged 6 to 10 years. Students were encouraged to spend their entire day speaking French, and were provided with an opportunity to use the French language outside of the classroom in a fun environment, which encouraged creativity, imagination, and an insight into French as a day-to-day language. Activities for this year's camp focused on the theme of "Camping": Interactions, games, stories, day trips, crafts and sports were all designed to encourage the use of new and varied vocabulary in relation to this theme. The students learned in an atmosphere of fun and humour, while being immersed in the French Language.

CPF-MB continued to **maintain good governance of the organization.**

A number of highlights and/or matters of particular note during the period April 01, 2008 – March 31, 2009, were as follows:

- CPF-MB effectively managed: staffing, accounting, budgeting, auditing, capital expenditures, research, purchases, database maintenance, reporting, and funding applications.

- Required reports, evaluations and financial documentation were provided to Canadian Heritage and MB Citizenship, Education and Youth, on time and as required.
- BEF funding applications for Special Projects 2008-2009 (*concours*, *camp soleil*, Improvisation Workshops, Cultural Tours and Theatre Project), and FSL Revitalization Projects 2008-2009 (French for Parents in Rural MB, French for Life, French for Career Options) were successful. Additionally, the *CH* funding application for “Quebec City: Visually reflecting upon 400 Years” was successful.
- CPF-MB staff meetings were held on a regular basis to ensure effective monitoring and coordination of operational activities; guidance and mentorship were provided as necessary following interim staff appraisals.
- CPF Provincial Presidents and Executive Directors participated in the June 2008 CPF-National Strategic Planning Session in Ottawa. A final plan was presented to the delegates of the CPF-National AGM in October 2008. Further to this, using the CPF-National Strategic Plan as a reference document, CPF-MB commenced the development of a Strategic Plan specifically for the provincial organization. This will provide direction, goals and details of responsibilities for CPF-MB for the next 4 -5 years.
- The CPF-MB provincial AGM and related activities were held in Winnipeg on October 03, 04 and 05, 2008. The weekend commenced with a Chapter Appreciation Dinner, which acknowledged the dedicated work of CPF-MB Chapter 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 CPF-MB AGM was attended by approximately 50 delegates. The agenda included a review of the Annual Report, presentation of Chapter reports, audited accounts, financials, budgets, etc.
- Following the CPF-MB Annual General Meeting in October 2008, the BEF French Immersion Liaison Officer delivered an interactive workshop for Chapters, CPF-MB Board members and staff entitled “French Immersion in Manitoba; A Handbook for School Leaders”. The workshop was well

received and feedback indicated that information acquired was very useful and relevant to the work of Chapters in local communities. All participants were provided with a copy of this informative, user-friendly reference manual.

- The 2008 CPF-National Annual General Meeting and related events were held in Ottawa from October 16 – October 19, 2008. Delegates from Manitoba included the CPF-MB President, Vice President, Executive Director, French for Life Coordinator and Chapter representatives from Swan River, Pembina Trails and Portage la Prairie. As well as the customary agenda, other activities included review of the new National Strategic Plan and interactive workshops related to topics such as member recruitment and retention, governance roles and responsibilities, and FSL promotion.
- CPF Branch Presidents from across Canada met in June 2008 in Ottawa in conjunction with a CPF-National Strategic Planning Session. The CPF-MB President was part of the National strategic Planning Committee and was able to provide input from a parental, volunteer and Manitoban perspective. Further meetings of Branch Presidents were held during the National meeting activities in October 2008 and by teleconference in January 2009.
- CPF-MB participated in teleconference Branch Executive Director meetings in May, July, September and December 2008 and February 2009. This group also met face-to-face with other Branch Executive Directors in June 2008 in conjunction with a CPF-National Strategic Planning Session and in October 2008 in conjunction with the CPF-National AGM activities. The CPF-MB Executive Director was able to provide input from an operational and Manitoban perspective.
- The CPF Branch Executive Directors also established a committee that was responsible for the development of a Branch Executive Directors Training and Reference Manual. The CPF-MB Executive Director provided input and materials for inclusion in this. Once finalized, a copy of the final document will be given to each CPF Branch.

- The CPF-MB President and Vice-President attended a number of workshops through the Winnipeg Volunteer Centre. These included “Building Better Board Bylaws”, “Board Member Handbooks”, “Meeting Procedures with Roberts Rules”, and “How Can We Work Together?”. Such training was shared with other board members and served to enhance the professionalism, efficiency and effectiveness of the Board of Directors in its governance capacity.

Chapter Reports

CPF- Beausejour

September:

- Attended parent advisory council meetings and parent teacher conferences; provided information concerning second-language opportunities.
- Met with high school administration; discussed issue of students requiring sufficient credits to graduate with a French Immersion Diploma.
- Distributed Welcome packages to Kindergarten students and information letters to Grades 1-12 basic and immersion students/parents/teachers.
- Requested that the school division website co-ordinator include Chapter meeting minutes on its site.

October:

- Facilitated a question and answer evening with guest speakers from the BEF (Sandra Drzystek) and French for Life (Micheal Hudon).
- Attended the CPF-MB Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg.
- Continued the phone tree of French Immersion students.
- Mounted “Proud to Offer French Immersion since 1981” sign on École Beausejour Early Years School (ÉBEYS)

November:

- Collaborated with the local press resulting in a published article and picture relating to the new sign at ÉBEYS.
- Wrote to the Sunrise School Board requesting they reinstate the “Language and Library Coordinator” position.
- Held annual Free French Movie Night.
- Requested funds from parent advisory council’s of both schools; ÉBEYS offered to help with some funds.

December:

- Participated in 50/50 ticket sales at the local Beavers Hockey game.

January:

- Orchestrated membership drive and purchased 7 new memberships for Kindergarten families, using the CPF-MB FSL Initiative Incentive Fund.
- Collaborated with CPF-Springfield Chapter to advertise the French Immersion program in the local newspaper.
- Collaborated with the local press resulting in a published article relating to a Grade 12 French Immersion student.

February:

- Supported children going to Festival du Voyageur by donating towards associated costs.
- Attended Sunrise School Division budget meeting.
- Sent reminder to parents of English Program Kindergarten students, reminding them that they could still enrol their children in the French Immersion Program.

March:

- Hosted an informal meeting, inviting all parents including those of pre-Kindergarten children to meet the present and previous Kindergarten teachers.
- Communicated with school Principals to request that French words be added to the school letterhead and newsletters; this was approved.
- Attended the French Immersion Review Committee meeting with Sunrise School Division.

April:

- Orchestrated Le Petit Café, led up by Mme. Lafreniere; this was supported by the CPF-MB FSL Initiative Incentive Fund, was well attended and completely respected by English speaking students.
- Participated in ÉBEYS Spring Tea event.
- Attended Sunrise School's Community Consultation meeting.
- Attended Kindergarten Readiness Clinic.
- Supported appreciation lunch for 5 school secretaries.

May:

- Gave gift bags to French Immersion teachers and principals during staff appreciation week.

- Attended the final Community Consultation meetings for Sunrise and French Immersion programming.

June:

- Completed the installation of “École” above Edward Schreyer School.
- Acknowledged 4 French Immersion graduated from ÉESS; awarded \$100 scholarship to a student furthering their education in French language.
- Held a year-end dinner, acknowledged Chapter accomplishments, and confirmed Chapter support of French and the benefits of second language learning.

July:

- Hosted Camp Soleil; well received and very much appreciated by all involved. Great job offered by Winter and Adrienne (camp staff).
- Increased memberships through camp attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Strecker
President, CPF-Beausejour

CPF- Brandon

The Chapter had a busy year supporting French Immersion programs. The school board took on the task of finding more space for the rapidly growing program, and are looking at establishing a French Milieu school along with the existing 3 Immersion schools.

Fundraising was facilitated for equipment for the new Grade 12 P.E. program (delivered in French). The Chapter also paid for buses to send students on field trips, awarded scholarship prizes and continued to sponsor the Grade 8 trip.

Chapter representatives served on various parent councils and attended school board meetings. The Chapter is now looking at major changes to its Executive, and a brighter, better future.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Harrison
Treasurer, CPF-Brandon

CPF- Dauphin

Chapter activities in 2008-2009 were as follows:

- Facilitated Chapter presentation at the 'Welcome Back Evening' at École Macneill in September 2008 and participated in Fall 2008 Cultural tours.
- Organized and staffed CPF display booth at the Olde Market Square event in November 2008.
- Promoted French classes for parents of FSL students in Dauphin during the Winter 2009 and supported kindergarten registration in March 2009.
- Promoted participation of high school students at *semaine par excellence* at the St. Boniface College and hosted a French for Life presentation in May 2009.
- Supported French speech competitions at École Macneill and MacKenzie Middle School in April 2009.
- Supported participation of students in *Concours d'art d'oratoire* at CUSB in May 2009.
- Supported Middle School students' improvisation event for École Macneill students in the Spring 2009.
- Fundraised throughout the year for Quebec school trip and participated in parent partnership meetings at the Elementary and High Schools throughout the year.
- Presented two French Immersion Diplomas at the June 2009 Dauphin Regional Comprehensive Secondary School graduation ceremony; as well as presenting French Immersion Certificates of Merit to several graduates to acknowledge their efforts in taking French courses during their high school years.

The Dauphin Chapter continues to explore opportunities to provide students with French language learning events and activities at the elementary, middle and high schools in the area.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryxie Dupas

Secretary, CPF-Dauphin

CPF- Flin Flon

Report not yet submitted.

CPF- Morden

The CPF-Morden Chapter had a quiet year, primarily focusing on recruiting new members and volunteers for the Chapter Executive.

In early 2009, an information booth was set up at the Maple Leaf Elementary School for the Student-Involved Parent-Teacher Conferences. Membership forms were distributed, along with FSL promotional materials and items such as pens, pencils, rulers, tattoos and carabineers.

The Chapter sponsored two \$100.00 awards to Morden Collegiate graduates Shawna Bluhm and Katie Magotiaux, for the French 40S and French Language Arts 40S subject awards.

Camp Soleil 2009 was a huge success and blessed with one of the few warm sunny weeks all summer. There were 19 registrants, resulting in 8 new membership applications.

The Morden Annual General Meeting was postponed as a result of busy schedules, and will be held sometime in the fall with the hope that the new members from the camp registrations will be able to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Strecker
President, CPF-Morden

CPF- Pembina Trails

This has been a very exciting year for the Pembina Trails Chapter. There were no challenges regarding overcrowding issues or any other political issues, so the Chapter was able to focus on enhancing French in the lives of our children.

The year started with *soirée de l'halloween*. This was so successful; it is now going to become an annual event. Over 75 families came dressed in Halloween

costumes and participated. A number of students from the Middle Years French Immersion school helped to facilitate this event by assisting with 13 different hands-on activities, which enabled children to practice listening and speaking in French in a non-threatening and fun environment. One activity involved crafts and students were encouraged to communicate in French to acquire the supplies they needed for what they had chosen to make. Another was a Fortune teller station; here children were presented with possible future outcomes that may be presented to them.

Once again thanks are given to CPF-Manitoba for sponsoring the 2008 Cultural Tour; the students really seemed to enjoy the musician.

Festival du voyageur was kicked off with a sponsored pancake breakfast, where students enjoyed listening to the music of the voyageurs while eating their pancakes.

French for Life (FFL) visited our school and really got the kids excited to learn more and more French. They also loved the swag Michael, the FFL Coordinator, brought along.

Ratatouille en français was another successful event put on by our CPF team of volunteers.

A really neat and innovative activity for this year was a student exchange experience. French Immersion students created marionettes for a puppet show. They then traveled to an English school and as puppeteers presented the show to a Core French class. All students and teachers involved in this event loved it, and want to continue it again next year. Thanks go to Sarah Guillemard, Chapter Vice-President, for facilitating this wonderful event.

Camp soleil was facilitated again and proved to be very successful in terms of the children really enjoying themselves. Winter was a fantastic instructor and so was Adrienne, the camp assistant.

I am looking forward to next year helping create more positive memories in the lives of our children.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Calvo-Yaworsky
President, CPF-Pembina Trails

CPF- Portage la Prairie

CPF-Portage la Prairie had another busy year. Kindergarten enrolment at École Crescentview School was large enough for two classes. It is hoped that this is the start of a trend of more interest in French education in Portage.

During the October Chapter meeting, ideas were brainstormed; some came to fruition this year and others were planned for the future. The Portage Annual General Meeting was held in December. Delnora Rice and Jocelyn Lequier-Jobin exchanged positions of President and Vice-President, while Diane Wing agreed to stay on as treasurer. It was decided that members would take turns taking minutes, so a Secretary was not elected.

The outgoing President, Delnora Rice, attended the CPF-MB provincial and CPF national meetings in the fall of 2008. She was very pleased with the quality of conferences and brought back lots of information and ideas to the group.

The Chapter facilitated two main events this year. At École Crescentview School, a traditional *soirée manitobaine* was hosted, which included Métis square dancing, fiddle music, a sing along, bannock and *tartes aux sucres*. Lots of people dressed in voyager type clothing, the event was well attended and had lots of positive feedback. At École Arthur Meighen School, a “French Fiesta” was hosted. Here, the similarities of the French and Spanish languages were explored, while a Mexican feast was prepared by French-communicating students. Later in the evening, families were invited to come and enjoy the Mexican cuisine.

Once again, medals were donated for the *Concours d’art oratoire* winners in the Portage area. The annual donation to the French activity boxes at the schools was discontinued, as the boxes were still well stocked. Instead, the funds were put towards a graduation award for a student interested in pursuing French studies. The award of \$300 was presented to Jessica Painter at the high school awards ceremony in June.

A transition meeting was held for Grade 8 French Immersion students and parents. This served to promote the continuation of French at the high school level, and provide information about how high school credits work. A small group attended the meeting, which everyone found to be extremely well done and very

helpful. Most of the Grade 8 students plan to continue their studies in French, and the high school is hopeful that it will indeed be able to offer enough credits for a French Immersion Diploma. Of note, is that Portage was pleased to have its first ever French Immersion Diploma graduates this year. A transition meeting for students moving from elementary to middle school is also being considered for the fall.

A French course for parents was offered this spring; however, enrolment was too low to justify its facilitation. It is the hope to offer one again in the future, as there have been good successes in the past.

A Welcome to Kindergarten Event was held in May. Here, the Chapter manned a booth, promoted CPF activities, and gave out information and membership applications. As a result, Kindergarten enrolment has increased for the 2009/2010 school year.

Camp soleil was held July 20th-24th. There was a great turnout with 24 campers and 2 Grade 8 student assistants. The weather was not great, but the Camp Coordinators were able to do lots of fun indoor activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Lequier-Jobin
President, CPF-Portage-la-Prairie

CPF- Powerview

September:

The Chapter President and Treasurer prepared statements for the CPF-MB Annual General meeting and started the planning of the Local Chapter AGM.

Calls were made to the administration and the staff at the school to address any concerns and to let everyone know that CPF-Powerview was ready and willing to be part of another fun filled school year. Dates were announced for the CPF-MB Cultural Tour and the booking forms for the venue were completed.

The Chapter participated in the open house at the local school and informed parents about the role of the Chapter. Information was distributed to new

members of the school community and the *maternelle* students. The Chapter donated CPF Early Childhood Activity books to all new *maternelle* students.

October:

The Chapter tackled a major project; it's biggest yet! Following the first year of the pilot program for full-time *maternelle*, discussions began concerning the revamping of the *maternelle* class as a whole. Meetings were orchestrated with the teachers, Administration and other consultants to clarify concerns. Further meetings were held and the Chapter and Administration collaborated with other teachers, students and parents to determine what was wanted and needed within the classroom environment. The next steps were to source funding and then allocate it accordingly. The administration provided \$4000 and the Chapter provided \$1000. The result being that all identified needs were met in the form of a well equipped and well resourced classroom that parents and teachers really enjoy. This project was a great challenge that took about four months to complete, with the final touches being made in May of 2009.

The CPF-MB Cultural Tour with Justin LaCroix visited the school, and Grades 5-8 participated in the workshops and concerts.

The Chapter Annual General Meetings was cancelled due to lack of members in attendance. However, the first Chapter meeting of the year went ahead and planned activities for the coming year.

November:

Fous en Français was facilitated with the support of the CPF-MB FSL Initiative Incentive Fund. This initiative included a full day of activities for Grade 7-12 students. There were workshops and the involvement of special guests in professions where they use French. The students enjoyed learning about the different jobs that are available and were made more aware of how French can open the door to a world of opportunities.

The CPF-MB dramatization "Québec City; A Visual Reflection of 400 years", visited the school and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the Grade 4-8 students who attended.

January:

The Chapter met to discuss plans for the winter carnival; however, this was passed on to the administration as there are not enough Chapter members to coordinate such an event.

A magazine sale fundraising event was booked for March, some purchases for the *maternelle* project were finalized, and the Circle Molière school tour was booked for April.

Funds for a puppet theatre were applied for, through the CPF-MB FSL Initiative Incentive Fund. This compliments the puppets that had already been purchased for the *maternelle* project. Additional “professional” puppets were purchased i.e. Police Officer, Doctor, Dentist, Vet and Nurse, as well as ethnic puppets to help teachers with different teaching programs. The puppet theatre has been a great success, and as it is mobile it can be used by the whole early years program.

Plans for *Concours d’art oratoire* began with discussions about whether or not to try and have a divisional *concours*. Calls were made to CPF-MB regarding planning, and it was determined to go ahead.

February:

The Chapter, the Administration and the *maternelle* teacher collaborated by providing an evening of introduction for the *maternelle* students.

March:

Concours d’art oratoire was facilitated. Students prepared for the event with the assistance of teachers. Programs were made, judges booked and prizes purchased. This was a great event with 24 students participating.

The QSP Magazine sales fund raising event took place and raised about \$2000.

April:

Le Petit Café was enjoyed by all. This project involved the Grade 5-6 French Immersion students setting up a small restaurant, enabling the public and students to enjoy a French Café environment.

Cercle Molière facilitated a workshop for the Grade 9 - 2 students and the CPF-MB Improvisation Workshops, facilitated by the Gosselin Brothers, visited the school.

June:

The Chapter met to discuss the Graduation Award and the Graduation Ceremony. The event went well with certificates and the plaque being presented by Tammy Johannson, the Chapter Vice-President.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Peloquin
President, CPF-Powerview

CPF- Seine River

Accomplishments:

- Formed Chapter on January 24th, 2009, following lengthy recruitment drive.
- Elected President, Vice-President, and Treasurer.
- Met with CPF-MB Executive Director for initial orientation for Chapter Executives.
- Applied to the FSL Initiative Incentive Fund for a *Café Paris* Night; planned event for fall of 2009.
- Planned meeting with French Immersion Consultant & Assistant Superintendent of Seine River School Division.

Challenges:

- Limited membership in area of Chapter.
- Identifying existing members within the area of the Chapter.
- Supporting development of high school programming within the division.

Plans for 2009/2010 year:

- Host *Café Paris* nights at two high schools within the Chapter area, for the purpose of highlighting and facilitating discussion on senior years programming.
- Conduct interviews, in cooperation with school division staff, with students and parents who choose to leave French Immersion programming.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne Fenez,
President, CPF-Seine River

CPF-Selkirk

CPF Selkirk held its 2008 Annual General Meeting on November 4, 2008. Michael Hudon (CPF Manitoba) attended the session to present resources and information from the French For Life website.

New executive was elected:

- Chair: Carmen Pedersen
- Vice Chair: Pat Bird
- Treasurer: vacant (Julie Reid has agreed to maintain books until new treasurer is found).
- Secretary: Chris Selby

This winter, Grade 4 to 9 students from École Bonaventure and École Selkirk Junior High were treated to a dramatization entitled “Québec City” visually reflecting upon 400 years. The students immensely enjoyed this performance in French. It was educational and very entertaining. It was made possible by sponsorship from CPF Manitoba.

The Lord Selkirk School Division hosted a French Immersion Celebration on April 12 to commemorate the program’s 20+ years of operation within the division. The evening was very well attended with over 300 students, parents, teachers and dignitaries who enjoyed a French cultural experience including food and entertainment provided by the students through poetry, drama, speeches and displays. CPF Manitoba Provincial Liaison, Michael Hudon, attended the event to take another opportunity to promote the French for Life program. Mme. Paulette Vielfaure Dupuis also spoke on behalf of Canadian Parents for French and presented the division with the gift of a Gerard Laroche Cultural Tour. This tour will benefit French Immersion students of all ages.

In February, 2009 we received \$250.00 from a FSL initiative Incentive Fund and on June 17 the Grade 8 French Immersion class of École Selkirk Junior High took part in a walking tour of Saint-Boniface including such attractions as *la musée de Sain- Boniface*.

CPF Selkirk welcomes and congratulates all new kindergarten parents for choosing a French Immersion program for their children. Information packages were sent in their goodie bag. Presently, there are 40 new kindergarten students.

Starting this fall, we will be sponsoring a 6 week Family Literacy program with a half hour of singing and rhyming in French, thereby introducing oral language skills to parents and children ages 0 to 5.

We are looking forward to our new year. We continue to strengthen our communication with parents and teachers. We welcome new ideas and opportunities for working together to make our French Immersion program the best it can be.

Carmen Pedersen
President, CPF Selkirk

CPF-Springfield

This year was less busy for the Chapter, however the support of the staff at the CPF-MB office continues and is appreciated.

A Chapter representative met with the École Dugald School staff to encourage them to once again be involved in *Concours d'art oratoire*. The Chapter Executive will meet with the Principal early this school year to discuss further. The utilization of Chapter monies to enhance this exciting event is presently under discussion.

The Chapter shared costs with CPF-Beausejour for an advertisement in a local newspaper, which promoted the French Immersion Program in the Sunrise School Division. There were several phone calls as a result of this advertisement.

The Springfield Readiness Clinic invited CPF-MB to have a table at their event. Unfortunately CPF-MB was not able to attend, but this event will occur again next year.

The Sunrise School Division held public consultations to involve the community regarding the future of French Immersion in the area. The shared services agreement with the River East Transcona School Division expires in September

2010. Presently, the students from École Dugald School transfer to Collège Pierre Elliott Trudeau in Transcona for Grades 9-12. The Sunrise School Board will be consulting with community members again towards the end of 2009 regarding this matter.

École Dugald School celebrated Festival du Voyageur week with a pancake breakfast, voyageur games, activities, dancing and singing.

Support for this was provided by the CPF-MB FSL Initiative Incentive Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Maja Kathan,
President, CPF-Springfield

CPF-Stonewall

The Chapter had a very exciting year, as it was the first with immersion in the community for several years! The Kindergarten class had 19 students who absolutely loved the teacher Mme. Ray!

In the fall, the Chapter purchased beautiful French-English dictionaries, which were presented to each child in the Kindergarten class. In October a community information night was spearheaded at the school to promote the immersion program in and around Stonewall.

In December the Chapter had lots of fun at the Stonewall Annual Santa Claus Parade; members dressed up as Santa's helpers and passed out hundreds of flyers, pencils, stickers, etc. along the parade route. All distributed items promoted the merits of bilingualism.

The New Year saw the return of Festival du Voyageur and the Chapter subsidized a trip to the event for all Kindergarten immersion students. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and *le joie de vivre* that the festival brings to numerous communities!

In April, the parents had the unique opportunity to watch the Kindergarten spring concert and to be treated to some songs and poems *en français!* The children did a wonderful job and impressed a lot of community members. It was a very special moment for the parents who have worked so diligently to promote the French Immersion program in Stonewall. Overall it was a great way to show benefits of the program.

In June, the Chapter held its Annual Family Fun Picnic. Here games and treats were offered to all students in the most recent Kindergarten class, as well as those in the present Kindergarten class and their families. It was a great success with lots of fun had by all!! The Chapter also worked very hard to contact and recruit children into the new Kindergarten class. At last date there were 23 children signed up for the fall class!

Camp soleil was held for 20 children in July. Even though the weather did not cooperate it was a huge success, especially on the day that included pond skimming for insects. But *c'est la vie!!* The parents and kids had nothing but good comments to say about the experience.

In October, we are looking forward to the planned CPF-MB Cultural Tour. This will make a stop at RW Bobby Bend School and all students will be able to participate and enjoy it together.

What a fabulous year it has been here in Stonewall!!! Stay tuned for more great news from the CPF-Stonewall Chapter!

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Conger-Morrison
President, CPF-Stonewall

CPF-Swan River

By all measurements, the 2008-09 school year was very successful. The Chapter, now established enough to have created a pattern, held its "usual"

events. These included the fall CPF-MB Cultural Tour, the Halloween *danse-en-français* (a family dance with French music), Bingo *en français*, and a French movie night where the children and families enjoyed “Wall-E” in French. The initiative of welcoming new *maternelle* students with a paid CPF membership and a copy of the “First French Words” book was also repeated.

Fundraising involved monthly special lunches. This year, a new special lunch will be tried, “Taco in a bag”! The children will love this and it should be a fairly good profit-bearing venture. Due to busy schedules, the Chapter opted out of its annual bake sale this year, leaving it to the student council to do, should they so desire.

The Chapter was very excited that the Grades 4-8 students were able to travel to Winnipeg for Festival du Voyageur. Amazing teachers worked tirelessly with the children to plan and fundraise for their expedition. Between the students’ and teachers’ hard work, and added financial support from the Chapter, they were able to travel without using money from their own pockets. What a terrific opportunity for the children; they are still talking about it!

In October, the Chapter was represented at the CPF-National AGM in Ottawa. Here the “Verbathon” games were highlighted. Consequently, 2 games were ordered and received, and are now in use in the classrooms.

Unfortunately, the school year ended on a somewhat sour note as there was a significant shuffling of teachers in the school division, which resulted in only 1 French Immersion teacher left standing. As of this report (Sept 1st, 2009), most positions have been refilled, but the search continues for a Grade 2-3 teacher. It is anticipated that this position will be filled shortly, and that the coming school year will see the benefits of lots of new ideas from the new teachers.

It is hoped that the year ahead will be one of positive change and progress. Most exciting is the anticipation of the visit to France in March 2010, which will be made by the French Immersion High School students. Oh the fun they will have!!

Fundraising efforts for this visit have been ongoing for several months already and the Chapter is looking forward to helping out with this very exciting FSL experience!

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Chmelowski
President, CPF-Swan River

CPF-The Pas

Promotion & Awareness:

The Chapter held a Kindergarten Information Session in collaboration with the French Immersion Kindergarten teacher, meant to target potential French Immersion parents. Although not a complete success, the Chapter plans to do this again in the future.

Fundraising:

The Chapter held a fundraiser targeting French Immersion and Basic French families that involved the sale of French food. There were 15 participants and the Chapter plans to do this again.

Training, Workshops & Presentations:

We arranged an informational meeting with the CPF-MB Executive Director and French for Life Coordinator. This was attended by Chapter representatives and 3 French Immersion/ Basic French teachers.

School Activities:

Our Chapter partnered with Scott Bateman Middle School and Margaret Barbour Collegiate to organize a musical group and French movie nights. The musical group targeted children Grades 6-12 and was attended by 100 students. The French movie nights were open to anyone and were attended by anywhere from 2 – 8 people per showing. Both activities were a success and will be repeated in the future.

Volunteer Appreciation Event:

The Chapter did not host a Volunteer Appreciation Event this year, as volunteers were limited to the Executive.

Other:

We facilitated a Chapter AGM on June 15, 2009; letters of invitation were sent to all current members and 5 people attended.

Announcements were made both to inform the community of the French movie nights and to announce the Kindergarten Information Night.

Advocacy work was not carried out at the school division level this year.

The Chapter plans to seek assistance from CPF-MB in relation to member recruitment.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott McConnel-Hore,
President, CPF-The Pas

CPF-Thompson

Report not yet submitted.

