

## IV. Highlights

### A. On the regional scene

Anglophones in Quebec and Francophones in the rest of Canada living in minority communities are living proof of the presence of linguistic duality in this country. A number of interesting developments took place in 1995-96 relating to the provision of official lan-

guages services, minority-language education and second-language instruction, school management and community development. Here is a look at some key events and activities in all of our provinces and territories.

## NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

### Federal-Provincial Cooperation



- On the heels of the referendum on school reform held September 5, 1995, in which the population of Newfoundland and Labrador voted to end denominational school boards, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador asked the federal government to amend section 17 of the Constitution to allow this undenominationalization.

Also, in January 1996, the province introduced a new piece of legislation aimed at restructuring the school system. The bill included provisions for the creation of Francophone schools, but the *Fédération des parents francophones de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador* felt that these schools did not comply with section 23 of the Charter. Consequently, the *Fédération* launched legal action to contest the legislation and to ensure that once the

reforms are in place, the provincial government will grant Francophone parents their management rights.

- The first of its kind in Newfoundland, the *Centre scolaire et communautaire Sainte-Anne*, located in Mainland, opened its doors in October 1995. The *Centre* has a school component (kindergarten up to grade 12) and a community component, consisting of a student radio station, a community television studio, a museum and a community library. Port-au-Port's three French-speaking communities (Cap-St-Georges, Mainland and Black Duck Brook) now have a quality institution they can call their own, where they can not only receive education in their mother tongue but enjoy community recreational activities as well.
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador conducted a needs study concerning post-secondary professional and technical development for Labrador's French-

speaking population. It also carried out a project promoting French as a second language for secondary students in the higher grades by producing a video and a brochure in cooperation with Canadian Parents for French.

**Since March 31, 1996**

On December 4, 1996, the House of Commons gave final approval to the constitutional amendment proposed by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador following its referendum on school reform. This cleared the way for the province to implement its new school management structure.

On December 19, 1996, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador passed its new school act, providing for the creation of a provincial Francophone school board. The province plans to table a bill in the spring of 1997 that will specify the procedures for implementing Francophone school management.

On February 28, 1997, Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador signed a special agreement on the implementation of Francophone school management. Signing the agreement were the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Minister of Education of the province.

**Community Development**

- In October 1995, Newfoundland and Labrador's French-speaking community signed a Canada-community agreement with the Department of Canadian Heritage, adding Newfoundland to the list of provinces which have signed agreements. A number of projects have been carried out thanks to the agreement.
- The *Association régionale de la côte ouest* set up new programs and services at the *Centre scolaire et communautaire Sainte-Anne*, in Mainland. These include the estab-

lishment of a regional museum and the acquisition of books for the library and CDs for the student radio station.



*Back to school at the Centre scolaire et communautaire Sainte-Anne in Mainland, Newfoundland*

- The community television studio and the student radio station teamed up to offer technical training workshops on broadcasting and video production. Also, in October 1995 the radio station used its mobile radio equipment to do a short broadcast. The station toured the three Francophone communities of the Port-au-Port Peninsula, providing a foretaste of a more permanent community radio station.
- *Franco-jeunes de Terre-Neuve et du Labrador* created the *Fondation Émile-Benoît pour la jeunesse* as a funding diversification measure. Over the long term, the *Fondation* will grant post-secondary scholarships and fund leadership programs.
- In August 1995, *Franco-jeunes* hosted the *Festival jeunesse de l'Atlantique*, welcoming to Newfoundland some 125 young Francophones from all across Atlantic Canada.
- In the summer of 1995, the *Association francophone de Saint-Jean* organized an historical walking tour of the city of St. John's to showcase for tourists the rich, storied history of Avalon Francophones.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

### Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- Unable to obtain a French school, parents in Summerside filed suit against the province in November 1995 to secure French-language education for their children.

#### Since March 31, 1996

As a result of a decision on January 8, 1997 by the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island, parents in the Summerside region are entitled to have their children educated in French, and it is up to the French-language school board to decide which services are required for the students affected. The Government of Prince Edward Island has announced its intention to appeal the decision.

- Thanks to the Canada-Prince Edward Island Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages, there was an increase in the number and quality of provincial services provided in French in the regions most heavily populated by Francophones. The Health and Community Services Agency provided bilingual gerontology and extended care services in Prince County's three senior citizens' residences, as well as bilingual home care services in the East Prince and West Prince regions.
- The bilateral agreement on official languages in education allowed for the continued development of the *Collège de l'Acadie* campus in Prince Edward Island, which opened in 1994-95. The province's Acadian and French-speaking population now has access to the regular programs offered by the *Collège de l'Acadie*, the Francophone community college based in Nova Scotia.

- Of the province's 24,097 Anglophone students, 14,919 were enrolled in French second-language courses. A total of 3,481 students were enrolled in French immersion at the 27 schools offering this program.

### Community Development

- Prince Edward Island's Acadian and Francophone community, represented by the *Société Saint-Thomas d'Aquin*, concluded an agreement with Canada aimed at supporting the community's continued development. The agreement provides for avenues of strategic action to address future issues and community development; these avenues include communications, cultural and artistic development, economic and tourism development, education, health and social services.
- The *Carrefour de l'Isle-Saint-Jean* school/community centre is well rooted in the community of Charlottetown-Rustico. The community centre offers a very diversified cultural and social program along with daycare service and kindergarten. It also used its community facilities to generate income, enabling it to both maintain its existing services and activities and develop new ones.
- The *Fédération culturelle de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard* handled preparations for the first *Gala de la chanson et de la musique*, showcasing the province's Acadian and Francophone artists, in an effort to promote Francophone music and the development of the province's artists. The Gala took place on June 2, 1996.



*The musical group Barachois at Prince Edward Island's music festival*

- The video *L'Acadie de l'Île*, produced by the *Musée acadien*, received excellent feedback from museum goers and an award for excellence from the Heritage Canada organization.

## NOVA SCOTIA

### Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- The agreement with Nova Scotia on the promotion of official languages enabled the province's only French-language newspaper, *Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Écosse*, to make a fresh start by modernizing its equipment and informatics systems and adopting a three-year business plan aimed at enhancing its long-term financial independence. Each Acadian region is helping to develop markets, find news stories and obtain advertising.
- As part of the reform of Nova Scotia's school system announced in February 1995, the province held public consultations in the spring and summer of 1995 concerning proposed measures to implement Acadian and Francophone school management in Nova Scotia, including the establishment of a provincial Acadian school board.
- In 1996, all of Nova Scotia's French-language elementary, secondary and post-secondary schools were hooked up to an advanced interactive television network. The project, which has allowed these schools to break out of their isolation and maximize their resources, was made possible by a special agreement on school management implementation concluded between Canada and Nova Scotia in 1995.
- In August 1995, a committee charged with implementing the new provincial Acadian school board began work. At around the same time, Nova Scotia's Department of Education and Culture tabled its development plan for French school management.

- On October 23, 1995, the federal government and Nova Scotia signed a special agreement on school management, clearing the way for the implementation of school management and the establishment of refrancization programs and teacher training and development programs.
- Before officially proceeding with its school reform, the Department of Education and Culture tabled an education bill in the Nova Scotia legislature, which passed on January 8, 1996.
- Once the legislation was enacted, the province was able to move ahead with its school board restructuring plan.

**Since March 31, 1996**

In April 1996, the province's new Acadian school board was officially established in accordance with section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and the members of its first governing council were appointed.

The Department of Education and Culture made it possible for a number of post-secondary students to obtain bursaries to improve their French, either as their first or as a second language. It also arranged for teachers to take training and development courses.

- The services of a French teacher were made available in Kings County to assist Francophone students at the R.C. Gordon school. The Dwight Ross school, also in Kings County, offered Grade 7 students a second-language program in social studies.

**Community Development**

- The *Conseil culturel acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse*, in cooperation with other Nova Scotia community organizations such as the *Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse* and the *Conseil jeunesse provincial*, coordinated the participation of Acadian

artists in the show entitled *L'accessible étoile*, put on during the Halifax G7 economic summit in the summer of 1995.

- On October 6, 1995, Chéticamp's community radio station, CKJM, went on the air with 55 hours a week of local programming. Within six months, the station became the most listened-to in the region.



- In August 1995, Nova Scotia's Acadian community signed a four-year framework agreement with the Department of Canadian Heritage aimed at encouraging its development. Thanks to the agreement, a number of projects were carried out:

- In October 1995, the *Association des juristes d'expression française de la Nouvelle-Écosse* held its first annual general meeting. Over the course of the year, it carried out a research project to demonstrate the need to offer the Acadian population French-language legal services, and produced a series of plain language brochures on a variety of subjects. In addition, through its communication efforts, it convinced the province to allow Nova Scotia's non-profit organizations to incorporate in French.

- The *Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse* undertook a three-year project aimed at maintaining the *Centre provincial de ressources préscolaires*. The project resulted from cooperation between the Department of Canadian Heritage, the *Centre provincial de ressources pédagogiques* and Nova Scotia's Department of Education and Culture.

## NEW BRUNSWICK

### Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- A subsidiary agreement growing out of the Canada-New Brunswick agreement on official languages in education was concluded on September 14 concerning the development of the *Centre international de la common law en français* of the *Université de Moncton*. Through activities in the areas of training, research, translation and legal documentation, as well as through exchanges and publications, the *Centre* will make available to the *Francophonie* the knowledge and expertise that have been acquired in the field of French common law. The agreement is for three years.

- Ceremonies were held on November 5, 1995 to inaugurate the *Pavillon Adrien-J.-Cormier*, the new wing of the *Université de Moncton* Law School. The School was created in 1978 in response to a pressing need to provide Canada's Francophones with common law legal training exclusively in French.



Pavillon Adrien-J.-Cormier at the École de droit, Université de Moncton

- The City of Moncton's language training program made it possible to increase the level of bilingualism among municipal employees and, in so doing, improve the provision of services to citizens in the official language of their choice.
- In order to encourage the use of French as a language of business, the *Société des Acadiens et Acadiennes du Nouveau-Brunswick* led a campaign to promote French signs in New Brunswick. The project came under a bilateral agreement on the promotion of official languages.

- Of the province's 90,444 Anglophone students, 74,259 were enrolled in French second-language courses. A total of 16,425 students were enrolled in French immersion at the 107 schools offering this program. Of the province's 44,356 Francophone students, 29,730 were enrolled in English second-language courses.
- The *Association des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick* sponsored the design of an information and continuing education program for New Brunswick's French-speaking municipal elected officials, providing them with training on the workings of municipal governments and the issues facing these governments in the 1990s.
- The implementation of the official languages program in several of New Brunswick's hospitals provided an opportunity to offer language courses to designated employees so they could serve Francophone clients in French.

### Community Development

- New Brunswick's Acadian community, represented by the *Forum de concertation des organismes acadiens et francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick*, signed a Canada-community agreement on January 25, 1996 with the Department of Canadian Heritage. This four-year agreement will enable the Acadian community to enjoy a greater degree of autonomy and continue to develop in line with its own list of priorities. The agreement focuses on such activities as communications, arts and culture, the economy, education and human resources.
- The *Société des Acadiens et Acadiennes du Nouveau-Brunswick* issued a report entitled *L'Acadie, à l'heure des choix*, prepared under the direction of economist André

Leclerc. The study deals with the political and economic future of New Brunswick's Acadian community.

- A major fund-raising campaign was developed as part of the Fonds de l'avenir, created by the *Société des Acadiens et Acadiennes du Nouveau-Brunswick* to enable it to become more financially self-sufficient.
- The *Centre Assomption de recherche et de développement en entrepreneuriat*, the *Conseil économique du Nouveau-Brunswick*

and the Canadian Institute for Research on Regional Development joined forces to produce the *Synthèse des conférences économiques et des exercices de planification stratégique des communautés acadienne et francophone du Nouveau-Brunswick*. This synopsis contains a great deal of information on the socio-economic status of New Brunswick's Acadian community. The economic conferences dealt with in the synopsis took place between 1989 and 1994.

## QUEBEC

---

### Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- In a second five-year Canada-Quebec agreement, the federal government covered part of the expenses incurred by Quebec for the implementation of measures aimed at providing English-speaking persons with access to health and social services in their own language. According to this agreement, Quebec undertook projects in the areas of coordination, translation, volunteer training, as well as information, counselling and referral for the Anglophone community.
- New activities for the Anglophone community were carried out under the bilateral agreement on official languages in education:
  - instructional development in English aimed at analyzing the needs of the schools (use of new technologies) and improving the curricula (evaluation tools);

- school accountability through action research with McGill University to enable the schools to gather and analyze data on student outcomes;
- ongoing training and development for English first-language teachers, one of the objectives being the establishment of a provincial teachers' network.
- At the Lakeshore School Board, a new treatment centre for students with serious behavioural and reading difficulties was established under the Canada-Quebec agreement on official languages in education. A multidisciplinary team analyzes the students referred to the centre, develops a treatment plan, assesses their progress and participates in the development plan. The team helps teachers and administrators deal more effectively with crisis situations and day-to-day behavioural problems.

- The Grosse-Île English primary and secondary school in the Magdalen Islands completed its expansion project by refitting antiquated space and adding two new classrooms as well as a storage area.

**Since March 31, 1996**

The 110 students of the Grosse-Île English primary and secondary school celebrated the opening of the new facilities in September 1996.

## Community Development

The Quebec Farmers' Association began the first stage of a two-part distance education project in which they conducted a comparative survey of English- and French-language distance education programs currently being offered in Quebec and the rest of Canada.

In stage two, it will carry out a needs assessment of current and future users in Quebec to promote the development of this increasingly important academic sector.

- The Quebec Young Farmers' Provincial Federation produced a youth leadership kit to further the use of leadership training materials in workshops at local and regional levels, and hosted a provincial forum to establish a long-term rural program on this subject.



*Leadership conference of the Quebec Young Farmers' Provincial Federation*

- With departmental assistance, Alliance Quebec conducted two projects designed to improve access to legal and health-care information for members of the English-speaking community in the province. In one case, it produced a general legal directory that provides a comprehensive listing of existing information and services and, in the other, it compiled a series of distinctive profiles in eight administrative regions identifying the health needs of the English-speaking elderly.

The Federation of English-speaking Writers of Quebec, together with the Association of English Publishers of Quebec, set up a full-scale central library project. Using the Atwater Library in Montreal as a central location, they collected the works of Quebec English-speaking writers and promoted the collection extensively throughout the province.

- For the third consecutive year, Outaouais Alliance organized a planning and priority session for representatives from the regional association network, whose goal was to draft action plans for cooperative ventures in terms of advocacy, youth employment, and improved delivery of legal and health-care services in English.
- Under the Canada-community agreement with Quebec, client groups launched a series of initiatives to help them diversify their funding sources. They undertook one study on the benefits that non-profit organizations could derive from adopting a market-driven approach (Alliance Quebec), another on the financial challenges and opportunities that face organizations operating in the voluntary sector (Quebec Farmers' Association), and a third on provincial government programs that might be of assistance for project purposes (Quebec Association for Adult Learning).
- The Voice of English Quebec created a central demographic data system on Quebec Anglophones that can generate up-to-date information on the predominant characteristics of the communities that the groups represent. In addition, Alliance Quebec conducted a survey to evaluate the needs of current and potential markets so that it would be in a better position to provide suitable products or services to these markets, thereby strengthening their case for support with donors or sponsors.



## ONTARIO

### Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- In February 1996, the Ontario School Board Reduction Task Force (Sweeney Task Force) presented Ontario's Ministry of Education with its report, calling for, among other things, the creation of 15 French school boards to replace the 77 French-language boards, sections and advisory committees currently in place.

#### Since March 31, 1996

In January 1997, the Government of Ontario announced the creation of seven new French school boards, on top of the four existing ones.

- As of September 1995, all Franco-Ontarians have been able to pursue their college studies in French. The French-language college system in Ontario was made possible by cooperation between the Department of Canadian Heritage and the province. In September 1995, the *Collège des Grands Lacs*, which serves the central and south-western region, *Collège Boréal* and its six satellite campuses in Northern Ontario, and the *Cité collégiale* in Ottawa welcomed the first students in their new facilities.

#### Since March 31, 1996

On March 20, 1997, the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Minister of Public Works and Government Services and the Minister of Industry announced a federal contribution to the *Collège Boréal* to meet its requirements relating to the purchase of equipment.

- During the 1995-96 school year, this network of colleges boasted an enrolment of nearly 5,000 post-secondary students, exceeding the figures that had been forecast. The statistics break down as follows: *Cité collégiale*, 3,400; *Collège Boréal*, 1,500; and *Collège des Grands Lacs*, 100.

- Under the bilateral agreement on official languages in education, a project was undertaken to examine the restructuring of French public education in the Greater Toronto Area. The project was initiated by the French-language advisory committees of Durham, Peel and York Region and by the Metropolitan Toronto French school board, in association with the Greater Toronto and Metropolitan Toronto English public school boards. The purpose of the study is to put in place a new structure that would ensure the delivery of improved French public educational programs and services and their management by and for Greater Toronto's Francophones. The final report should be tabled in 1997.

- The Department of Canadian Heritage, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, supported the establishment and operation of Francophone farm management cooperatives. Thanks to a partnership with the *Union des cultivateurs franco-ontariens* and participating farmers, two management groups (in the Eastern Ontario and Temiskaming areas) were set up.

- In cooperation with the *Office des affaires francophones*, the Department helped carry out a micro-marketing project aimed at increasing the cost-effectiveness and self-sufficiency of Francophone community organizations by equipping them with customized promotional tools. With the help of a computer program, the organizations can target population segments geographically or according to specific socio-economic characteristics.

- Community profiles were established with support from the Department and the *Office des affaires francophones*. These profiles, developed by the *Office*, focus on demographic features, marital and family status,

the rate of assimilation, education, employment income and participation in Ontario's Francophone labour force. Comparisons are made with the general population of Ontario in order to highlight the relative situation of the province's Francophones.

- The Department of Canadian Heritage and the Ministry of Community and Social Services provided support for the *Better Beginnings* project, aimed at developing and organizing educational and social activities for Francophone youngsters and families living in the Cornwall region. Families are provided with information on childhood development and on the services and resources that are available.

### Community Development

- Four Ottawa theatres (*Théâtre du Trillium*, *Théâtre de la Vieille 17*, *Vox Théâtre* and *La Catapulte*) concluded an agreement to purchase the *Atelier* of the National Arts Centre. The agreement will enable the Ottawa region to establish a Francophone theatre centre.



- The *Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario* and *Collège Boréal* signed a partnership agreement for the construction, on the Collège's main campus in Sudbury, of a theatre production centre. The centre is scheduled to open in September 1997.
- The *Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario (Huronie)*, the *Centre d'activités françaises* and *Radio-Huronie* agreed to merge into a single representative organization, the *Clé d'la Baie*. This amalgamation will help channel the community's efforts and reduce expenditures.

- A veritable symbol of Franco-Ontarians' struggle against Regulation 17, *École Guigues* is becoming the *Centre de jour Guigues*, a multi-purpose centre for Ottawa-Carleton's French-speaking senior citizens.

#### Since March 31, 1996

The *Coalition pour le développement et l'épanouissement de la communauté franco-ontarienne et des minorités raciales francophones de l'Ontario*, an umbrella group representing some 70 Franco-Ontarian organizations, signed a Canada-community agreement with the Department on December 18, 1996.

The first *Mondial de l'entreprenariat jeunesse* took place in Ottawa in September 1996. The event, organized by *Direction-jeunesse* and the *Forum Ontario/Francophonie mondiale*, gave young entrepreneurs in 26 Francophone countries an opportunity to conduct transactions, exchange ideas and network.

In September 1996, the Kingston school/community centre welcomed the students of the Marie-Rivier secondary school and community organizations to its new facility.

Since September 1996, cable TV viewers in New Brunswick have been able to watch TFO, the only French-language educational channel outside Quebec.



Canadian Heritage Minister Sheila Copps signing the Canada-community agreement with Ontario's Francophone community

### Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- Following the renewal of the Canada-Manitoba agreement on the promotion of official languages in March 1995, several initiatives were carried out with the province of Manitoba to develop French services for the Franco-Manitoban community, including: developing French-language health-care services in the 21 institutions designated officially bilingual by the province; establishing bilingual libraries in bilingual municipalities; providing support for a French day-care centre in Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes; expanding the services of the *Centre de ressources éducatives à l'enfance* to designated rural regions; and making French services available in the City of Winnipeg.
  - In addition, the province of Manitoba and the federal government pledged to co-fund the construction of the *Centre du patrimoine franco-manitobain*. A subsidiary agreement was signed by the two governments in March 1996, confirming both parties' support for the project. The *Centre* will house archival documents and historical objects, while offering the population exhibits and workshops on Francophone heritage. The *Centre* will be attached to the *Centre culturel franco-manitobain* and managed by the *Société historique de Saint-Boniface*.
  - New initiatives were carried out under the bilateral agreement on official languages in education, including the following:
    - the professional development project *À cause d'une langue* aimed at creating a professional development model for teachers in Manitoba's French schools;
    - the development of the instructional tool *Sacs de trésors* for the immersion program at the H.L. Softley school, to enable English-speaking parents to help their children learn French and take part in the learning process;
    - the development of a variety of courseware for computer-assisted interactive learning at River East Collegiate, to integrate technology into second-language learning;
    - an activities day aimed at introducing the author Gabrielle Roy to students in their early teens, organized in cooperation with the *Centre culturel franco-manitobain*, the Winnipeg Art Gallery and the *Cercle Molière*; the hosts of the event welcomed pre-secondary students in October 1995.
- With specific reference to French-language post-secondary education at the *Collège universitaire Saint-Boniface*, the following projects were carried out:
- language upgrading and development measures for students;
  - development and implementation of a tele-marketing and teleservice program;
  - development of the theatre company, student radio station and student newspaper;
  - access by the *Collège* to the Internet and installation of community networking infrastructure;
  - support to the *Centre des études franco-canadiennes de l'Ouest* for the organization of its annual colloquium and the publication of its review, *Les cahiers du CEFCO*.

- The Franco-Manitoban School Division (FMSD) was in its second year of operation. At the beginning of the school year in September 1995, *École Laurier* became the province's 21<sup>st</sup> French-language school. During the 1995-96 school year, 21 school committees were established.
- Initiatives undertaken in 1995-96 include the establishment by the FMSD of a refrancization program for *ayants droit* (children entitled to French-language education) under section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the creation of new computerized laboratories in several secondary schools.
- The FMSD and the community organizations cooperated on a number of projects. In the fall of 1995, the *Fédération provinciale des comités de parents* and the FMSD teamed up to raise parents' awareness of their role in school management. This parent training and awareness initiative was carried out in connection with a project called *La communauté et l'école*. The *Fédération* continued with its refrancization program for *ayants droit* at the preschool level in cooperation with the FMSD and the Department of Education, as part of the bilateral agreement. The FMSD is cooperating with the *Festival du Voyageur*, the provincial youth council and the *100 Nons*, a youth group that promotes French-language songs and music, to stage concerts in the schools.

## Community Development

- When it signed a Canada-community agreement, the Franco-Manitoban community made a commitment to review its structures and priorities in order to get the most out of the resources available under the agreement. In the spring of 1995, it embarked on a year of transition, with the aim of thoroughly reviewing its funding and structures, establishing a profile of its members and setting

specific development priorities. This exercise also enabled the community to restructure itself, in order to put in place a joint committee to represent the community rather than its organizations.

- Five major priorities emerged: economic development; community training; standards for living in French; community networking; and cultural and artistic development. These priorities led to projects such as: the establishment of the *Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba*; the development of a heritage centre; the creation of a network to link up the various communities; the development of the *Radio communautaire du Manitoba*; and the development of the *Centre de ressources éducatives à l'enfance en milieu rural*.



*Unveiling of the logo of the Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba by Maurice McCarthy, Industrial Commissioner, and Raymond Poirier, President*

- Also in 1995-96, the community launched the project *Destination Saint-Boniface*, under the auspices of the *Chambre de commerce francophone de Saint-Boniface*, in order to revitalize Winnipeg's Francophone district. *Destination Saint-Boniface* comprises over 30 initiatives and received support under a tripartite agreement on Winnipeg tourism development. The project is aimed at revitalizing Provencher Boulevard, in the heart of Saint-Boniface, developing tourist trails, and creating parks along the banks of the Seine and Rouge Rivers, thereby showcasing the area's rich heritage.

## SASKATCHEWAN

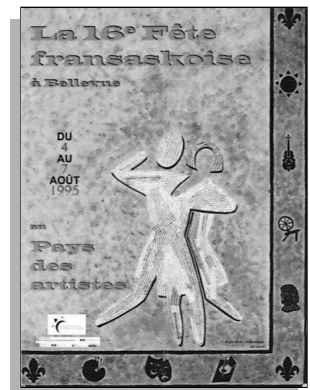
### Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- Saskatchewan continued carrying out capital projects related to school management. Four Fransaskois communities officially opened their new school facilities during the year. The French-speaking communities of Bellegarde and Gravelbourg proudly inaugurated their schools on November 10 and 11, 1995, respectively. A few days later, the Francophones of Saskatoon inaugurated the new facilities of the *École canadienne française de Saskatoon*. The province also undertook construction and renovation projects in schools in St-Isidore de Bellevue and Vonda.
- A number of projects were carried out under the agreement on official languages in education, including:
  - creation of a distance education network for immersion schools and Francophone schools;
  - the *Projet éducatif* of the parents' committees and the *Association provinciale des parents fransaskois*, which promotes the cultural integration and refrancization of Francophone students;
  - development of training instruments and workshops on curriculum and teaching methods for teachers of French immersion and core French, and teachers in Fransaskois schools.
- In 1995, Ferland became the ninth community with Francophone school management in Saskatchewan. The *Conseil général des écoles fransaskoises* approved a pilot project for a French education program in Ferland. The school is under the jurisdiction of the *Conseil scolaire La Vieille* in Gravelbourg.

- Officials from the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Saskatchewan departments of Education and Justice and the office of the Provincial Secretary met in Regina on June 29 to review the implementation of Canada-Saskatchewan agreements on official languages. In addition to taking stock of accomplishments, participants in the meeting discussed avenues of cooperation under the agreements which should be explored before the agreements expire on March 31, 1998.

### Community Development

- Prince Albert Francophones celebrated the culmination of more than ten years of work on February 14, 1996 with the official opening of *Le Carrefour fransaskois*, the first school/community centre in Saskatchewan. The project was made possible by financial support from the federal and provincial governments.
- Management of *Les Éditions Louis-Riel* held a strategic planning meeting in Regina on June 22 to consider ways to improve the company's financial position, expand its customer base, and continue publishing the works of Fransaskois writers and authors.
- Fransaskois from around the province and elsewhere met in St-Isidore de Bellevue to celebrate the 16<sup>th</sup> *Fête fransaskoise*, which was a resounding success. The numerous activities included celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary



of *Camp Voyageur*, a vacation camp for Francophone children in Saskatchewan founded by the *Association culturelle franco-canadienne de la Saskatchewan*. It was attended by many of today's leaders.

**Since March 31, 1996**

A third Canada-community agreement was signed with the Fransaskois community, represented by the *Association culturelle franco-canadienne de la Saskatchewan*, on April 26, 1996.

**ALBERTA**

**Federal-Provincial Cooperation**

- The Department of Canadian Heritage supported a number of projects related to the development of education in the minority language and second-language instruction, including:
  - preparation of a French course including a number of modules and audio-visual material for distance education at the intermediate level;
  - the opening of an elementary school in Saint-Albert for about 40 students, from kindergarten to Grade 4;
  - initiatives to francize, support and manage home study so as to meet the educational and linguistic needs of Francophone students;
  - development of assessment tools for core French and French immersion programs;
  - an intensive French course at Lakeland College for adults in the Cold Lake, Grand Center and Medley areas;
  - expansion and development of programs at the *Faculté Saint-Jean*; for example, developing and setting up a new B.A. program, and preliminary steps toward developing new Master's programs.

- New initiatives were undertaken under the Canada-Alberta special agreement on the establishment of Francophone school governance, French program development, and student fellowships, such as:
  - provision of special services to Francophone school authorities to facilitate the full integration of Francophone students with weak French language skills or learning disabilities;
  - development of *COLI*, a diagnostic and intervention instrument to assist students who experience reading difficulties in the French language;
  - translation and adaptation of the Career and Management Program into French for use in distance learning;
  - development of six Grade 10 social studies modules for distance learning;
  - translation and adaptation of 11 of the 22 fields of experience in Career and Technology Studies;
  - addition of a new community component at *École du Sommet* in Saint-Paul, making the existing facilities into a school/community centre.



**Since March 31, 1996**

The renovated premises of the *Faculté Saint-Jean* were officially opened on January 17, 1997. The expansion and renovation of this French-language institution was funded under the *Canada-Alberta special agreement for the enhancement of French minority-language education and French second-language instruction in Alberta*.

## Community Development



*The Jeux francophones de l'Ouest in Edmonton*

- Over 200 young athletes from the four western provinces and the Yukon competed in the first *Jeux francophones de l'Ouest*, held in Edmonton from June 30 to July 3, 1995.
- A sub-committee of the *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta* prepared an action plan on tourism development potential in Franco-Albertan communities.
- The *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta*, in collaboration with the *Faculté Saint-Jean* and the *Centre d'éducation communautaire de l'Alberta*, organized a first conference with a view to writing the history of Francophones in Alberta at the general and local levels.
- The *Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta* conducted a study of Franco-Albertans to determine their awareness of their rights as Francophones and to gather information on how they use those rights and why.
- *Francophonie jeunesse de l'Alberta* developed a full-featured computer application for managing use of volunteers. This application is now available to all Francophone organizations.
- The *Fédération des aînés francophones*, in collaboration with Health Canada and the Department of Canadian Heritage, has developed two series of training sessions for senior citizens: *Viellir en santé* and *La vie continue*. Six sessions were held in 10 regions of the province.
- The *Centre d'éducation communautaire de l'Alberta* carried out a pilot project in the Calgary area designed to facilitate the integration of mixed couples into the Francophone community. Two similar projects are planned for Saint-Paul, Plamondon and Bonnyville-Cold Lake.
- The Edmonton chapter of the *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta* organized the *Fête franco-albertaine* in Beaumont. The event had a significant impact on the town: Beaumont has since officially become bilingual.
- *Unithéâtre* has developed a drama training program for schools and cultural groups in outlying areas.

### Since March 31, 1996

Rivière-la-Paix community radio station CKRP-FM went on the air on October 28, 1996.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

### Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- In the summer of 1995, the Government of British Columbia created a Francophone school board by regulatory means; the trustees were appointed in December 1995 and sworn in in January 1996. The school board was provisionally endorsed by the *Association des parents francophones de la Colombie-Britannique*, although the regulations are not fully satisfactory in light of section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

#### Since March 31, 1996

Legal action was taken to obtain amendments to the regulations and a ruling in favour of the *Association des parents* was handed down in July 1996. The Supreme Court called for amendments to British Columbia's *School Act* to meet *Charter* requirements under section 23. It also ruled that the number of children entitled to French-language education warrants giving the Francophone minority the right to manage its schools and control school curricula and facilities.

On March 19, 1997, Canada and British Columbia signed a three-year agreement providing financial assistance for the establishment of a Francophone education authority in British Columbia.

As a result of the bilateral agreement on official languages in education, a number of initiatives were undertaken:

- the *Mesures d'accueil* project, intended for students in the *Programme cadre de français* who require additional French-language skills participate fully in regular classroom activities;
- regional in-service sessions and support materials developed for Francophone teachers and parents in multi-age classroom situations;

- socio-cultural activities for French immersion students organized by Canadian Parents for French, including French family camps, the *Semaine française*, a public speaking contest, and cultural activities in 47 school districts;
- the establishment of a stand-alone school dedicated to *Programme cadre de français* students in the Powell River School District;
- the translation, printing and distribution of the publication entitled *Career and Personal Planning 8 to 12 - A Resource Package for Schools*, a comprehensive resource manual that provides teachers, students and administrators the necessary information to implement the new provincial curriculum.

- The 1995-96 school year marks the first year of implementation of the Ministry of Education policy which makes study of a second language compulsory in grades 5 through 8 in all British Columbia schools. The policy provides that it is up to the school district to choose the second language. If the school district does not specify a choice, the second language taught will be French.

### Community Development

- The Canada-community agreement between the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Francophone community of British Columbia, represented by the *Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique*, was signed in March 1996. The strategic issues identified by the community were institutionalization, human resources training and management, networking and visibility, partnership and alliance-building, culture, pride and identity.



- The *Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the company of its 30-odd member associations and representatives of several federal and provincial government departments. At its October conference, the organization, which speaks for the Francophone community of British Columbia, unveiled its overall development plan for the 1995-2000 period. The plan had been put together over the year based on a series of regional and sectoral consultations, and served as the basis for the negotiations on the Canada-community agreement ratified in March 1996.

- The *Association des parents francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October. Its convention,



held together with its annual general meeting, was conducted under the theme *L'École au coeur de la communauté*. One of the questions discussed at the convention was how to spread this vision of the school as the heart of the community, and how to foster a vigorous social and cultural life within the school, so that it becomes a meeting place of talents and ideas, open to all generations. The Francophone population of British Columbia now has a school and pre-school system covering 25 school districts.

- The *Festival Théâtre-Jeunesse de Colombie-Britannique* was held in Gibsons, on the Sunshine Coast. More than 150 people took part in the event. Students in the immersion program and in the French program performed plays before a jury. First prizes went to the Millside elementary school in Coquitlam and the Mission high school.

- At the French theatre gathering held in Ottawa in the spring of 1996, Vancouver's *Troupe de la Seizième* signed a contract for 80 performances of its play *Le petit prince* in Ontario from January to May, 1997.

- The Maillardville *Festival du Bois*, which pays tribute to the Francophone pioneers who came to work in the logging industry at the beginning of the century, drew thousands of visitors this year. A triathlon consisting of a foot race, a canoe race and a sawing contest was a great success. The festival makes an important economic and touristic contribution to the municipality of Maillardville/Coquitlam.



*The Festival du bois in Maillardville*

- Despite experiencing financial difficulties, *La Boussole*, an organization which serves needy Francophones on Vancouver's east side, has now found its stride. With help from *Éducacentre* and financial support from the Department of Canadian Heritage, *La Boussole* will continue to offer drop-in, interpreting and popular education services for those in this downtown area. In December, the generous support of students in the hospitality program at Vancouver Community College made it possible to serve Christmas dinner to a hundred people.

## Federal-Territorial Cooperation

- A referendum on the creation of a French-language school board was held in the Yukon on June 7, 1995. The results speak for themselves: 65 parents voted for the new school board and 18 voted against. On December 4, the five trustees who had been elected by acclamation were sworn in at a ceremony in the presence of the Minister of Education.

### Since March 31, 1996

The new school board, the first in the Yukon, started operating on June 30, 1996 and proceeded to hire a general manager.



*Kristiane Sormany-Albert, the first graduate of the École Émilie-Tremblay, with Mavis Fisher, Superintendent*

- In addition to classrooms, *École Émilie-Tremblay* has a gym, a library, a computer lab, and an arts and music room.

### Since March 31, 1996

About 110 students, in kindergarten through Grade 12, are attending the new facility, which was officially inaugurated on September 12, 1996. The school produced its first Grade 12 graduate in June 1996.

- A number of initiatives were undertaken under the Canada-Yukon agreement on the development, improvement and implementation of French-language rights and services (1993-94 to 1997-98), such as:
  - development of French-language services with the Yukon hospital board;
  - delivery of services in French at the motor vehicle bureau;
  - production of educational material on the gold rush in French;
  - improvement of French-language content in Yukon public libraries;
  - production of travel brochures and tourist information signs;
  - trials in French and other efforts related to legal proceedings.

## Community Development

- On March 29, 1996, a Canada-community agreement was signed with the Francophone community of the Yukon, represented by the *Association franco-yukonnaise*.
- To involve and better represent the Francophone community of Dawson, a representative of that town now sits on the Board of the *Association franco-yukonnaise*.
- For the first time, the *Espoir-Jeunesse* group received funding from the *Association franco-yukonnaise* for its activities. The group adopted a mission and decided to focus its efforts on recreational activities for local Francophones and Francophiles, with the help of a part-time organizer.

- In 1995, Whitehorse hosted the National Science Fair. The *Association franco-yukonnaise* played an important role in the organization and conduct of this national event (e.g. Francophone jury members, Francophone guides for guided tours).

- *Les EssentiElles* prepared a five-year plan and worked more closely with majority-language groups in activities involving women.



## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

### Federal-Territorial Cooperation

- The purpose of the Canada-Northwest Territories Cooperation Agreement, signed in March 1995, is to support and reinforce French and Aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories. The Agreement enables the territorial government to deliver various services and programs in French to Francophone communities and to preserve, promote and strengthen Aboriginal languages.

- Within the framework of the Canada-Northwest Territories agreement on official languages in education, the following projects and activities were undertaken:

- library material was purchased for three immersion schools;
- curricular materials, including the FSL teacher's guide and the civics program for students in grades 1 to 6, were translated and revised;
- instructional assistants were hired to help with students with little or no previous instruction in French as a second language;
- French educational CD-ROMs, diskettes and video cassettes were purchased;

- one French module in Career and Technology Studies was developed.

- Parents are not convinced that their rights with respect to the management of schools are adequately recognized in the new *School Act*, passed on June 25, 1995 (the regulations came into force in July 1996). Parents are of the view that too much is left to the discretion of the Minister or that of majority-language educational institutions.

#### Since March 31, 1996

The first summit conference on French education in the Northwest Territories was held in Yellowknife on November 21 to 23, 1996. The issue of full control over school management was dealt with. A request for the creation of a territorial school board will probably be submitted to the Department of Education. If it is turned down, legal action could follow.

- Parents in Iqaluit elected their first school board in January 1996. A French program from kindergarten through Grade 7 is being offered in three classrooms in the Inuit English-language Nakasuk school.
- Yellowknife parents have had a school board since February 1996. By-elections were held in September 1995. A French program from kindergarten through Grade 9 is offered in six portable classrooms at *École Allain Saint-Cyr*. The two school boards are working together to obtain full management con-

trol and acquire adequate, separate premises for their schools.

- Northwest Territories school trustees attended a training session on school management in Iqaluit in December 1995.

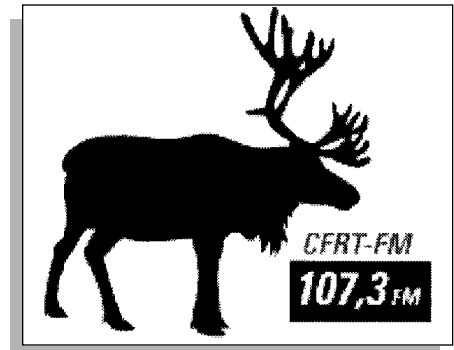
## Community Development

- On November 4, 1995, the *Fédération franco-ténoise* signed a Canada-community agreement on behalf of the Francophone community of the Northwest Territories. The agreement covers a four-year period (1995 to 1999) and will enable the community to develop activities in spheres such as culture, education, refrancization and economic development.
- The *Grand Nord* project was launched. It will enable the community to increase its self-financing capabilities by setting up four corporations, which will operate in the areas of communications, marketing, and tourism research and development. *Grand Nord* hired a general manager in September 1996, and the firm *Boréal Consultants* has already landed its first contracts.
- During the *Semaine de la Francophonie*, the Francophone associations of Fort Smith and Yellowknife held sugaring off parties; the duo *L'envolée* went on tour, giving a number of performances in Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Hay River; and a puppet show was staged in French, English and Inuktitut for children and parents in Iqaluit.

- The *Fondation franco-ténoise* launched the *Au-delà du 60<sup>e</sup> parallèle* literary award. Writing workshops were held in various communities to encourage submissions. Awards were handed out in the children's and adult categories.

- The territorial government introduced a language promotion award to recognize the efforts of those who are dedicated to promoting their language. In March 1996, Suzanne Lefebvre of Iqaluit won the award for promotion of the French language.

- CFRT, the community radio station of the *Association francophone d'Iqaluit*, offers the Iqaluit community daily programming in French. The *Association franco-culturelle de Yellowknife* produces a program called *À propos d'autre chose*, providing one hour of French-language programming per week, with plans to expand to two hours in the fall of 1996.



- *La Bottine souriante* gave an outdoor concert in Yellowknife in July 1995.