

CPF Network CEO Message, for CPF National AGM, July 7th, 2023.

Hello, this is my ninth AGM report and as I state each year, I am very passionate about CPF's mission and mandate. CPF is as much in my heart as CPF is always on my mind. As I reflect on the activities of the national office and of the Network this year, we ask our network leaders to reimagine - to be open to change. Together, we undertook a major commitment to move forward with a reimagined governance structure, with CPF national serving as a backbone organization to support consistent brand expectations for CPF Branches each within their capacity, to enable them to focus more on local programming and advocacy in their jurisdictions. We are beginning to see the fruit of these efforts as in the last year. We have made important progress in building common baselines, sharing our resources, and pursuing potential opportunities to deepen our network collaborations. Organizational research has demonstrated that when leaders embrace and believe in change, when they keep a 'forward lean', they enter new experiences

open, adaptive, intentional, and ready to navigate what comes. They gain humility and enthusiasm, excited to see what comes and how we, as an organization, will grow. Our network leaders are ready to put past divisions behind us to allow CPF to flourish in every region of the country.

Our CPF Network continues to evolve, and benefits from new players involved, each bringing strong skill sets to help address many of the same key issues – a plea for equitable access to FSL programs, FSL teacher supply and educational leadership accountability. With the royal assent of Bill C13 finally completed, and the New Action Plan for Official Languages 2023-2028 announced, now more than ever CPF has a role to play to advocate broadly and loudly. This five-year period is a window of opportunity for us to be externally focused, to commit to developing a strong advocacy message and strategy, using the tools and the expertise that we must mobilize individuals in protecting/promoting access to FSL education and making a lasting and meaningful impact.

The CPF National Annual Performance Report 2022-2023, will be circulated via our communiqué in the coming weeks. We can celebrate successes with our virtual French Tutoring project having supported over 450 students with 2,500 hours of French support, receiving 300 entries in our annual O'Poésie contest, distributing over 300 CPF French Goodnight Bags, marking CPF's important role in celebrating the first Official Languages Day last September, and seeing strong social media results in our "My Raison d'être" national Teacher Recruitment and Retention Campaign, and positive teacher reactions to our exhibitor booth at two national teacher conferences distributing over 600 branded scarves and taking over 375 branded Teacher Selfies. It's been a busy year!

The CPF National Board of Directors has set a clear vision that does not waiver: a strong, equitable and resilient Network, focused on building shared leadership, supporting engaged membership and volunteers, and delivering relevant, quality programming to parents and youth learning and using French. We have committed to being better than yesterday, to use our voice and

resources to stand up for these values. We aspire to be an organizational culture that is inclusive of all Canadians.

I am very proud of, and to work with, my CPF National Board of Directors – They are brave and have faced difficult decisions head on, and devoted great thought in the follow through on their actions. I thank them for their strong support.

I thank my National office / Network staff very much for their support to me, to each other and to the Branches - for their openness and for working so very hard for the success of this organization.

My thanks to my professional colleagues of the Council of Executive Directors (CoED) as a collective in moving our organizational work forward and to each of them individually, who have offered me and CPF National the encouragement to keep going when another roadblock is encountered – and there have been many!

My thanks to the Dept of Canadian Heritage, National HQ Official Languages Support Branch - I have learned how committed they are to official language learning, I feel there is a true mutual respect and understanding in our working relationship.

CPF is about the people ... passionate, committed individuals, and leaders working for a common vision. With our change strategy underway and new ideas of transformed approaches to membership and digital fundraising, what new faces can we see leading our organization and our activities in the next five years? We are committed to our core principles, and we will build on these as we move into our next phase of impact, change and growth. I invite each of us to consider, what is your shared leadership role in growing CPF into a vibrant high performing organization? I serve Canadian Parents for French because I truly believe I have responsibility to its people who are counting on us to solidify a strong future for this organization and its place in championing for French in Canada for all those who call Canada home. With our words and with our actions, I implore you now more than ever: let's embrace and believe in change, entering new experiences openly, adaptive, intentional, and ready and excited to see what comes and how we will grow.

Thank you,

Nicole Thibault