

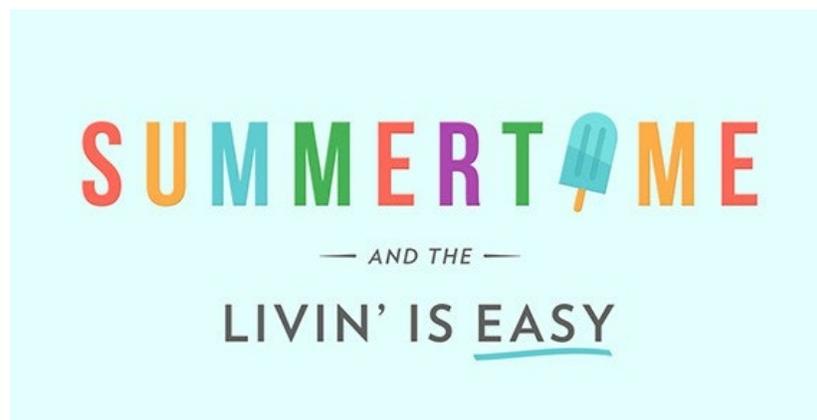
# CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH

communiqué

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [6 months in, another 6 to go!](#)
- [Key Dates](#)
- [National Nominations Committee Update](#)
- [News from National](#)
- [2016 Conference and AGM](#)
- [Website Facelift Update and Social Media Channels](#)
- [National Office Projects and Initiatives](#)
- [Summer Reminders](#)

## 6 months in, another 6 to go!



We're half way through 2016 - and what a successful year it has been to date!

So much has been accomplished in the last six months from CPF's successful FSL Awareness Breakfast, *A Toast to French Immersion*, to being honored by the Commissioner of Official Languages as the 2016 Recipient of the Award of Excellence in the Promotion of Linguistic Duality.

As we move into the second half of the year, we will continue work on projects like the *Celebration of Sir Wilfrid Laurier*, culminating on November 20th, the 175th anniversary of his birth. Additionally, preparations around the 2016 Conference and AGM in October to recognize our own CPF 40th anniversary will be ongoing throughout the summer.

Please select the item you wish to review from the menu on the left, or read through the full communiqué for a full update on National's activities.

## Key Dates

**June 29-30, 2016** – Halifax, NS – *CoED Annual Face-to-Face Meeting*  
– collaborative planning for upcoming funding application

**August 4–6, 2016** – Fredericton, NB – *CPF National Board Meeting + CPF Member Consultation, Stakeholders Reception*

**August 28-30, 2016** – Ottawa, ON – *Youth Advisory Forum, Laurier Project*

**October 14-15, 2016** – Ottawa, ON – *CPF Conference 2016 + 40th Anniversary Initiative*

**October 16, 2016** – Ottawa, ON – *CPF Annual General Meeting*

**December 2016** – Montreal, Quebec – *CPF/OCOL Roundtable, French immersion and Social Integration of Anglophone Youth*

## National Nominations Committee Update

Following the open call for nominations to the National Board of Directors the committee, after careful consideration, has chosen several candidates to move forward for interviews.



A short list will be posted in July / August to allow CPF voting delegates an opportunity to better familiarize themselves with the candidates' skill sets prior to the online election. Voting delegates will be sent an email with a link to the interviews, the candidates' letter and their bios. The online voting process used last year will be repeated, with the election taking place early in September.

## News from National

# CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW

### **CPF National Government Relations Update / PCH New Official Languages Strategy**

#### **a. FSL Partner Network Meets with Assistant Deputy Ministers for Official Languages**

The Committee of Assistant Deputy Ministers for Official Languages (CADMOL) is a central element of the governance structure of the federal government's Official Languages Program (OLP). The CADMOL is responsible for ensuring management leadership of the OLP and ensures the horizontal coordination of federal Roadmap partners. CADMOL meets once a year, and invites staff representatives of Canada's English and French linguistic minority communities and linguistic duality organizations to separately join the committee's discussions.

The National Executive Directors of CPF, CASLT, ACPI, French for the Future and Experiences Canada attended this year's meeting. Nearly a dozen federal institutions, led by Canadian Heritage, were represented. The theme of the meeting was to explore ways the federal partner can support our linguistic duality "community", given the challenges of not being officially recognized as a legal linguistic minority entity.

The elements of effective consultation were also touched upon. Finally, this summer's consultation on creating the Government of Canada's new official languages-strategy was discussed. CPF stressed the need for federal leaders to understand that Canada has two linguistic minority communities both deserving substantive support AS WELL AS an allied group supporting the promotion of linguistic duality with the majority of Canadians, requiring substantial attention and financial resources to sustain the efforts made in French second language learning programs and opportunities across Canada.

#### **b. Government of Canada New Official Languages Strategy**

The Department of Canadian Heritage is conducting an evaluation of the current Roadmap for Official Languages and CPF National Office responded in an interview based on the evaluation questionnaire in late May 2016.

The Government of Canada is committed to developing a new official languages plan with consultations taking place over the summer months. There will be three complementary components to the consultation: the general public; key stakeholders; and, provincial and territorial governments. The general public consultations will comprise a series of roundtables chaired by the Minister of Canadian Heritage Mélanie Joly or the Parliamentary Secretary for Official Languages Randy Boissonnault, and an online digital interface. Roundtables will be held in 20 centres across Canada – including all provincial and territorial capitals. Currently, the plan is to bring 30 invited participants from majority and minority language communities together at each of the roundtables. The online digital interface will be active from June until October 2016. It will contain varied content, including a questionnaire.

We invite all CPF leaders to complete the online questionnaire, The National office will send an email encouraging participation, and providing guidelines to ensure priorities are consistent with the four revised CPF position statement priorities. We request the support of all CPF Branches in disseminating this information through newsletters and social media channels. We invite Branches to help chapters formulate the story they want to tell. The Parliamentary Secretary made a point of calling for ‘real people’ telling ‘real stories’ about life in our communities. He also wants to see diversity, and hear from a broad spectrum of people.

As information is released related to the locations of the consultations, the CPF National Office will communicate with Branch Executive Directors to provide updates, circulate support documents and help ensure that CPF representatives are invited to share our priorities. Branch Executive Directors will share information as the consultations pass through their communities.

### **c. Meetings with Government Stakeholders and Champions**

Members of the CPF National Board of Directors, with the support of the National office, have focused on meetings with government officials and key stakeholder champions to begin to influence the next official languages strategy. Meetings have taken place with: the PCH Parliamentary Secretary, Randy Boissonnault, The Honorable Francis Drouin, Liberal MP; The Honorable Andrew Leslie, Liberal MP; and The Honorable Claudette Tardif, Senator and author of *Aiming Higher, the Senate Committee Report*, June 2015.

CPF brought to their attention the fact that the “Second Language Learning” component has not benefitted equally from previous strategies. Politicians and policymakers assume that, as the learning of a second language is optional, its importance is not equal to that of minority language rights holders and therefore requires less attention and funding. In reality, many French as a second language programs across Canada are struggling to

survive. We are fighting to sustain these programs and ensure equitable access and quality education due to every Canadian. A process which supports the rapprochement and appreciation integral to linguistic duality and a harmonious collaboration between communities.

## 2016 Conference and AGM



### Registration Process Open

The 2016 Conference and AGM is fast approaching and the National staff is working hard to plan a meaningful volunteer learning and appreciation event. Some changes have been made to this year's Conference format. National has developed a new travel/cost sharing strategy to support the Branches in sponsoring more chapter delegates to attend the event. National will transfer a lump sum to branches to cover costs of travel and accommodation for 7 delegates, the amount will vary from province to province depending on the distance in relation to Ottawa. Separately, funds have been allocated to cover costs of travel and accommodation for 2 additional delegates to attend the AGM (Branch President and Vice President).

The online registration form for this year's conference will streamline the process making it much more efficient for everyone. We recognize that there are many changes to the process this year - please feel free to contact Debbie Murphy with questions and feedback on the online registration. An online registration page is in the process of set up, in meant time attendees can register by visiting the CPF National website and filling out the PDF form: <http://bit.ly/29j2PXS>

### CPF Awards of Recognition Nominations

Over the course of our organization's history, CPF has recognized individuals who have rendered significant service to the organization and who have demonstrated leadership in the advancement of French second language education

This year we invite nominations for three CPF Awards of recognition:

- CPF Distinguished Life Membership

- CPF National Volunteer Award
- CPF J. Elmer Hynes Excellence in Leadership Award

To nominate an individual: review the award information, complete the Award Nomination Form by September 16th, 2016 and submit to Marianne Bright, Communications Coordinator at [mbright@cpf.ca](mailto:mbright@cpf.ca)

### **CPF Silent Auction and Raffle**

CPF is once again hosting a silent auction! All proceeds will go to the Mary Joyce Booth Endowment Fund. Donated items will be displayed during the conference, allowing attendees to view them and place a bid. The bidding sheet will include a description of the item, market value, and the name of the donor. If you are interested in sending donations for the silent auction, please forward items to the national office, to the attention of Debbie Murphy, before September 30, 2016. Please also include the value of the items as well as a short description.

Once again, CPF has received a donation of a painting from the late John Mlacak. This year, raffle ticket prices will be \$10 apiece or 3 tickets for \$25.

More information about *Conference 2016* will follow as the National office finalizes the program and preparations for the event.

## **Website Facelift Update and Social Media Channels**

As you are well aware CPF's websites are undergoing a facelift. The new National site was recently launched and is now live. We are still ironing out glitches but are confident and happy with the final product. Time has been set aside throughout the summer to review National's website content, as there appears to be quite a bit of material that is out of date and no longer relevant.



Jennifer Hood, of Underscore Solutions, is working to update both the Branch and Chapter websites. Please keep in mind that some minor technical difficulties may arise, but will be sorted as work is

completed. Once your Branch and Chapter website updates have been finalized, we encourage you to go through the content and eliminate anything that is no longer in use or needed.

*\*\*\*National has received notification that its old street address is still listed on several Branch websites. We would appreciate it very much if you could ensure that National's address is updated: 1104 - 170 Laurier Ave. W. | Ottawa, ON | K1P 5V5*

### **Poutine, SVP? Learning French is as easy as un, deux, trois**

The Quebec Project has been actively promoting engagement in an attempt to gain fellowship on its Facebook page "Poutine, SVP?". The Poutine, SVP? Facebook page is updated regularly and offers fun and educational resources for young French second language learners.

We would greatly appreciate Branches showing their support by 'Liking' or subscribing to the pages' content here:

<http://bit.ly/1TSWqmL>

Finally, it has been noted that several Chapters are using the discontinued 'tree' logo on their Facebook pages. This logo is no longer approved, and should not be used in relation to any CPF advertising or communication. We ask that Branches double check with their Chapters to ensure that their pages accurately reflect and are keeping with CPF's new branding. Approved messages and images can be found and are available for download on **Dropbox**

## **National Office Projects and Initiatives**



**Celebrating Sir Wilfrid Laurier - Canada's Destiny as a Great Nation**

As you may be aware CPF National received funding for its *Celebrating Sir Wilfred Laurier – Canada’s Destiny as a Great Nation* project.

The project was launched during this year’s National Concours d’art oratoire, encouraging youth participants to broaden their knowledge, deepen their understanding and recognize the vision, accomplishments and contributions of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

CPF National is inviting 24 past Concours winners, (grade 11-12 high school and post-secondary year 1 and 2), to come together in Ottawa in late August to share ideas and delve deeper into the values espoused by this exceptional Canadian figure as well as to initiate a dialogue about the meaning these important historical contributions hold for Canadian youth today.

Students take part in a “white glove” artifact tour and afternoon tea at Laurier House, a national historic site. They will develop online interactive materials to post and share online in fall 2016 and support a postcard mail-in contest, in honour of this first French Canadian Prime Minister’s 175th birthday. Branches wishing to promote the activities will receive a \$1000 grant to help support communications and marketing effort in their province or territory. As the National office works to establish a firm outline for the project, more information will be shared with the Branches in the coming months.

### **Concours d’art oratoire – National Finals**

The National Concours was a success for all those who participated and serves as further proof that being bilingual is important to Canada’s youth and reminds us of the important work we do every day!

For pictures from the day please visit: [Concours 2016](#)

### **Finish with a Gift - CSAE BoardReady Card Deck**

CPF National was involved in the support and development of a new resource to build board capacity in the area of governance. The CSAE BoardREADY Card Deck is a hybrid/digital product designed to encourage discussion among members of a board of directors and strengthen their performance in generative governance issues.

Each CPF Branch Executive Director should have received a card deck (product) in the mail and a letter indicating their user name and password to access the digital content that supports the deck.

We invite all CPF leaders to go to [www.csaebordready.net](http://www.csaebordready.net). The site contains video and tips on how to use the deck and how it can be used by staff and volunteer leaders at Board meetings and during orientation sessions. We hope this Card Deck is a useful resource and support training opportunities within the CPF National Network.

## Summer Reminders



The National office has welcomed two summer students – Genevieve Lanzer, who is returning for a 2nd year, and Virginia Ouimet, here for her first.

The students will assist National staff in administrative functions, as well as providing additional support in the preparation for the Laurier Project, Conference/AGM 2016, and CPF's 40th Year Anniversary.

**The National Office is closed on Fridays during July and August.**

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