

MINUTES, CPF Vancouver North Spring Meeting, March 29, 2010

1. Welcome and introductions.

2. Financials (see attached)

3. Chapter Grants

a. Last year we proposed to spend the bulk of our budget on chapter grants. Each school is allotted \$300. Three requirements: 1) must be used for something that will benefit French second language learning (including core French), such as books or other learning materials, scholarships, afterschool enrichment, performances, social event (movie night), a parent survival night by Sallie Boschung, etc... 2) CPF needs to be acknowledged for the grant, and 3) activity or materials should generate a greater awareness of CPF at each school. *Draft form attached.*

b. It might be a good idea to survey the CPF members at your school on how they would like to spend the money; this would be a good way to involve parents. *I can provide you with a list of members for your school.*

4. Children's Festival Tickets.

The Children's Festival has offered CPF 100 tickets at the school rate (\$11, which is a savings of \$6.25) for the [Joie d'Afrique](#) show. *Do we want to coordinate ticket sales for parents through school reps? Should we restrict to CPF members?*

5. Outreach to new early FI and late FI parents

a. Welcome to Kindergarten sessions coming up. Please ask your school's OA to include a copy of our "Getting Ready for French Kindergarten" handout in each package. *Should we also include a CPF brochure, or save this for later?*

b. VSB publications – ask to put online.

c. Welcome to late Immersion session, and need year at a glance for late FI.

6. Advocacy

a. The CPF campaign to lobby for reinstatement of the Annual Facilities Grant was successful! See attached letter from Glyn. Thanks to all who wrote letters. I was impressed with the leadership by CPF-BC Yukon on this issue. Note despite this victory, the budget this year will still be tight.

b. Large K waitlists this year (numbers attached). We have written Daniel Belanger and Val Overgaard about this situation, and they have put the issue on the agenda for the next MLAC meeting. We have suggested to parents that they write to both the VSB and the trustees. *Any other actions we should be taking? Maybe a parent survey (see draft attached)?*

c. All day K and FI. Will West side schools be able to offer as many FI K spots next year as they did this year? Would parents rather have all day K or a spot in French Immersion? *How should we pursue this issue? Should we request a meeting with Daniel to discuss?*

d. DPAC vacancies. The DPAC has 3 vacancies for 2010-11. Would be great to have FI represented. *Please mention to your PACs*

e. Future advocacy (for next year's agenda). Robert Rothern, director of CPF, sees challenges ahead for French Immersion. "The OLEP (Official Languages in Education Protocol), signed between BC & the Federal government in 2009, maintains funding for the next four years at the same levels as in the previous four-year OLEP. This means that by 2013, funding for FI & other FSL programs from Kindergarten to postsecondary will be effectively less. That is why the current OLEP seeks to maintain present enrolment numbers and not grow FI in any significant way. Any future growth will have to come through school districts using their own funds. This is unlikely to happen, as we've seen this year, as school districts are cutting back in a number of ways to preserve 'core' programs and services as they deal with budget shortfalls, and FI is not considered a 'core' program.

This is the real and pressing issue, and parents should involve themselves in the school district budget planning process in a pro-active way.

In the long term - what happens to Federal funding after 2013 - that will play itself out in Ottawa and the provincial capitals. But my suggestion is that parents should be talking to their MPs in an upbeat and positive manner about FI, Official Languages and bilingualism. They should also write supportive letters to Canadian Heritage Minister James Moore – a FI graduate himself and proud of it - encouraging him to take a leadership role as he prepares the next round of negotiations (his ministry negotiates with the provinces and territories on behalf of Ottawa). Finally, they should also write to the Minister of Education, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and to the Premier - the province should be strongly encouraged to take greater pride and ownership of its success in FSL education and to push for a greater share of federal funding in the next OLEP."

7. Membership Drive

How do we spread the word about the important role and good work of CPF?

- a. First raise awareness: Bulletin board display "CPF Corner" in each school (see draft attached), introduction at PAC meeting. ***Is this a good idea, and do your schools have room somewhere for a small display?***
- b. Working on new info sheet: How can I help if I don't speak French (very early draft attached).
- c. New invite to membership letter (attached). ***When should we send this? Now? After we set up the bulletin board displays?***
- d. Need a system for membership renewals – sending out a reminder quarterly to those whose memberships are expiring. ***Any volunteers?***

8. Other business?

9. Presentation of thank you gifts.

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH (CPF)
Vancouver North Chapter 2009 - 2010
Budget as of January 31, 2010

INCOME

Membership Rebates (deposited 5/15/09)	\$3,519.82
Social-Cultural Grants	\$0.00
Information session (04/16/09) - donations	\$33.05
Miscellaneous income	\$39.84

TOTAL INCOME**\$3,592.71****EXPENSES**

Information session - our portion of the general cost	\$50.00
Information session - snacks	\$41.81
- child minding	\$30.00
Alliance Francaise de Vancouver - Art Class	\$80.00
Scholarships - Kitsilano Secondary	\$300.00
Promo material expenses	\$7.99

TOTAL EXPENSES**\$509.80****NET INCOME****\$3,082.91**

CHAPTER GRANT APPLICATION FORM (DRAFT)

Application deadline: May 1, 2010. Funds must be used by the end of the calendar year.

School:

Name and Contact Information of Applicant(s):

1. How you propose to use your grant? Please describe your idea and include a budget.

2. How will your use of the grant benefit French second language learning?

3. How will you acknowledge CPF?

4. Do you plan to raise the profile of CPF at your school in additional ways?

Kindergarten 2010/2011					
SCHOOL	Total Program Space	Total Spaces Available	Siblings in program	# still on catchment waitlist	Total catchment registrations
Douglas Annex (K-3)	44	0	25	33	77
Hastings (K-7)	44	0	17	45	89
Hudson (K-3)	22	0	7	44	66
Kerrisdale (K-6)	44	0	19	32	76
L'Ecole Bilingue (K-7)	66	0	31	76	143
Queen E. Annex (K-3)	22	0	33	69	135
Jules Quesnel (K-7)	44				
Quilchena (K-7)	22	0	10	23	45
Secord (K-7)	44	0	23	36	84
Selkirk (K-3)	44	0	14	1	45
Strathcona (K-1)	22	6	1	0	16
Tennyson (K-7)	66	0	31	21	87
Trafalgar (K-7)	44	0	21	20	64
TOTAL	528	6	232	400	927

Letter from Glyn re AFG lobbying:

Dear Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon Chapter Representatives,

On Tuesday, March 3rd 2010, the BC Provincial Government submitted its 2010-2011 [budget](#). Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon is happy to announce the province has committed to re-instating the \$110 million Annual Facilities Grant - which it had cut in August of 2009 - through March 2011.

This funding cut had forced a number of school districts across BC to find millions in savings through cuts and layoffs for the coming school year. In addition, French second language programs, such as French immersion, were being specifically targeted for consolidation and even elimination.

Over the past few weeks Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon members have been active in over 46 communities in calling on their local MLA's to re-instate this crucial grant. Our call for action was endorsed by the following organizations: *BC Teachers Federation, Association canadienne des professeurs d'immersion, Association des Professeurs d'Immersion de la Colombie-Britannique, BC Language Coordinators Association and the British Columbia Association of Teachers of Modern Languages.*

The CPF-BC & Yukon Branch is optimistic that the financial measures announced in the March 3rd budget speech, especially the re-instatement of the Annual Facilities Grant, will alleviate some of the budget shortfall pressures school districts across British Columbia are experiencing.

While we are certainly [not out of the woods yet](#), we would like to take a moment and thank everyone for their incredible community-based advocacy efforts in calling for the re-instatement of this crucial funding.

We look forward to working with all of you as your school districts develop their budgets for the next school year.

Thank you all once again,

Glyn Lewis
Chapter Support & Community Outreach Officer

Canadian Parents for French – Vancouver North Chapter

Survey of Parents on 2010/11 French Immersion Kindergarten Waitlist

An electronic version of this survey is available on the web: cpf.bc.ca/vannorth/index.php/links



We would like to find out more about how parents/guardians decide where to send their child to school, and the effect of being waitlisted on this decision process. If you are on the waitlist for 2010/11 French Immersion Kindergarten in the Vancouver School District, we would very much appreciate your response. One survey per child, please. We plan to present the results to the Vancouver School Board (without any of your personal information included, of course, such as name or e-mail address).

You can e-mail your survey to cpfvannorth@gmail.com, or to the following address: CPF – Vancouver North Chapter, Suite 623 - 409 Granville Street. Vancouver, BC V6C 1T2 ATTN: Waitlist Survey. Or e-mail us to arrange a pickup at your child's preschool. THANK YOU!

1. What is your French Immersion catchment school? _____
2. In deciding where to send your child to Kindergarten, what three factors are most important to you (please mark 1 -3, with 1 being the most important factor):

	Programs offered at school (i.e. French Immersion)		Availability of after-school care
	Convenient location of school		Transportation offered
	Cost of school		All day Kindergarten available
	Friends at school		Half day Kindergarten available
	Reputation of school		

3. If you had been offered a spot in your French Immersion catchment school, how likely would you have been to send your child to that school in September? Please mark the statement that best describes the probability with an "X".

	Definitely – 100% positive my child would have attended in September
	Very likely – 75% chance; we still had to arrange afterschool care and/or were exploring other options.
	Moderately likely – 50% chance; we still had to arrange afterschool care and/or were exploring other options.
	Somewhat likely – 25% chance; we were not sure we could arrange child care and/or we were learning more towards other options.
	No chance. By February we had decided on another school

4. What statement best describes your situation at this point?

	Our child will attend our catchment school in the English program. We plan switch to French Immersion K over the summer or at any time in the 2010/11 school year if space opens.
	Our child will attend our catchment school in the English program. We would like to switch to French Immersion K if a space opens up, but are not sure if we would be able to make arrangements (i.e. afterschool care/transportation, etc...)
	Our child will attend our catchment school in the English program. We have no plans to continue to pursue the French Immersion option.
	Our child will attend a public school in another school district (i.e. North or West Van).
	Our child will attend an independent (private) school.

5. If you are planning to send your child to a school in another district or an independent school (private) in September, which statement best describes your thoughts? Please mark with an “X”.

	Being waitlisted did not have an effect on this decision
	Being waitlisted had a small effect on this decision
	Being waitlisted had a large effect on this decision
	Being waitlisted is the only reason for this decision

6. Will your child study French in the next year if they are not offered a spot in French Immersion?

	Yes, s/he will study it in school.
	Yes, we plan to enroll him/her in extracurricular classes.
	Yes, we will teach him/her French at home.
	No, we have no plans to pursue any French enrichment.

Comments:



Canadian Parents for French – Vancouver North Chapter

How Can I Help My Child in French Immersion if I Don't Speak French? DRAFT

(A hyperlinked version of this handout can be found on the web: cpf.bc.ca/vannorth/index.php/links)

Don't worry because you do not speak French! The French Immersion program was designed for children of non-French speaking parents. Having to rely on themselves for some aspects of their schoolwork will help your child develop self-esteem and independent learning skills.

You can support your child in many ways, including the following:

- Have a positive and encouraging attitude about learning French. Show interest in what your child is studying and talk about your child's day.
- Strong first language skills are the foundation for learning a second or third language. So anything you do to strengthen your child's dominant language will help your child in school. Read aloud to your child, discuss a book or tv show together, encourage your child to write (a letter to a relative, a story, a daily or travel journal, etc...).
- To emphasize: Read aloud to your child every day! Even if they read well on their own, reading books together is a great way to enjoy time together and foster a love of reading (for inspiration, see this [story](#) from the New York Times). It is important to let your child see that you enjoy reading.
- Go to the library often with your child and borrow books, audibooks, Cds, and videos in English and French. The Central, Firehall, Kitsilano, and Renfrew branches of the [Vancouver Public Library](#) have French collections, along with the Brighthouse branch of the [Richmond Public Library](#). Also, you can become a member of [Alliance Francaise](#) or [Le Centre](#) and use their libraries, or read [books online](#).
- If your child is just learning to read, maintain your child's confidence by staying positive, and keeping reading at home fun and enjoyable. Help your child to pick appropriate books using the [five finger rule](#) so they do not get frustrated.
- If you are having a hard time pronouncing French words (either helping your child practice their dictée or listening to them read), study [French pronunciation](#), use an [online text-to-speech translator](#), or ask your child's teacher for a pronunciation guide.
- If your child is a reluctant reader, you can help encourage them to read by developing a reward system for reading, exposing them to a wide variety of reading materials and topics to help them find something they enjoy, browsing [book lists](#) or asking other parents what their children enjoy reading, taking turns reading together, like in the “[You Read to Me; I'll Read to You](#)” books, or listening to audiobooks. And of course, read aloud to your child!

- If your child is in the intermediate grades, encourage them to read in French at least 20 minutes a day. They will be receiving less instruction in French at school, so it is important that they keep up their French reading at home, even if reading in English is their first choice.
- You can help with your child's writing assignments by reinforcing the concept of first drafts and final copies, by helping them organize their ideas for their first draft, helping them to establish an editing routine, such as [COPS](#) (Capitals, Organization, Punctuation, Spelling and Grammar), and being an audience. Even if you don't understand, reading aloud can help your child see where things don't make sense.
- Help your child learn organization and time management skills. For example, you could help them make checklists of morning and after school tasks, encourage them to prepare for the morning rush the night before, discuss with your child a weekly amount of screen time or schedule favorite shows so they do not conflict with homework, etc...
- Encourage good study habits by helping your child establish a routine homework time and place. Experiment with before school, right after school, before dinner, or after dinner and see what works for your family, and decide together on a good place to study that allows for optimum concentration.
- Help your child find homework resources on the internet. You can start by checking out CPF BC-Yukon's [French Language Help page](#) for links to dictionaries, grammar help, and fun language sites.
- Establish a good relationship with your child's teacher. Talk to them if you are uncertain about something or suspect your child is having trouble.
- Help your child master other skills besides French language arts. For example, you can help your child master [grade-appropriate](#) math facts. More suggestions for ways to help in different subject areas are [here](#).
- Get involved at your child's school. Ask the PAC or your child's teacher about ways to participate.
- Inform yourself about how the French Immersion program works (good places to start are the Vancouver School Board [website](#), the Canadian Parents for French [website](#) or [Yes, you can Help!](#)).
- Join a parent group, such as [Canadian Parents for French](#), to meet other parents, to find out about French resources and cultural opportunities in your community, and to learn how you can support French Immersion programs in your school district.

Source: "Parent Survival Night" talk by Sallie Boschung, Vancouver French Immersion teacher and Early Literacy Specialist, Vancouver School Board Publications *Fostering Family Literacy in the Primary Grades*, and *Meeting the Challenges of the French Immersion Intermediate and Secondary Years* and CPF materials, including *Yes, you Can Help!*

Membership Renewal/Invite to Membership letter - Draft

Canadian Parents for French -Vancouver North Chapter

Dear CPF Vancouver North members,

Just a reminder that it is time to renew your membership.

I first joined CPF back in 2006, when my oldest child started kindergarten. I let my membership drop a year later, because I did not perceive much activity going on besides the production of newsletters.

But then in 2008 the Vancouver School Board cut a teacher at my son's school - and we turned to CPF for help. In fact, I ended up being the president of the new Vancouver North Chapter.

In the past year as president, I realize that there is no organization out there as passionately committed to improving French Immersion in BC as CPF. They have 4 full time staff in downtown Vancouver, along with a strong network of parent volunteers that work to 1) inform parents, 2) provide enriching extracurricular activities, and 3) advocate with (and watchdog) the Vancouver School Board and government. Please check out the [chapter website](#) and the [branch website](#) to see all the important work that CPF does.

A membership is only \$25 (The online form is [here](#)). \$20 of your dues returns to our chapter, and much of this returns to your child's school in the form of \$300 school grants (we will be distributing this money this term).

Thank you for your time and for helping to keep French Immersion strong! Please feel free to e-mail me if you have any questions or comments.

Please excuse this message if you have already renewed; there is a bit of delay in getting information from CPF national to the local chapter.

Kate Gregory
[President, Vancouver North Chapter](#)