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**Canadian Parents for  
French - Manitoba**



**Hand in Hand**

Canadian Parents for French - Manitoba

**Children • Parents • Educators • Partners**

*Making a Difference Together!*

**2003-2004**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

CPF – Manitoba Mission and Vision.....5

Board of Directors 2003-2004.....7

President’s Report.....9

Executive Director’s Report.....10

Chapter Reports.....13

# **Canadian Parents for French- MB**

## ***MISSION***

“We are part of a National network of volunteers who are dedicated to the promotion and creation of French second language learning opportunities for young Manitobans.”

## ***VISION***

“A Manitoba where French and English speaking people live together in mutual respect with an understanding and appreciation of each other’s language and culture, and where linguistic duality forms an integral part of society to support the vision of a bilingual Canada.”

Canadian Parents for French-MB has been instrumental in the growth and development of French second language programs in Manitoba since its incorporation in 1981. The organization receives funding from Canadian Heritage and Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth.

## Board of Directors 2003-2004



### **Bill Younger, President**

Bill is a Red River College instructor in both the Civil/CAD Technology and Medical Laboratory Sciences Department. Bill is also Coordinator of the Expert Group in Education for the International Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists. One of his two children has graduated from Immersion and the other is still in the program in Pembina Trails S.D. Bill believes in the value of having a second language for opening doors of opportunity; from his extensive traveling, he appreciates the use of another language for communication with and understanding other cultures!

### **Sandy Owczar, Past President**



Sandy continues to be a strong advocate for French Immersion in her school division, as well as a volunteer in the schools where her children attend. Her

leadership skills have enabled her to initiate and carry through various projects to complement the schools, division and community. Sandy also sits on two government-initiated boards that focus on community improvements. Her belief in maximizing youth education combined with the conviction of parental involvement is what led Sandy to her position at CPF.

### **Vice-President – Vacant**

### **Cheryl Bayer, Director, Youth (2003-04)**



Cheryl, a 2001 graduate of Collège Béliveau, and enthusiastic participant in many CPF activities like Concours, has joined the Board of Directors to assist

the organization to better serve the needs of Manitoba youth. Cheryl is currently attending University of Winnipeg and will bring to the table the concerns and interests of students and graduates of Immersion.

### **David Hyckie, Director (2003-05)**



David is a teaching Vice-Principal at École Riverside in Thompson. He believes strongly in the benefits of learning a second

language and counts as one of the best experiences of his lifetime his family's visit to France. "What a great way to live the language!"

**Andrea Kavanagh, Director (2003-05)**



Andrea has been in French Immersion her whole life! Her first job was Facilitator for the launch of our CPF Camp. She is a French Immersion Graduate and received a B.Ed. from CUSB. She continues her FI life teaching grade three students at a great school in the Pembina Trails SD. Her two daughters aged 2 and 4 learn and play in both French and English. Learning and living in French has provided her with a thirst for discovering other languages, great summer jobs, a career but most of all wonderful friendships.

**Poomidevi Sethi, Director (2003-05)**



Poomidevi has been active in CPF Flin Flon Chapter and CPF Manitoba for many years. Her daughters are no longer in Immersion, but Poomidevi remains active in CPF, as chapter member and Director. She is strongly committed to learning French as a second language. "To be part of the broader aspect of living, you must know more than one language."



## **President's Report – *Bill Younger***

“Hand in Hand, Making a Difference Together” was the theme chosen by the Board for the past year. During this first year of my mandate, CPF-Manitoba has reached out to all our partners to solidify our working relationships and in many cases our friendships as well. As a result, it has been a busy year with many meetings and social gatherings.

CPF-Manitoba had the honour of hosting CPF-National for its AGM in the fall. It was wonderful having all the Provincial Branch Presidents and Vice-Presidents visiting Winnipeg. CPF National provided us with Advocacy training in the spring. I gained better insight into this step-by-step process. Practice working in groups to meet actual challenges posed by some of the Manitoba Chapters allowed us to hone our new-found skills. With very short notice, Sandy Owczar, our Past President, organized an effective and well-attended Stakeholder Consultation for French Second-Language Education. Following this event, I was able to attend the delivery of the Pan Canadian Report with our Executive Director, Catherine Davies. Many wonderful ideas resulted from this process but unfortunately more funding is needed to achieve many of these goals. The Advisory Committee met twice during my first term in office. I found the stimulating discussions with our partner members enlightening and they provided many ideas for the Branch to include in planning future projects. More opportunities for Basic French students came up as a consistent need. Of special note was our annual meeting with the Minister of Education, Honourable Peter Bjornson and a meeting with representatives from the Bureau de l'éducation français, Raymond Thèberge and Jacqueline Gosselin. Both meetings were cordial and full of optimism for the future.

As I assumed the Presidency, the Board also grew by two new members last September, 2003. Unfortunately, Nisa Livingstone had to resign in the new year due to other pressing time commitments. We wish her well in her university courses. Andrea Kavanagh has jumped into all the Board activities and hasn't missed a beat. The Board began the new year with a session on Strategic Planning under the capable direction of Stuart Davies. I believe this is an important first step to position CPF-Manitoba for the future; we all left reflecting on our short and long-term goals. I have enjoyed working with all the current Board members and have relied on their different perspectives to help me reach decisions. At the Board meetings, your members were always full of energy, positive comments and creative ideas. It is with both sadness and optimism that we say a fond farewell to Cheryl Bayer, our Youth Director. She went to Ontario this September, 2004 to pursue her dream of becoming an ophthalmologist. We know that she will do well and hope she will return to Manitoba. Now, I am eagerly looking forward to adding a couple of new Board members to the existing team this year. Sandy Owczar and her Nominating Committee has done a great job in searching for and recruiting interested and motivated individuals. We have been unsuccessful at recruiting a volunteer Editor for our Newsletter but the Editorial committee has maintained the production of our main communication tool. We updated the look by using bright colours and tried to add Chapter articles to make it more interesting. Roni Pirot, our Chapter Liaison, had a very busy year and with Board and office staff help was able to promote CPF at many Kindergarten registration evenings around Winnipeg. The evolving needs of this position continues to challenge the Board, as we look for the most effective method for communication with Chapters. Sandy Owczar and Catherine Davies visited chapters in Flin Flon and The Pas and were delighted with the connections made there.

This experience demonstrated that the Board needs to get out and meet the “grassroots” of the organization.

It was especially gratifying to watch our Executive Director and other office staff meet the monthly challenges of the past year as CPF-Manitoba cycled through its annual events. Catherine has become well respected among our partners for her business acumen and charming personality. I believe our office has been more open and effective in receiving your questions and concerns. The office staff has been very supportive in helping me to meet my deadlines throughout the year.

On a more personal note, I enjoyed getting out to meet parents and children whenever I could. It made the mandate of CPF-Manitoba much more real for me. It was extremely gratifying to be at the National Concours in Edmonton and watch all of our Manitoba students come back home with awards. What an incredible endorsement for the students and quality of French instruction in Manitoba! Driving up to Dauphin to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of École MacNeill was also another highlight for me. It was amazing to reflect on the history of the school and French Immersion in that area; it was a pleasure to meet such highly energetic and committed teachers and parents. I am sure the future remains very bright as twenty-five new students begin school this fall.

This year went by in a whirlwind of activity and it looks like next year will be just as full with a new theme, new projects, new members and lots of new ideas. Encourage the next generation to take French and open the door to new opportunities!



## Executive Director's Report - Catherine Davies

The past year has been an active one for Canadian Parents for French – Manitoba (CPF-MB). There have been a number of changes, and these have included new staff, a new location for the Branch office, and the development of new partnerships and initiatives. Throughout the associated transitions CPF-MB has successfully facilitated and maintained all its activities, projects and programs, and this was as a result of the contributions of dedicated volunteers, Board members and staff, who are all committed to French Second Language learning.

This report is organized under CPF-MB Targeted Direct Results<sup>1</sup>, and it summarizes the achievements brought about by the efforts of many volunteers, teachers, decision-makers, and other stakeholders who have worked collaboratively with CPF-MB Manitoba to advocate for, and encourage and organize FSL related activities and events.

*A. Manitobans, including youth, parents and CPF members and decision makers are aware of the value of FSL, which fosters an appreciation of Linguistic Duality in Canadian society.*

Activities focused on distribution of information to the public regarding FSL education, influencing positive attitudes, and encouraging enrolment and learning opportunities within the community. Such activities included, but were not exclusive to the following:

- Conduction of media interviews and public relations radio advertisements to broadcast the organization's services and advocate on behalf of / and promote FSL programs.
- Facilitation of the Annual General Meeting, which was combined with CPF-MB's first conference. The event included workshops that were designed particularly for parents of children in FSL programs.
- Assistance in hosting the 2003 CPF-National AGM and Conference, which was held in Winnipeg this year. Branches from all over Canada were represented and delegates were able to share valuable knowledge, ideas and resources. Workshop sessions included "Advocacy Training", "The Role of Executive Boards and Directors", and "The Pan-Canadian Five Year Action Plan 2004-2009".
- Promotion and distribution of the user-friendly resource "Keys for French" to school division Language Coordinators, and to members and non-members upon request.
- Distribution of over six thousand (6000) newsletters in May and November 2003 and February 2004, info bulletins and Youth News.
- Establishment of a committee to address the need to consider the design of the website. Continuity and maintenance of the website has been deemed as particularly important. (End of summer 2004 is the goal for a revamped, user-friendly, easy to maintain, up-to-date website).
- Design, production and distribution of the promotional CPF-MB bookmark "Proud of Two Languages".
- Promotion of CPF-MB services and French Second Language learning at a number of FSL related events including the Manitoba Association of Teachers of

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<sup>1</sup> Targeted Direct Results provide CPF-MB funders, such as Canadian Heritage with the direct links used to align our activities with the Official Languages Support Programs. Results-Based Management and Accountability Framework is a requirement of funding, which allows organizations such as CPF to evaluate outcomes and measure success.

- French SAG conference, Language Options Evenings, Public Information Sessions, and twenty (20) Kindergarten Information Sessions in the City of Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, The Pas and Flin Flon.
- Promotion of the 'I'm Staying in French Because.....' and 'I'm Learning French Because.....' Campaigns and distribution of four thousand (4,000) copies of each pamphlet and three thousand (3,000) posters.
  - Responses to requests for information regarding FSL programs and activities, and student exchanges and visits.

***B. Through research and advocacy, decision makers are made aware of issues and recommendations for improvement in accessibility to FSL programs across Manitoba.***

Activities focused on communicating and information sharing with our partners and elected officials. Such activities included, but were not exclusive to the following:

- Promotion and distribution of The State of FSL Report 2003, and other communication with various stakeholders to obtain research information and input for State of FSL Report 2004.
- Review and assessment of newspaper advertisements, employment websites, and career related materials with regards to bilingual opportunities.
- Responses to information provided and media requests re: potential loss of French programs.
- Provision of information and support to Chapters upon request.
- Participation in the French for the Future Conference 2003.
- Meetings with partner organizations to determine ventures and projects to address the specifications of the Official Languages in Education Program.
- Coordination and arrangement of Advocacy Training in Winnipeg for Chapter Representatives from throughout the province.
- Participation in Comité consultative des programmes d'études meetings and Partner Advisory Committee meetings.
- Assistance with the facilitation of the national OCOL (Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages) symposium, Vision and Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and management, coordination and facilitation of the Provincial FSL Stakeholders Consultation.

***C. Young Manitobans learn about French language and culture through extra-curricular activities.***

The following activities were funded by the Province of Manitoba and The Department of Canadian Heritage:

- Concours d'art oratoire – Over 10,000 students in Grades 3 to Senior 4 from across the province, participated. 116 students attended the Provincial Finals. The Impromptu category had 3 winners. CPF-MB sent 4 winners to the National Finals. and Breanna Brown from Thompson was one of 5 National winners.
- Camp Soleil – Camps were held in Transcona, Morden, Beausejour, Dauphin, Swan River, Flin Flon, Thompson and Brandon throughout July and August, and were attended by one hundred and twenty (120) French Immersion students. Evaluations provide positive and enthusiastic feedback. New for 2003 was the provision of a camp in an urban area (Transcona).
- Impro-Mania – Impro-Mania workshops were provided in Northern Manitoba in April 2003, and in urban and locations closer to Winnipeg in March 2004. These continued to provide an extra-curricular activity to approximately 300 FFL and FSL

students throughout Manitoba. Teachers appreciate this project as it supports the language arts, social studies and science curriculum.

- Theatre Project – Managed and facilitated the Theatre Project in partnership with MATF (MB Association of Teachers of French). Two hundred (200) Basic French students participated and were able to utilize and expand upon their French in creative and culturally stimulating environment.
- Cultural Tour – Approximately 3,500 FSL and Basic French students had the opportunity to enjoy the Fall Cultural Tour, which took place in Thompson, Flin Flon, The Pas, Swan River, Dauphin, and Winnipeg. Teachers indicated that the children benefit from participating in this active learning experience because it endures longer than a passive learning experience. Also, an appreciation of French culture is enhanced as the children are exposed to different aspects of writing, drawing, theatre, music, comedy, and song and dance.

**D. Canadian parents are aware of the choices available to them regarding FSL education and exercise them.**

Activities focused on providing resources and support to members. Such activities included, but were not exclusive to the following:

- Managed and facilitated the rotations of the French Multi-Media Kits to Associate members.
- Distributed resources such as the booklets “Fun in French” and “So You want Your Child to Learn French”, The State of FSL Report 2003, “I’m learning French because.....” posters and pamphlets, “I’m staying in French because.....” posters and pamphlets, the “Proud of Two Languages “ bookmark, and various brochures concerning French Immersion and Basic French programs.
- Utilized large display unit at various events including: the CPF 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in Thompson, the MAPC conference, the Colours of Caring Conference for Childcare Educators, the CPF-MB AGM and Conference, the CPF- National AGM and Conference, and the MATF SAG Conference, and the FSL Stakeholder Consultation. The smaller display unit was used frequently by the Chapter Liaison Representative for presentations, and by Chapters for Board meetings and French Immersion Information evenings.

Much has been achieved and much remains to be done. The coming year promises to bring new challenges and new projects, which will be addressed and facilitated in collaboration with enthusiastic and committed volunteers and partners. We will continue to advocate for FSL programs, better recruitment and training of teachers, the expansion of secondary and post-secondary FSL opportunities, and will foster research of FSL education. I look forward to working with all of you as we do our utmost to ensure that French continues to be a living and vibrant language within Manitoba.

## Chapter Development

This year CPF-MB hired a new chapter liaison officer, Roni Pirot, whose mandate was to raise the profile of CPF-MB in the schools in and around (near to) Winnipeg. She also contacted chapter representatives across the province and offered help and support whenever possible. The following is a summary of the activities of the CPF-Manitoba chapters over the past year.

**Agassiz Beausejour:** President - Patricia Anderson  
Vice President - Joan Parrot  
Secretary - Colynne Allen  
Treasurer - Tamara Strecker

In 2003/2004 we needed to concentrate on keeping our chapter afloat. Parent participation was at a low in the fall of 2003. However, by late spring 2004 we had added several new parent volunteers and some with good ideas of where they want to see the chapter go in the future. As a chapter we advise parents with regards to the French Immersion programs in the Beausejour area, but the following is a synopsis of our extra activities.

- Provided information pamphlets to various school functions including September open houses at both Beausejour Early Years School (BEYS) and Edward Schreyer School (ESS); French Immersion information night; kindergarten registration; and the preschool readiness clinic.
- Coordinated Damian Lussier's visit so that students from both BEYS and ESS could attend.
- Invited representatives from College Pierre Elliot Trudeau and Lord Selkirk Collegiate (the two senior schools our French Immersion students attend) to speak at our chapter AGM. We had a very good turnout for this meeting.
- Awarded our annual preschool coloring contest moose.
- Organized methods of getting our information out to parents. This included regular reports in the school newsletters, as well as an article in the local newspaper published just before kindergarten registration.
- Attended kindergarten registration in order to increase French Immersion registration. It appears to work as this coming year there are 21 students registered (up from 14).
- Encouraged BEYS and ESS to get CPF memberships, only BEYS responded.
- Initiated work on a parent resource library for parents of French Immersion students.
- Provided gifts for BEYS's spring tea, for teacher and secretaries' weeks, and to Robyn Otto as congratulations for making it to the provincial Concours (in grade 4).
- Coordinated with BEYS and ESS for "Eduard and Michael".
- Organized Camp Soleil 2004 for July 12-16. We had 13 registrants, which is our break-even point.

**Agassiz Powerview:**

Carrie Peloquin - President  
Tammy Johannsson - Vice President  
Monique Hawranik - Secretary / Acting Treasurer

This year seems to have come and gone so quickly I can't believe it is already a new school year. Here is what our Powerview Chapter has done in the 2003-04 school year. Our CPF Chapter and our PAC (parent advisory group) do many activities together, so PAC will be referred to many times in this report.

Sept.: Our local AGM was held and the Board was put in place. The French Immersion teachers received a gift basket full of treasures and rewards for the students who are speaking French outside of the regular classroom, in the halls, during breaks and among friends. The rewards include such items as stickers, magnets, note pads etc. with French sayings and messages.

Oct.: Our Chapter put out a fundraiser letter which asked parents to donate \$15.00 per child to keep our funds up and our fundraising efforts down. Most families would rather do this than have many fundraisers throughout the year. We also promoted becoming a member of CPF-Manitoba and being part of our Board. The fall cultural tour with Damien Lussier was a great day of fun and activities. We held a hotdog and popcorn sale to raise money for Breakfasts for Learning program.

Nov.: A bake sale was held to raise money for Breakfasts for Learning program. We started to prepare and plan for our year's activities and the winter carnival.

Dec.: The Grade 7/8 group went to see a play at le Cercle Molière. They also viewed a French art exhibit and enjoyed the French restaurant at the Franco-Manitobaine Cultural Centre in Winnipeg.

Jan.: Full planning mode for the winter carnival occurred during this time. Kindergarten packages went out to all the pre-school families including information about the French Immersion program and the advantages of being a French Immersion student.

Feb.: The winter carnival is held with a pancake breakfast for 250 students, 6 outdoor activities and hot chocolate to be served to students. Bonhomme Carnivale walked around all day giving out candies. The festival du voyageur family, Paulette Dupont and her husband, Jacques and their son put on a great presentation in full costume to show some of the history of the voyageur. A fiddling performance from their son was amazing. We built snow sculptures at the school with everything from a voyageur camp site with a canoe, Nemo the fish, a dragon and many more. Great creativity was demonstrated by the students at École Powerview School. Staff appreciation week was held with daily draws and many other activities throughout the week including a lunch for all 50 staff members catered by the CPF Chapter and PAC.

March: Le Théâtre du Grand Cercle came to our school and put on 2 workshops and plays for the Grades 3/4 and 5/6 classes. It was a wonderful day for all who took part. Two members of the Board went to Winnipeg for the advocacy seminar. Concours d'art oratoire was held at the school with an amazing effort put in by all the students and teachers involved. A magazine sales campaign was held in the school. This is our CPF Chapter's and PAC's only big fundraiser of the year.

April: Concours d'art oratoire for the division was held at Beausejour School. Planning and promotion of Camp Soleil was started.

May: A meeting was held with the school administrators to talk about staffing and class groupings for 2004-05 school year. Camp promotion was put into high gear.

June: The decision was made for the CPF Chapter Graduate Award. This award and all the certificates for completion of the French Immersion program were given out at our grad ceremony. The fall cultural tour was booked.

**Brandon:** Barbara Harrison - President  
Nancy Hargreaves - Past President  
Korinne Bullee - Vice President  
Denise Powell - Treasurer

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Brandon held a French Immersion Showcase to show people that French Immersion does exist and that the children enrolled in the program do very well. This showcase demonstrated the success of the program through presentations and speakers.

We bade a fond farewell to Sylvia Taggart and welcomed Nancy Dane for two years, and now we have Craig Laluk on his way. A former teacher at New Era, Craig Laluk is a French Immersion graduate.

CPF Brandon has taken over the facilitating of the Grade 8 French trip, formerly run by the New Era teachers. The school division is uncomfortable with out-of-province school trips, so now the trip is facilitated by Canadian Parents for French, and organized by the parents. The trip is usually a week in Quebec, this year 17 Grade 8 and 9 students, with 6 parent chaperones, spent 6 days in Quebec City, the North Shore, and Montreal.

In the Brandon Chapter, we have the privilege of hosting: Kindergarten Information Night, Camp Soleil, Cultural tours, Le Concours d'art Oratoire and a French book fair.

We ran two fundraisers for the school, Mom's Pantry and one other. We ran 10 others outside of the school for the French trip.

The executive of the Brandon Chapter would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, the members, and students, school staff (especially Suzanne in the office), Brandon School Division, and the provincial office for all their help and hard work this year. We couldn't have done it without you!

**Dauphin:** Phil Fafard – President  
Ryxie Dupas - Past President  
Pamela Matthews - Vice-President  
Sheldon Stashko - Treasurer

The Dauphin Chapter had a busy year in 2003-2004 as we continued to sustain the profile of FI in the Dauphin community as well as enhance the programming offered at the senior years.

In November, the chapter, with support of students and parents in attendance, presented information to our school board regarding the benefits of FI. Our presentation also involved a proposal to work with the Board of the Mountain View School Division to enhance the high school program. The board agreed to strike an ad hoc committee to work at sustaining the existing FI program and improve course offerings at the high school level.

The ad hoc committee met several times from February to June and succeeded in developing a proposal for submission to the Action Plan on Official Languages. Unfortunately, the proposal was not successful in receiving any funding. The committee did continue to meet to explore alternative course offerings and delivery methods for additional high school courses. At this point we have not had any success at having additional courses at the high school level.

The chapter continues to support a group of high school students with their plans and fundraising for a trip to Quebec. As in the past, we again supported the cultural tours, Concours d'arts oratoire and Camp Soleil. We continue to be involved in the local pre-school Wellness Fair to promote the FI program to prospective parents.

This fall we plan on continuing to be proactive in promoting the FI program while working to enhance course offerings at the high school so our students can have the opportunity of graduating with a FI diploma. Furthermore, we will be representing FI parents and students in making presentations to our school board regarding potential re-alignment of schools as they plan on closing a middle school that houses all middle year students, including the FI middle year's program. So we have another busy year ahead of us in promoting French as a second language in our community.

**Flin Flon:** Robert Jarvis - President  
Cheryl Allen - Vice President  
Lucie Fredricks - Treasurer

### ACTIVITIES

- French Keys Level 1 and Level 2 given to students (one set / family) from grades 2-8. They were received quite well. Each hand out also contained the web sites pertinent to French.
- The Basic French teacher was given several copies of the French Keys for the classroom. She felt that she may order more for the 2004 – 2005 year.
- CPF worked with the French teachers and administrator in developing projects for grant requests from the federal government.
- CPF created a video of FI teaching techniques and FI activities that occur in the classroom. This video has been helpful for introducing anxious parents to the FI program available in Flin Flon; and for showing all parents what their children can do.
- Summer Camp for French was held August 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, with 12 students attending. One of the CPF members organized a stepping stone project with the students and was the hit of the camp.
- Flin Flon's Immersion school and high school received a cultural tour in the fall and spring.
- To increase the opportunity for High School Immersion students to get additional French credits, a time slot was made available for any student to do a correspondence course while in a class room with a teacher present.

### ENROLLMENT

- Only 8 new Kindergarten students registered as of June 2004.
- A loss of 8 FI students from the Program due to families relocating for work.

- Only 2 French Immersion students going into grade 9. Not enough to carry the FI program forward in an effective manner!
- There were no students from neighbouring Creighton, Sask. enrolled in Kindergarten Immersion for 2004-2005. There are normally at least 2 students from Creighton School division as it does not have a FI program.
- Due to a conflict between the Flin Flon School Division and the Creighton School Division, Flin Flon is giving the impression that they will not accept Creighton students who want to be in the FI program (or that they will charge the Creighton Division exorbitant fees for access to the program).
- If the school division problems are preventing students from entering the FI program, then Flin Flon CPF will seek advice and take any necessary action to ensure the program is open to all students.

**Morden:**

Lynette Froese - President  
 Glenda Lepage - Newsletter Editor  
 Eleanore Zacharias - Treasurer  
 Audrey Armstrong - Member  
 Laura Matychuk - Member

This year our local CPF chapter has continued to function very much as it did in the previous year. We are still building momentum and our membership base is growing at a gradual rate.

Some of the activities that we carried out during the 2003-04 year were:

- Hosted Camp Soleil in July with 15 children participating.
- Held monthly executive meetings to plan events and discuss issues affecting the French Immersion program.
- Published two Chapter newsletters which highlighted local French Immersion issues and events.
- Held a Fall Family Fun night in October, which brought together families with children in French Immersion, school staff and interested community members.
- Had representatives on the Parent Advisory Committees at both schools which house French Immersion students.
- Continued to communicate with school administrators and our division office.
- Held a coffee and dessert night for our members in March. This was also our AGM. We invited one of our school trustees (who is also a French Immersion parent) to speak and listen to questions and concerns.

**River East:** Diane Nichols & Denise Desmaras – Co-Presidents  
Frances Telford - Past President  
Lisa Semenchuk - Vice-President  
Jackie Ewacha - Treasurer

This past year we continued to refine our letter with respect to the OLEP funding from the Canadian Department of Heritage. A letter requesting a review due to the lack of transparency has been forwarded to the federal Minister of Heritage and the provincial Minister of Education. Copies were forwarded to CPF Manitoba, the Provincial Auditor and the Auditor General of Canada and the Manitoba Teachers Society.

Kindergarten promotion was our other activity. We took out a newspaper ad and sent promotional material to the daycares and preschools in our area. FI Kindergarten registration has increased in our division.

Other Chapters should be aware that the Manitoba Teachers Society, French Teachers subsection (EFM) sets aside approximately \$2000.00 per year for public relations promotion. MTS partially contributed to our newspaper advertising. There are several rules but the most important is that the maximum is \$500.00 per activity and cannot exceed 75% of the total cost. A teacher must complete the application. Applications are available at 1-800-262-8803. A copy of our ad is available for reference. CPF Manitoba and MTS will e-mail logos to the newspaper.

**St. Vital:** President-Vacant  
  
No Report available.

**Swan River:** Denise Ashcroft- President  
Stacey Slack- Treasurer  
Jodi Proctor- Secretary

**Fall of 2003**

- Sent flowers to the staff
- Monthly pizza pop sales were held
- Set up CPF Manitoba display unit at open house to promote CPF and up enrolment
- Sponsored Cultural Tour
- Sent flowers to principal in hospital
- Ran a Christmas tree fundraiser
- Held a bake sale at the local grocery store
- Sent goodies to staff for Christmas

**Winter of 2004**

- Met with Superintendent to discuss staffing needs
- Applied to SEVEC again, as we were turned down in the fall
- Helped staff with Festival
- Donated money to students attending Festival in Winnipeg
- Letters were sent to Daycare and Nursery to promote French Immersion
- Donated goodies to staff room for Staff Appreciation

**Spring of 2004**

- Applied for a government grant

**The Pas:** Marika Kennedy- President  
Carole Reid- Past President  
Penny Lacey- Secretary  
Connie Folster- Treasurer  
Sherri Sutton- Area Rep

The FI teachers organized their walking Rally in October. Our Chapter supplied the first place prize as well as financial support toward the other prizes. This was a great family event.

Also during October the cultural tour came to The Pas with Damien Lussier as the entertainer. Our Chapter assisted with the cost to bring this activity to our community. The children enjoyed his music.

In December we held our second "Bedtime avec Père Noel". The early years' students were invited to an evening of fun. We had story telling, letter writing to Père Noel, a sing-a-long, and an arts and craft table. The middle years helped with this event by helping to organize some of the events and helping out as elves. Of course the evening was topped off with hot chocolate and cookies and a visit from Père Noel. A big thanks to the parent and student volunteers for helping in this event.

In February a group of CPF parents met with our local school division to discuss concerns regarding the combined/split classes at the early years' level. This was the first year that we encountered this and there were many unanswered questions as to how this would affect our children as well as the long term plans in the French Immersion Program.

In March the French Immersion teachers with the assistance of the French Monitor and students held a Carnival. There were different activities for the students to take part in during the day. A pancake lunch was provided with CPF parents doing the cooking and serving. We also provided financial support for prizes for the students. We hope to make this an annual event.

We were fortunate to be able to get Sandy and Catherine to come to our community to talk to our members and prospective new parents about the CPF program. We held an information night that was open to all parents and community members. Most of the ones that showed up were parents who had kindergarten students but the information presented was useful. They also met with our school division to discuss concerns that we had and discuss solutions as well as ways that CPF could assist with our local endeavours.

One of our goals is to come up with a better way of presenting the financial information that will be informative to the school board, Department of Education, as well as parents. Perhaps someone in the other Chapters has some idea's we can incorporate?

We held our annual Snow-Day in mid March. This was a family fun day with tobogganing, skating, and games. Hot dogs and refreshments were served. It was a good chance for parents and children to get together and have fun in the sun.

In May we held a follow up meeting with our school board. Topics discussed were the plans for the next year in terms of combined classes, training for our teachers, future plans for the French Immersion program especially at the senior years' level. The meeting was well attended with approximately 30 parents attending as well as administrative staff from all our dual track schools.

Financial support for prizes of the Opasquia School Concours d'art oratoire winners was provided.

In June we began planning for our summer camp. Monica Cook agreed to act as coordinator again this year. Invitations were sent out and we expect to have a full camp.

We look forward to a new year and the challenges it brings.

**Thompson:** Sue O'Brien- President / Secretary  
Guyanne Chaddock- Past President  
Lynne Saidon- Vice- President  
Dave Hyckie- Treasurer/ Chapter Rep

The Thompson Chapter of CPF is made up of a small group of committed volunteers.

Thanks to a very supportive administration, the French Immersion program at École Riverside School as well as the Basic French program has flourished. Members of the Chapter executive distribute CPF brochures and an information booklet promoting Kindergarten enrolment each spring in order to ensure our number of students enrolled in Kindergarten remain high. We usually have two F.I. Kindergarten classes and this helps to sustain the program up to and including high school because, even if some children move out of town and class sizes decrease, there are usually still enough students left to keep the program viable. At present, due to the information distribution in the spring, we have double classes from Kindergarten to Grade 4.

Parents make good use of the multi-media kit whenever it is in our possession and they are also supportive of the French Scholastic book sale we hold. This year's sale at the end of November was very successful, with almost \$1500 in sales. This has always been an extremely successful fund raiser for our chapter and is run solely by CPF volunteers and French Immersion parents.

Another successful fund raiser over the past couple years has been the F.I. summer camp. After its very positively received introduction to Thompson in August 2003, Camp Soleil has been the talk of the Thompson Chapter meetings. Parents and students alike were thrilled with the quality of the camp and the instructors and were anxious to be sure it would continue this summer. Our list of campers was quickly filled, with a waiting list as well. As our camp location is donated to us our camp fees are basically profit for our group. All money raised goes to support ongoing programs such as the Cultural Tours that visit twice a year and our cost in bringing them up to Thompson; a \$500 scholarship that goes to a graduating F.I. high school student (we gave 2 scholarships this year for a total of \$1000); providing funds to assist with the travel expenses for our Concours d'art oratoire representatives, as well as Festival du Voyageur travel expenses.

Regarding our scholarship to the high school student, CPF Thompson has set up its own selection committee for this award. In the past the high school selection committee would choose the student, based on criteria established in the past by CPF Thompson Chapter. We felt we wanted more input into the student being chosen, and requested that members of a CPF selection committee be responsible for this from now on. The high school agreed.

Many articles about activities taking place at École Riverside School and their promotion of French-as-a-second-language have appeared in the local newspaper. Our vice-principal, Dave Hyckie, has been instrumental in making this information available to the paper and ensuring that there's a good relationship between CPF Thompson Chapter and the paper.

These are the activities we, the members of CPF - Thompson Chapter, have been involved in this past year.

**Transcona:** Debbie Neufeld- President

The Transcona Chapter supported and helped at the Kindergarten Registration this year and welcomed a lot of inquiries. Both early years schools in the area have about 55 children enrolled. We have not as yet been successful in increasing membership, but have discussed new strategies and plan on working on increases in the fall. We are planning on getting extra support from the Provincial Chapter Liaison person to present with us and work with us at increasing membership.

Although we had a successful summer camp last year, this year we were unsuccessful at recruiting enough children. We are hopeful that with an increased membership this coming year, we will be able to have camp again next year.

**THANKS TO ALL OUR  
CONTRIBUTERS, PARTNERS,  
COLLEAGUES, PARENTS,  
CHILDREN AND FRIENDS FOR  
A GREAT YEAR!!!**



A special thanks to Michelle Van Rosmalen for designing our logo!