
February 2012
CPF BC & Yukon

CPF - BC & Yukon Chapter Representative Update (CRU)

Bienvenue Heather

Hello Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon Chapter Representatives!

**CPF & Parent
Information Nights**

As was announced in the January CRU, our Branch Office is in the midst of a few staff changes.

**BC Family French
Camp Registration**

After working with the Branch as Office Assistant since October, I have stepped into the role of Chapter Support and Outreach Officer. While Erika was of great help during this transition, I appreciate your patience as I further familiarize myself with the specific advocacy issues and reporting statuses for each of our over 50 Chapters. I'm currently pulling membership lists and contacting each Chapter individually in order to address their reporting and any issues or concerns that have been noted in their file; Chapters should expect to hear from me within the coming week if they have not already.

**Concours d'art
oratoire: Help
Your School
Participate!**

As a graduate of BC's Early French Immersion program and someone who chose to complete their university studies in French in BC, it is my pleasure to be with CPF and advocate for educational and cultural opportunities in both official language. I sincerely look forward to supporting all of our dedicated parent volunteers and I look forward to the opportunity to work with you!

**French Immersion
Celebration Week:
How Will You
Celebrate?**

À bientôt,

**Regional
Conference
Cancelled**

Alex Hughes
Chapter Support and Outreach Officer
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Advocacy Toolkit

Bienvenue Heather!

**What's Going On in
Your Chapter?**

CPF BC & Yukon is very pleased to announce that **Heather Bartlett** has joined the Branch as our new full-time **Project Coordinator**. Heather comes to CPF with a strong background in event organizing, grant administration and project coordination with environmental non-for-profit groups in BC & Alberta. She has first-hand experience with French Immersion as she graduated from the program in Ontario and went on to benefit from French second language initiatives such as [Explore](#).

**BC Family French
Camps**

Heather will be taking over a few core responsibilities formerly covered by Systems & Office Manager, Dimitry Morales - namely the administration of all chapter-lead **socio-cultural grants and activities**. Effective this week Heather will be Chapters' primary contact for all socio-cultural grant related questions, comments, or concerns. As main coordinator, she will also be the primary contact for Concours related questions.

You can reach Heather at projects@cpf.bc.ca or 1.800.665.1222 ext. 317.

Involving CPF in Parent Information Nights

Many school districts will be hosting information sessions for families with children entering into kindergarten and for those making the leap into secondary school or a Late French Immersion program during the weeks and months to come. These events can act as a perfect opportunity to reach out to new potential CPF members, building your membership and volunteer base.

If you have not already done so, please feel free to contact your principals and/or school district in order to coordinate CPF representation at these events. The Branch Office would be more than glad to provide you with brochures, posters and guidance for these promotional opportunities!

Concours d'art oratoire: Help Your School Participate!

Registration for the provincial Concours will open February 28, 2012 and close April 18, 2012. **Please help your school districts meet this deadline.** In order for students to participate at the provincial level, **their school must be a CPF member.**

Each year there are a number of eligible schools that, unfortunately, do not participate in Concours due to a lack of awareness. Please help highlight the benefits of this annual local, provincial, and national competition to your teachers and school principals. In addition, due to the current teacher job action affecting certain school activities your Chapter may need to take a more active role in organizing Concours events at the school and district levels. Concours is a longstanding tradition of CPF BC & Yukon, and we hope this year continues to build upon past success!

For questions regarding Concours, how to begin organizing a local competition, and for up-to-date announcements please refer to our website:

<http://bit.ly/CPF2012Concours>

French Immersion Celebration Week: How Will You Celebrate? ***February 5-11, 2012***

CPF - BC & Yukon is pleased to announce that both the Government of British Columbia and the Government of Yukon have proclaimed February 5th to 11th **French Immersion Celebration Week!** The Branch has circulated a media release and is encouraging all of our Chapters to recognize this event in their communities.

The Branch is offering a \$100 FI Celebration Week Volunteer appreciation grant to celebrate your Chapter volunteers. The volunteer appreciation event, initiative or gifts cannot include alcoholic beverages, tobacco or travel and must occur between February 1st and 29th.

Please submit your receipts to the Branch Office (Attn: Volunteer Appreciation) by February 29th in order to receive reimbursement. Pictures, descriptions and stories from your event are always welcome and may appear in the Newsletter!

Regional Conference Cancelled

Due to the number of recent staffing changes it has been determined that this spring would not be the appropriate time to host a regional conference on Vancouver Island. Instead, we will plan to host a regional conference during the next fiscal year, most likely in February or March 2013.

If the Branch Office becomes aware of any specific workshops or particular speakers of interest we will make a recommendation to include them in our fall 2012 AGM & Conference in Ottawa. If your Chapter would like to suggest a theme for the upcoming AGM & Conference, please forward them to Alex at outreach@cpf.bc.ca.

Is Your Chapter Using the Advocacy Toolkit?

The Advocacy Toolkit was prepared by CPF BC & Yukon to assist Chapters with frequently encountered issues. The Toolkit is organized step-by-step around specific issues, such as how to build community support or influence decision makers, as well as assistance in running effective Chapter meetings and communication guidance.

The Advocacy Toolkit is an online resource available to everyone through our website. Documents are available online and for download, and in the coming months we will continue to build on this resource.

<http://www.cpf.bc.ca/site3/index.php/chapters/advocacy-toolkit>

Let CPF BC & Yukon Know What's Going On in Your Chapter!

Once again we'd like to encourage all Chapters to get in contact with our office and let us know of any local news or events taking place in your community!

If you have any online links, newspaper clippings, Chapter newsletters or flyers about Chapter or FSL issues and events in your area, please forward them to Alex (outreach@cpf.bc.ca) to be posted on the CPF BC & Yukon website. This helps inform other Chapters of what is going on in your community and the issues you face - they may have advocacy tips or event suggestions for you! This also helps the Branch and National offices keep track of issues and trends as to better advocate effectively on your behalf.

Further, if your community is hosting any Francophone or Francophile events, please let our Branch Office know and we would be more than happy to help spread the word! We also have a calendar on our website that we will continue to update with Chapter and member organization events.

BC Family French Camp Registration: Registration Now OPEN!

BC Family French Camp registration is now open! CPF members will need their 5 digit CPF membership ID number in order to register for camp. If you do not have proof of membership as is outlined in the registration form or do not know your membership ID number, please contact Alex at outreach@cpf.bc.ca or at 1-800-665-1222 ext. 315.

N.B.: Please note that the original registration date of January 22nd was postponed. The BC Family French camp is a separate society with its own internal operations and governance, with who CPF BC & Yukon has an ongoing partnership with.

To register and for more information please visit: <http://bit.ly/BCfamilyfrenchcamp>

Information regarding other French camps sponsored by CPF Chapters can be found on the CPF website: <http://bit.ly/CPFcamps>
