

Executive Director's Report Annual General Meeting – September 14, 2017

It is a great pleasure to present the Yukon Francophone School Board #23 Executive Director's annual report for the 2016-2017 year. We have had another record year for our numbers at École Émilie-Tremblay and Académie Parhémie. This growth illustrates the vitality of our Yukon Francophone community. To respond to this increase, we have added another portable classroom for grade 4.

At the Académie Parhémie, we awarded for the first time a new bursary for our graduates, the Official Languages Bursary. It is awarded based on academic standards and recognizes students with a high level of bilingualism. We continued offering distance courses to high school students thanks to an agreement with the Centre francophone d'éducation à distance – CFED (Francophone Distance Education Centre) in Alberta. Académie Parhémie students participated in several outings and activities during the year and the CSFY is proud to have sponsored the participation of two students in the leadership internships of the Association canadienne d'éducation de la langue française (ACELF) (Association of Canadian French-Language Education) in Quebec. Students took part in planning and information sessions for the new Francophone School-Community Centre.

It was the third year that the CSFY managed the eligible students enrolled in the Yukon home schooling program. Nine students were registered in 2016-2017 in this program called École Nomade. This represents an important service for French First Language education in Yukon.

At the CSFY, the settlement committee, which is attempting to come to a negotiated agreement with the Government of Yukon on major issues linked to full-school governance, has made tremendous strides on several issues, including an agreement on admissions and the adoption by the Government of Yukon of a new *French as a First Language Instruction Regulation*. We hope that the coming year will see us sign a final agreement. A great deal of work has been done on the planning phase for a new School-Community Centre to accommodate students from grades 7 to 12. The project is progressing well and we hope to start construction in 2018.

Here is a summary of activities and projects developed during the 2016-2017 school year.

Marc Champagne, Executive Director

1. Educational programs and services

In June 2017, 222 students attended École Émilie-Tremblay, from K4 to grade 6, and 52 students attended Académie Parhémie, from grades 7 to 12. Nine students were enrolled in the French home schooling program, École Nomade. The CSFY would like to thank staff members, parents and partners for their support, their valuable contributions and their involvement in the students' well-being and success. Thank you to all of our students who, every day, contribute to the development and vitality of the Francophone culture and language.

Here is a summary of what distinguishes us from other programs.

Added values to regular programming

Various activities are offered throughout the year to elementary and secondary students. At the elementary level, students take part in sports activities with *Les Boules de feux* (running) and do traditional French-Canadian dance with *Les Souliers dansants*. At the high school level, students go on field trips and camps that enable them to develop interests and knowledge outside the classroom. Identity building, leadership, outdoors, and arts are some of the examples of additions to the programming.

Better bilingualism

Our students have the opportunity to take French and English First Language courses. Our programs are the best choice to help students become perfectly bilingual. English first language courses start in grade 4 and continue until the end of high school. There is also a program offered in grade 3 to bring students up to standard. Students can enhance their French or English skills according to their needs.

Official Languages Bursary

In 2016-2017, the CSFY created an Official Languages Bursary. At the end of the school year, the CSFY now awards a cash prize of \$1,000 to all graduates who receive the CSFY's bilingualism certificate. The selection criteria for the bursary are: studying full-time at Académie Parhémie in grade 12 and meeting the requirements to receive the high school diploma (Dogwood Diploma), successfully completing three (3) French First Language courses from grades 10 to 12 and successfully completing three (3) English First Language courses (these are at the same standard as those in English schools) from grades 10 to 12. All the details (in French only) are available under PROG 11 Bourses d'études et prix d'excellence at <http://commissionscolaire.csfy.ca/gouvernance/>

Distance courses

The CSFY oversees the management of distance courses in French as a first language in Yukon. An agreement with the Centre francophone d'éducation à distance – CFED (Francophone Distance Education Centre) in Alberta allows our students to choose among several options to meet the prerequisites for their post-secondary education, depending on their career path.

Retention of high school students

The CSFY wishes to remain attentive to the needs of its high school students and that is why retention is one of our priorities. In 2016-2017, surveys and meetings were organized to discuss this topic. In February 2017, a lunch was organized for the Académie Parhémie's student council and the CSFY. The goal of this meeting was to share information on CSFY's projects and allow students to share their priorities and issues. A retention committee was also created to find solutions to this issue. The committee is comprised of staff members who are meeting to find strategies to reduce circumstances that cause a student to leave our programs. Two Académie Parhémie's students participated in meetings to share the students' perspective.

The following services were offered to students in 2016-2017.

Resource class

The resource class, formerly known as the alternative class, offers services to students with learning, behavioural or psychosocial difficulties.

Learning Assistants

Two employees work full-time as learning assistants to support students in their learning and development.

Psychoeducation Service

The psychoeducation service helps students adapt and become more independent, and offers activities to develop their full potential. It fosters students' well-being and feelings of competence with a full-time psychoeducator.

Francization and Literacy Service

This service supports students with learning French and language arts. It is offered to students in a way that respects the child's personality and level of development. This program also requires a major investment of effort from parents.

Pedagogical Counsellors

Two pedagogical counsellors work full-time with the teaching staff to develop programming and resources linked to the school curriculum.

High School Guidance Counsellor and Student Support

A guidance service is available to help students from Académie Parhémie with their career and study choices.

Computer Services

A computer technician ensures that computer resources for staff and students run smoothly.

Early Childhood and Multilingual Families Service

The coordinator organizes various activities and conferences with local Francophone stakeholders. Activities such as Zumba, family yoga, music lessons, movie nights, etc. enabled families and students to enjoy enriching experiences in French outside of school hours. She also coordinates the Early Childhood Table, a subcommittee of the Education Community Partnership (PCÉ), which works together to offer services in French in early childhood.

2. Identity building

Identity building is at the heart of our school's educational mission. In addition to cultural activities conducted by the teaching staff in classrooms, the position of cultural integration coordinator allows the culture to permeate the school all year long through various activities and opportunities.

Our students took part in:

- Three community projects in cultural mediation: la nocture, the mosaic, nomad flags
- Eleven shows in French
- Sixteen recurring annual events: arts exhibitions, talent night, assemblies, author visits, Francophone week, etc.
- School workshops: First Nations carving session, dance festival, arts, journalisms and maple taffy workshops
- Educational tours: Legislative Assembly, First Nations camp, etc.

The coordinator works with the Arts and culture, and Youth departments of the Association franco-yukonnaise to ensure a partnership between the school and the community. This person is also involved in the school cultural committee, journalism club and student committee of Académie Parhémie. In 2016-2017, a journalistic mentoring project "Young Journalists" was implemented to provide an opportunity to students to further their journalistic skills. The entire content of the articles was produced by students and published in *l'Aurore boréale*, the local newspaper. Students also took part in the writing of Journord, the school newspaper, which is also published in *l'Aurore boréale*.

Our students also have the opportunity to take part in national gatherings in French where they can talk about their experiences with other Francophone youths. In September 2016, two high school students took part in the Association canadienne d'éducation de la langue française (ACELF) (Association of Canadian French-Language Education) annual conference in Quebec City. They were among forty young delegates across the country. They took part in all the activities of the conference, at which the theme was #franconumérique2016. Helen-Anne Girouard, guidance counsellor, Manon Carrière, principal, Cindy Breton, vice-principal and Marc Champagne, executive director, also participated in the conference.

3. CSFY partners

The CSFY continues to be involved in French-language education at all levels: regional, territorial and national. The CSFY is involved in various committees, including the FNCSF (National Federation of French-Language School Councils); the RNDGÉ (National Group of Executive Directors in Education); the ADÉON (Association of Western and Northern Directors in Education); and the ACELF (Association of Canadian French-Language Education).

The CSFY is part of the Education Community Partnership (PCÉ), an advisory group comprised of executive directors of key partners in Yukon Francophone education. The CSFY also supports la Garderie du petit cheval blanc in its educational development. The CSFY is also a partner with the Department of Education and we participate in several committees relating to education in Yukon.

Édu EXPO - <http://eduexpo.ca/en/index.html>

Students from the CSFY's schools had the opportunity to participate in Édu Expo, a bilingual exhibition developed by the National Federation of French-Language School Councils (FNCSF), with financial support from the Canada150 Fund. This exhibition showcases the history, uniqueness, vitality and added value of French-language schools in a minority setting in Canada. The exhibition stopped in Whitehorse in March 2017, during its tour of 12 Canadian cities.

4. Moving towards school governance

Settlement Committee

The main goal of this committee is to avoid going back to court by finding common ground for the management of the French First Language program in Yukon and its allocated resources. The committee meets to discuss school governance of French First Language programs by the CSFY.

Construction Subcommittee

Regular meetings are held by the construction subcommittee comprised of members from the Government of Yukon and the CSFY. The main goal of this subcommittee is to collaborate on the construction of the Francophone High School. A working group was set up with employees from each party to support *Kobayashi + Zedda Architects* (KZA) in each step of the process. If necessary, this working group consults with the construction subcommittee when a decision needs to be made that is outside their mandate or area of expertise.

5. CSFY's projects

Project to build a high school

The year 2016 has seen significant progress in plans to build a Francophone High School. Among other things, the site was finalized on the Riverdale Education Reserve between Selkirk and FH Collins schools, a funding proposal was submitted to Canadian Heritage by the Government of Yukon to fund the community aspect of the Francophone Secondary School Community Centre and *Kobayashi + Zedda Architects* (KZA) was hired to work on the design. This local company will be assisted by eight other companies to work on the architectural design and engineering of the project. The team is deploying its resources so that the building becomes a model of energy efficiency in the Yukon. In the fall of 2017 and June 2017, presentations and consultations took place with students from grades 4 to 12, school staff and the community to present the progress and conceptual design.

On April 27, 2017, the Government of Yukon announced a budget of 8 million dollars in the 2017-2018 year for the construction of the Francophone High School. An additional amount of 12 million dollars is planned to complete the project in 2018-2019. If all goes as planned, according to the current schedule, the new school should open its doors in 2019. Pending the opening, a new portable classroom was built on the École Émilie-Tremblay field for the 2016-2017 school year. This additional classroom allowed us to respond to the lack of space resulting from the annual growth of the student population.

Report on the evaluation of the results achieved through the CSFY's strategic plan

In the spring of 2017, Le CLÉ was once again hired to survey students from grades 4 to 12, staff, parents and stakeholders to assess the achievement of results targeted by the CSFY in our 2015-2018 strategic plan.

In the summer of 2017, Le CLÉ produced a report presenting the results for the 2016-2017 school year. In total, 119 students, 110 parents, four local stakeholders and 29 staff members completed the survey. The report concluded that the majority (65%) of the targets from CSFY's strategic plan were met or exceeded or are at less than 10% of the way to being met. Furthermore, a little over one third of the targets are more than 10% of the way to being met. These data are similar to those from 2015-2016, with a slight improvement in the number of targets achieved or in the process of being achieved. Our biggest strengths are that 96% of our staff say they feel appreciated, 95% of parents are satisfied with the k4 and k5 program and 100% of the staff and partners are satisfied with this program, 95% of students feel safe at school and 91% of parents say that our programs and services help increase their children's autonomy. Among the areas for improvement, we note the training on using technology for learning purposes and staff support for projects aimed at developing skills for the 21st century.

The report also concludes that, as a whole, school staff, students, parents and stakeholders are satisfied with the services, teaching and activities of the CSFY and its schools. The report is available in French online at <http://commissionscolaire.csfy.ca/publications/>

Curriculum redesign

The CSFY follows the same curriculum as other Yukon schools. During the 2016-2017 school year, there were meetings with staff and presentations on the redesigned curriculum to prepare for the changes from kindergarten to grade 9 that come into effect in 2017-2018. The grades 10 to 12 redesigned curriculum will come into effect in 2018-2019.