

Final Report – Nominations Committee

Committee Members:

Richard Slevinsky (National Board Member) – Chair Nominations Committee

Nancy McKeraghan (National Board Member) – National Board Representative

Maggie Hawkes – Representative for CoP, CPF Branch President

Rima Majaess – Representative on behalf of Chapters and Members

Christine Rees – Representative of Members at large

Staff Support:

Debbie Murphy

Brief summary of the committee's actions:

- The committee was formed shortly after the Fall AGM of 2020 according to the parameters set out in the Terms of Reference. The committee met on a regular (monthly basis) to review their terms of reference, work plan, and any proposed policy changes. In addition to this, all documents used for the nominations, interview, and election process were reworked. This included but was not limited to the succession planning documents, the evaluation matrix, the call for interest, and the interview questionnaire. In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the committee worked remotely to complete its work and to achieve its goals.
- As a result of the process, there was an expression of interest in serving the CPF National Board from seven individuals. The Nominations Committee followed up with all individuals and the result was that five individuals (four incumbents and one new candidate) let their names stand for election; incumbents Wendy Carr, Marc Gobeil, Kate Peters, Diane Tijman, and new nominee, Larry Vaters.
- Elections were held in July of 2021 and all 17 voting delegates cast their votes. The results of the election process saw incumbents Wendy Carr, Kate Peters and Diane Tijman re-elected as well as new candidate Larry Vaters. A communication announcing election results was shared with the CPF Network leaders in July 2021. The election of these four candidates will be endorsed and ratified at the Annual General Meeting on September 12, 2021.
- A Call for Nominations for the positions of President and Vice President was circulated. The deadline for receiving completed nominations for these two positions is set at 5:00 pm on August 10th, 2021. A reminder was sent to all CoP members and the Nominations Committee will forward the results of this process for an election should the need arise.
- As of August 11th: one nomination was received from a Branch Voting Delegate for Derrek Bentley to serve in the position of President and one nomination was received from a National Voting Delegate for Kate Peters to serve as Vice President. Both Derrek and Kate confirmed their interest in serving in these capacities. The results of the Nomination process are being circulated to the voting delegates via the National communiqué.

- Based on receipt of one nomination for each officer position, no election will be undertaken.
- The result of the nominations process will be endorsed and ratified at the Annual General Meeting on September 12th, 2021.

Report on the Nominations Committee Process

The Nominations Committee is a standing committee of the National Board of Directors established annually in compliance with the CPF Bylaw No.1. The 2020-2021 Nominating Committee was made up of two members from the National Board; (Chair Richard Slevinsky - Alberta and Nancy McKeraghan - Ontario), a Branch President (Maggie Hawkes - NWT), a Chapters Representative; (Rima Majaess – Nova Scotia) and a Representative from members at large (Christine Rees - Ontario). Regional representation included Alberta, Ontario, Northwest Territories and Nova Scotia.

The Nominations Committee was tasked with filling four vacancies according to the Board terms up for renewal (see below). The committee members reviewed their mandate and work plan, and prepared a Call for Interest for the National Board. The call went out in March 2021 and was advertised and circulated to CPF membership and posted on social media and the website and in direct communiqués to CPF Network leaders by the National Office. Nominations closed on April 26th, 2021.

Nominations were received from four incumbent directors and three additional individuals. The Nominations Committee followed up with all individuals and the result was that five individuals (four incumbents and one new nominee) let their names stand for election; incumbents Wendy Carr, Marc Gobeil, Kate Peters, Diane Tijman, and new nominee, Larry Vaters. An election followed in July of 2021 with Wendy Carr, Kate Peters, Diane Tijman and Larry Vaters being successfully elected. The endorsement and ratification of the elections will take place at the September 12th, 2021 AGM.

The Nominations Committee launched the nomination process for two Officer positions – President and Vice-President - in July of 2021 through a communication to Voting Delegates. The nominations deadline closed at 5:00 pm on August 10th, 2021 and the results of this process were communicated to Voting Delegates. The endorsement and ratification of the officer position nominations will take place at the September 12th, 2021 AGM.

Summary of National Board Nominees

For 2021-2022, the four openings on the CPF National Board of Directors have been successfully filled by Wendy Carr, Kate Peters, Diane Tijman and Larry Vaters.

Summary of Officer Nominations

President-elect - Derrek Bentley

Vice-President-elect - Kate Peters

National Board of Directors

In accordance with the CPF Bylaws, directors shall be elected for terms of two years and may serve for a maximum of eight years in total with a maximum of two Directors from any one jurisdiction. The full biographies of the 2021-2022 National Board of Directors are included below and are also displayed on the [CPF national website](#).

Derrek Bentley

Region: Manitoba

Serving since: 2016

Starting 2nd year of 3rd term

Roles (current and past): President elect, Vice-President, Chair of Membership Support Committee

Since participating in CPF Chapter meetings in elementary school, Derrek Bentley has been passionate about French language promotion and education in Manitoba and across Canada. After switching to a Francophone high school partially due to a lack of a quality immersion high school option in his area, Derrek has been actively involved in *la francophonie*. Specifically, he believes that *la francophonie* needs to be more inclusive of all French speakers and recognize that our different accents should be seen as a strength instead of a mechanism for exclusion. By bringing together all French speakers, the opportunities for youth to speak and have fun in French, whether it be their first, second, or fifth language, will only increase exponentially. He believes that youth are the proponents of this change towards inclusion.

In 2011, Derrek became the youngest person to receive the prestigious *Prix Riel* in Manitoba in the area of community development. Despite being a second language French speaker, receiving this francophone award was a great moment of feeling acceptance in the community. Later that year, he joined CPF Manitoba's Branch Board as a director until leaving this position in 2016 to become a member of CPF's National Board. He has organized a variety of youth-focused events in French that have always been inclusive of French second-language speakers. Through these events with organizations such as the *Conseil jeunesse provincial*, the *Canadian Commission for UNESCO*, the *Manitoba Association for Right and Liberties*, and *Canadian Parents for French*, Derrek's network of young change makers has continued to grow.

Wendy Carr

Region: BC

Serving since 2015

Starting 1st year of 4th term

Roles (current and past): Vice-President, Secretary, Chair of Research Working Group

Dr. Wendy Carr is Professor of Teaching in the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia where she has overseen the teacher education program as associate dean and coordinated and taught in its French teacher education program after a full career teaching elementary Core French. She has authored a number of FSL classroom resources, teacher professional manuals, curriculum documents as well as scholarly articles. She is motivated by inspiring educators to teach French and, in turn, engage language learning via multiple pathways.

During her many years as an educator, Wendy led frequent FSL teacher in-service sessions across Canada and recognized the importance of ongoing professional development in both the linguistic and pedagogical realms. The notion of life-long language learning for teachers as well as learners is one that has underpinned much of her work in teacher education, including shifting how her university admits FSL teacher program applicants. Supporting new teachers' linguistic development before and during their program, together with mentoring and continued in-service as early career educators, can serve to increase teacher supply and ensure their retention.

Through research and advocacy, she continues to advance the agenda for improved quality of FSL teaching and learning. She is particularly proud of co-editing the renewed [CPF State of FSL Education Research Reports](#) from 2017-19 and, more recently, the [CPF Advocacy-Oriented Research Briefs](#).

Wendy has served on volunteer boards for several decades, including as president of the BC Association of Teachers of Second Languages, vice-president of the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers and Canadian Parents for French National Board director since 2015. She has also received multiple awards for outstanding service and teaching at the university and provincial levels and leadership in FSL education at the national level.

Nancy McKeraghan

Region: Ontario Serving since 2016

Starting 2nd year of 3rd term

Roles (current and past): Nominations Committee, President, Chair of Bylaw Committee

Ms. McKeraghan founded York Region French Immersion Association in 1982 which eventually became a Chapter of Canadian Parents for French (York Region). She held various executive positions within the organizations; member at large, secretary, treasurer and chair (consistently over 20-year period).

York Region District School Board Committee Member: accommodation, transportation, secondary curriculum, liaison between the Board and English parents regarding accommodation issues. Chair of Aurora High School Parents' Council (wrote School's Constitution).

Ontario Canadian Parents for French Board: member at large, treasurer (4 years), vice president (2 years), advocacy committee member (8 years), Chair Bylaw Committee (8 years).

- Canadian Parents for French National: member Bylaw Committee (2015/16).
- Canadian Parents for French member 42021.
- Sponsor of French Immersion bursary at local high school (23 years).

Expertise:

- Bylaws, policies, governance or regulatory documents
- Chapter development, local accommodation issues
- Branch governance and advocacy support

Kate Peters

Region: Alberta Serving since 2017

Starting 1st year of 3rd term

Roles (current and past): Vice-President-Elect, Treasurer, Chair of Nominating Committee

After beginning her French language education in an immersion context at 18, Kate Peters commitment to French second language education has continued to grow. As she related in a [recent CPF magazine article](#), she credits her language learning with her ability to forge strong relationships, manage complexity, and to acquire new skills.

Her relationship with CPF began when she was Deputy Director of the Alliance Francaise of Calgary, and has strengthened throughout her career in Alberta Francophonie. She completed her Master's thesis on the

implementation of the DELF in Alberta Core French programs and she is now working on an EdD in Educational Leadership at the University of Toronto.

Kate's professional experience includes the role of Deputy Director of the Alliance Francaise of Calgary, Community Liaison Officer for the Francophone Secretariat with the Government of Alberta, and more recently, Director of the Centre collegial de l'Alberta and Academic Administration at the University of Alberta. She has experience working nationally including leading the organization of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie.

She feels privileged to have a young Francophile family supportive of community engagement activities and believes that the perspective of a parent would be a valuable asset to the CPF National Board. She would be proud to serve the organization at this exciting turning point in CPF's history.

Richard Slevinsky

Region: Alberta Serving since 2017

Starting 2nd year of 3rd term

Roles (current and past): Chair of Nominations Committee, Chair of Strategic Planning Committee, Co-Chair of Public Policy Committee

A native Franco- Albertan, Richard attended the University of Alberta where he trained to become a French language teacher. During his career as an educator, he served as a French teacher and administrator in Core, Immersion and French First Language settings for over 40 years. Highlights of his commitment and contributions to French language education and Canadian Parents for French include

- Holding workshops promoting French language education for teachers and parents across Canada;
- Working for the Departments of Education (Basic and Advanced) in Alberta and participating in negotiating agreements for the Official Languages in Education Programs (OLEP). During his tenure with Alberta Advanced Education, Richard worked with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) and served as provincial coordinator for OLEP's two national programs: the Summer Language Bursary Programs and the Official Languages Monitor Programs;
- Completing a thesis for his MEd that looked at the initial experiences of French language teachers recruited from Quebec and New Brunswick to teach in Alberta's French language programs. This thesis was selected by the University of Alberta as an exemplar and submitted to a national competition;
- Completing a dissertation for his PhD that looked at implementing Francophone school governance and establishing schools in Alberta's French first language communities;
- Teaching graduate level educational leadership courses in French at the University of Alberta's Campus St-Jean;
- Serving the education system in various senior leadership capacities including Senior Consultant Official Language Programs (Government of Alberta), Superintendent of Schools, and Headmaster in the Private school setting;
- Being recognized by the Association canadienne-francaise de l'Alberta in 2004 for his outstanding contribution to French language education; and
- Serving Canadian Parents for French at the Branch (Alberta Branch as Director and President) and at the National Levels (Advocacy Committee).

Diane Tijman

Region: BC

Serving since 2019

Starting 1st year of 2nd term

Roles (current and past): Bylaw Committee; Research Working Group

Diane is a passionate advocate of second language education and her own personal values are strongly linked to the mission, values and vision of CPF. She is a Francophile, and has worked diligently to become bilingual completing her B.A. in French and M.A. in Second Language Education from UBC. She studied in Québec and France and taken DELF training and certification in France.

She has held leadership roles as a FSL teacher in three districts, modern languages coordinator 1998-2010 and English language learning coordinator 2010-2016. She has served as Past President of BC Language Coordinators Association, BC Association of Teachers of Modern Languages and Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee, City of Richmond and as a Director of Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers.

Diane has been involved with CPF as a CPF Richmond Chapter member for 22 years, and served as CPF BC Yukon Branch Board member and President from 2016-2018. She believes strongly in investing in board development and leadership training, governance and mentoring of new board members. She is convinced that her children's success can partly be attributed to CPF collaborating with her school district by providing events and activities in French.

Larry Vaters

Region: Newfoundland and Labrador

Starting 1st year of 1st term

Roles (current and past):

Larry has been involved with CPF for many years holding many positions. Here is a snapshot of his experience and skill set in advocacy, community engagement, financial literacy, strategic thinking and French as a second language education and programs. These include having served CPF NL as Chair and Vice-Chair, Finance, Nominations and Public Policy committees as well as having served as Treasurer. In addition to serving CPF at the Branch level, Larry has also served CPF as Chair of the Council of Presidents (CoP). In addition to serving CPF, he has also volunteered and served the Shallaway Youth Choir, the Mount Pearl Senior High School Council the Paradise Soccer Club and helped organize the SunSplash Youth Soccer tournament.

Having served in these many roles have helped Larry acquire the knowledge and experience helpful in a volunteer board capacity and to understand the duties of directors.

In addition to his volunteer experience, Larry was also the CPF-NL Executive Director from 1999-2006. The knowledge, skills and experience he attained in this role are extremely valuable as a member of the CPF National Board of Directors.

Since 2006, Larry has been a member of the federal public service. On a more personal note, he has one child enrolled in French immersion and a second child enrolled in the Core French program. He firmly believes that every student should have the opportunity to learn French and to access a French as a second official language program that meets his or her desires and goals.

Submitted by

Richard Slevinsky, CPF National Nominations Committee Chair

August 11th, 2021