

CPF Magazine

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH

FALL 2023

\$6.95 • FREE FOR MEMBERS

**Celebrate
Halloween
with a Twist**

**MEET THE NEW
CPF NATIONAL
BOARD DIRECTORS**

**FRENCH FOOTPRINTS:
FSL IN THE EARLY YEARS**

**REMEMBERING
KEITH SPICER**



JOURNÉE DES LANGUES OFFICIELLES!

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES DAY!

Stronger Together:
Celebrate the richness
of linguistic duality!

Plus forts ensemble :
Célébrez toute la richesse
de la dualité linguistique !

LINGUISTIC / RÉSEAU DE LA
DUALITY / DUALITÉ
NETWORK / LINGUISTIQUE



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CANADIAN
PARENTS
FOR FRENCH

FALL 2023

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Canadian Parents for French is a nationwide, research-informed, volunteer organization that promotes and creates opportunities to learn and use French for all those who call Canada home.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the leaves change colour and the temperatures drop, at the CPF Network we are gearing up for an exciting fall! We hope the new school year is going smoothly for parents and students alike. With this fall issue of CPF Magazine we want to contribute to everyone's success this year. You will find insightful articles with resources and ideas to support your students, as well as the latest updates on CPF projects.

At the end of the summer, we learned of the passing of Keith Spicer, Canada's first Commissioner of Official Languages whose vision made possible the establishment of our organization. CPF National communicated with his family to share sympathies on behalf of the CPF Network. We remember him in this issue with an article [on page 3](#).

On September 14, the CPF community celebrated Canada's Official Languages Day. Youth Activity kits were distributed to educational leaders that included the colourful poster found on the inside cover of this publication.



This fall CPF is launching a new project in partnership with Families Canada and 123 Petit pas called French Footprints: FSL in the Early Years, a pilot project focused on introducing FSL programs in early childhood learning. Learn all about this project [on page 12](#). Elsewhere in this issue you will find Branch updates and news from our partners.

Throughout the fall, several virtual and in-person events are happening from cultural events to fun game nights. Be sure to stay connected to your Branch and to the CPF Network via social media to not miss anything.

We value your commitment and support as Members. We wish you a productive fall and please know that the CPF Network is here to help with your FSL journey. *À la prochaine!* ■



DERREK BENTLEY
CPF NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Bienvenue dans l'équipe !



Join us in welcoming **Joel Martine**, the newly hired Interim Executive Director for Canadian Parents for French Manitoba.

Joel has a background in strategic planning, financial management, and youth development.

As the former Director of Youth Integration at the Economic Development Council for Bilingual Municipalities of Manitoba (CDEM), Joel showcased an impressive ability to drive transformative initiatives and foster strategic partnerships.

With his entrepreneurial spirit and passion for empowering the next generation, Joel is poised to lead CPF Manitoba with success and contribute greatly to the CPF Network!

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Remembering Keith Spicer

Canada's First Commissioner
of Official Languages

continued...



CPF is mourning the loss of Keith Spicer, a most important official languages champion, the first Commissioner of Official Languages and the man whose vision brought forward the establishment of our grassroots, volunteer organization in 1977.

It is thanks to Mr. Spicer that Canadian Parents for French came to be. To respond to the demand of parents interested in French language learning opportunities for their children, Mr. Spicer offered to find seed money to organize a national conference of like-minded parents. The result was an event called “Parents’ Conference on French Language and Exchange Opportunities,” which took place in Ottawa in March of 1977.

It was during this weekend-long conference that Canadian Parents for French was officially founded as a volunteer-based advocacy group, a collective of parents who wanted to ensure that children would have the opportunity to become bilingual in the Canadian school system.

As seen in our [CPF How it All Started video](#) (available on the CPF National YouTube channel), the parents who worked directly with him in the seventies share fond memories of how he empowered them to share their voices and how he supported their desire for every Canadian child to have the opportunity to learn

In 1977, Keith Spicer was serving as Canada’s first-ever Commissioner of Official Languages. Interested in the bilingualism of Canada’s youth, he met with groups of parents across Canada who wanted their children to learn French as a second language (FSL) but who ran into roadblocks at the local school boards.

Mr. Spicer's legacy will live on in the bilingual students and citizens living in communities across Canada.



French, regardless of where they lived in the country. He had such a strong vision and he was tenacious in moving projects forward. He was known for his knowledge, dedication and passion, and strived to see a Canada where all of its residents support and appreciate official bilingualism.

Mr. Spicer continued to support CPF, checking in every so often to ask about our challenges and priorities. In 2020, he agreed to conduct interviews to expand our historical archives and he joined our virtual conference delegates who were most delighted to have the opportunity to chat with this official language icon who changed and improved the course of education in Canada.

CPF National office released a formal statement and has communicated with his family on behalf of the CPF Network to share our most sincere condolences. ■

PLUS DE 50 ACTIVITÉS EN LIGNE ET EN PRÉSENCE!

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TD
BLUE MET
METROPOLIS
BLEU
FESTIVAL
ENFANTS CHILDREN
CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH

Canada
 Conseil des arts du Canada
Canada Council for the Arts

Québec
 Montréal
 CONSEIL DES ARTS DE MONTRÉAL

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 ERIC T. WEBSTER FOUNDATION
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CDPQ
 PORT MONTREAL
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 Fondation Jeanne-Esther
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 airCreebec
 CANADIAN NORTH
 FONDATION CULTURELLE QUÉBÉCOISE
 Les libraires
 GALLIMARD
 LE DEVOIR

French-language postsecondary studies...

Is it the right option for my child?

As parents, you have surely guided and supported your children through various stages in their lives. While it is important to constantly provide the best advice to children, the fact is that particular stages are more important than others, and some interventions more critical. Choosing the language in which to pursue postsecondary studies in Canada is precisely one of these pivotal stages in a young person's life.

It is no secret that bilingualism enhances one's professional opportunities. Yet, you may still question whether the skills acquired in high school are sufficient for your child to pursue postsecondary studies in the language of Molière.

To this question, Bethany March brings the most forthright answer: "To anyone tinkering with the idea of pursuing French after high school, just go for it! It is not easy, but it is rewarding. I thought I knew everything about French coming out of high school, but I was quickly humbled in my first year! Over four years, I learned more about the language than I ever could have imagined in grade 12." Jasmine Ferreira also shares Bethany's vision. She states: "It is normal to feel hesitant when facing change. The decision to pursue your studies in a second language takes courage and requires adaptability, but sometimes you must step out of your comfort zone to achieve success."

The good news is that if your child opts for this "daring" alternative, a bursary is there to offer support and motivation. Indeed, since 2019, the Government of Canada mandated the

Association des collèges et universités de la francophonie canadienne (ACUFC) to administer a program that grants bursaries for postsecondary studies in French as a second language. The program aims to encourage young English-speaking high school graduates to pursue postsecondary education in French. This non-renewable bursary, worth \$3,000, can be awarded when your child decides to take at least 50% of courses and associated activities in French, within one of several

postsecondary entities participating in the program.

Since 2019, this bursary has assisted hundreds of students in reducing the financial cost of their postsecondary studies. In that respect, here is what Chris Dick mentions: "The bursary significantly reduced the financial burden of tuition, which allowed me to spend more time on my studies rather than working, and acted as additional incentive to participate in the bilingual program."



"Knowing more languages and expanding one's cultural vision is always an asset, and I would have hated to let all those years of schooling and culture go to waste."

Francesco Balassone
FSL Bursary Recipient

"...French postsecondary studies are a privilege from which you can derive great benefit, both personally and professionally. French postsecondary studies are an investment in yourself, and any extra upfront work can pay dividends in the future and lead to opportunities currently unforeseen."

Chris Dick
FSL Bursary Recipient

FSL BURSARIES ARE AVAILABLE AT

25+ COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ACROSS CANADA IN 2023-2024!

Along with financial benefits that incite students from English-speaking high schools to persist on their pathway to bilingualism, the FSL bursary also intends to recognize the longtime commitment made by parents and children, and acknowledge their mutual efforts. In our opinion, Mahleia Fabian found the most appropriate words to capture this notion: "This bursary is a celebration of all the years I could have left the French language behind, but I didn't."

As Mahleia highlighted so well, becoming bilingual has most certainly required a lot of efforts from your children. Choosing to pursue their postsecondary studies in French would be an excellent means of preserving what they took years to build. In that spirit, Sophia Andia states: "I had been studying in Immersion for most of elementary school and all of high school, and I didn't want to lose the skill after working so hard to develop it." To which Francesco Balassone adds: "Knowing more languages and expanding one's cultural

vision is always an asset, and I would have hated to let all those years of schooling and culture go to waste."

Moreover, all of the recipients of the FSL bursary are well aware of the fact that the decision to pursue their postsecondary studies in French is a winning gamble, which will open new horizons for them in the future. In this respect, Chris Dick mentions: "I would encourage you to remember that French postsecondary studies are a privilege from which you can derive great benefit, both personally and professionally. French postsecondary studies are an investment in yourself, and any extra upfront work can pay dividends in the future and lead to opportunities currently unforeseen." Similarly, Sophia Andia says: "Especially in Canada, being able to speak French is a great asset that will allow you to get a leg up over your competition when searching for jobs."

In addition to expanding their professional opportunities, recipients of the FSL bursary agree on the value of their

experiences during their postsecondary studies in Francophone contexts, both individually and socially. In this regard, Natasha Rebecca Babcock talks about her experience as follows: "The bursary also encouraged me to have faith in myself and my abilities. I have been elected as Vice President of Bilingual Affairs for the UO Global Brigades team for two years in a row, and I am now working at the University of Ottawa in a very bilingual position." And Ryley Nathaniel adds: "I really appreciate how being in a French-speaking context allows me to communicate with people that I would be isolated from if I were unilingual."

Ultimately, there are several benefits to pursuing postsecondary studies in French, along with the bonus of the FSL bursary administered by the ACUFC!

.....
For more information on the FSL bursaries and eligibility criteria, please visit the following link: [ACUFC.ca/boursesFLS](https://acuafc.ca/boursesFLS) ■

It's rewarding to be bilingual!

**\$3,000
bursaries**



Are your children thinking of pursuing postsecondary studies in French?

Available in
 25+ colleges & universities
 across Canada in 2023-2024!

For more info:
[ACUFC.ca/FSLbursaries](https://acuafc.ca/FSLbursaries)



Canada

Meet the New Members of the CPF National Board of Directors



Volunteer and Staff Leaders during the CPF Leaders Networking Event 2023 in Gatineau, QC.



Derrek Bentley
PRESIDENT



Dr. Kate Ashley
VICE PRESIDENT



Salma Al-Saqaal
TREASURER



Diane Tijman
DIRECTOR AT LARGE



Isabelle LeVert-Chlasson
DIRECTOR AT LARGE

The CPF National AGM kicked off the annual CPF Leaders' Networking Event program with topics related to Network governance and strategic planning.



This year's theme was Reimagining CPF 2.0, with important discussions about Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Decolonization: Official and Indigenous Languages Education in Canada.

During the 47th Annual General Meeting held on July 7 in Gatineau, Québec, the Canadian Parents for French (CPF) Network ratified the election of three Directors (one incumbent and two newly elected) to the CPF National Board of Directors, as well as the reelection of Derrek Bentley (Winnipeg, MB) as CPF National President and the election of Dr. Kate Ashley (Kentville, NS) as CPF National Vice-President.

The incumbent director, Diane Tijman (Richmond, BC) returns for a third term. The Board also named returning director Salma Al-Saquaf (Calgary, AB) as Treasurer of the CPF National Board. Two new directors joined the CPF National Board for a two-year term:

- **Isabelle LeVert-Chiasson (Ottawa, ON)** Ms. LeVert-Chiasson is a proud Acadian. She is the Education Program Officer for the Canadian Commission of UNESCO. She also has extensive experience collaborating and building relationships with Indigenous organizations in Canada and with school, university and community associations. As a parent of two, she is passionate about the French language and education opportunities.
- **Kate Ashley (Kentville, NS)** As former president of CPF NS Branch, Dr. Ashley brings a wealth of CPF and French related experience and service. She currently is the Assistant Dean of Arts and Assistant Professor at Acadia University (NS). Dr. Ashley will serve as National Vice-President for 2023-2024.

The CPF National AGM kicked off the annual CPF Leaders' Networking Event program with topics related to Network governance and strategic planning. This year's theme was Reimagining CPF 2.0, with important discussions about Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Decolonization; Official and Indigenous Languages Education in Canada.

"We are looking forward to continuing efforts in achieving our vision of a strong, equitable and resilient Network focused on building shared leadership to support the delivery of the CPF Network's mandate. I would like to welcome our new and returning Board Directors. We are all very excited to see the realization of the reimagined CPF 2.0. I am confident that our diligent Network volunteers and staff leaders will continue to contribute to these important and common goals for the whole organization, and how we may optimize Network collaborations in the year ahead," added Mr. Bentley, CPF National President.

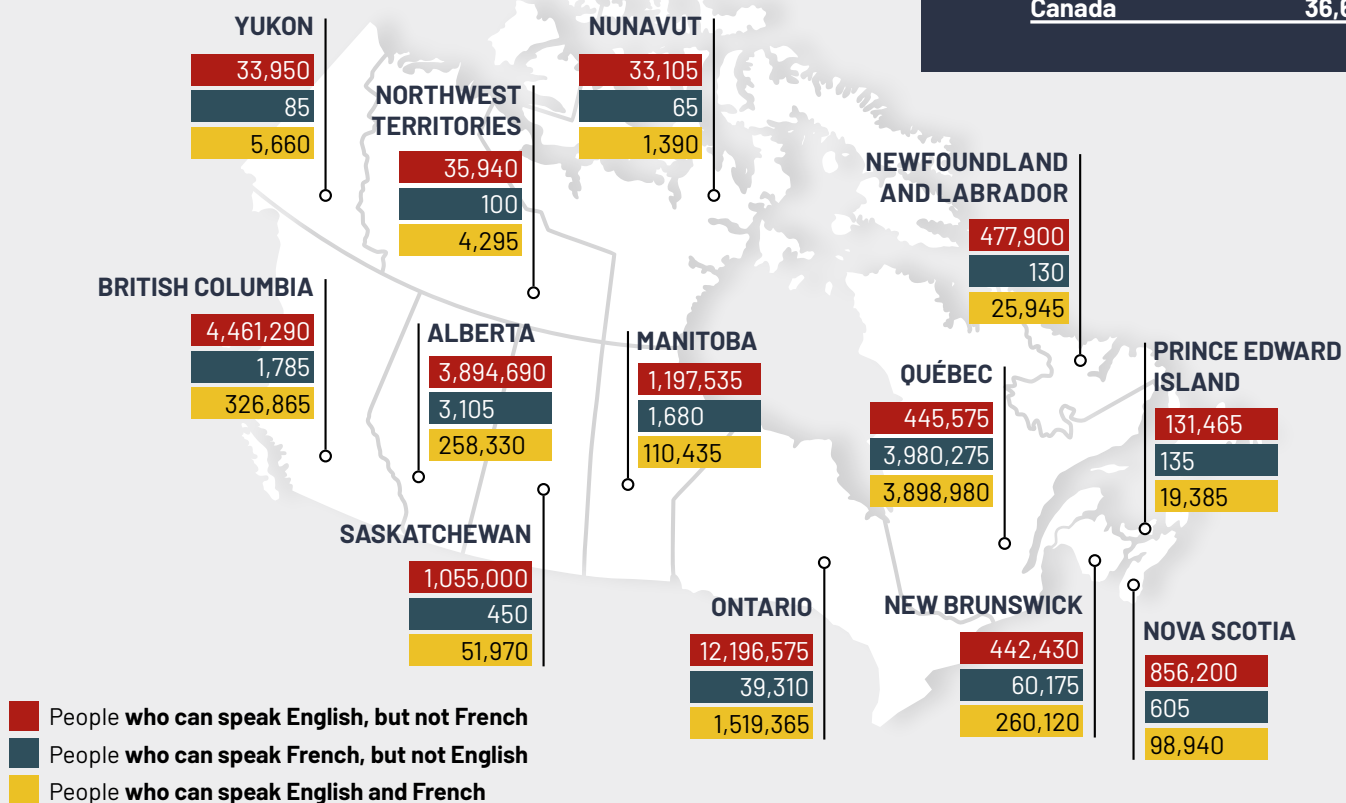
Sincere thanks were extended to Dr. Wendy Carr (BC), Kate Peters (AB) and Larry Vaters (NL) who completed their respective terms on the CPF National Board. ■



Official Languages in CANADA

People who can speak English: **31.8M (87% of population)**

People who can speak French: **10.7M (29% of population)**



TOTAL POPULATION¹

Newfoundland and Labrador	504,805
Prince Edward Island	152,455
Nova Scotia	958,990
New Brunswick	764,630
Quebec	8,406,905
Ontario	14,099,790
Manitoba	1,326,815
Saskatchewan	1,116,045
Alberta	4,221,835
British Columbia	4,951,660
Yukon	39,840
Northwest Territories	40,545
Nunavut	36,645
Canada	36,620,955

ENGLISH IN THE CANADIAN POPULATION

25,261,655

people can speak English, but not French
(69% of population)

27,881,228

people speak English as their first official
language (76.1% of population)

28,948,790

people have English as a mother tongue, or
speak it at home, or use it at work or have
it as a language of instruction at school
(79.7% of population)²

31,843,335

people can speak English
(86.9% of population), including
6,581,680 who can speak both
English and French (18% of population)

FRENCH IN THE CANADIAN POPULATION

4,087,895

people can speak French, but not English
(11.2% of population)

8,066,633

people speak French as their first
official language (22% of population)

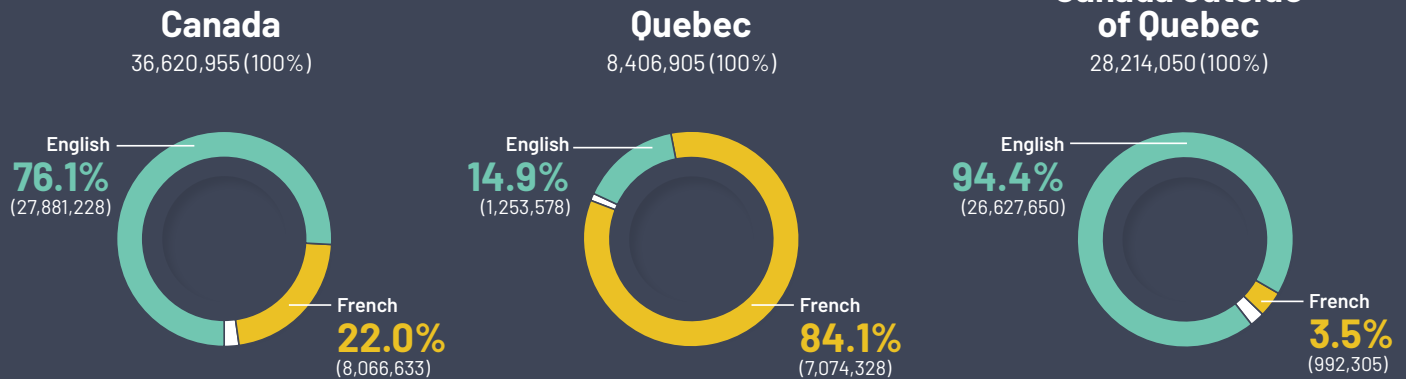
9,405,325

people have French as a mother tongue, or
speak it at home, or use it at work or have
it as a language of instruction at school
(25.9% of population)³

10,669,575

people can speak French
(29.1% of population), including
6,581,680 who can speak both
French and English (18% of population)

TOTAL POPULATION BY FIRST OFFICIAL LANGUAGE SPOKEN



HISTORY

- From time immemorial:** Indigenous peoples have been present in the land that we now call Canada. Their languages, the first spoken in this territory, number more than 70 today.
- 1400s and 1500s:** With the arrival of European fishers, traders and explorers, English, French and other European languages are spoken on the east coast of the territory.
- 1599–1608:** A lasting French presence is established in what will become Canada, notably in Tadoussac (1599), Acadia (1605) and Québec City (1608).
- 1610–1670:** A lasting English presence is established in what will become Canada, notably in Newfoundland (1610) and Hudson Bay (1670).
- 1763:** At the end of the Seven Years' War, New France is ceded to Great Britain.
- 1774:** The *Quebec Act* recognizes the Catholic faith and the French Civil Code in the colony.
- 1791:** The *Constitutional Act* authorizes an elected assembly in Upper Canada (Ontario) and Lower Canada (Quebec), and English and French are recognized as the languages of the legislature of Lower Canada.
- 1848–1849:** The English and French languages are affirmed in the legislature of the Province of Canada (Quebec and Ontario) and in the council of Assiniboia (Manitoba).
- 1867:** The British North America Act is passed. It recognizes English and French as the languages of Parliament and the courts of the new federation of Canada.
- End of the 19th century:** The residential school system, which aimed to assimilate Indigenous peoples by eliminating their languages and cultures, expands across Canada. These institutions, operated primarily in English, though also in French, have a devastating effect on Indigenous languages across the country.
- Beginning of the 20th century:** An increasing number of immigrants who speak other languages come to Canada.
- 1920s and 1930s:** Modest measures are adopted in recognition of federal bilingualism, including bilingual stamps and currency.
- 1969:** Following the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, the Canadian government passes the *Official Languages Act*, which recognizes English and French as the official languages of Canada, affirms their equality in Parliament and the federal courts, gives public servants the right to work in the official language of their choice and creates the position of Commissioner of Official Languages, among other things. New Brunswick passes a similar Act.
- 1982:** The Canadian Constitution is repatriated, with a charter of rights and freedoms that constitutionally recognizes English and French as the official languages of Canada and affirms education language rights for English speakers and French speakers across the country. The new constitution also affirms Indigenous rights and multiculturalism.
- 1988:** The federal *Official Languages Act* is modernized.
- 1990s:** Following the Supreme Court's decision in the *Mahe v Alberta* case, official language minorities across the country are guaranteed control over their schools.
- 2003:** The first action plan for official languages introduces the Government of Canada's five-year strategy on official languages.
- 2019:** The *Indigenous Languages Act* is passed. Its aim is to maintain, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages, including by creating the position of Commissioner of Indigenous Languages. The new Act also affirms that the rights of Indigenous peoples set out in the 1982 Constitution include rights related to their languages.
- 2023:** The federal government again modernizes the *Official Languages Act*.

Sources and notes:

Unless indicated otherwise, all data is from Statistics Canada, Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001, Ottawa.

¹ Population based on knowledge of Canada's official languages

² Data provided by Statistics Canada, from 2021 Census of Population (2A-L). Includes all individuals having English alone or in combination with another language as a mother tongue, or a language spoken at home, or a language used at work or, among school-aged children who could speak English, reside outside Quebec and had never attended a regular French-language school or reside in Quebec and had attended a regular English-language school.

³ Data provided by Statistics Canada, from 2021 Census of Population (2A-L). Includes all individuals having French alone or in combination with another language as a mother tongue, or a language spoken at home, or a language used at work or, among school-aged children who could speak French, reside outside Quebec and had attended a regular French-language school or a French immersion program or reside in Quebec and had never attended a regular English-language school.

For additional information, please see our [Snapshots of official languages in Canada \(2021\)](#).

French Footprints



FAMILIES
CANADA

FAMILLES
CANADA



FSL IN THE EARLY YEARS

**Attention
Early Years
Practitioners:
New Pilot
Project!**

BY DOMINIQUE LABAS, NATIONAL PROJECTS MANAGER, CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH

In partnership with Families Canada and 123 Petits Pas, Canadian Parents for French is excited to announce “French Footprints: FSL in the Early Years” - an innovative pilot project developed to encourage the introduction of French as a Second Language (FSL) programming in early childhood learning!

Purpose

Early learning is a significant time for language acquisition. The early learning and care sector is regularly reviewing pedagogical approaches and practices to achieve the best possible outcomes for children during these critical years.

Bilingualism, and FSL learning opportunities, are proven by research to provide developmental benefits to children both short-term and long-term. As awareness increases around the benefits of FSL learning (cognitive, cultural, economic, social and employment), there continues to be rapidly growing enrollment in FSL programs. In an ongoing effort to promote CPF initiatives and advocate for bilingualism across Canada, it is imperative that we extend our CPF reach and support early childhood education settings by targeting early bilingualism.

This pilot project underscores the importance of connecting early years professionals to intentionally curated FSL resources. By way of this project, our goal is two-fold: development for early years practitioners as it relates to bilingualism and support the value of introducing languages during a child’s formative years.

Project Overview

Designed for English-speaking early years practitioners, this self-guided e-training launching October 2023 takes a holistic approach to provide educators with the confidence, knowledge and skills to deliver FSL learning opportunities within early years environments. Enrollment in this free professional development opportunity will offer participants the following: new professional skills that are transferable into their practice, creative programming ideas

specific to the early years, and a strong sense of community.

“French Footprints: FSL in the Early Years” is comprised of 4 evidence-based modules and has a strong focus on translating theory into practice. This groundbreaking initiative is a specialized training that is built off pedagogically sound language learning processes. Participation in this e-training will equip practitioners with the necessary fundamental tools and strategies to introduce FSL programming to English-speaking children (ages 1 to 6) in a responsive, engaging, and educational way! The four modules include:

1 Linguistic Security: Overcoming Confidence Issues explores the definition of linguistic security, address how it may impact educators and learners, and identify easy-to-implement strategies to build increased linguistic security.

2 How to Introduce French in your Early Years Space: encourages reflection around your unique strengths to successfully introduce French. Recommendations for environment set-up, ideas to introduce French in an exciting and engaging way, and implementable supports to meet the learning needs of children are also included.

3 French Programming and Curriculum: provides exciting activity ideas (for practitioners and children alike) to support literacy and numeracy learning in French. How to incorporate French during daily transitions and how to use the community for learning activities to promote language acquisition.

4 Engaging Others and Extending Your Learning: delves into the importance of engaging parents/families as partners in the French learning journey. Learn how to: share the importance of learning French, address parent concerns/dispel myths about learning the French language, and provide ways for parents to support and extend their

child’s learning outside of the classroom. Recommendations for ways to improve your French and extend your learning.

Early Years Practitioners - Are You Interested?

Fill out our [Expression of Interest Form](#), available at cpf.ca/en/fsl-in-the-early-years to receive project updates and an alert for when training registration opens!

Exclusive Access to Additional Resources

Enrollment will provide participants with exclusive access to unique resources that will extend their newfound knowledge and offer supportive resources to engage children and families in French learning:

Wrap-Up Session with Mme. Amy - Creator of 123 Petits Pas

Discuss your new learnings, share what concepts you had success with implementing into your practice, and identify next steps in your FSL programming journey!

Bébé Bilingue Bags

Receive a complimentary “Bébé Bilingue Bag” packed with resources that will help in introducing French to children and families in a fun way! Items may include a French storybook, activity booklets, colouring book, printouts of Mme. Amy’s resources and more!

Financial Incentives

Participants who exhibit authentic participation and successfully complete the training may be eligible for a financial grant provided by CPF.

Join us, as we embark on a transformative professional learning journey to champion bilingualism and make a positive, lasting impact in the lives of young children across the country! ■



Celebrate Halloween with a twist!

BY MARISE GUAY, LANGUAGE PORTAL OF CANADA



THIS ARTICLE WAS FIRST PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 17, 2022, IN THE LANGUAGE PORTAL OF CANADA'S OUR LANGUAGES BLOG. A TRANSLATION BUREAU INITIATIVE, THE LANGUAGE PORTAL PROVIDES CANADIANS WITH A WIDE RANGE OF RESOURCES TO HELP THEM COMMUNICATE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH, AND PUBLISHES WEEKLY ARTICLES BY LANGUAGE LOVERS ON THE OUR LANGUAGES BLOG. <https://www.noslangues-ourlanguages.gc.ca/en/blogue-blog/feter-differemment-halloween-with-twist-eng>



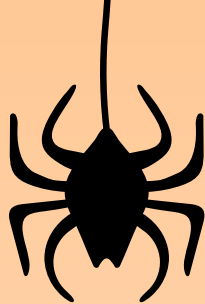
The pandemic forced us to rethink certain traditions. In my family, in recent years, Halloween has become one of those holidays that we celebrate with the people in our own social bubble. Rather than heading out into the neighbourhood to trick-or-treat, my kids and their friends are treated to a scavenger hunt with lots of fun challenges, including some language related ones! Here are a few games for you to try (especially with candy as a reward)!

Magic potion

A witch reads a story about a magic potion and tells the children the ingredients needed to make it. The children have to listen carefully and memorize the ingredients so they can collect as many of them as possible afterward. You can adjust the list of ingredients according to the children's ages and what you have around you: for example, a crumpled maple leaf, a small pine cone or a shiny rock.

Creepy candy store

With some play dough, cardboard, crayons and lots of imagination, the creepy candy store can open its doors! The kids form two teams. First, they make some scary treats with the play dough. Then, they have to come up with names for them that suggest foul flavours and harmful effects. They write the names on pieces of cardboard, then arrange everything on a table and welcome the judges, who must award first prize to the person who created the most horrifying treat. Last year's winners were "radioactive licorice that gives you the giggles" and "acidic trash taffy that melts your teeth."



Hangman

Have you ever played Hangman? Players have to guess a word one letter at a time. If they guess a letter that isn't in the word, their opponent draws a part of a stick person hanging from the gallows. Players must find the word before the diagram is completed. For Halloween, find a place to create an "executioner's square." The game can be played in the driveway with sidewalk chalk, on a large window with erasable markers, etc. Each word is a clue to the next task: "find," "spiders," "yard," "witch." Have your neighbour dress as a witch and wait for the kids in the neighbour's yard, where spiders are hidden.

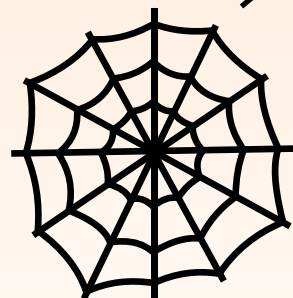
The spider scramble

The witch's yard is infested with peculiar spiders! Some have green cards, others have red ones, and each card has a syllable written on it. The children have to find the critters, then put the syllables together to solve the "spider scramble." The green cards form two-syllable words for children who are just learning to read (for example, zom-bie, can-dy or mon-ster), while the red cards form words with three or more syllables (for example, ce-me-te-ry, ske-le-ton or Frank-en-stein). To make the game easier, syllables that fit together can be written in the same colour.



These games can also be adapted to the children's second language. Naturally, the scavenger hunt should involve tasks that allow the children to stretch their legs. Jumping over pretend snakes made out of ropes, running a relay race with a witch's broom and playing hopscotch while pretending that some of the squares are molten lava are great ways for them to burn some energy. At the end of the hunt, when the children look under a pile of leaves, they find a box containing bags of candy with their names on them—and a new toothbrush, of course!

In your family, what are your kids' favourite language games? And which ones do you like best? ■



ARE YOU EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED?

BY RHÉA DUFRESNE, CHILDREN'S AUTHOR, AND TRANSLATED BY SIMON DE JOCAS, OWNER, *LES 400 COUPS*

Going back to school can be the unexpected... Who will be my teacher? In which class will I find myself? Will there be any new students? In short, it's a moment that can be full of surprises. For those who don't read children's literature, they often think it's as simple as one two three. That picture books are just made up of conventional stories or to help put children to sleep, without anything unexpected. Quite the opposite of the first day back to school. These same people will tell you that just with the cover or the title of the book, they can see it coming. That they, "adults" with life experience, know where the story will lead them... but nay (I like this expression, I don't use it often enough!), albums can be quite a surprise and turn out to be bewildering and unexpected!

To convince you, like Hercule Poirot working his little gray cells, let us proceed with order and method (and immediately destroy the notes which prove the complete opposite!) and talk to you, on the one hand, about substance and, on the other hand, about form.

The substance is obviously the content, the story and everything related to it. In this sense, some titles immediately pick your curiosity. Your eyes glide over the cover and, spontaneously, you are challenged. This is the case of *Le livre où la poule meurt à la fin* (François Blais and Valérie Boivin). You don't expect a title to tell you the end of the

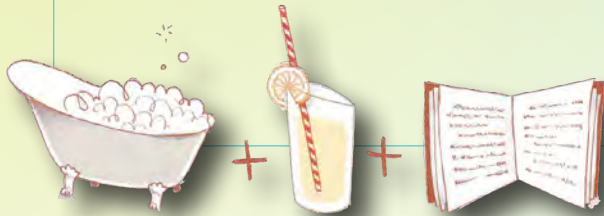
story straight away... and yet! Here is a suggested reading, accompanied by a hint of adrenaline, the result of this question that goes round and round in your head: is this hen really going to die at the end? We know, you wish you had the answer... but no. We won't say anything except that this album, which deals with overconsumption with offbeat humor, is quite delightful.

Same goes with *Papi est un gros menteur* (Jean-Baptiste Drouot) or *Touche pas à mon corps*, Tatïe Jacotte! (Thierry Lenain and Stéphane Poulin). At the sight of the first, one wonders: what is

this story where the title is an insult? This grandpa seems quite friendly... Is he really lying to his granddaughter? As for the second, making an injunction a title is surprising. Makes you want to immediately discover the context. So what is going on between Tatïe Jacotte and this little girl for the latter to have to assert herself in this way?

For others, it happens once the book cover is open. For example, in *As-tu vu ma bicyclette?* (Roxanne Brouillard and Giulia Sagrarnola), you can't expect to open a book where the narrator will have a hard time telling his story... constantly





interrupted by whoever should be listening. It's inventive and fun. We could also mention *Le gros appétit de Thomas Petit* (Raymond Plante and Audrey Malo), where a boy has an excessive appetite. So excessive he'll even swallow a bowler hat, including the little man underneath the hat. The unexpected is on the agenda with this colorful character, and the little man who has taken up residence in his belly and who, against all logic, does not wish to leave it, but rather settle there to give great shows to his audience.

The unexpected can also happen through the characters themselves. In *Chère Traudi* (Anne Villeneuve), a true story that takes place under the German occupation, where the soldier who takes possession of the young narrator's house cannot be anything other than an enemy, of course. And yet, when an event comes to overturn his perception of this man, the story is changed, and by the same token, your view of the situation. Or what about *Un cheveu sur la soupe* (Alex Noguès and Guridi) where, hold on tight, not only of a hair in the soup, but of a little man proudly wearing a bowler hat will upset the meal of a whole family, for our greatest pleasure, it goes without saying.



Let's talk about the climax now, since this is very often where the unexpected happens. In *752 lapins* (François Blais and Valérie Boivin), you believe you are in the classic story of a princess saddened by the loss of one of her rabbits that she ardently wishes to find and suddenly, François's quick-witted surprise us with a crescendo which, admittedly, while it's going to give many a smile, it may also shock a few! And if the unexpected is often funny, it can also be moving. In *Mia et la mer* (Jaime Gamboa and Roger Ycaza), you witness a little girl's first trip to see the sea described to her by her father again and again. The story takes its course, and while you rejoice in the arrival of the two travelers on the shore, you are told a detail that changes your perspective, and a small tear will surely shine on the side of your eye.

So much unexpected can be found with content, but the unexpected can also come from the form a book takes. First



in mind : the leporellos, these marvelous accordion books including, among others, *Dans ma ruelle, il y a...* (Mélanie Perreault and Julien Castanié) and *Dans mon sapin, il y a...* (Mélanie Perreault and Maurèen Poignonec) that allows for a completely different treatment to the story and an unusual reading experience for little hands. Perspectives can also bring the unexpected, as in *Rêvasser au soleil* (Urszula Palusinska). Taken from the bird's-eye view or the ant's point of view, these illustrations offer you a completely original low-angle perspective. Imagine yourself lying on your back, in the sun or under the moon, what do you see?

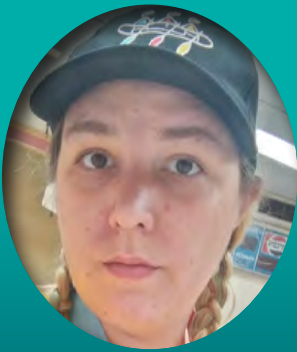
All these surprises, throughout the pages of all these books, are just waiting to be discovered... Come and dive in! Live the unexpected! ■

Embracing Culture and Unity

Volunteers from Canadian Parents for French at NAIG 2023



BY NAJAH DHUNY, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, CPF NOVA SCOTIA



"This was my first and possibly the only opportunity I will ever have to be surrounded by other indigenous people. I wanted to be part of this impressive demonstration of culture and sport."

— Stacy Nadeau

The summer of 2023 brought forth a remarkable convergence of Indigenous athletes, culture, and unity as the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) took centre stage in Nova Scotia. More than 5,000 athletes, coaches, and team staff from over 756 Indigenous Nations came together to celebrate, share, and reconnect through the power of sports and culture. Founded in the 1970s, the North American Indigenous Games seeks to empower Indigenous youth in communities across the continent.

At the heart of this event were dedicated volunteers from the Nova Scotia Branch of Canadian Parents for French. This remarkable event showcased not only the prowess of young athletes but also the power of community and collaboration.

Stacy's Journey: A cultural immersion

For Stacy Nadeau, Office Manager and Camp Coordinator at Canadian Parents for French, Nova Scotia, who is of Métis descent, NAIG 2023 was not just a sports event, but a chance to reconnect with her indigenous roots and foster a sense of belonging that transcended generations. As she puts it, "This was my first and possibly the only opportunity I will ever have to be surrounded by other indigenous people. I wanted to be part of this impressive demonstration of culture and sport."

Stacy's volunteer roles spanned from seating her home province of New Brunswick during the opening ceremonies to being a field attendant for various sporting events. She also played a crucial role participating in the opening ceremony as well as being a cultural demonstrator assistant, helping cultural animators and Elders with their instruments and regalia, all the while experiencing the stories and history of the Mi'kmaq culture.

Her fluency in both English and French served as a bridge between diverse athletes, helping her create connections and understanding. Stacy's contribution not only aligned perfectly with CPF's mission but also epitomized the essence of the event — fostering a deeper understanding of culture and appreciation of language.

Rebecca's Reflections: A Commitment to Diversity

Rebecca Lancaster, Executive Director of CPF Nova Scotia found herself drawn to volunteering at NAIG 2023 because of her



daughter's previous involvement with the 2020 event. The event's rescheduling to 2023 only increased her commitment to participate.

Rebecca's role as a volunteer in accommodations allowed her to welcome athletes and coaches, guide them through check-in processes, and provide them with information about the venues and event details. Her participation not only showcased the spirit of Nova Scotia but also highlighted the importance of linguistic inclusivity. Information and communications were provided in English, French, and Mi'kmaq, truly reflecting the diversity of the athletes.

Collaboration for Inclusion and Unity

Encouraging its members and employees to embrace the spirit of volunteering, CPF Nova Scotia, played a vital role in connecting cultures and celebrating diversity.

At NAIG 2023, where over 3,000 volunteers lent their support, Alex Cherry, Volunteer Services Manager, revealed that an impressive 13% of them were comfortable contributing in French. This linguistic inclusivity not only underscores Canada's bilingual essence but also underscores the organization's commitment to fostering understanding and unity.

The experiences of Stacy and Rebecca are a testament to the power of unity, cultural pride, and shared commitment. This celebration of youth, culture, and language holds the promise of creating a more inclusive and diverse society for the generations to come. ■

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Jeu des 7 différences

Alakazoum! de Jean Leroy et Maylee Keo

Présenté par Les 400 coups

Instructions: Repère les 7 différences entre les deux illustrations. Surtout, amuse-toi!

Illustration originale



Trouve les différences dans cette illustration



4. Il manque une frange au tapis
5. La citrouille est entière
6. Sur le foyer, le bougeoir est inversé
7. Sur la toile présentant des plantes, il manque des feuilles à la tige de la sixième plante

Solutions :
1. Le portrait d'Ismaël est inversé
2. Le crayon turquoise est plutôt violet
3. Il n'y a pas de barbouillage sur le dessin du sanglier

editions 400 coups . com

The method that decodes the language.

• read. • write. • speak • understand



*"Nous n'avons aucun doute que
votre méthode réussit là où
elle est mise en œuvre."*

*- Direction des politiques et programmes
d'éducation en langue française
Ministère de l'éducation, ON*



• lire. • écrire. • parler • comprendre

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