

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION ©

French for the Future promotes Canada's official bilingualism and the immediate and lifelong benefits of learning and communicating in French to students from grades 7 to 12 across Canada (secondaire 1 to cégep in Quebec).

OUR VISION 🔘

French for the Future envisions a Canada in which all young people value our French heritage, appreciate francophone cultures and endeavour to excel in the French language.

OUR STRATEGY

with youth.

energize youth.

> Encourage networking by and for young Francophones and Francophiles in their locality, region and across Canada, based on their communities of personal interests.

National Office

170 Laurier Ave. West, Suite 904, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5V5 Tel.: 613 233-1616 info@french-future.org Charity Registration Number: 869760579 RR0001 Writing and Editing : Mona Ansari, Agathe Pompon Translation : Nations Translation Graphic design : Agathe Pompon



>Provide a sustained, significant and authentic presence in French; a support to evolve

> Offer periodic WOW events that value French, nourish emotional experience, and

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



Fredericton, Charlottetown, Edmonton, Ottawa, Victoria, Calgary, Vancouver, Halifax, Toronto, Moncton, Rural areas of British Columbia, St. John's

ambassadors of French *********** reunited for a week in ŤŤŤ





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OUR TEAM

Our permanent team based in Ottawa, Ontario, manages French for the Future's daily operations.

Geneviève Gobeil Program Manager **Josée Bolduc** Program Agent **Josephat Kanyanga** Communications Support Agent Mathieu Gingras Keynote Speaker

Polina Moneva Operations and Funraising Specialist

Emeline Leurent Executive Director

Mona Ansari Marketing and Communications Officer

Danaé Gibouleau Program Support Agent

Agathe Pompon Marketing and Communications Coordinator This year marked a highly anticipated return to our in-person events. For those between the ages of 12 and 18, nothing matches life experiences in French! Through our Local Forums, our National Ambassador Youth Forum, our Franconnexion Sessions, our National Essay Contest scholarship program, our Youth Committee, not to mention our new Fr+ web platform, we have reached 42,000 students across the country and have shown them how they can integrate Francophonie into their daily lives and enjoy a bilingual life. French for the Future is also trying to provide new opportunities for young people to showcase their French skills, and in partnership with the French Embassy in Canada and the Salon du livre de l'Outaouais, it initiated the "Lance ton balado" contest.

In 2022, the organization celebrated 25 years of supporting Canadian youth on their path to bilingualism. To mark the occasion, a celebration was held in Ottawa with in attendance our two illustrious founders, John Ralston Saul and Lisa Balfour Bowen, the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Official Languages, along with numerous senators and members of Parliament. The evening included inspiring speeches by inspiring young people who impressed with their commitment to French, their motivation to make a difference and their faith in the future of bilingualism.

It was also an important year for Canadian bilingualism with the continued efforts to modernize the Official Languages Act, a process in which French for the Future participated through several consultations, an appearance before the House of Commons and the submission of a brief. We hope that the passing of this legislation will help us make progress in providing access to learning in French and allow more and more people to become bilingual.

Although we have just celebrated our first 25 years of existence, we are already focusing on the future, beginning a strategic planning process that will establish a roadmap for the organization over the next five years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who works so hard to advance the vision of French for the Future and that of a bilingual Canada: the team at French for the Future, our coordinators, our facilitators, our volunteers, as well as our board of directors. You breathe life into our mission every day. I would also like to thank our partners and donors for their unwavering support in our activities. We are blessed to have such a network of devoted people who believe in the enormous benefits of a bilingual Canada.

Emeline Cennent

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The members of the Board of Directors are French for the Future's volunteer leaders.

ADVISORY MEMBERS



Lisa Balfour Bowen Founding President



John Ralston Saul Founder and Honorary President



Ania Kolodziej President

Martin Katz



Alec Boudreau Secretary



Danielle Arcand Past President



Nicolette

Belliveau

Denis Fontaine

Vice-President



Charles Ashikwé

Treasurer

Marie-Pierre Lavoie

Michel P. Samson



Sandrine **Berezowski**



Thank you!

Drew Fagan has stepped down from the Board of Directors after 8 years of loyal service. He served as a board member. We thank him very much for the dedication and expertise he brought to French for the future.

Celebrating its 25th year with a wealth of experience and success, French for the Future shows that it is deeply committed to creating a bilingual and inclusive Canada. Now back in person after 2 years of online programming, French for the Future is once again in direct contact with young people, raising awareness among high school students of the value of bilingualism and the importance of mastering French in their personal and professional lives.

Today, while the French language remains fragile in a predominantly English-speaking country, French for the Future is proud to help teenagers actively engage with the French language through all our programs and the Fr+ website. By introducing new features to the online space, the organization has succeeded in motivating users to make greater use of French outside the classroom.

In addition to our dynamic and continuously evolving programs, we offer more and more opportunities to young people thanks to our close collaboration with members of the Linguistic Duality Network and the French as a Second Language Network. We're also grateful to French teachers across Canada who support us by sharing our programs with their students. These productive partnerships encourage us to continue our efforts to build a Canada where bilingualism is fully appreciated.

From the bottom of my heart, I would like to express my deep gratitude for the dedication, creativity and hard work of the entire French for the Future national office team. I also salute the members of the Board of Directors for their availability and support, which make the goals of French for the Future a reality.

In conclusion, I would like to warmly thank all our sponsors and donors for their generosity. I am convinced that without them, our activities would not have been possible. Together, we're building the bilingual Canada of tomorrow.



Ania Kolodziej

PRESIDENT



"In 1997, when John Ralston Saul and *I co-founded "French for the Future"* with a two day event in Toronto, I never dreamed the organization would grow -- and thrive -- to the point it would celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2022.

This once fledgling institution has grown from 210 students in eight Toronto high schools to holding programs in 15 cities across Canada involving over 40,000 students annually.

This remarkable success is due to a series of committed board members, talented Executive Directors, engaged funders plus teachers, parents and students across Canada.

I wish to thank them all for their tremendous support."



Lisa Balfour Bowen Founding President



CELEBRATIONS OF THE ORGANIZATION'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

In November 2022, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of French for the Future at the Rideau Club in Ottawa along with a hundred guests. During the festivities, we had the pleasure of welcoming the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, the Minister of Official Languages, whose enthusiastic speech invigorated the members of the audience.

The evening also included speeches by John Ralston Saul and Lisa Balfour Bowen, the founders of French for the Future, as well as Ania Kolodziej, Chair of the Board of Directors and Emeline Leurent, Executive Director.

Among our guests, we were pleased to welcome some of the young participants in our programs, who were given the opportunity to share their experience with the other guests in attendance. Their speeches were moving, inspired and demonstrated the importance of the organization's mission.

300.000 young people impacted since its inception





\$3,500,000 in post-secondary scholarships granted

"By learning a second language, I added another tool in my toolbox of skills that enables me to better establish social and intercultural connections. *My openness to the world is* broadened by the fact that I can *better empathize with a significant* part of the global society: the French-speaking population."

- Peter Noel, Newfoundland and Labrador, 2019 FNJA ambassador

educational kits sent out

"We created French for the Future at a dramatic moment in the life of Canada - a moment when we were working out whether our country could go on existing in its most unusual form compared to other countries. A country with two official languages and many important cultures. We had yet to re-embrace the other Canadian truth of its Indigenous foundation. French for the Future continues to do an amazing job all over Canada engaging thousands of students and helping them to make French, and the many cultures that go with it, a central part of their lives."

600-

bilingualism ambassadors trained



John Ralston Saul

Founder and Honorary President



"In Canada, we have already made so much progress since the adoption of the Official Languages Act in 1969. We have gone from a bilingual population of 12.2% in 1961 to 17.9% in 2016. I hope this number continues to grow and that it will someday exceed the 50% mark. That is why organizations such as French for the Future are so beneficial. They help in increasing this number by encouraging young people like myself to become and remain bilingual."

- Isabelle Melanson, Nova Scotia, 2020 FNIA ambassador

NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

More than 450 essays received and a new partner institution!

This year, through the National Essay Contest, 95 students from grades 10 to 12 (secondary 4 to CÉGEP in Quebec) received scholarships ranging between \$1,000 and \$20,000 to continue their postsecondary education in one of our partner institutions.

More than 450 students from across Canada participated in the contest, submitting an essay of 750 words on the theme:

"What is the impact of social media on the music industry and the musical creative process?"

Thanks to this contest, participants have been able to expand their French writing skills and discover multiple possibilities for studying in French at the postsecondary level across Canada. The winners were awarded 95 scholarships with a total value of \$368,500.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:



Congratulations to the winners of scholarships of \$10,000 and up!

\$20,000

Kaylie Murangwa - Edmonton, AB Aaron Lim - Richmond Hill, ON

\$12,000

Mégane Proulx - Ottawa, ON Luc Wool - Port Moody, BC Mia Bestvater - Winnipeg, MB Sophia Mateus - Brampton, ON **Eloïse Parizeau** - Sainte-Thérèse, OC **Owen Wang** - Vancouver, BC **Gabrielle Roussy** - Laval, QC Angkush Moosai - Ottawa, ON

\$10,000

Kamille Bonenfant - Gaspé, QC **Camille Kuate** - Kedgwick, NB Lilly Young - Lawrencetown, NS Anora Dennis - Ottawa, ON Iolène Richard - Moncton, NB Harlow Diamond - Halifax, NS



See the full list of winners and their essays on our website.



The National Essay Contest is a program that helps young people gain confidence in their French skills and pursue their education in this language.

would recommend the CNR to their friends

• 235 participating schools

essays received



Interview on "Pour faire un monde" – Radio Canada OHdio

Maxime Paris, the winner of a \$2,000 scholarship from La Cité universitaire francophone at the University of Regina, presented the theme as the topic of her generation.





52% FRENCH SECOND LANGUAGE

said they would like to use both official languages in their future job

"I am enormously pleased to be able to continue my education in my mother tongue, while solidifying my linguistic identity and enriching my Francophone culture."

- Pascale Ouellette

"I am beginning my second year and I cannot wait to take my courses in person! I have also decided to use my National Essay Contest scholarship because I enjoy expressing myself in French and I think that continuing my education in French will open up a lot of opportunities for *me to be a contributing citizen of our country."*

Université de

UNIVERSITÉ DE MONCTON

CAMPUS DE MONCTON

- Jourmae Abengoza

"I am so happy to have come to the capital where everything is bilingual. There are so many resources and activities for Francophones."

- Louis Prince



LOCAL FORUMS The Local Forums are in person again

This year, more than 2,000 students from grades 7 to 12 with French as their second language and French as their mother tongue had the opportunity to discover the value of being bilingual through inspiring conferences, interactive workshops and unforgettable cultural activities.

The bilingual pride of our speakers, the live sharing of Francophone culture through presentations like the concert by 2Moods at the Southern Alberta Local Forum and the Boy-T concert at the Fredericton Local Forum, as well as the use of French during the workshops allowed the students to discover to what degree bilingualism offers exciting professional and personal opportunities.

The Local Forums also help students to see that they are not alone in their journey and that there are lots of young people like them who want to be bilingual in the future.

- 14 forums organized in 7 provinces (11 in person, 3 hybrid)
 2097 participants
 - g participating schools



"The experience over there was so worth it. This forum helped me make a firm decision on what I want to study and learn and who I want to become. It was truly a great environment. If I could go again, I would do it without hesitation!! THANK YOU SO MUCH :)"

- Esther Nimpaye, student in grade 12, Vancouver LF

"Thank you so much for this opportunity. I absolutely wanted to continue my education in my second language before this experience, but now I know for sure that UdeM is for me! Thank you to the team for being so helpful and welcoming!"

- Julia Pellerin, student in grade 12, Moncton LF

would like to engage in other activities in French, outside of school

After the Local Forums

said they are really confident in their ability to have a conversation in French

33% **70**%

said they would like to use English and French in their future job

> 93% would recommend the Local Forums to a friend



FRANCONNEXION SESSION

S DRAPEAUX FRANCOPHONES

A new poster of Canadian Francophonie flags

This year, thanks to our Franconnexion Session kits, French teachers were once again able to organize fun and educational activities to motivate their students in grades 7 to 12 to learn French. These resources helped more than 600 teachers have their students discover the usefulness, value and importance of the French language outside of school.

A new poster was added to the GO FUN and GO BIG kits! The "Our Francophone Flags" poster helps students in grades 7 to 12 use and practise their French while learning more about the Francophone flags and cultures across the country and expanding their vocabulary. It has quickly become teachers' preferred poster.



In September 2022 and January 2023, in addition to the electronic kit, teachers were able to choose to receive the GO FUN kit to decorate their classroom or the GO BIG kit with small prizes to be offered to their students to encourage them to learn French.

> TWO NEW PRODUCTS FOR THE GO FUN AND GO BIG KITS!



"It's interesting to know how many jobs exist in French!"

"The Franconnexion Sessions offer fun and engaging activities for students in French! It's also easy for students to understand and do!"

'It was really fun and I learned a lot!"









Noé gave a speech during the 25th anniversary of French for the Future.





After the forum, they have promoted French in their schools by organizing activities such as game nights, writing blog articles and giving speeches at other events, and even more still!

ambassadors from 9 provinces and territories

said that participating in the forum has made them want to participate in other French activities outside of school

would recommend the forum to a friend

Several ambassadors were interviewed by local journalists and participated in the "2022 National Ambassador Youth Forum" documentary created by the WebOuest team.

Watch the documentary \downarrow



NATIONAL AMBASSADOR YOUTH FORUM

33 bilingualism enthusiasts gathered in Regina

After two years online, our 2022 National Ambassador Youth Forum took place in person in Regina, Saskatchewan with lots of enthusiasm. We had the pleasure of welcoming 33 young bilingual people from eight provinces (Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec) and one territory (Northwest Territories).

Our ambassadors spent six intense days engaged in bilingualism activities. They developed their leadership and project management skills and had the opportunity to visit key areas in the region such as the Legislative Assembly in Regina.

After six days of adventure, our ambassadors went back home, their heads full of unforgettable memories. They forged strong bonds of friendship and are now ready to take on the role of ambassador for bilingualism and French in their school and community.



Camie organized a "Bingo of Francophone Expressions" for Official Languages Day.



Kimber held a Franconnexion Session at her school.

AMBASSADORS ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES IN FRENCH THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR!

Since the beginning of the 2022–2023 school year, ambassadors have played an important role in their community in order to increase the interest of young people in learning French.

> *"I want to sincerely thank everyone who is working"* so hard to teach us to love our language that is so important to Canada. You are making a difference for Francophones across the country and it's magical.'

"Thank you to everyone for everything you've done for us" this week. You have all had such a great impact on me and you are all inspirations of how the Francophonie is an important part of Canadian culture. I have such respect for all of you and I really appreciate everything you've done. Thank you!"

BILINGUAL YOUNG LEADERS

A new committee appointed for two years

Eight young people between the ages of 16 and 22 from four provinces were named Bilingual Young Leaders for 2022–2024.

Throughout their mandate, these passionate young people will work to implement an initiative to promote bilingualism and will be trained in governance and project management.

THE 2022-2024 COMMITTEE:







During an interview with Radio-Canada Toronto, Alisha Aslam, our Bilingual Young Leader from Ontario, revealed the committee's podcast project as part of Francophonie Month.

Listen to the interview \downarrow



In January 2023, Bilingual Young Leaders met in Ottawa for their first in-person meeting. During their time there, they visited the Senate and had the pleasure of meeting the Honourable Paula Simons, a senator from Alberta. They also participated in project management and leadership workshops and they imagined and worked on a joint project during the work sessions.

THE COMMITTEE REUNITED IN OTTAWA



Meeting with the senator from Alberta

THE PODCAST "LE COIN CANADIEN"

The committee's meeting with the Alberta senator greatly inspired them for their great project: a series of podcasts on the Canadian Francophonie – "Le coin canadien". The objective of this podcast is to help young people discover the country's Francophone communities. This will be an excellent resource for young Francophones and Francophiles in exploring the French language, culture and issues of some of the little-known areas of the Canadian Francophonie!

Listen to the podcasts \rightarrow





Discussion and implementation of the project



Comfort break



UNITED BILINGUAL CORRESPONDENTS

A year of sharing in French

More than 120 students in grades 7 to 12 from all over Canada were able to use their French by being matched with each other. During the school year, these young people were given the opportunity to improve their French skills by communicating with a correspondent through a communication platform of their choice: email, text, telephone, social networks, etc.

By being in contact with other young Francophones and Francophiles their age, they were able to discover the diversity of the Canadian Francophonie, expand their network and strengthen their confidence in their ability to hold a conversation in French and express themselves in this language.



- Evelyn Wong

"I feel it's a very good program and motivates" young Canadians to learn French."

- Chloé Gosselin

"I have gotten to know someone from another province and I now have a better understanding of what life is like in Toronto."

- Aurélie Lacombe



"My favorite memory of United Bilingual *Correspondents would probably be the* first letter I received in the mailbox."

> *"I really like the fact that we've developed* a real friendship."

Before the program

26%

26%

say they are really confident in their ability to have a conversation in French and express themselves in this language



After the program

associate a very positive emotion to French

52% **60**%

FR+ DO MORE IN FRENCH

One year old already!

Since February 2022, more than 1,100 young Francophones and Francophiles use French on our Fr+ platform in a real and relaxed setting. This social network allows users to communicate with other young people their age in French and to share their interests based on their level of French and without the constraints of school.

Since being launched, the platform has continued to evolve and to acquire new features to further encourage young people to use French. This year, following the first few months of use and the feedback of users, we have added notifications and integrated a fun system that allows young people to accumulate points in order to earn virtual rewards and thereby see their progress on Fr+. The advantage of the points system is that it motivates users to be active on the platform by posting and commenting and thereby improving their French.

The platform continues to evolve, and we are continuing to develop even more features.



 \times mostly school-based activities





YOUNG PEOPLE ON FR+

On Fr+, young people share fun content: videos, photos, text and links. They communicate in French by commenting and reacting to posts from other users and can see their progress by earning points and winning virtual badges.

said they have consumed French content discovered on Fr+ (posts, videos, series, films, podcasts, books, etc.)

1/ said they have consumed more cultural **15%** content in French than usual

said they felt proud for knowing how to speak French

said they think the official languages are important



Objectives

- Help young Francophones and Francophiles use French outside of school
- Promote linguistic security in an informal and relaxed setting
- Help young people discover the fun and entertaining aspects of the French language
- **Connect the different Francophone** communities of Canada

users from all provinces and territories

"I think it's a really good way to learn French with your friends and to have experiences in French outside of school."

> *"I think that it's an incredible* platform for connecting and interacting with others. I love having access to educational articles and hearing the thoughts of Francophones from around the world."

"I am very happy with your platform. It's the only one I know that truly succeeds in promoting the French language among young people!"

- Adelle Robillard

82% of users would recommend Fr+ to their friends



LANCE TON BALADO CONTEST A new contest launched

This year, in partnership with the French Embassy in Canada, the Salon du livre de l'Outaouais and Transistor Média, French for the Future launched the first edition of the "Lance ton balado" contest, which is open to young people in grades 7 to 12 (secondary 1 to 5 and Cégep 1 in Quebec). Young people were invited to form teams of three and create a podcast in a style of their choice to present a person they admire and who has changed the world or their world.

For those who registered, the contest was a great opportunity to discover the world of podcasts and to learn the techniques for creating one through a webinar on podcast production. The awards ceremony took place in February during the Salon du livre de l'Outaouais.

Thanks to the great success of this partnership, we are preparing the second edition of the contest for the 2023–2024 school year.

GRAND PRIZE

Podcast « Vivre libre avec Angèle » Created by **Sophia Nazari and Maria Oprea** of *Richmond Hill High School - York, ON*





Listen to the winning team's podcast

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:







2ND PLACE

Simon Bernin and Wladimir Simchowitz *Lycée Claudel - Ottawa, ON*

Wafaa Amin, Asia Urquhart and Etta Quarter *École Gorsebrook Jr. High. - Halifax, NS*

3RD PLACE

Farida Khalil, Jolina Abi Semaan and Charlotte Smith *Lycée Claudel - Ottawa, ON*

Allan Joël Mouafo Soh and Alan Imanzi Ndashimye École secondaire catholique Béatrice-Desloges - Ottawa, ON.

Ward Nasrallah, Ward Safa and Asli Djama *École Pierre-de-Blois - Ottawa, ON*

JURY'S COUP DE COEUR AWARD

Maya Ben Amar, Alexandra Charron and Alexandra Houle Lycée Claudel - Ottawa, ON

Noelle Aldous and Alice Cheng *Ashbury Collège - Ottawa, ON.*



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS IN 2022-2023

We could not do what we do without you!

French for the Future wants to thank all its donors and sponsors, without whose support, its activities would not be possible. Thanks to you, we can offer opportunities to live in French to more and more young people.

\$10,000+

ACUFC BMO Farm Credit Canada Government of British Columbia (BC Ministry of Education) Government of Ontario Lisa Balfour Bowen Margaret McCain

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Donald Johnson Employment and Social Development Canada (Canada Summer Jobs) Government of Manitoba Le Consortium national de formation en santé (CNFS) – Volet Université de Moncton Michael Tims POWER CORPORATION Université Sainte-Anne

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Allen and Marion Lambert Fund (William Lambert) Canadian Parents for French - New-Brunswick Canadian Parents for French – Nova-Scotia Clair Balfour and Marci Mcdonald Collège Mathieu Helen Burstyn John Ralston Saul Karim Manaa La Cité universitaire francophone - University of Regina Ministry of Education and Early Childhood Development - New-Brunswick R. Howard Webster Foundation Robert Yalden The Whiteside Foundation The William and Nona Heaslip Foundation University of Calgary

\$500 - \$999

Collège Boréal Finances du Québec (Secrétariat du Québec aux relations canadiennes) Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages - New-Brunswick Official Languages Programs (Explore) Sean Ingram



\$1 - \$499

Alec Boudreau Barbara Uteck Campus Saint-Jean - University of Alberta Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 Canadian Parents for French - BC & Yukon Charles Ashikwé Christina Kaye Danielle Arcand Denis Fontaine Elizabeth Sodero Helena Grossman Marie-Pierre Lavoie Translation Inc. Mary Arab Michael Brennan Michael Salvatori Michel Carrier Micheline Dubé Myriam Lafrance Pierre E. Roger Staunton Bowen The Vimy Foundation Veronique Belair YMCA of Greater Halifax and Dartmouth YMCA of Greater Toronto Yolande Grisé

THANK YOU!



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