

CPE Magazine

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH

WINTER 2023

\$6.95 • FREE FOR MEMBERS

**Literacy
Connections
Through Food
Storytelling**

**MEET THE
RECIPIENT
OF THE 2022
PRIX IDELLO**

**CELEBRATING
THE JOURNEY TO
MULTILINGUALISM**



Winning with French: Where Are They Now?

Discover inspiring stories of French as a second language graduates! New videos featuring graduates from Quebec are now available: Meet Avery the entrepreneur, Melissa the dance studio owner, and The Honourable Mahmad Jamul, a justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Stay tuned as new stories of graduates from Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are released this year.

Visit wherearetheynow.ca



An initiative of



CANADIAN
PARENTS
FOR FRENCH

www.cpf.ca



CANADIAN
PARENTS
FOR FRENCH

MY RAISON D'ÊTRE

is empathetically guiding students to brighter futures while celebrating other cultures. Teaching in French lets me do it.

TeachInFrench.ca



Dylan Trerice
Middle School
Immersion Teacher

CONTRIBUTORS

Inna Figotina, Karine Desserre-Pezé,
Marcos Salaiza and other authors and
organizations, as noted in their articles.

EDITORIAL MANAGER

Marcos Salaiza

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Stripe Graphics Ltd.

PRINTING

Trico Packaging and Print Solutions

SUBMISSIONS

Canadian Parents for French
1104 - 170 Laurier Ave. W.
Ottawa, ON K1P 5V5
(613) 235-1481, www.cpf.ca

Advertising: Cathy Stone
Canadian Parents for French
Email: advertise@cpf.ca

CPF Magazine is published three times per
year for members of Canadian Parents for
French. Our readership includes parents
of students learning French as a second
language, French language teachers,
school board or district staff, and provincial,
territorial and federal government staff
responsible for official languages education.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

To signal a change of address,
contact Canadian Parents for French
at (613) 235-1481, or email:
cpf.magazine@cpf.ca

Editorial material contained in this
publication may not be reproduced
without permission.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40063218
Return undeliverable mail to Canadian
Parents for French at the address above.

To become an online subscriber, email
cpf.magazine@cpf.ca. For an online version
of this issue, visit www.cpf.ca.



CANADIAN
PARENTS
FOR FRENCH

WINTER 2023

Table of Contents

FEATURES

- 3 Let's Talk Science Is Here To Help Youth Find A Greener Career Pathway
- 8 Literacy Connections Through Food Storytelling
- 10 OCOL Infographic: Let's Talk Bilingualism
- 16 Celebrating the Journey to Multilingualism

REGULAR ARTICLES

- 2 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
- 6 CPF PROJECTS
C'est moi le chef : Practise French While Cooking!
- 12 *Un séjour à Québec*, Thanks to the WIGUP Club!
- 14 CPF PARTNERS
Meet Tanya Campbell, Recipient of the 2022 Prix IDÉLLO
- 18 CPF ADVOCACY
Advocacy in Action: Saving French Immersion in New Brunswick
- 20 KEY CPF CONTACTS ACROSS CANADA
- 21 CPF ADVOCACY WORKSHEET

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.

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Canada

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Et nous voilà, it's 2023! It's a new year and at the CPF Network we are thrilled with the opportunities that come along with this new chapter that is starting. We are already hard at work, addressing important issues but also looking at ways to provide opportunities for youth to use French while ensuring everyone that calls Canada home, has a chance to learn French.

This first issue of 2023 includes several updates on projects, resources and articles from our partners. Since last fall, New Brunswick has been making the headlines as the provincial government is trying to abolish French immersion. Be sure to read the article on **page 18** to learn how the CPF New Brunswick Branch has been addressing that issue.

I also invite you to meet Madame Tanya Campbell, the recipient of the *IDÉLLO* Prize 2022 in the FSL Teacher in an English School category and learn more about the prize and our partnership with *IDÉLLO* on **page 14**.



We hope that you enjoy this first issue of the year. As usual you will also find resources to keep French at home and even a useful advocacy worksheet. As we start unveiling our programming this year, please stay connected to find out about our different opportunities, by following us on social media: facebook.com/CanadianParentsforFrench and twitter.com/cpfnational.

Thank you for your engagement and commitment to our mandate. I wish you health and prosperity in 2023. *Merci et à bientôt!* ■

Derrek Bentley

DERREK BENTLEY
CPF NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Université d'Ottawa | University of Ottawa

FRENCH IMMERSION at uOttawa



The next step in bilingual education!

- French immersion available in 75 undergraduate programs
- All FSL students are eligible
- Special courses to make the transition to bilingual university studies
- An extra \$1,000 per year for studying bilingually
- An authentic bilingual environment in Canada's capital

immersion@uOttawa.ca
www.immersion.uOttawa.ca

 **uOttawa**

Bienvenue dans l'équipe!



Join us in welcoming **Chris Collins** to the team! Chris is the new Branch Executive Director of Canadian Parents for French New Brunswick. He has more than 25 years of sales and public service experience, including most recently as the Principal for Atlantic Canada for Aurora Strategies. Prior to

this, Chris served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, as a provincial cabinet minister, and as speaker of the New Brunswick Legislative Assembly. He has also served as a municipal Councillor for the City of Moncton, held several sales roles for Atlantic Canada, and has held a number of volunteer and philanthropic positions on volunteer boards.

Chris started with CPF in October and faced his first task: to respond to the Government of New Brunswick's plan to abolish French immersion.

Read more about this on page 18. ■

Let's Talk Science

Is Here To Help Youth Find A Greener Career Pathway

BY KENDRA BROWN, CONTRIBUTING WRITER, LET'S TALK SCIENCE





But First... A Reality Check

It has been a year of unprecedented climate-related disasters and broken temperature records. Oceans are warming, ice and snow are diminishing, and sea levels are rising. Our planet is in trouble. The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), set up by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Program, clearly states the undisputed role of human influence on the climate system. Yet, it also shows that human actions still have the potential to determine the future course of climate.

Let's Ensure That The Future Is A Good One.

We can do this by helping students continue to be innovators, problem-solvers and changemakers as they move from classroom to career. Climate anxiety, or eco-anxiety, is real—and sadly, at an all-time high among youth. But this anxiety can be eased when young people know they can make an impact through their STEM education and the career paths they choose.

Setting Everyone Up For Success

We know that a STEM education, along with the diverse set of skills, knowledge and values that come with it, encourages students to be innovators and problem-solvers through creativity and collaboration. A STEM education empowers young people to take action and make positive change in their schools, in their communities and on a global scale. Ultimately, it sets all of us—and the future of our planet—up for success.



Lacey Rose
County Forester



Joel Stacey
Construction Superintendent



Chelsea Dyck
Journeyman Electrician



Ryan Mitchell
Hatchery Supervisor

Yes, you can be an accountant or a designer and make a difference! The new green economy is all about coming together to contribute to a more sustainable world.

Greener Careers

The shift towards green careers is well underway. And this is great news for youth setting out on their career path. Green jobs already span a wide range of industries, from nature conservation and renewable energy to fashion and finance.

Yes, you can be an accountant or a designer and make a difference! The new green economy is all about coming together to contribute to a more sustainable world. Whether it's in the skilled trades industry as an **electrician** or **construction superintendent** or in the forestry industry as a **county forester** or

hatchery supervisor, you can bring your skills to the green table and contribute in a meaningful way. The opportunities to make change are endless.

Climate heroes start with fun STEM activities. Fuel discovery and innovation while creating unmissable memories with our suite of bilingual and free activities. ■

Find your free adventure!



Tomorrow's innovators start with fun **STEM** activities today.

Discover the options →



let's talk **science**



**C'est Moi
Le Chef!**

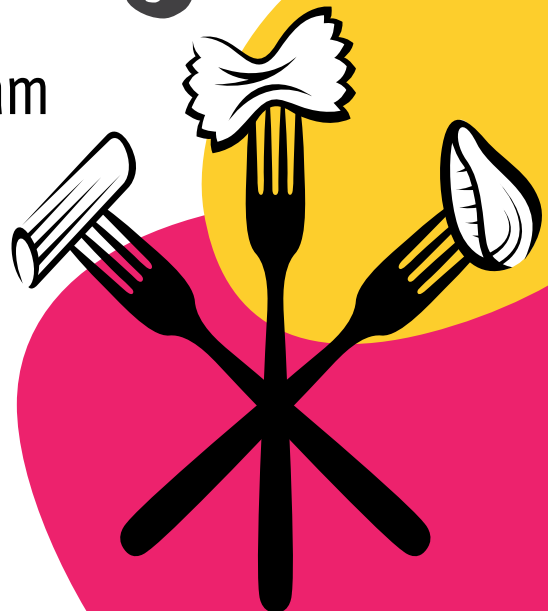


*C'est moi
le chef:*



**Practise French
While Cooking!**

Last year CPF launched a pilot program with *C'est moi le chef*, an organization that offers online cooking workshops where kids learn to cook while developing their curiosity, all in French!



Students get to cook tasty and delicious recipes focus on vegetable based and seasonal products, all while discovering international cuisine. They explore food and discover how to eat well while respecting the planet. In addition to improving their physical and mental health they dare to step out of their comfort zone, develop their creativity and open their mind to the world, *en français*.

CPF was thrilled to add the **C'est moi le chef** pilot to its programming as it provides students with an opportunity to learn French in a new environment, discover new vocabulary, develop cooking skills and have fun!

Benefits of C'est moi le chef's cooking workshops:

- Practise French in a playful and concrete way
- Acquire food knowledge and cooking skills
- Improve their physical and mental health
- Develop their independence in the kitchen
- Increase their confidence and self-esteem

The workshops are completely in French but hosted by a bilingual team as it requires parent interaction. The sessions are designed for French immersion students but open to kids in all FSL programs, 8 years and up. CPF received great feedback from parents. Read below what some of the little chefs and parents had to say.

The **C'est moi le chef** workshops are one-hour long and include easy and fast recipes that kids can prepare with the help of their parents. These are a few examples of the meals that were prepared last year:

- Vegetable stuffed shell pasta
- Sweet potato quesadillas
- General Tao and bok choy cabbage
- Chickpea curry and chapati bread
- Chocolate fondant

“

We really enjoyed the sessions. My son looked forward to it every week. – Marie A. (Manitoba)

“

Great instructor - she worked hard to genuinely connect to the kids and motivate them. – Myrina R. (Saskatchewan)

“

There were three things I particularly loved! But in no particular order. The ways of incorporating healthy, high protein but not meat, foods into recipes that were very kid-friendly, especially the black-bean brownies. That the chef (instructor) was so incredibly warm and welcoming, and made each child feel successful and special. And, that my child's special needs did not cause any problems whatsoever. He was able to show her modifications that allowed for his limited food acceptance and for family allergies. Some of these quite fundamentally changed the recipes, but instead of trying to make him comply with her plan, she offered to help him make his plan successful. – Corrie K. (Ontario)

“

I enjoyed that the recipes were a variety of food types. Recipes were provided in both English and French and that the live instructions were in French, I was happily surprised that the kids were able to follow along as well as they did. – Sandra S. (Ontario)



A **C'est moi le chef** workshop was offered during the 2022 CPF Virtual Member Conference. With almost 30 participants, the session was one of the highlights of the successful conference. During the session, kids and parents got to make Bannock bread, which is a traditional Indigenous food. Besides making the recipe, participants got the chance to learn about this food, *en français*.



Literacy Connections THROUGH Food Storytelling



BY LISA TROUT, FRENCH IMMERSION TEACHER AND CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR

This article was first published on October 31, 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.

www.noslangues-ourlanguages.gc.ca/en/blogue-blog/cuisine-et-langues-food-and-literacy-eng

Food brings people together. It nourishes and connects the community. And as a child in an immersion program, I discovered how food can play an important role even in language learning.

When I was little, learning French didn't come easy. I often asked my parents to transfer me to the English program. Learning French in an English-speaking community

was difficult, but my mom kept my heritage close by bringing me into the kitchen.

Making French-Canadian recipes was where I practised the French language and listened to stories of my past. Interacting with my mom in the kitchen allowed me to continue to share these stories and recipes with my children and students today.

Real-world learning

The main challenge for second language development occurs when the students use the language within a limited scope, rather than using these skills to carry out real-world actions¹. When children are learning a new language, hands-on activities and real-world experiences are much more impactful than theory alone². Cooking with students is hands-on, integrated, and meaningful. The stories told during cooking provide students with increased vocabulary, connecting them to a rich history and giving them a purpose for learning these concepts.

Engagement in an immersive environment motivates students to learn another language, and cooking helps the children engage. My best memories as a teacher were with my mom, listening to her French fingerplays and songs, giggling with her, and being her sous chef through the recipe demonstrations that kept my students hanging on every word she said. I found it fascinating how she kept the students engaged the entire time in French.

Intergenerational connections

Teaching children to cook isn't new, but surprisingly, building intergenerational connections through cooking is a newer concept³. The intergenerational connections developed through storytelling and cooking experiences, especially in the early years, are an essential "soft skill" that has many significant ties to culture and second language learning.³

Sources

- 1 Seedhouse, P., Heslop, P., Kharrufa, A., Ren, S., & Nguyen, T. (2019). *The Linguacuisine Project: A Cooking-Based Language Learning Application*. The EUROCALL Review, 27(2), 75–97.
- 2 Beck, A. M., Nielsen, S. B., & Bjørnsbo, K. S. (2021). *Grandchildren's food workshop: Impact of an intergenerational cooking program on dietary habits, food courage, cooking skills, and two-way interaction in Danish children and their grandparents*. Nutrition and Health (Berkhamsted), 27(4), 413–421
- 3 Carstensen, L., Larson, C., & Freedman, M. (2016). *Hidden in Plain Sight: How Intergenerational Relationships Can Transform Our Future*. Retrieved March 12, 2022.

Ways to get started

Unfortunately, cooking in an elementary school is difficult. Elementary schools lack the resources needed, such as space, tools, and ingredients. I understand first-hand how difficult food storytelling experiences are to implement in a school setting. Through my Master of Education program, I have developed the Calgary Food Storytelling Initiative to bring these experiences closer to our students, providing increased opportunities in an elementary setting.

You too can make use of food storytelling. Taking that first step is the most important thing, whether the activity is classroom-based or school-wide.

Food storytelling: The way of the future

Learning another language isn't easy. It takes a community to raise a child. Our older generations have many gifts to give and stories to tell. Learning from our past can generate interest, motivation, and passion for our students as they build connections with each other and learn a new language.

COVID-19 has isolated many. Learning from our past through traditional storytelling and recipes can bring us together again. Connection and themed integration will be critical educational components for our students in a post-COVID world.

What small step could you take today in your classroom or school that could foster positive intergenerational relationships through food and storytelling? ■



Food Storytelling Recipe

Below are a few ideas to get you started.

1. Ask students to share

Have students share their family stories, pictures, or heritage recipes with the class, to improve verbal skills.

2. Invite grandparents

Ask grandparents within the community to come and share their stories or cook some recipes together. I use the staff kitchen for these activities. Alternatively, keep the cooking task within the classroom, and make a recipe that doesn't need a stove. Or possibly assemble the recipe first, and then send a couple of volunteers to the kitchen to finish. Once the dish is complete, enjoy the meal together while sharing stories.

3. Use technology

Invite older generations to join your class on a video call if they have mobility challenges. Students can interview them, or they could walk the students through a recipe made in the classroom or kitchen in real time.

4. Maximize language learning

Read recipes together and ask questions to build comprehension. Make themed recipes such as spring chocolate pudding to increase vocabulary, or "print" out alphabet pancakes.

5. Use community resources

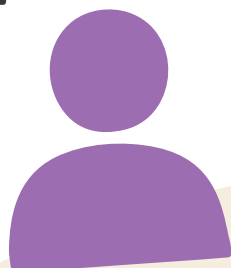
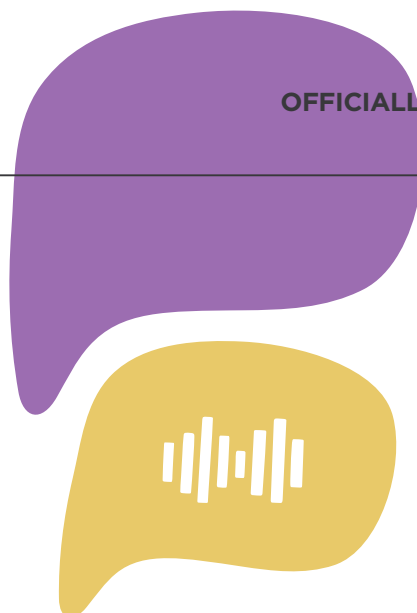
Connect students with retired adults who have specialized training in areas such as growing a garden or building garden boxes. Then make a recipe using ingredients from the garden. Within the Calgary Food Storytelling Initiative, we pair the skills of the older generation with the needs of our students. Likewise, students have acquired skills, such as computer skills or video use, that an older adult may be eager to learn.



Office of the
Commissioner of
Official Languages

Commissariat
aux langues
officielles

OFFICIALLANGUAGES.GC.CA



PODCAST

LET'S TALK BILINGUALISM!

The Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages' three-part podcast series focuses on the experiences of young bilingual Canadians who talk about the benefits and challenges of living in two official languages!

HERE'S A SNEAK PEAK OF WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY:

...when I reached high school, I realized I could have fun in French and have nice conversations in French and it opened up a world of opportunities I wouldn't have had if I only spoke English.

EMMA DREHER (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

I think other people could make more of an effort to maybe understand others rather than expecting everyone to communicate their best because that isn't the option always.

JOLANTA BIRD (SASKATCHEWAN)

I know we hear it a lot, but it's really an asset to speak both languages and understand both languages, not only for the language itself but also for the culture that goes with it, because the cultures are different, especially in Canada.

VINCENT MÉNARD (QUÉBEC)

I think the value in learning any language is connecting with people, having that deeper level of connection and really being able to communicate with people. That's something I truly value, but, specifically, Canada's two official languages is, I think, a huge part of it is acknowledging and maintaining Canada's heritage.

ANJANA BALACHANDRAN (ONTARIO)

Sometimes I'm searching for words and I feel like I'm not good enough to be a Francophone.

EMILY GREENE (NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR)

CHECK IT OUT!

Un séjour à Québec thanks to the WIGUP CLUB!



The WIGUP Club is a successful program, offered by CPF last year, that encourages students to create content online *en français* with the help of a mentor. Students in the program have access to a secure online platform where they complete tasks and connect with other FSL students.

Last year, as part of the Club activities CPF launched a contest to reward students for their hard work. By completing tasks and activities throughout the session, students were entered into a draw for a chance to win a trip to Quebec City. The winner was Leah from Surrey, British Columbia. Leah had been in the WIGUP Club for two years and was thrilled to find out she was the winner and that she'd be travelling to Quebec City to use her French!

The WIGUP Club was originally offered by CPF as an alternative to the Virtual Tutoring Club, both programs provide an opportunity for children to practise their French outside of the classroom and from the comfort of home, with the Club focusing more on the creative and social aspects of learning a language. CPF continues to deliver programs that encourage youth to continue learning French and to motivate them to use the language. For more opportunities like this, stay connected to your local Chapter and Branch and visit cpf.ca.

From September 1 to 9, Leah and her parents travelled to Quebec City. Learn more about their experience in their own words*:

When we knew she won the trip this year, we were so excited that she won and most importantly, that she was getting a chance to use her French in Quebec. We managed to see a lot of things! We spent one day in the *Musée de la civilisation* which has several unique hands-on exhibits and digital workshops for kids in French. The walk was very pleasant in the trail of the Montmorency Falls. We also crossed the bridge to take pictures of the waterfall with different view angles. The *Aquarium du Québec* is also one of the kids' favourites because they can touch sea stars and watched feeding shows of polar bears, arctic foxes and others. Besides Quebec City, we also drove to Montreal and visited our family members and friends that we hadn't seen in 8 years. We were totally immersed in the French culture and hope to go back soon. Merci! – Yi-Ching, Leah's mother

J'ai aimé le musée mieux que l'aquarium et le Parc de la Chute-Montmorency. Pendant la première nuit à l'hôtel Château Laurier, j'ai reçu un livre sur le Québec et un sac avec des bonbons, des pailles et un chiffon pour nettoyer les lunettes. J'ai visité le Vieux-Québec pour acheter des souvenirs. Mon souvenir est un collier avec une pierre qui s'appelle "Howlite". Les repas au Québec avaient beaucoup de produits laitiers, mais il y avait beaucoup de nourriture délicieuse, comme les côtes levées chez St-Hubert. J'ai visité Montréal, je suis allé faire du karting avec ma famille, c'était la première fois que je conduisais. J'ai aussi rendu visite à ma tante, à mon oncle et à des amis de mes parents. – Leah

*Testimonials were edited for clarity purposes.



C'est prouvé!

WIGUP.tv développe :

- la **motivation** des élèves
- les **compétences** globales
- le **respect** des autres
- la **littératie numérique**
- l'**autonomie**
- une **passion** pour la vie

Contribuez à implanter la **plateforme internationale WIGUP.tv** dans votre pays d'origine!

It's proven!

WIGUP.tv develops:

- Students' **Motivation** •
- Global **Skills** •
- Respect** of others •
- Digital Literacy** •
- Autonomy** •
- Their **Passion** in Life •

Help bring the **WIGUP.tv international platform** to your country of origin!



@info@balestra.tv
 www.WIGUP.tv

MEET Tanya Campbell Recipient of the 2022 *Prix IDÉLLO*

In November TFO announced the winners of the **Prix IDÉLLO 2022**, an excellence award aimed at recognizing the innovation and passion of education professionals. Since 2021, Canadian Parents for French is the sponsor of the French as a Second Language Teacher in an English School category, which recognizes dedicated teachers committed to their students, working in French immersion, core French, and extended French programs.

The 2022 recipient is **Tanya Campbell**, a core French teacher at Mary Jane Shannon and Lena Shaw Elementary Schools in Surrey, BC. Madame Campbell's zest for life, generosity and dedication to the power of nature set her apart from the other nominees. Her colleagues describe her as energetic, inspiring and thoughtful. It is her enthusiasm for making an impact in her students' lives that drives her lessons.

Madame Campbell's goal in the classroom is to instill joy in the French language and culture while honouring and respecting all the languages that her students speak at home. One of the most important aspects for her is to connect with students and to help them in their journey learning French. As a core French teacher, she is aware of this program's goal and its importance as a source to learn and experience another language.

As part of her prize, Madame Campbell received \$1,000 to better equip her work environment and further the development of her students. Additionally, CPF sponsors the winner to attend a teacher conference of their choice, either the one organized by the *Association Canadienne*

des professionnels de l'immersion (ACPI) or by the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT). In the case of Madame Campbell, she will attend the CASLT conference in Toronto in March.

“We warmly congratulate these five winners and thank them for their participation. We look forward to seeing what they do next and continuing to support them in their creative, innovative and much-needed journey,”
said TFO in a statement.

The *Prix IDÉLLO*

recognizes teachers' outstanding work, their passion for their profession, and innovation in educational activities. It pays tribute to teachers working in immersion, core and extended French programs who are dedicated to their students. **IDÉLLO** and **TFO** share CPF's mission to further bilingualism by promoting and creating opportunities for students to learn and use French. ■

“Congratulations to Madame Campbell! We are proud to celebrate teachers like you, who ensure the delivery of quality French as a second language programs. We also recognize your engagement setting up students for bilingual success.”

— **Derrek Bentley**
National President
Canadian Parents for French



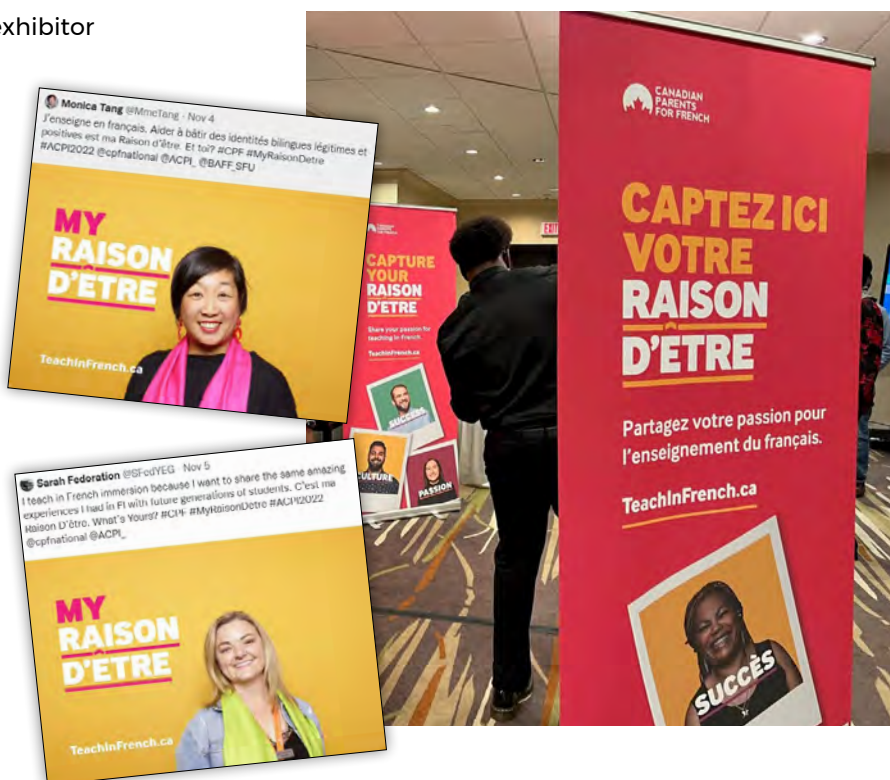
CPF Captures Teachers' *Raison d'être*

Last fall, Canadian Parents for French was an exhibitor at the ACPI Conference. The CPF Booth was part of the *My raison d'être* campaign, which aims to attract students to a career as a French teacher while recognizing teachers at different career stages, as the stars of the campaign are real teachers from across the country.

The booth at the ACPI Conference gave an opportunity to conference delegates to be in the spotlight and be part of the campaign! By visiting the booth, delegates received their own picture (printed and digital) which they could post on social media to share their *Raison d'être* as well as a branded scarf.

During the conference, CPF also had a chance to recognize in person the 2020 and 2021 *IDÉLLO* Award recipients by hosting a luncheon to celebrate them.

CPF will be repeating the photo booth space experience in March 2023 at the CASLT Conference in Toronto as well as offering a celebratory lunch for Madame Campbell. ■





Celebrating the Journey to Multilingualism

BY INNA FIGOTINA, EDUCATOR AND AUTHOR, OCT, M. ED.

“If you don’t see the book you want on the shelf, write it.” — Beverly Cleary

In December 2020, I published “Trilingual Me! Moi, trilingue!”, a bilingual children’s book written in English and French about my journey of becoming trilingual. The rhyming story promotes the joy of language learning to children and it is based on my own experience with language acquisition. I wanted to share my story and hopefully inspire others, because I know there are many children growing up multilingual who can relate to this topic.

My journey to becoming trilingual

My journey to multilingualism was filled with obstacles which I had to overcome. I was born and raised in Moscow, Russia. After a difficult birth, I faced challenges in my speech development which I overcame with the help of a dedicated speech language pathologist. I immigrated to Toronto, Ontario, Canada with my parents when I was 7 years old. When I immigrated to Canada, I only spoke Russian, but not English or French. In my first year living in Canada, I started learning both English as a second language, and French as a third language at school. Although it was definitely challenging because I’m the only trilingual person in my family (my parents don’t speak French), I have such happy memories from this time in my life. The experience of moving to another country and learning these two new languages and then being able to communicate with people who I wouldn’t be able to communicate with had I not learned these languages was an exciting adventure for me. Today, I am proud to speak three languages fluently, Russian, English and French and I am a published bilingual children’s author and an elementary French teacher in the GTA.

My memoir of language learning

When I was completing my Master of Education in French specializing in Modern Languages Education at UBC, I had the opportunity to work on a thesis project based on the research that I was conducting for the duration of my

program. I chose to research immigrant students in the French as a Second Language (FSL) program, since I myself was an immigrant student in an FSL program, and now I am a French teacher of many immigrant students, and students who are from immigrant families. I decided that I wanted to create a bilingual resource that I can use in my classroom as well as for other teachers and librarians who would love to have a children’s book on their bookshelf that celebrates multilingualism. One of the most meaningful moments when I published the book happened while I presented my book as part of my final thesis project presentation to my professors and cohort of fellow FSL educators. I was really emotional while reading my book to them, because it hit me how much I have overcome. From a little girl who had speech challenges to a trilingual young woman who is a proud French teacher and who has now officially finished her Master of Education in French, her third language and published a bilingual children’s book to celebrate her language acquisition journey.

Inspiring others with my story

My mission as a bilingual children’s author and FSL teacher is to promote the joy of language learning to children and to share my research with educators on the benefits of using bilingual books in their schools. Since publishing my book, I have had the opportunity to do author visits at schools across Canada, lead workshops for language teachers at several school districts, partner with different libraries in the GTA, present my book to FSL teacher

candidates at the faculty of education of OISE and most recently, in the fall of 2022, I was honored to be a guest speaker at the **CPF conference “French More than Words”** where I was able to share my story and my book with families attending the conference.

My advice to parents raising multilingual children

It takes time and dedication in order to acquire a language so your encouragement and patience are crucial throughout this process. Every language acquisition journey is unique and it is important to celebrate that, which is why I wrote “Trilingual Me! Moi, trilingue!”. I hope that you share my story with the multilingual learners in your life, and that it motivates them to persevere despite the challenges along the way.

Fun facts about the book

- “Trilingual Me! Moi, trilingue!” is illustrated by award-winning Canadian illustrator, Bonnie Lemaire;
- The book is meant for children ages four to twelve;
- The book is written in both English and French and it rhymes in both languages!

To learn more about Inna and her book, visit innafigotina.weebly.com.

The book is available to order online on Amazon and Indigo. ■

ADVOCACY in ACTION: Saving French Immersion in New Brunswick



The past few months have been hectic in New Brunswick.

Last October, former Minister of Education, Dominic Cardy resigned and along with his resignation, information became public about the Premier Blaine Higgs' plan to eliminate French immersion in September 2023. And what a whirlwind it has been ever since.

The CPF New Brunswick Branch has been hard at work advocating to save French immersion. Newly appointed Executive Director, Chris Collins (read more about him on page 2) had quite the first task as he joined CPF but he has confidently lead the Branch and faced the issues head-on.

The news of course was shocking. Canada's only officially bilingual province was set to abolish French immersion. As a first response, CPF New Brunswick launched an online petition titled "Save French Immersion in New Brunswick." The response was overwhelmingly positive. People from across the country, whether they were CPF Members or not, were signing the petition and voicing their disapproval of the government's decision. By the end of January, the petition had almost 2,000 signatures.

The Branch then continued with their communication

strategy by engaging with the media at every opportunity, sometimes reacting to further developments but also proactively reaching out to media and putting the message out there: eliminating French immersion will have detrimental impact on the province's bilingualism.

Ever since, it has been an uphill battle as the government tries to dismantle FI. At the end of last year, the government started testing a pilot of the Language Learning Opportunities program, which could eventually replace FI. The problem is that the pilot program lacks the core elements of an effective immersion program and limits the exposure to the French language. CPF New Brunswick has made a public call to the government to suspend the pilot.

CPF New Brunswick continues to engage with the government, mobilising members and connecting with fellow concerned citizens. For the past few months, the Branch has been present in the government's consultations and they have also shown a strong media presence. The importance of the issue transcends their province as what happens there could be replicated elsewhere in Canada.



“ French immersion has been a success in New Brunswick. The numbers speak for themselves, 93.2% of Grade 12 students in the French immersion program attained intermediate and above proficiency according to the Province’s Department of Education report. ”

– Chris Collins, Executive Director of CPF NB

This matter concerns us all, and the whole CPF Network has offered its support to New Brunswick.

Most recently, CPF New Brunswick published a survey prepared by Leger Marketing that shows that 72% of respondents in New Brunswick support French immersion and that their opinion on the premier has deteriorated since the announcement of the plan to abolish FI.

The battle continues! The CPF New Brunswick Branch is still hard at work to prevent FI from being eliminated. Whether you are in New Brunswick or not, stay connected and watch for further developments. There are several ways to become involved and show support. ■

Find out more by visiting nb.cpf.ca or through social media:

www.facebook.com/CanadianParentsforFrenchNewBrunswick and www.facebook.com/CanadianParentsforFrench

Key Findings of the Survey:

- **72% of respondents** said NB school principals who want to reduce the hours of second language instructions in schools should consult with parents before making the decision.
- **55% of respondents** felt the current French immersion program should be maintained, but made accessible to more students, even if they are not in immersion programs.
- **72% of respondents** said their opinion on Premier Blaine Higgs has deteriorated over the past few months.

KEY CPF CONTACTS ACROSS CANADA

Network office

1104 - 170 Laurier Ave. W., Ottawa, ON K1P 5V5
T: 613.235.1481
cpf@cpf.ca cpf.ca

Quebec Office & Nunavut Support

P.O. Box 393 Westmount, Westmount, QC H3Z 2T5
infoqcnu@cpf.ca qc-nu.cpf.ca

British Columbia & Yukon

227-1555 W 7th Ave., Vancouver, BC V6J 1S1
T: 778.329.9115 TF: 1.800.665.1222 (in BC & Yukon only)
info@cpf.bc.ca bc-yk.cpf.ca

Alberta

211-15120 104 Ave. NW, Edmonton, AB T5P 0R5
T: 780.433.7311
cpfab@ab.cpf.ca ab.cpf.ca

Northwest Territories

#211, 15120 - 104 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T5P 0R5
cpfnwt@nwt.cpf.ca nwt.cpf.ca

Saskatchewan

303-115 2nd Ave. N., Saskatoon, SK S7K 2B1
T: 306.244.6151 TF: 1.800.561.6151 (in Saskatchewan only)
cpfsask@sasktel.net sk.cpf.ca

Manitoba

101-475 Provencher Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R2J 4A7
T: 204.222.6537 TF: 1.877.737.7036 (in Manitoba only)
cpfmb@cpfmb.com mb.cpf.ca

Ontario

103-2055 Dundas St. E., Mississauga, ON L4X 1M2
T: 905.366.1012 TF: 1.800.667.0594 (in Ontario only)
info@on.cpf.ca on.cpf.ca

New Brunswick

PO Box 4462, Sussex, NB E4E 5L6
T: 506.434.8052 cpfnb@cpfnb.net nb.cpf.ca

Nova Scotia

8 Flamingo Dr., Halifax, NS B3M 4N8
T: 902.453.2048 TF: 1.877.273.5233 (in Nova Scotia only)
cpf@ns.sympatico.ca ns.cpf.ca

Prince Edward Island

PO Box 2785, Charlottetown, PE CIA 8C4
T: 902.368.3703 ed@cpfpei.pe.ca pei.cpf.ca

Newfoundland & Labrador

PO Box 8601, Stn A, St. John's, NL A1B 3P2
T: 709.579.1776 ed@cpfnl.ca nl.cpf.ca
TF: 1.877.576.1776 (in Newfoundland & Labrador only)



DEPUIS
1957

CAMP
MÈRE CLARAC

Portes ouvertes le 3 juin 2023
10% de rabais avant le 15 avril

Filles 5 à 16 ans • Garçons 5 à 12 ans

Le choix de tes activités préférées
Escalade, hébertisme, canot, tir à l'arc, mini-ferme, excursions, chaloupe, pédalo, athlétisme, tennis, artisanat, feux de camp et soirées animées, jeux, sciences naturelles, mini-golf, bricolage, etc.

Location de bâtiments et d'installations
pour groupes organisés, associations sportives, classes nature, avec ou sans service de cuisinier et d'animation.

Joie de vivre
AU CAMP MÈRE CLARAC

CAMP CERTIFIÉ
7A
ACQ

CAMP MÈRE CLARAC • SAINT-DONAT QC CANADA
info@campclarac.ca • 819 424-2261 • 514 322-6912 (sans frais)
www.campclarac.ca

CPF MAGAZINE WINTER 2023 21

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

watermelonworks™



Une méthode qui décode la langue

www.watermelon-works.com

©2019 Watermelonworks™ Patented CDN2694317/US 8678828B2

Made in Canada



Fait au Canada

Les sons français



French Sounds