



National Office

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OUR MISSION ©



French for the Future empowers and connects youth ages 12-18 across Canada through inspiring events and transformative experiences that fuel self-confidence, leadership, and a passion for French and Francophone cultures.

OUR VISION



French for the Future envisions a Canada where young people appreciate their francophonie and Francophone cultures, express themselves confidently in French, cultivate a sense of belonging, and contribute to the rapprochement and development of diverse linguistic communities.

OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH



Articulated and proactive leadership

- Articulate and actively promote our message in the political and public sphere.
- Act as a bridge between francophile and francophone identities.

Authentic and radiant communication

- Share a collective, inclusive narrative that resonates with young people.
- Prioritize high-impact actions that put our message in motion.

Enriched and accessible programming

- Maximize our sources of financing to extend our reach.
- Enhance our existing programs.
- Identify and break down barriers of access to our programs.

A flourishing, collaborative network

- Maintain a community of champions dedicated to sharing our message.
- Cultivate a responsive and invested pan-Canadian FFTF network.
- Engage our participants over the long term.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS:

40,000 young people reached by

our programs

online space all in French

1,720+ users from all provinces and territories

\$377,000 scholarships to be won to study in French 218 young Subpuods





partnering postsecondary institutions



Fredericton, Charlottetown, Edmonton, Ottawa, Victoria, Calgary, Vancouver, Halifax, Toronto, Moncton, Guelph, Cochrane, Winnipeg, St. John's

young bilingual leaders appointed for 2 years

Le coin canadien:



A series of podcasts with personalities of the Canadian Francophonie



3 editions of a magazine on the Francophonie in the provinces



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Melena Mowbray Agathe Pompon **Geneviève Gobeil** Josée Bolduc Marketing and **Program Support** Program Manager Program **Communications Coordinator** Coordinator Agent Mona Ansari Maéva Potvin Polina Moneva Marketing and Communications Operations and **Emeline Leurent** Communications Officer Support Agent **Fundraising Specialist Executive Director OUR TEAM** Our permanent team based in Ottawa, ON, manages French for the Future's daily operations. Miguel Perez **Mathieu Gingras** Keynote Speaker Program Agent

It was with great pride that we once again carried out all our usual programs, demonstrating our expertise and commitment to the promotion of bilingualism in Canada.

This year, we also conducted inclusive and comprehensive strategic planning, involving all stakeholders. The in-person participation of the board of directors at the national forum, as well as joint workshops with our ambassadors, were key points in the process. This substantive work enabled us to mobilize and engage the entire French for the Future network and our partners, leading to an updating of our strategic foundations: mission, vision, and beliefs.

The French for the Future team was also very active on the ground this year, participating in various community events, conferences, and professional development opportunities. These meetings strengthened our ties with our partners and expanded our network.

One of the highlights of the year was the use of our Fr+ online space as the official platform of the Northwestern Francophone Games, which took place last July in Victoria. We had the opportunity to promote Fr+ to over 200 young people, a first experience we intend to repeat at future youth events.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the French for the Future team, our coordinators, facilitators, and volunteers for their continued efforts to live and share our mission. I would also like to thank the members of the board of directors for their invaluable availability and support, which helps achieve our organization's goals.

Finally, I would like to thank our partners and donors for their unwavering support. Thanks to you, we continue to build a Canada where bilingualism is not only valued but also celebrated.

Let us continue to make bilingualism the tie that binds us as a Canadian society.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THANK YOU!



Danielle Arcand was first elected to the board of directors on July 1, 2009. After three terms as a director, she joined the executive committee as secretary in 2015. She was elected vice-chair in 2017 and then took over as chair in 2019. After two years as chair and 14 years of dedicated service, Danielle is now leaving the board of directors.

We sincerely thank Danielle for her many invaluable contributions to French for the Future. Thank you so much, Danielle!



Sandrine Berezowski served on the board of directors for two and a half years. During her tenure, she made an invaluable contribution to the organization. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to her for her essential service to French for the Future.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



Ania KolodziejPresident



Denis FontaineVice-President



Charles Ashikwé Treasurer



Alec Boudreau Secretary



Marie-Pierre Lavoie



Martin Katz



Nicolette Belliveau



Michel P. Samson



Gillian Blackmore



Nicolas Daoust



Kristy Brezina

ADVISORY MEMBERS



John Ralston Saul Founder and Honorary President



Lisa Balfour BowenFounding President

By celebrating a new year of commitment and success, French for the Future continues to show its dedication to the creation of a bilingual and inclusive Canada. This year, in collaboration with young people, teaching staff, and our community and post-secondary partners, we have developed a new strategic plan for 2024–2028. In particular, the board of directors had the opportunity and pleasure to collaborate and exchange verbally with ambassadors at the national forum last August to seek their insights. Their contribution has greatly enriched our discussions and strengthened our vision for the years to come.

The importance of bilingualism among young people remains central to our mission. Through our various programs and our Fr+ platform, we continue to motivate high school students to practise French outside of school and to understand the added value of bilingualism in their personal and professional lives.

Our efforts over the next five years will be focused on four main lines of action: articulated and proactive leadership, authentic and radiant communication, enriched and accessible programming, and a flourishing and collaborative network. The actions that will follow will strengthen the presence and visibility of French for the Future across Canada and the support it provides to young people on their path to bilingualism. In all sincerity, I would like to express immense gratitude to the French for the Future national office for their dedication, proactiveness, and hard work. I would also like to sincerely thank the members of the board of directors for their continued commitment and

We extend our deepest gratitude to all French teachers across Canada for their continued support. The fact that they share our programs with their students is critical to our success. We also sincerely thank our funders and donors for their generosity. Without them, we could not carry out our activities.

Together, we continue to build the bilingual Canada of tomorrow.

valuable support, which helps make our ambitions a reality.

Ania Kolodziej
PRESIDENT



NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

A total of 97 students will be able to start their post-secondary education in French with a scholarship!

Nearly 450 essays were received on the following topic: "Convince the 2024 Olympic Committee that your 'incredible talent' should be selected as a new Olympic discipline!"

This year, through the National Essay Contest, 97 brilliant students from grades 10 to 12 (secondary 4 to CEGEP in Quebec) were rewarded for their outstanding talent and creativity. Their writing, which caught the judges' attention, helped them win a scholarship ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000 to pursue their post-secondary education at one of our 15 partner institutions.

The contest enabled participants to improve their written expression in French and discover the many opportunities to study in French at the post-secondary level across Canada. The young talent shared 97 scholarships worth a total of \$375,000.

said they would like to use both official languages in their future job **98%** would recommend the contest to their friends **71h** participating schools 55% FRENCH SECOND LANGUAGE



Interview "The Morning Edition" - CBC

Chloé Hajjar, winner of a \$1,000 scholarship from the University of Ottawa, explained why she decided to participate in the 2023 National Essay Contest and how she persuaded the Olympic Committee to select pastry making as a new discipline.

Listen to the show →



"When I learned that I was winning an \$8,000 scholarship, I was beyond happy. To me, this scholarship represents, beyond being an excellent financial resource, the fact that French writing and language are valued in our Canadian culture. In Quebec, this issue is one of the most important, and seeing that various universities are involved in promoting the French language filled me with joy. After all, if education does not value the language of love, who will?"

- Clara Finzi





"I plan to attend a European university for a medical program, and the contest helped me immensely to be accepted, so thank you for allowing me to participate in the contest."

- Constantin Ciobanu



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF SCHOLARSHIPS OF \$10,000 AND UP!

\$20,000

Ange Lisa Mushemeze - Toronto, ON Zara Yeo - Mississauga, ON

\$12,000

Stella Rose Bégin - Orangeville, ON Noubar Agopian - North York, ON **Étienne Grenier** - Orléans, ON **Anaëlle Marleau-Phoenix** - Salaberry De Valleyfield, QC Emilia Wesolkowski - Ottawa, ON

Elizabeth Payne - Bowmanville, Ont. Maya Fread - Maple Ridge, BC Sakeena Mohammad - Scarborough, ON

\$10,000

Artem Brukovskiy - Church Point, NS **Alexander Travis** - Mavillette, NS Rosalie Clavet Lebel - Edmunston, NB Anastasia Kason - Vancouver, BC Natalya King-Au - Vancouver, BC Piper Sampson - Maitland, NS



See the full list

of winners



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:

































LOCAL FORUMS

A day to make a difference

This year, more than 3,000 grade 7 to 12 (secondary 1 to 5 in Quebec) French First Language and French Second Language students participated in our Local Forums. Through engaging speeches, interactive workshops, and cultural activities, personalities of the Francophonie in each province showed students how to integrate French into their lives and how proud they can be of being able to speak French.

Students discovered the many professional and personal opportunities open to those who are proficient in two languages and realized that they are not alone in their desire to be bilingual.

LOCAL FORUMS

forums organized in 9 provinces

participating schools

"It was such a great experience for me to have the chance to come here and do all these things. In my life, I rarely have the chance to go to events like that, so it was amazing."

- Participant, Fredericton Local Forum

"Thank you very much for this day! Without French for the Future, I was not considering continuing my studies in French!"

- Sarah Sprag, Moncton Local Forum

Before the Local Forums

want to take action to integrate French into their daily lives

know what to do to incorporate more French into their daily lives

After the Local Forums

45%

79%

"I met many new friends from different cultures and regions and whose proficiency levels in French vary. The workshops I attended during this beautiful day were amazing. I learned a lot about my online safety and had fun at the Salon du livre. The best thing about this day was the use of French. Thank you for this opportunity to come and for welcoming me."

- Student, Toronto Local Forum

"Thank you for the workshops! I liked the improv teacher: She was very kind and fun. 2Moods put on a good workshop, and I learned how to write a song. Thank you for the experience!"

- Participant, Cochrane Local Forum

OUR LOCAL COORDINATORS ORGANIZE FORUMS AROUND THE COUNTRY



Trish Rognvaldson Calgary, Cochrane



Samuel Landry Charlottetown, Fredericton, Halifax, St. John's



Amélie Montour Moncton



Alex Meaney Guelph



Charlotte McCarroll Vancouver and Victoria



Josée Roy Winnipeg



Miguel Perez Ottawa



Campus Glendon, **York University** Toronto



Campus Saint-Jean Edmonton



A Francophone show closes the day





PROGRAMMING ENTIRELY IN FRENCH!

Local Forums motivate young people in their learning of French by showing them the vitality and benefits of being bilingual.

Local Forums are intended for an audience seeking to build their identity; participating in a Local Forum at this age is often a gateway to more involvement in the Francophonie.



Mathieu Gingras' lecture remains, year after year, one of the students' favourite events.

"I went to the Edmonton Local Forum, and it changed my perspective on bilingualism. Before I went, I was close to quitting French because of lack of motivation, but after I went there, I learned that there is more to French than verbs and vocabulary. French is a way to express one's emotions and personality and to connect with people you would never have met without the power of bilingualism. I wish to be an ambassador to help others as the Local Forum helped me."

- Sophia Beach, FNJA 2024 candidate



Organized activities

provide young people

with the opportunity

exchange in French

throughout the day.

FRANCONNEXION SESSION

New resources for our toolkits

This year, our Franconnexion Session toolkits, with new and updated resources, really sparked the interest of grade 7 to 12 (secondary 1 to 5 in Quebec) students in the French language. Thanks to our new tourism and travel activities, the updated "Youtuber Hunt" game, and new Kahoot! games, over 600 French teachers were able to show their students the importance of bilingualism. The implementation of the resource classification according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEF) now facilitates access to and use of our resources.

AFTER THE SESSION, 80% STUDENTS KNOW WHAT TO DO TO INTEGRATE MORE FRENCH INTO THEIR DAILY LIVES.

The program update was not limited to resources. This year, we also renewed the program's visual identity to update the image of the toolkits.

572 kits downloaded "My students were able to better understand the importance of learning French in Canada."

"The Franconnexion Session helped my students to move away from the Eurocentric vision of the French language by exposing them to the interesting facts and vivid expressions used throughout the Francophonie."

"The Franconnexion Session was beneficial to my students. It showed the cultural side of the French language, such as songs, French sayings and slang, etc., and not just the grammar and vocabulary side. Of course, the Session helped teach vocabulary, but it was in a way that helped students see how culture interacts with the language."



34319

participants including

6,813 young people in

rural areas

of teachers feel that the Session franconnexion has helped their students understand the benefits of learning and/or speaking French.

1,152 sessions planned

545 participating canadian secondary schools





A new, fun, and colourful visual identity





The 2023 ambassadors wrote several articles about their experience on our blog!

THE NATIONAL AMBASSADOR YOUTH FORUM

A total of 35 young people became spokespersons for bilingualism

The 35 young people selected to become ambassadors for bilingualism came together in Halifax, NS, for a week of training and exchanges in French. This year, they came from Alberta, Manitoba, British Columbia, Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, and Saskatchewan.

This week is particularly important, as it is intended to help young people gain confidence to encourage them to become involved in their community in French. Many of them will become true bilingual leaders in their area and will spread the word about the organization's mission locally. It is also an opportunity for young people from minority communities to use their French for a full week in real-life situations.



"My understanding of what it means to be bilingual and my journey as an individual who speaks French both developed with me this summer... The FNJA left me with a deeper love for the French language and Francophone culture."

- Nyshane Clark

"We've all been able to create unforgettable memories and relationships that I'll always carry with me."

- Michael Yang







would recommend the forum to a friend

OUR AMBASSADORS PROMOTED THE FRANCOPHONIE

Mission accomplished for our spokespersons!

When they returned to their communities, our spokespersons for bilingualism remained very active throughout the school year!

Their commitments include French clubs, workshops and speeches at our Local Forums, blog posts, activity sessions in their schools, a family feud, a letter exchange between two local classes, and much more! This year's ambassadors took their role very seriously and stepped up their efforts to promote French in their community. Here are some examples of their commitments.



















The ambassadors reached

5,202

young people in the 2023–2024 school year

BILINGUAL YOUNG LEADERS

Second year of the committee's term

Our eight Bilingual Young Leaders, who are passionate about bilingualism, began their term with the "Le coin canadien" project. In the first year, they recorded a series of three podcasts on the Canadian Francophonie.

In their first podcast, Emilie O'Donnell, a French immersion teacher in New Brunswick, talks to young people about her post-secondary education in French and the promotion of French in English schools. Their second podcast was an interview with Professor Léo-James Lévesque from St. Thomas University in New Brunswick. He discusses the challenges faced by young bilinguals. In their last podcast, they share with young people about their own experience as students who have continued their post-secondary education in French.





"My experience with Bilingual Young Leaders was incredibly rewarding." I was able to connect with other committed young Canadians who share my passion for bilingualism. We developed innovative projects to promote bilingualism in our community, strengthening my leadership skills and my conviction in the importance of bilingualism."

- Bruce Yu, Ontario







LE COIN CANADIEN

In the second year of their term, our Bilingual Young magazine to introduce young people to the Canadian Francophonie in various provinces of the country. Issue 1 of the magazine explored what the Maritime provinces (N.B., P.E.I., and N.S.) offer in French, and issue 2 discusses the Francophonie in Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador.





WHO ARE THEY?

Lilia Hessabi - British Columbia **Seerat Waraich** - British Columbia **IiYu Park** - New Brunswick Andréane Gagnon - Nova Scotia Alisha Aslam - Ontgrio **Tony Wu** - Ontario **Alexandra Snider** - Ontario **Bruce Yu** - Ontario

"Being part of the JLB was an absolutely wonderful experience. I applied on a whim, and when I was accepted, I was thrilled by the prospect of what could be done with people who share my passion for French. Although we had some difficulty getting started, we made a lot of progress on a project that we collectively decided to bring to Canada, and it is slowly getting recognized. On the whole, I loved my two years on this team, as well as the advice and support of French for the future."

- Seerat Waraich, British Columbia

"Participating in the Bilingual Young Leaders program was an incredible experience. I had the opportunity to meet people who share the same ideas and are passionate about promoting Francophone culture in Canada. Thanks to French for the Future, we had access to many dedicated professionals and invaluable resources that supported us in our efforts.

As a team, we successfully created and implemented several large projects. One of our main initiatives was a series of podcasts with interviews with French-speaking professionals, aimed at promoting bilingual Canadian culture. In addition, we launched a series of newsletters highlighting various Francophone cultural events in various provinces."

- Tony Wu, Ontario





UNITED BILINGUAL CORRESPONDENTS

A year of exchanges in French

More than 210 grade 7 to 12 students across Canada (secondary 1 to 5 in Quebec) were able to use their French by being paired with each other. During the school year, they were able to correspond in French with someone from another province or territory. They completed a questionnaire at the beginning of the program to assign them an exchange partner suited to them.

"I signed up for the United Bilingual Correspondents program in Grade 12 because I wanted to continue practising French after high school. When I signed up, I answered a few questions about myself, my interests, and my level of French, so I was paired with the perfect partner!

She is in Grade 12 like me, so we often talked about events that are specific to Grade 12 students, like graduation and prom. Our similarities made communication easier and our conversations more fun!

Through this program, I learned more about Francophone culture in other Canadian provinces. I come from British Columbia, but my correspondent was from Newfoundland, which is on the other side of Canada. In speaking with her, I learned a lot about the influence of French on the way of life in her province, and that is probably the greatest benefit of this wonderful program."

- Puneet Uppal, 2023-2024 participant

Puneet Uppa also wrote an article for our blog to share her experience.

Read the article →



United Bilingual Correspondents, open to young people from grade 7 onwards (secondary 1 in Quebec), is a program that covers the organization's entire audience. It is often a first step in the Francophonie for the youngest, acting as a gateway to more programs in French.

"It was a rewarding experience because I learned about the daily life of someone who does not live in the same province as me! (Who knew that students in British Columbia had two weeks off (Spring Break), not one! Lucky...) I will definitely participate next year!" • 218 participants

felt at ease expressing themselves in French

would recommend the program to a friend



"What I liked the most was seeing my French grow. Thank you to the French for the Future team for achieving that."

FR+ DO MORE IN FRENCH

New horizons for the platform

In summer 2023, a first partnership was formed to position Fr+ as the official platform for the Northwestern Francophone Games. Fr+ was positioned as an online space for event participants. This partnership provided an overview of the functionalities needed to develop and strengthen the presence of Fr+ during such events, and demonstrated the potential to integrate the Fr+ space into local Francophone activities.

A treasure hunt to promote the platform was tested at the Ottawa Local Forum in February. A total of 40 teachers from across the country volunteered to try the beta version of the ready-to-use workshop. The goal is to make the activity available free of charge in our Franconnexion Sessions and to the Local Forum organizers.



+620 new users registered over the past year

users whose first language is not French

new "intérêts" added to the platform

at the Ottawa Local Forum

LANCE TON BALADO CONTEST

The second edition of the contest

This year, in partnership with the Embassy of France in Canada and the Salon du livre de l'Outaouais, French for the Future launched the second edition of the "Lance ton balado" contest. Open to students in grades 7 to 12 (secondary 1 to 5 and CEGEP 1 in Quebec), the contest was an excellent opportunity to explore the world of podcasts and learn creative techniques through a webinar recorded by Transistor Media. We invited young people to form a team of up to three people and create a podcast on the theme "Reading the future."

SLO STORE ST

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:







Listen to the winning team's podcast

• 39 podcasts received

registrations in French as a first language

72% registrations in French as a second language

GRAND PRIZE

Podcast "Sous-sol secret"
Produced by **Vincent Gagné and Samba Basse** from *Collège Louis Riel*– *Winnipeg, MB*



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS IN 2023-2024

We could not do this without you!

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

\$25,000+

Catherine Graham Farm Credit Canada (FCC) Government of Ontario Lisa Balfour Bowen Margaret McCain

\$10,000 - \$24,999

ACUFC Government of BC (BC Ministry of Education)

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Employment and Social Development Canada (Canada Summer Jobs)
Government of Manitoba
Government of Nova Scotia
Michael and Renae Tims
Power Corporation of Canada

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Université Sainte-Anne
Université de Moncton

\$500 - \$999

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Canadian Parents For French - New Brunswick
Public Service Commission of Prince Edward Island
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A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2024—2028

French for the Future undertook a comprehensive strategic planning exercise in 2023, involving the board of directors, the FFTF team, Local Forum organizers, young people, teachers, educational consultants, partner organizations, and post-secondary partners. A survey was also sent to young Canadians, collecting more than 270 responses.

Beginning in 2024, the organization's efforts will be focused on four main lines of action.

ARTICULATED AND PROACTIVE LEADERSHIP

ENRICHED AND ACCESSIBLE PROGRAMMING

AUTHENTIC AND RADIANT COMMUNICATION

A FLOURISHING, Collaborative Network

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

@Le français pour l'avenir



@francaisavenir



@frenchforthefuture

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT FRENCH FOR THE FUTURE'S MISSION?

- Spread the word about our organization
- ◀ Share what we do on social networks
- Join our team as a volunteer or employee!
- Donate on https://french-future.org/donation/

