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Welcome back!

To paraphrase Bette Davis in *All About Eve*, ‘fasten your seatbelts, it’s going to be a bumpy year.’ Pre-summer holiday news was dominated by stories about province-wide school budget overruns, a very public spat between Vancouver School Board Chair Patti Bacchus and Education Minister MacDiarmid, and public musings by Minister MacDiarmid about “*moving forward with a 21st century learning agenda, focusing on meeting the educational needs of every student.*”

The real news, from our perspective, was French immersion being scrutinized by some school district trustees and staff looking for savings through school consolidations and program closures. Our Chapters sought to maintain or expand FSL programs, and without their selfless work, many communities would have fewer educational options this September.

We can expect more *Sturm und Drang* on the financial front, as the debate over the adequacy of public funding for education appears far from settled.

Not all news was bad, though. Parents in Powell River finally got their Early immersion program, and one with an innovative twist – Éco-immersion makes its début this year at James Thomson Elementary School. This program is for children entering kindergarten and grade one, and combines French immersion and nature based learning with engaging teaching methods. French immersion posted another year of growth in BC and Yukon – surely a record in Canada – and a signature event like Concours



Fiddler Deborah Jackson on the CPF Ridge Meadows Chapter float in the June 5 Pitt Meadows Day parade.

remained popular, with 266 school children taking part in last year’s finals.

And, as can be seen from our cover picture, Chapters had fun while getting the word out about CPF.

What can we expect this year? Ongoing change, for one thing. The Pan-Canadian CPF network has been busy developing an action plan in response to a 2008-2009 Canadian Heritage study on the impact of CPF activities across Canada. As part of the action plan, the National Board hired a consultant to undertake an internal business review over the summer. The consultant’s report is due at the Ottawa AGM in October, and we may see considerable change in CPF governance and operations flow from this report.

At the Branch level, we are maintaining our policy of making Branch-led events more accessible to CPF members living outside the Lower Mainland, with the ultimate goal of having a major event in each corner of British Columbia. Forthcoming Chapter Representative Updates (CRU) and our website will keep you apprised of developments in this area, and we encourage anyone with the desire to undertake the organization of an event like *Rencontre française* to contact us.

Having bade a reluctant farewell last spring to our outstanding Chapter Support and Outreach Officer Glyn Lewis, the Branch office welcomed his replacement, Persia Sayyari, in August.

Continued page 2

Welcome back! *continued*

Dimitry Morales and Erika Rosales are with us for another year, so the Branch office is back to a full complement of staff.

One last change worth mentioning is the inclusion in this edition of our newsletter of elements of our 2009-2010 annual report, such as the President's report, the Executive Director's report, the Nominations

Committee report, etc. We wanted to give every reader of our newsletter a better idea of who we are and what we do as a parent-led organization, and hope that this modest innovation will accomplish that.

So, fasten your seatbelts as we take off for another year!

CPF BC & Yukon Award



Since 1992, CPF-BC & Yukon has been proud to offer a financial award to one or two students completing their post-secondary education studies and planning to teach French as a second language

(immersion or core) in BC or Yukon. The awards are valued at \$2,000 each. The awards focus on merit and not on financial need. Student teachers who are in their last year of a French Professional Development Program (PDP), who have completed their practicum, graduated from a BC or Yukon secondary school and have a valid CPF membership are eligible to apply. Applicants are carefully evaluated according to how well they can communicate their passion for both French and teaching. Such passion comes across easily in their French volunteer work, reference letters and high marks.

This year's award winners are Melissa Lee and Marlee St. Pierre.

Melissa Lee volunteered weekly in French immersion classrooms at École Aubrey from 2007 to 2009. She also volunteered at the Place Maillardville Community Centre in Coquitlam. She hopes to be hired as a French immersion elementary school teacher in the Lower Mainland, and wants to inspire her students to continue their studies in French beyond elementary school.

Marlee St. Pierre is a Late French immersion graduate from Earl Marriot Secondary. Both her children are in Early French immersion. She has taken part in many volunteer activities, including a successful fundraising drive by the École élémentaire James Kennedy PAC to purchase \$30,000 worth of English and French language books for the school. She hopes to work as a French immersion teacher in Surrey and Langley.

Félicitations Melissa et Marlee !

CPF-BC & Yukon 2009-2010

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Debra Pool, Vernon, BC
dpool@cpf.bc.ca

Vice-President:

Victoria Vaseleniuck, Nelson, BC
victoriav@cpf.bc.ca

Directors-at-Large:

Brittany Harris (Youth Rep), Maple Ridge, BC
bharris@cpf.bc.ca

Marcela Navarro, Victoria, BC
mnavarro@cpf.bc.ca

Sabine Schweiger, Whitehorse, Yukon
sschweiger@cpf.bc.ca

CPF-BC & Yukon Branch Office

#623-409 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC, V6C 1T2

Tel: 778.329.9115

Toll-free: 1.800.665.1222

Toll-free Fax: 1.888.678.1780

Email: info@cpf.bc.ca

Website: www.cpf.bc.ca

Executive Director: Robert Rothon

Systems and Office Manager: Dimitry Morales

Chapter Support & Outreach: Persia Sayyari

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT | RAPPORT DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

I wrote in last year's report that 2008-2009 had been a year of change. Little did I realize then that 2009-2010 was going to be even more so! Change came in a big way to my life when my husband Philip died in March. I want to thank many of you who have been supportive during this difficult time in my life.

The main responsibilities of the Branch Board of Directors are upholding the mission of the organization; overseeing the officers; and setting and monitoring the policies, finances and internal controls of the Branch. We faced many challenges on all these fronts.

Governance: We pursued our revision of our bylaws to align them with provincial law and to make them easier to understand and to use. I'm happy to announce we will be presenting a new set of bylaws for debate and adoption at the 2010 annual general meeting.

Fiscal oversight: We agreed that, for the first time, School District #93 (*Conseil scolaire francophone*) parents would see their rebates allocated to a CPF Chapter based on the location of their school. This means that in 2010-2011, some Chapters will receive additional rebates, with the Branch budget diminished accordingly. We revised our policies concerning inactive, revived and new Chapters, with the latter now receiving a one-time \$250 seed fund to initiate activities. We also maintained a special socio-cultural fund for the Yukon, as our socio-cultural funding agreement with the BC Ministry of Education is restricted to the province.

I am also pleased to say once again that we remain in good shape fiscally. And I extend a big thank you to Executive Director Robert Rotheron and the Branch office staff.

Membership: Unfortunately, 2009-2010 saw a dip in membership before eventually stabilizing at 8,000. Not wanting a downward trend, the Board

commissioned a membership analysis from staff, and we hope that some of the recommendations we have begun to implement will bring our numbers back up to 2008-2009 levels. Seeking to preserve the high value of a CPF membership, we also determined that Chapter rebates would remain at a fixed 80% throughout the year, including during the membership drive. These rebates remain among the highest, possibly the highest, in the country.

Awards: The Board is pleased to award two CPF BC & Yukon awards, worth \$2,000 apiece, to young teachers in 2009-2010. We also maintained the *Bouquet de Merci* Award, whose importance as a means of recognizing the contributions of an outstanding CPF volunteer cannot be stated too strongly.

As Branch president, I worked with my colleagues across Canada on the Council of Presidents and with members of the National Board of CPF, in particular with the National Board Nominations Committee.

Every year, I have the pleasure of thanking our financial partners, including Canadian Heritage; the BC Ministry of Education; and the *Conseil scolaire francophone de la C.-B.*, and people like our Chapter executives and volunteers for the time and passion they put into CPF: I thank you all. My fellow directors, who put in countless hours of work every month, I thank you also. In closing, I would like to especially thank Marcela Navarro and Brittany Harris who are leaving the Board this year for the contributions they have made to CPF- BC & Yukon. Your dedication and hard work will be missed.

Debra Pool
President

Guided by a new strategic plan, the BC & Yukon Branch of CPF was well prepared to meet the challenges of a particularly eventful year, one where budget overruns by a majority of school districts in BC cast doubt on the future of some FSL programs. Threatened programme closures and school reconfigurations were reminders that, even after 40 years of success, many school trustees and district administrators see French immersion and other FSL programs as standing outside the core business of public schools.

Membership:

Parent volunteers at the community level are the heart and soul of CPF. The Branch continued to place significant emphasis on Chapter outreach, leadership development, and volunteer recruitment, with Branch representatives making over 28 Chapter visits. 2009-2010, three new chapters were formed or dormant ones revived: Nanaimo, Cortes Island and Whitehorse.

Advocacy:

A new online advocacy toolkit, the best in the Pan-Canadian CPF network in our estimation, was presented to members at the Annual General Meeting. Our media coverage increased with the Branch receiving 26 interview requests from BC, Yukon and national media outlets. Chapters generated extensive local media coverage. Branch staff met with fellow education stakeholders including the executive committee of the BCTF and the *Consortium en education*.

Education:

FSL programs in 100 Mile House, Williams Lake, Prince George, Nanaimo-Ladysmith, Comox Valley, Powell River, Cranbrook, Kamloops and Surrey were subject to a number of pressures as school districts across the province wrested with budget overruns. CPF parents mounted campaigns in a number of communities to preserve the quality of and access to existing programs. To give one example, CPF Chapters in Williams Lake and 100 Mile House fought back against a school district #27 staff recommendation that the entire French immersion program be eliminated. By rallying community support, CPF parents were able to claim a partial victory, with only the Late French immersion program in 100 Mile House being axed.

The Branch actively supported the 'Take the Bus' campaign organised by parents in school district #69, where over 800 students lost their school bus privileges. The Branch also initiated a province-wide open letter campaign calling for the reinstatement of the Annual Facilities Grant by the provincial government. The campaign was supported by some of our fellow educational stakeholders, and many Chapters took an active part in it by writing their MLA and the Minister of Education. The AFG was reinstated in the 2010 provincial budget.

Cultural Awareness:

CPF continues to be a major organizer of French language socio-cultural events at the Chapter level (69 reported events in 25 communities). The two signature Branch events did as well or better than the previous year: the *Concours d'art oratoire* attracted over 700 attendees to the provincial finals, including 266 participants, while *Rencontre française* attracted a record 150 registrants. This was to be the last year for *Rencontre* in its current format, as a new policy of facilitating access to Branch events by CPF members living outside of the Lower Mainland was initiated, with the ultimate goal of major events taking place in each quadrant of BC by the end of the current four-year funding agreement with the Ministry of Education.

Organizational Strength:

The Branch enjoys good financial health. Canadian Heritage funding of our core operations remained the same, with project funding being added to undertake the second edition of Bilingualism Rocks! A new four-year agreement with the BC Ministry of Education maintained current levels of socio-cultural funding, although it did not renew funding for outreach and promotion, which led to some internal adjustments and cost-saving measures. A new funding source was Québec Intergovernmental Affairs for a circus arts-related project in Whitehorse. There was no staff turnover, and supplementary part-time employees were obtained through the Young Canada Works program, including Anthony Chen, our Olympic blogger.

Continued page 5

2010-2011 will doubtless be an 'interesting' year for our public schools. CPF can expect to continue playing a crucial role in advocating for FSL programs in general and French immersion in particular. But many of the tools we need to play that role are in place, as are the knowledge and the passion to use them. On that basis alone, I am

confident that 2010-2011 will be a watershed year for us all.



Robert Rothon
Executive Director



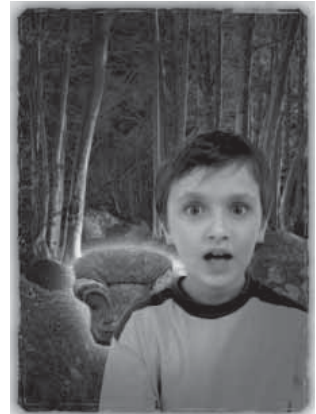
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Théâtre la Seizième 2011 School Tour

April 4 to May 6

La Chaise perdue by Louis-Dominique Lavigne & Luc LeBlanc

Twelve-year-old Mathieu's granddad has just passed away. Upset and angry, Mathieu tries to get rid of the chair the old man had given him. But before he can, the chair whisks Mathieu away to a world of fantasy. There, Mathieu meets all kinds of strange and wonderful characters who force him to fight a dragon. With their help, Mathieu eventually confront his own feelings of loss.
Produced by l'UniThéâtre, Edmonton



February 7 to March 4

L'Hypocrite by Michael Gauthier

The story of two high school best friends, Chuck and Eric, who spend all of their free time together until Eric gets a girlfriend, Hélène. Feeling left out, Chuck schemes to get his best friend back and proves to be a first-class manipulator. But perhaps he's not the only one playing games? A perceptive and engaging story about friendship and relationships between teenagers.
Produced by Théâtre la Seizième, Vancouver.



Advertisement solely conceived and produced by Canadian Parents for French – BC & Yukon Branch.

At the 2009 CPF BC & Yukon AGM and first Board meeting, the President struck the Board Nominations Committee. The Board Nominations Committee issued a call for Chapter members to sit on the Nominations Committee. Two Chapter members stepped forward, though one stepped down due to prior commitments. The Nominations Committee follows the nomination process as outlined in Branch Policies, Bylaws and Terms of Reference. We communicated by email and teleconference.

The role of the Nominations Committee is to give the members at the AGM a slate of candidates for the Board by:

- a) recruiting board candidates from all regions of the Branch; and
- b) ensuring that all candidates are qualified.

The guiding principles in selecting Nominees to the Board of Directors are to recruit members who demonstrate: Commitment to the specific mission of CPF; familiarity with the work of CPF; propensity to address the larger picture; eagerness to deal with values, vision and the long term; ability to participate assertively in board deliberations; willingness to allow others to make decisions; and willingness to work collaboratively with Board members.

For the 2010 election, the Nominations Committee issued a call for nominations through

the CPF newsletter, the CPF web site, and Chapter Representative Updates (CRU). Three nominations from the general membership, and one from the current board, were received. The Nominations Committee puts forward three Board members for election.

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce that many of the nominees interviewed offer complimentary skill sets to the Board and as such, we are pleased to present a slate of nominees to the Chapter members at the 2010 AGM.

For election to a third two-year term

Victoria Vaseleniuck (Nelson)

For election to a first two-year term

Daphne Lu (Youth Director, Delta)

Patti Holm (Kamloops)

As Chair of the Nominations Committee, I would like to thank members Marcela Navarro (Board member), Debra Pool (Branch President), and Judy Riddell (Prince Rupert) for their commitment and dedication to Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon. This committee performed extremely well with patience, endurance and a generosity of time that ensured a positive outcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Harris, Chair, Nominations Committee



Back to School Tips

by Dimitry Morales, CPF - BC & Yukon

Going back to school can be an exciting experience for families, especially those with young children entering the public school system for the first time. Keep it fun (and less nerve-wracking) with the following tips:

- Introduce yourself to the teacher and check with your school to find out what your child will need this year. Purchasing school supplies or clothes with your child is a good way to help them become more enthusiastic about starting a new school year.
- Talk to your child about the exciting activities they get to do and the new friends they will make.
- If you enrol your child in a French program, make French “real” by subscribing to a French magazine, ordering a French dish (crêpes!) in a restaurant or taking a trip to a French-speaking community – *how about St-Isidore, Alberta?*

For more useful tips and for other great bilingual resources, please visit us online at www.cpf.bc.ca

For election to a third two-year term

VICTORIA VASENELIUK
(*Nelson*)

Literary passion sparked Victoria's interest in languages and that passion led her and her husband to enrol their children in French immersion. Throughout her children's school life Victoria placed prime importance on French immersion in her school district by successfully advocating for the reinstatement of a FAC, Trustee representation on the FAC, raising the understanding of the French funding, increasing the cap to the late immersion program and fostering a relationship between the immersion schools and community.


Victoria is now completing her 2nd 2-year term at CPF BC & Yukon. Moreover, since she is no stranger to the challenging aspects of policy writing and financial review she looks forward to her third two-year term and to continue putting her advocacy skills to good use in addressing the many changes and challenges to and within the education system.

For election to a first two-year term

DAPHNE LU
(*Youth Director, Delta*)

Daphne, "not pictured," is a recent graduate of the French immersion program and will be entering the University of British Columbia as a first year Science student. She has volunteered actively in her community by helping seniors at a local care home and teaching students in her school district's French immersion Writestretch program. Daphne is currently a laboratory assistant at the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics.

However, Daphne enjoys spending her spare time learning new languages by reading, writing, and of course, asking her bilingual friends - "How do you say... in your language". She is convinced that you never know when it might come in handy. Daphne believes that the ability to speak a different language is an incredible privilege and she is excited to share this enthusiasm by working on the CPF board.



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For more information:
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For election to a first two-year term

PATTI HOLM
(Kamloops)

Patti has been extensively involved in French immersion at the school level. She has taught in French immersion and Core French programs during her 30 year career as a teacher, languages coordinator, and elementary principal, and vice principal. She began working in collaboration with the Canadian Parents for French in 1990, and became a member of CPF, with her husband, in 1995 when their first child began FI Kindergarten. Since then she has been involved in organizing the *Concours d'art oratoire* for several years as judge and/or helper/organizer and the district French Advisory Council (1995-1998). She has since been Kamloops CPF secretary (2006-2009) and school principal representative for several years. Patti received her B.Ed. from UBC and a M.A. from SFU.

Patti's Masters' research and dissertation was on mentoring beginning French immersion teachers. Though both of her children have since graduated from French immersion, Patti still knows how important it is to remain strong supporter of language learning programs and wishes to continue to be an advocate for motivational and successful French programs for children. She looks forward to her knowledge and skills to work with the CPF BC and Yukon Board.



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La Joie de Lire

La Joie de Lire is both the title and the purpose of the programs in French at the Vancouver International Writers Festival. This year, the events for K-12 students will feature the work of five authors: **Susie Morgenstern** (France), **Jacques Pasquet** (Québec), **Pierre Pratt** (Québec and Portugal), **Zachary Richard** (Louisiana and Québec) and **Jennifer Tremblay** (Québec).

Students studying French as a second or third language will delight in knowing that **Susie Morgenstern**, born in New Jersey, knew three words in French when she moved to France with her French husband. Since then, she has written many books in French. In 2005, the French government honoured her for her literary contributions by naming her *Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres*.

Jacques Pasquet will be presenting a nonsense book and a narrative story at Festival events for grades 4 to 7. **Pierre Pratt**, best known for his many beautiful illustrations of books, will be presenting a book to students in K-3 that he both illustrated and wrote. We are delighted that **Zachary Richard** is returning to the festival this year with more Cajun tales. **Jennifer Tremblay** will present two of her children's books to students in K-3.

All events take place entirely in French. The format of the events, with the assistance of a moderator, encourages interaction between students and authors. Study guides are posted on our website to assist teachers' preparation of their students for Festival events.

Tickets go on sale at 8 AM, September 13. School group tickets cost \$8.50 per ticket for each Festival school event (includes HST) To order, go online at www.writersfest.bc.ca, call (604.681.6330 ext. 107) or fax 604.681.8400 (call ahead for order form).

A limited number of subsidies, based on financial need, are available through the Cynthia Woodward Development Program. Teachers intending to apply for a subsidy should contact Brenda Berck, Programmer of La Joie de Lire, at lajoiedelire@writersfest.bc.ca or (604) 681-0315.

BILINGUALISM ROCKS

FALL TOUR 2010 | TOURNÉE AUTOMNE 2010

La culture francophone de l'Ouest en tournée !

Trad'badour vous offre un spectacle avec ateliers commandité par CPF-BC & Yukon et présenté avec le concours du Conseil scolaire francophone de la C.-B.

C'était le meilleur spectacle que nous avons reçu à notre école depuis des années. Même les M à 3 étaient intéressées.
~ Direction, École Boréal, Edmonton

Pour réserver entre septembre et décembre 2010, visitez www.cpf.bc.ca

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~ Principal, École Boréal, Edmonton

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2010 Conference and AGM

Educate! Validate! Celebrate! October 14 - 17, 2010 in Ottawa, Ontario

Every other year, the CPF National office holds a nationwide conference for the weekend of our Annual General Meeting (AGM), and we are thrilled to announce that the theme of this year's conference is Educate! Validate! Celebrate!

BC & Yukon Branch will be holding our AGM/Conference concurrently in Ottawa. Each CPF Chapter in good standing is entitled to send one delegate (two if the Chapter has 100 or more members). Registration information is available on www.cpf.bc.ca.

Join us in celebrating all that CPF has accomplished over the past two years nationally, and in BC & Yukon this past year.

The weekend's itinerary includes:

Thursday, October 14

- CPF British Columbia & Yukon (7:30 am – 8:30 am)
- CPF British Columbia & Yukon (9:00 am – Noon)
- CPF British Columbia & Yukon afternoon event(s) updates available on www.cpf.bc.ca
- Welcoming reception dinner and registration (6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)

Friday, October 15 (7:45 am - 9:00 pm)

- Breakfast launch of The State of French-Second-Language Education in Canada 2010 report, followed by an information session
- Afternoon tour
- Reception dinner

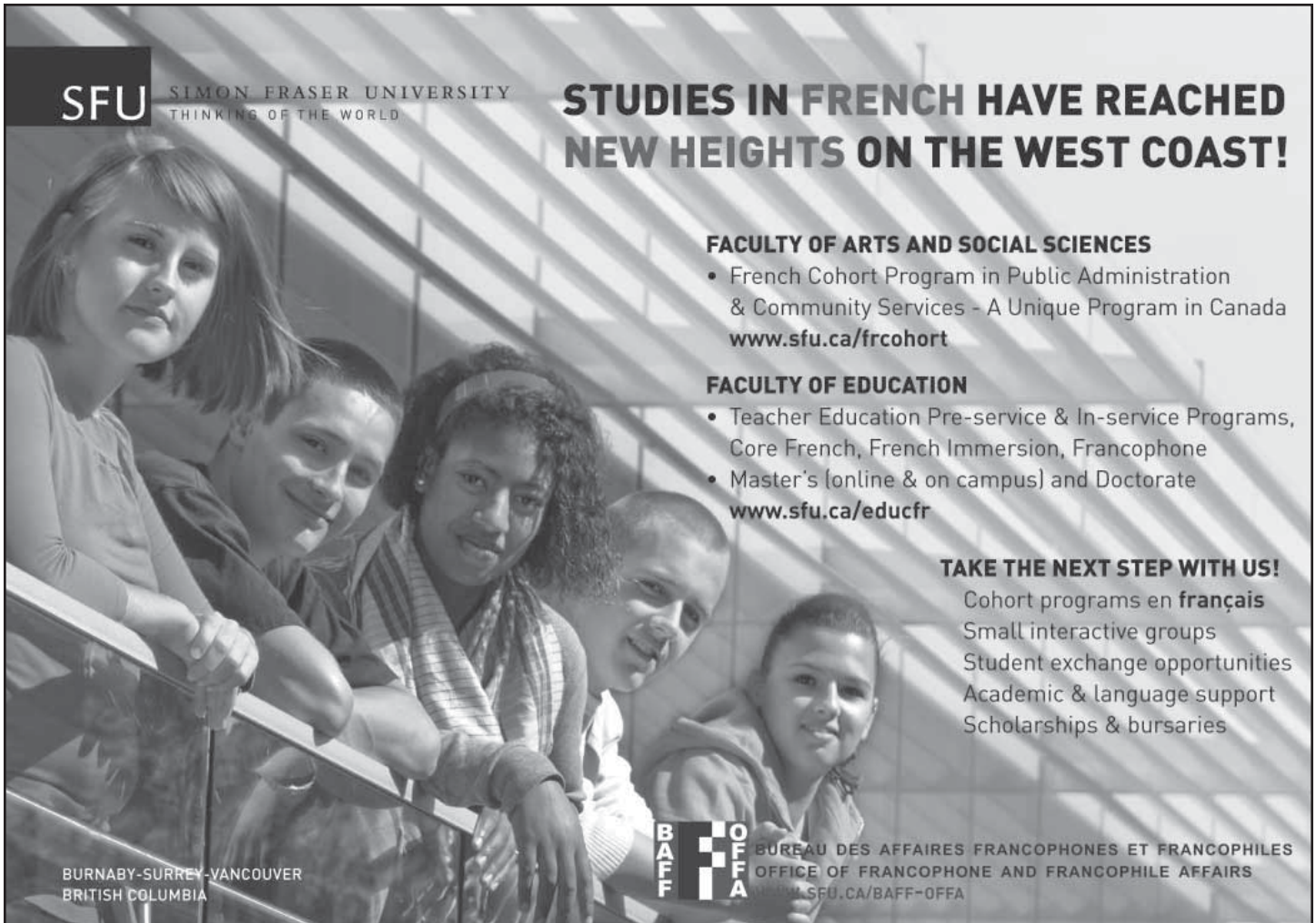
Saturday, October 16 (7:45 am - 9:30 pm)

- Workshops
- National AGM; includes:
 - Annual Report
 - Audited Financial Statements for 2009-2010
 - Election of Directors
 - Proposed changes to the National Bylaws
- President's Banquet

Sunday, October 17 (8:00 am - 9:00 am)

- Breakfast presentation and end of conference
- CPF Ontario AGM
- CPF Manitoba AGM

To register as a Chapter representative, please contact the CPF – BC & Yukon Branch to request a registration package today!



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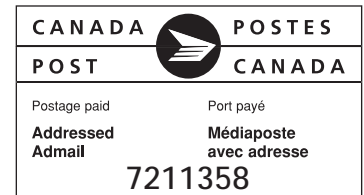
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This label is your proof of CPF membership, which expires on the date shown above your name.

CPF – BC & Yukon’s Annual Membership Drive Is On NOW And Runs to October 31, 2010

Renew your membership! Ask others to join! And do it before October 31 because during our membership drive you can win wonderful prizes! Remember, 80% of your membership fees comes right back to your local Chapter. That means more fun events in schools, more resources for parents, teachers and students, and more extra-curricular activities in French for our kids!

Check out some of these great prizes we have lined up for you:

- A **FREE** school performance by BC’s Théâtre la Seizième
- A **FREE** week for the entire family next summer at the BC Family French Camp at one of their three locations of your choice
- **FREE** Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) 4 Playland passes and 4 fair passes for the 2011 year.

- **FREE** bulk and single Amuse-toi bien game boards
- **DONATED** design services by Stripe Graphics www.stripegraphics.com
- A **DONATED** musical performance by jazz pianist Dominik Heins www.dominikheins.com

More prizes will be announced on our website as details are confirmed.

Winners will be determined by draw.

There has never been a better time to take out or renew your membership. It’s as easy as filling out the form below and sending it to our national office in Ottawa with your payment.

Winners will be announced in December 2010 so don’t delay – the membership drive ends October 31!

CPF MEMBERSHIP FORM

JOIN NOW OR INVITE OTHERS

CPF allows one or two adults per family as voting members.

New membership Renewal: membership # _____ Change of Address

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name: _____
First Member’s Surname (Given name) Second Member’s Surname (Given name)

Street: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: () _____

Work Phone: () _____

Fax: () _____

E-mail: _____

School Board: _____

School(s): _____

Local CPF Chapter/Section: _____

Occasionally the CPF membership list will be made available to other groups/agencies to offer members benefits or education-related information. Use of the list will be carefully regulated and only permitted under a contract specifying confidentiality and one-time authorization. If you do not wish to receive mailings other than directly from CPF, please check this box.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Best Value! 3 year – \$60 \$ _____
 1 year – \$25 \$ _____
 Donation* \$ _____
 Total (No GST) \$ _____

80% of your membership fee supports the activities of your local Chapter; 10% supports CPF’s work at the Branch level and 10% goes to CPF National to partially cover processing costs.

DONATIONS: Your gift in support of CPF is also welcomed and appreciated. All donations are important to us. However, due to cost, we will issue tax receipts in January of the following year only to donors who have made donations of more than \$10, unless a receipt for a lesser amount is specifically requested. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!** (CPF Charitable Reg. No. 11883 5131 RR0001)

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