

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021-22 FISCAL YEAR

The CPF NWT Branch has been dealing with a wide variety of challenges and roadblocks over the past three years. These challenges were exacerbated by the pandemic restrictions which continued in 2021 preventing in-school and in-person program delivery.

CPF NWT did encounter some additional disappointments over the last fiscal year. After a year of free memberships in 2020-21 and despite membership drive in the fall of 2021, membership dropped this fiscal year from 143 members in April 2021 to 83 members in March 2022. The NWT membership has continued to drop since the end of the fiscal year.

Some interest was expressed by two individuals to create a CPF Team in Fort Smith; however, Branch staff and volunteers were unable to travel to the communities to engage locals in conversations around FSL education or volunteering with CPF. And at our Annual General Meeting in October 2021, no new board members were elected, although we were able to add an additional board member by appointment to serve after the meeting.

CPF NWT Branch has had significant challenges hiring and retaining a staff person to fill the Program Coordinator role on-site in Yellowknife, despite posting the position and interviewing several candidates. In the interim, a temporary, part-time staff person was hired out of Edmonton to coordinate activities.

CPF NWT Branch President and Vice President participated in the CPF Network Leader Networking Event in Montebello, QC and brought forward their concerns on the challenges arising in the Branch to the CPF National President.

Much of the work of the NWT Branch Board of Directors focused on working with our main funder, Canadian Heritage, to ensure that our activity and financial reporting was complete and in order; this included closing out the previous two fiscal years, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. We would like to acknowledge the commitment and patience demonstrated our counterparts at Canadian Heritage for working with us to complete these processes.

In late March 2022, I, as President of the NWT Branch Board of Directors, on behalf of the Board, sent a formal letter to the CPF National President and Board of Directors requesting their support. The letter requested an open conversation about the future of the CPF NWT Branch, as the Board of Directors believe the situation is no longer sustainable.

Maggie Hawkes
November 2022