

Staff Report
AGM 2020-21

2020-21 was a year of re-organization and reconnection. We started off the year with Kieron Testart filling the role of Program Coordinator. Kieron has had a number of years of history with CPF as a member and was a French immersion parent. Kieron spent much of his time attempting to reconnect with the community, our partners and stakeholders.

The first significant challenge that we had to overcome – along with everyone else – was the COVID-19 pandemic and the rules/regulations surrounding it. With schools first being closed and learning being transferred to an online environment and then with the schools being closed to everyone but teachers and students, it was very difficult to connect with parents, educators and students. CPF NWT planned and hosted a number of online events and activities for FSL/FRIM students and families, but uptake was extremely limited. Attempts to partner with the teachers and the school boards to offer socio-cultural activities for their students were received with no/limited response. Even partnering with French for the Future to offer a Virtual Community Forum for grade 8-12 students, could not convince schools to participate and this event had to be cancelled. When asked why NWT's teachers were not picking up on the activities and events being offered by CPF while their colleagues across the rest of Canada were demanding support, we were told that the program was too full to fit anything and that the majority of teachers were not comfortable letting their students participate in online activities.

With the closure of the schools to parents, community groups and education partners, many traditional events were cancelled as well. That meant that there were no FRIM Open Houses, career fairs, French for Parents Classes, fundraising and the hosting of socio-cultural activities after hours.

CPF NWT did have success with the following activities:

- Concours virtuelle
- Summer Arts Contest
- Partnership with Music InterChange for Free French Family Music Classed
- Launching the *CPF Where are they now?* Program
- French Trivia Night
- Four (4) events at Rendezvous de la Francophonie in both Yellowknife and Hay River

For the first time in many years, CPF NWT took on some advocacy issues. CPF NWT was invited to a YK1 Board of Trustees meeting at which time the issues surrounding the proposed Alberta Curriculum surfaced. Letters were sent to Alberta's Minister of Education, as well as to the NWT's Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Shortly thereafter, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment launched a curriculum consultation – both as part of a regular review cycle as well as in response to Alberta's Proposed Curriculum. Finally, the closure of the Alberta Distance Learning Centre negatively impacted not only NWT's French immersion students, but all students. Letters were

written and phone calls were had with staff in both Alberta's Ministry of Education and the NWT's Education, Culture and Employment.

The partnership with CPF Alberta for logistical support has been working very well! What has this meant for CPF NWT and its members?

- Regular communiques with updates are going out monthly to all NWT members.
- Finances were being managed by CPF Alberta's finance administrator.
- By the end of the fiscal year, CPF NWT was able to submit the majority of the outstanding reports to its funders.
- Many more activities are made available for youth, parents and families.
- The launch of a member survey during the summer of 2021 to align CPF NWT's programming with the needs and desire of the communities.
- The NWT Program Coordinator is an active member of a team and is no longer having to work in isolation.

Moving forward, CPF NWT is looking to:

- Partner with CPF Alberta and CPF National in centralizing financial management.
- Connecting better with the education community to provide supports to students, teachers and schools.
- Continue on working on developing CPF Teams in both in and outside of Yellowknife.
- Promote the participating of more students, parents, teachers and schools in the activities organized by CPF NWT.

This concludes the 2020-21 staff report. We are happy to answer any questions that members may have and we are looking forward to continuing our work supporting CPF NWT's members.