

## Canadian Parents for French Kelowna and District Chapter

### Jan-Mar 2013 newsletter

Canadian Parents for French was established in 1977 by a group of parents whose primary goal was to promote and create French-second-language learning opportunities for young Canadians. Currently, there are more than 25,000 members from about 185 community-level Chapters, supported by 11 provincial/territorial Branches and a National Office.

In December 2012, a group of dedicated parents joined their volunteering forces to found Kelowna and District Chapter of CPF. This is great news, as Kelowna has never had a Chapter of its own, and has never benefited from all the opportunities that come with it. The Chapter covers Kelowna, West Kelowna, and Lake Country, largely the Central Okanagan and the SD 23 boundaries.

Here are the Board Members of the CPF Kelowna and District Chapter: President: Ana-Maria Covaser; Vice-president: Shawni Macpherson; Treasurer: Cathi Durell; Secretary: David Cochrane; Members at Large: Shelley Dickie, Jody Bruce, Abbey Westbury, Monique Tonogai, Jacki Kurkjian, Corinne Obst, Aylin Yar-Uyaniker, Bulent Uyaniker.

As we mentioned in our previous newsletter, CPF is about parents with children enrolled in French Immersion, who want to help bring the French culture closer to our schools. Our children would have many opportunities ranging from cultural events, to French Camps, resources and bursaries. Parent participation is on a volunteer basis. With this local chapter, many will benefit from our efforts. Our children will have more opportunities to enjoy the French and be proud of this additional language. Resources will be available for our parents to support their children. This will also provide our parents with a way of networking and learning from each other so that learning French can be a benefit to the family as a whole.

The money paid through the membership is returned into our Chapter and it helps us to pay for the numerous ideas we might have. Therefore, more members mean a bigger budget. We also ask the parents to give us suggestions, to provide feed-back, and to be enthusiastic about our projects! For information and resources, go to [www.cpf.bc.ca](http://www.cpf.bc.ca). Soon, we will have our own website. For now, we try to post our local events on Facebook and Castanet, as well as on the bulletin boards, websites and/or in the newsletters of each FI school.

We plan each month to post tips for parents, either to share their children's efforts in assimilating the French education, or to help each other and our organization to improve and expand.

Moreover, we strive having a good representation in each PAC of FI schools. Most of our events will require a close collaboration between CPF and schools' students, staff, and PAC. We would like to hear from current or future CPF members, and the schools they are connected with.

We live in very exciting times, and together we can work on making our growing community even stronger.

Thank you!

You can always contact Ana-Maria Covaser at [anacovaser@shaw.ca](mailto:anacovaser@shaw.ca), or you can get in touch with the CPF representative in each school with a FI program if you have any questions or ideas.

