

IV. Highlights

Introduction

Through the initiative of groups and individuals involved in education and community action, many projects were carried out locally, regionally and nationally. The vitality of the organizations representing sectors concerned with official languages made it possible to implement a large number of projects during the year and move forward on key issues, as witnessed by the results achieved in the areas of school management and Canada-community agreements.

The Department acts as a facilitator and catalyst for groups. The projects bring many benefits and enhance all aspects of Canada's official languages: learning of English and French as second languages; teaching of French as a mother tongue in minority communities; strengthening of minority communities in

terms of economic development, culture, etc. The Department of Canadian Heritage is also working with various partners to encourage all Canadians, Anglophones and Francophones alike, to learn more about and form ties with one another. After all, the English and French languages and cultures are the cornerstones of Canadian identity.

The projects described below are grouped into three broad categories: cooperation with the provinces, partnership with minority communities, and promotion and dialogue. Whether regional or national in scope, the projects carried out during the past year all contributed to the full recognition of the two official languages and helped ensure that both English- and French-speaking Canadians participate fully in Canadian society.

A. On the regional scene

The official-language minority communities - Anglophones in Quebec and Francophones in the rest of Canada - are living proof of the presence of Canada's linguistic duality, whether it be in the area of education, official languages services, or relating to activities

designed to preserve their language and enhance their collective development. The following are some of the key activities that took place in 1994-95 in all of the provinces and the territories.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- In September 1994, Francophone parents in Goose Bay (Labrador) were pleased to see the opening of a French minority-language class in their community, bringing to five the number of communities in the province where Francophones have access to education in their own language.
- In December 1994, the Department of Canadian Heritage signed a five-year cooperation agreement with the provincial Department of Justice to assist in the French-language training of provincial judges.

Community Development

- On Newfoundland's west coast, Francophones continued their five-year economic development initiative with a project focusing on training and development in the areas of entrepreneurship and tourism. As a result of an idea put forward by the Francophone community on the Port-au-Port Peninsula, the provincial government has agreed to develop a themed tourist route to reflect the French heritage of the region. The logo for the trail will be the flag of French Newfoundlanders.
- Labrador West is home to approximately 500 Francophones. For the past several years, the volunteer-run *Radio communautaire du Labrador* has been providing the region with community programming in

French. A project was approved to help the 30 volunteers with the radio to organize a series of training workshops.

Promotion

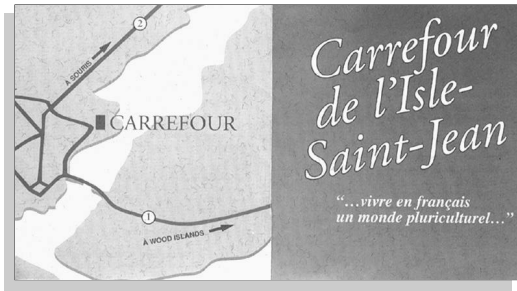
- The Placentia Area *Théâtre d'Héritage* Committee was the key player in the development of a bilingual theatrical pageant on the efforts of the French to establish a colony in Newfoundland. The group was assisted by the *Association francophone de St-Jean* and the pageant was performed at Castle Hill National Historic Site in Placentia, the French capital of Newfoundland in the 1600s. The show was well-received by the approximately 1,900 people who saw it during the summer.



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- 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 a daycare service and kindergarten. The school awarded its first diplomas to six students in June 1994 and welcomed almost 170 students in September 1994.



- The Canada-Prince Edward Island agreement on the promotion of official languages facilitated the establishment of a number of bilingual services for the province's Acadian and Francophone community. Thus, the number of provincial government employees capable of offering services in both official languages increased from approximately ten in 1988 to approximately one hundred in 1995.
- The *Centre provincial de formation pour adultes* opened in Wellington in the winter of 1995. A distance education network using the most up-to-date technology provides the Acadian and Francophone population of the region with fair and inexpensive access to a full-time French-language college education. The project is considered a success by both the community and the two orders of government.

Community Development

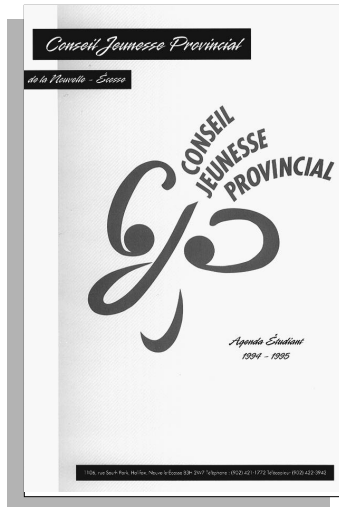
- For the second consecutive year, the *Fédération culturelle de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard* set up an arts training project to improve Acadian and Francophone artistic production in the province by offering intensive workshops in disciplines related to the performing arts.
- The regional *La Belle Alliance* committee organized a project entitled *Entre Cousins* in order to mount a production of the play *Port LaJoye*. The play depicts the deportation of the Acadians from Prince Edward Island. The play, which was presented during the World Acadian Congress, was such a success that the organization will continue to stage the production during events such as the international fair in Louisiana.

Promotion

- In November 1994, following the renewal of the Canada-Prince Edward Island agreement on the promotion of official languages for a five-year period, the *Conseil consultatif des communautés acadiennes* organized *Forum '94* to improve communication, cooperation and partnership between the provincial government and the Acadian and Francophone community of Prince Edward Island. During the forum, Premier Catherine Callbeck presented a plaque to the *Société Saint-Thomas d'Aquin* in recognition of its contribution to the Acadian and Francophone community of the province.
- The *Semaine provinciale de la francophonie* has become an annual event in Prince Edward Island where activities are organized to promote the French language and culture with the entire population of the island.

NOVA SCOTIA

Federal-Provincial Cooperation



- The Department of Education, the *Conseil jeunesse provincial* and the Department of Canadian Heritage cooperated in the autumn of 1994 in order to develop and offer a leadership course for members of student councils in Acadian schools.
- The (five-year) Canada-Nova Scotia agreement on the promotion of official languages was renewed in August 1994. The aim of the agreement is to promote the implementation of the provincial policy on French-language government services adopted in 1987.
- The Nova Scotia Sector on Acadian Affairs, in cooperation with the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Acadian community, organized *Colloque-Échange 95* in February 1995 in order to begin a process of reflection on the future direction for this sector.
- The third *Gala provinciale de la chanson* - the largest musical event in the province - took place in May 1994. This competition is organized by the *Conseil culturel acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse*, with the participation and cooperation of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Production Centre in Halifax, the *Festival acadien d'Halifax-Dartmouth*, the *Carrefour du Grand-Havre* and the Department of Canadian Heritage.
- In June 1994, the *Association des Acadiennes de la Nouvelle-Écosse* presented its *Étude des besoins sur la violence familiale*, in five Acadian regions of the province, in order to identify avenues for intervention and orient future lobbying efforts.
- In June 1994, the theatre troupe *Les araignées du boui-boui* put on the play *Évangéline*, which recalls the most significant event in the history of Acadia. The production was made possible by the cooperation of the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Nova Scotia Department of Acadian Affairs, the municipality of Clare and the private sector.
- In May 1994, a sod-turning ceremony marked the start of construction on the multi-functional *La Picasse* centre. This is an important initiative that will contribute greatly to the cultural and economic development of the Acadian community of Petite-Grat, Richmond County, in Cape Breton.

Community Development

- In 1994, a survey was conducted on the needs of the elderly Acadians and Francophones of Nova Scotia and a provincial colloquium was organized, during which the *Regroupement des aînés* was formally established.

Promotion

- Each year, the provincial office of the Department of Canadian Heritage in Nova Scotia promotes the *Semaine nationale de la francophonie* by sending out information kits to clients of the Department and to regional offices of other federal departments.

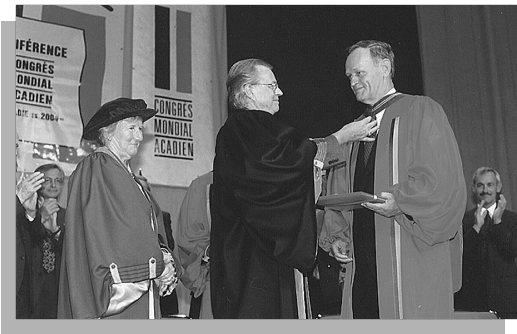
- Canadian Parents for French continues its efforts to promote closer ties and awareness of issues with respect to the Acadian community of Nova Scotia. This year, representatives of the group took part in the annual

assembly of the *Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse* in order to gain a greater understanding of Acadian parents' interests with regard to school management.

NEW BRUNSWICK

World Acadian Congress

- The *Retrouvailles* and the World Acadian Congress took place from August 12 to 22, 1994, in nine host municipalities in south-eastern New Brunswick. This event, the first of its kind in the history of the Acadians since the *Grand Dérangement* of 1755, had a major national



Prime Minister Jean Chrétien receives honorary doctorate from the Université de Moncton in the presence of Acadian writer Antonine Maillet.

- and international impact. It is estimated that more than 300,000 people attended, in addition to the 2,000 Congress participants and the 58,000 people registered for family reunions.
- An impressive number of national and international political leaders attended the event and delivered important messages on the advancement of the French language and culture in Canada. In a speech to the Congress, the Canadian Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, said that in celebrating Acadia they were celebrating "the triumph of the French fact in America". During the official opening of the Conference component of the World Acadian Congress, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, spoke at length about the Acadians, their

attachment to their language, and their openness to the world. The French Minister of Culture and *la francophonie*, Jacques Toubon, said he considered Acadia a model for the international Francophone movement.

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- On August 16, 1994, the Minister of Canadian Heritage was on hand to announce the Department's involvement in the project to build the electrical engineering building at the *Université de Moncton*. This project will provide the university with modern facilities such as micro-electronic, computer, energy, and communications laboratories.
- The New Brunswick Provincial Archives began a project to make research aids and subject guides available in French. The project is slated for completion in 1995-96.
- The *Société des Acadiens et Acadiennes du Nouveau-Brunswick*, in cooperation with the *Association des municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick*, the *Fédération des dames d'Acadie*, the *Fédération des jeunes francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick*, the journal *Égalité* and the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, organized a day of reflection on real equality for New Brunswick's two language communities. This meeting made it possible to identify the Acadian community's priorities for achieving true equality between the two communities.

- *Temps d'affaires*, the economic journal of the *Conseil économique du Nouveau-Brunswick*, produced a series of television programs to educate New Brunswick's Francophone population about the business world in order to increase Francophone participation in economic activity.

Community Development

- *Radio Restigouche* began broadcasting in September 1994 as the result of a community initiative begun in 1989 and provided French-language radio to the 17,000 Francophones in northern New Brunswick, from Robinsonville to Belledune. This project was made possible by the participation of the Department of Canadian Heritage, the provincial government and the community.
- *Radio Beauséjour* began broadcasting in July 1994, responding to the communications development needs of Acadians in southeastern New Brunswick. The station serves a population of 75,000 Francophones in a 175-kilometre radius. As with *Radio Restigouche*, it was cooperation between the federal government, the provincial government and the community that made this project possible.
- The third *Festival Jeunesse de l'Atlantique*, on the theme *Culture sans Censure!*, was held at the *Université de Moncton* from August 12 to 15, 1994. The *Festival*, organized this year by the *Fédération des jeunes du Nouveau-Brunswick*, allows young artists to excel in various types of cultural activities. The evaluations demonstrated the success and importance of this activity for young Acadians and Francophones in the Atlantic region. The Department of Canadian Heritage, the governments of New Brunswick and Quebec, the French

community of Belgium, the *Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française* and the *Fondation culturelle acadienne* all contributed to the success of this activity.

Promotion

- With the cooperation of the Department of Canadian Heritage, the *Association des enseignantes et des enseignants francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick*, the New Brunswick Teachers' Association and Dialogue N.B. organized a conference with the theme "Living Together in a Changing World". This conference enabled participants to get to know each other better, to appreciate the various linguistic and cultural groups which make up the population of New Brunswick, and to facilitate cooperation.
- Canadian Parents for French of New Brunswick, together with the Department of Canadian Heritage, sponsored a summer day camp for students in grades one to six enrolled in French immersion. All activities were conducted in French to counteract the fact that students lose up to 30 per cent of their French ability during the summer months.
- To mark the *Journée internationale de la francophonie*, a show called *La francophonie en mots et en chansons* was organized at the Capitol Theatre in Moncton by a number of partners, including the *Société nationale de l'Acadie* and the *Conseil provincial des sociétés culturelles*. The show highlighted musical artists from *la francophonie* at home and abroad. There were also booths on *la francophonie* and a book fair.

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- The Canada-Quebec agreement in the area of health and social services for the English-speaking population of Quebec began activities for the first year of a second consecutive five-year term. Once again, emphasis was placed on maintaining the role of provincial coordinators in the various administrative regions in the province. The coordinators play a liaison role between the regional councils and the Anglophone community and advise them on the community's needs with respect to service delivery. In this rapidly changing sector of provincial services, the coordinator's role is seen as essential by the community.
- The federal government cooperated with the Quebec department of education on the construction and renovation of the Grosse-Île school in the Magdalen Islands, enabling students in this Anglophone community to enjoy modern and suitable surroundings.
- The Quebec department of education offered a new program for leaders in the teaching of English as a first language. The *Innovation pédagogique et organisationnelle* program recognizes and encourages innovative action-research activities in an effort to identify the best ways of overcoming the systemic difficulties facing the educational community.
- The special support for the acquisition of teaching material and professional develop-

ment for teachers of English as a first language continues. These programs are a follow-up to the Chambers report on teaching English as a first language in Quebec.

- The third year of the intergovernmental cooperation agreement between the Department of Canadian Heritage and the *Conseil de la magistrature du Québec* on the promotion of official languages made it possible for provincial court judges to receive language training, thus allowing accessibility to judicial services in English.

Community Development

- In the more isolated regions of Quebec, the Coasters' Association, which groups the fifteen English-speaking communities scattered along the Lower North Shore, initiated production of a bi-annual newspaper to keep its members and the population in the villages informed about the activities of their association and on issues of concern to the residents of the coast. In the Magdalen Islands, renovations were completed to the Heritage Building, a small but vital step towards self-sufficiency. Geordie Productions, an English-speaking touring company which provided the only opportunity for culturally-deprived communities to see live professional English theatre, brought several productions to isolated villages.

- Under the leadership of Coasters' Association, three community radio stations serving the isolated communities along the



Community radion station at Harrington Harbour on the Lower North Shore.

Lower North Shore, explored the feasibility of a network which would link the communities in this region which stretches along the northern coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

- The Quebec Farmers' Association held a forum at which eighteen local, regional, and provincial organizations and departments implicated in the training and education of the Quebec farming community participated. This event was preceded by a series of meetings with farmers to obtain their input and document their needs. The purpose of the project was to assess the agricultural education and training opportunities available to English-speaking farmers, and to bring these findings forward at the forum.
- The Quebec Drama Federation focussed on training activities by holding four management workshops on group process, database development, audience relations and integrated marketing and management for the 34 English theatre companies which make up its membership. These workshops were interspersed with seminars focussing on the various disciplines and physical techniques in the area of acting and directing.
- A total of 45 theatre companies presented 275 performances at the Montreal Fringe Festival, which features mainly amateur productions from groups in Quebec and across Canada. Some highly innovative and

exciting English and French theatre was viewed by an audience of approximately 25,000.

- The Voice of English Quebec in Quebec City supported the work of a local committee to transform Morrin College into a community centre for the Anglophone population. This year, the Voice of English Quebec, in partnership with the College, gave the project significant exposure during the annual Fall Fest, helped fund various activities and explored further ways to fund the development of an interpretation research centre within the College.
- The Quebec Community Newspapers Association launched a comprehensive project designed to diversify its revenue base. In order to upgrade its marketing potential, it began training sessions for members, increased the sale of member-donated advertising, and set up a full-scale promotional tour of key provincial government departments and agencies. Augmenting its income from computer services, it offered members the option of purchase-for-rental of high-speed fax modems that would enable access to the Internet as well as to all bulletin board systems in the Canadian community newspaper network. At the same time, membership increase was assured by applying an amendment to its by-laws that now allows the organization to target bilingual as well as unilingual English-language weeklies in the province.
- Alliance Quebec responded to legislation tabled by the newly-elected provincial government which proposed the sovereignty of Quebec. It presented its own 24-point discussion document which was printed in French and English and circulated throughout the English-speaking community and beyond.

- For the second year, Outaouais Alliance organized the Regional Associations Priorities and Planning Session for over 50 representatives from the community that led to the development of concrete action plans for partnership projects in the areas of training, advocacy, youth employment, and access to services in English.

Promotion

- Alliance Quebec commissioned the production and airing of a series of short radio messages which encourage better understanding and communication among linguistic communities in Quebec.

ONTARIO

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- The Department of Canadian Heritage, in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs, supported the creation of Francophone regional economic councils. This project, piloted by the *Association des municipalités francophones de l'Ontario*, made it possible to prepare sectoral economic development plans for every region of the province.
- The Department, in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation, funded the first *Jeux franco-ontariens*. This event, piloted by the *Fédération de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne*, allowed Francophone secondary school students to take part in cultural and sporting encounters.
- The Department, in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training, helped TVOntario's *La Chaîne* conduct a feasibility study on expanding its French-language educational broadcasting area to include other Canadian provinces.
- As of September 1995, all Franco-Ontarians were 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. The agreement called for:

- the construction of a permanent campus for *La Cité collégiale* in Ottawa;



- the establishment of access centres for *Collège des Grands Lacs*, which serves Central and South-western Ontario, in H a m i l t o n , Penetanguishene, Toronto, Welland and Windsor. This college "without walls" specializes in distance education;



- the establishment of the main campus of *Collège Boréal* in Sudbury and six satellite campuses in Northern Ontario (Elliot Lake, Hearst, Kapuskasing, New Liskeard, Sturgeon Falls and Timmins).



Since March 31, 1995

These three colleges welcomed the first students at their new locations in September 1995.

Community Development

- A number of capital projects were undertaken in 1994-95: the construction of a school/community centre in Kingston sponsored by the *Centre social et culturel Frontenac* and the Frontenac-Lennox and Addington County Roman Catholic Separate School Board. The centre should be operational by September 1996.
- In Eastern Ontario, three Ottawa theatre troupes (*Théâtre du Trillium*, *Théâtre de la Vieille 17* and *Vox Théâtre*) are working together to establish a Francophone theatre centre. In Northern Ontario, cultural agencies are proposing to renovate the *Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario* building to create an arts centre in Sudbury. The opening of *Collège Boréal* in September 1995 presents other possibilities for partnership. The Department contributed to the feasibility studies and business plans for these two centres.
- During this period, the *Festival franco-ontarien*, acknowledged to be a major event,

started afresh. The Department of Canadian Heritage participated in the 20th edition of the *Festival*, which was a success.

- The *Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario (Huronie)* set up a project to trace Francophones in the Grey Bruce region with a view to establishing French-language classes in response to requests from a number of families.
- Francophone organizations in Central and Southwestern Ontario held coordination sessions at the local, regional and inter-regional level to allow communities to develop an action plan and strategies for dealing with provincial, federal and local budget cuts.

Promotion

- With the help of our regional representatives, a kiosk depicting some aspects of the Official Languages Support Programs was one of the exhibits displayed at the Nordic Games in Thunder Bay, Ontario in March 1995. It displayed posters on the Summer Language Bursary and the Official-Language Monitor programs as well as drawings and quotes from past *Write it up!* contests. By all accounts, it was a great success with the athletes and the public.

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- In March 1995, the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Manitoba's Minister responsible for French-Language Services renewed the Canada-Manitoba agreement on the promotion of official languages for a five-year period. The aim of the agreement is to help Manitoba meet its official-language obligations under the *Manitoba Act*, and implement its policy on French-language services. In this way, the two governments can promote the development and enhanced vitality of the Franco-Manitoban community and support measures to implement French-language services within the provincial government, Crown corporations and agencies covered by the province's language policy.
- Under the terms of the Canada-Manitoba agreement on the promotion of official languages, the Government of Manitoba set up a resources service to develop French-language health-care services throughout the province. As a result of this initiative, 21 health-care institutions were designated officially bilingual by the Manitoba Department of Health.
- Through the federal-provincial agreement on official languages in education, the two governments have provided support to the *Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface* to maintain programs and services, including:
 - a computerized teaching program for teaching staff and students;
 - a daycare group worker training program (some 25 students were registered in 1994-95);
 - an annual program of training and cultural activities including two major theatre productions;

- a language training centre offering students tutorials or group programs to develop their language skills.

- Examples of special projects under the bilateral agreement on official languages in education include the development of a show with animation by the *Cercle Molière* troupe for Grade 6 students registered in the core French program.
- The *Festival du Voyageur*, in cooperation with the Department of Education's *Bureau de l'éducation française*, held an information session attended by some 80 teachers responsible for cultural activities in their schools.

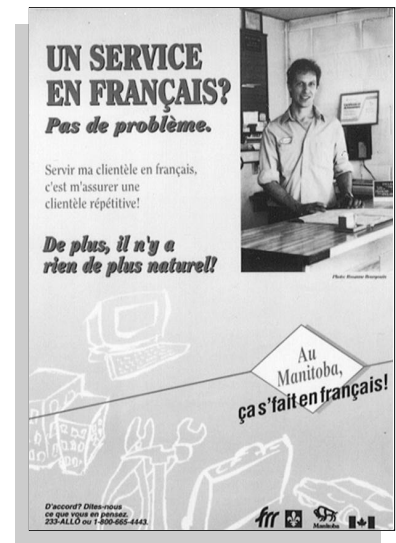
Community Development

- Ten bilingual municipalities, under the auspices of the Manitoba Association of Bilingual Municipalities, pooled their efforts to undertake initiatives directly related to the economic development of Francophone communities. The Manitoba Association of Bilingual Municipalities also coordinated the development of French-language services in the designated municipalities, including setting up bilingual libraries.
- Cooperation was established between the *Fédération provinciale des comités de parents*, the new Franco-Manitoban school board and the Department of Education to ensure that *ayants droit* (those entitled to French-language education) were integrated into the French-language schools. A pilot project for a francization program was launched in three urban and rural junior kindergartens. The *Fédération* also provided training to parents across the province in order to ensure that all the parents participate actively in school management.

- In December 1994, the Franco-Manitoban community received the conclusions of the study *Un tournant qu'il ne faut surtout pas rater...* dealing with the issues of the Canada-community agreement, particularly in terms of rationalizing the resources available to organizations. In accordance with the recommendations of the study, the community, in January 1995, began the process of reviewing organizations' funding and analyzing their mandates and responsibilities in order to eliminate duplication and identify new areas for cooperation between organizations in order to reduce administrative expenses.
- The community developed and introduced a three-year communications plan in Manitoba. One of the goals of the plan is to develop stable and effective communication infrastructures and provide ongoing human resources training and development in this area.

Promotion

- As part of the Canada-Manitoba agreement on the promotion of French-language services, the *Société franco-manitobaine* carried out the second phase of its promotion campaign entitled *Au Manitoba, ça s'fait en français*. An educational kit, five videos and posters on French life in Manitoba were distributed to French and immersion schools in the province.



SASKATCHEWAN

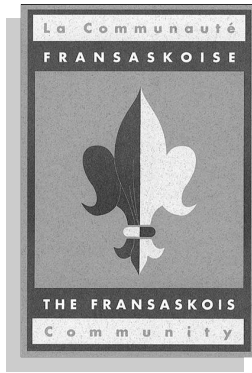
Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- Federal-provincial cooperation made possible two major priority projects for the Francophone community of Saskatchewan: the Regina (phase 1) and Prince Albert school/community centres. For the Francophones of Saskatchewan, this was the culmination of 10 years devoted to planning and lobbying for these projects, which will have a major impact on the development and vitality of these two communities. In addition to the schools and community

services, these centres will offer pre-school programs, educational and community resource centres and gymnasiums equipped with stages.

Community Development

- Saskatchewan continued to translate its laws. After consultation with the Francophone community, Saskatchewan drew up a list of laws to be translated by 1998.



- The *Association culturelle franco-canadienne de la Saskatchewan* launched the *Fonds fransaskois* during the *Rendez-vous fransaskois* held in Prince Albert. The aim of this initiative is to increase the financial self-sufficiency of Fransaskois associations and organizations.
- The *Semaine nationale de la francophonie* was marked by a number of events, including the launch of the Fransaskois card. This card, used by all the Fransaskois associations and organizations, provides discounts from various businesses and services. In addition to increasing the visibility of the Fransaskois community, this initiative hopes to reach more Francophones and support Fransaskois businesses.
- Under the Canada-Fransaskois community agreement, a development fund managed by the Fransaskois community was set up to support priority projects. This fund made various projects possible, including the promotion of *Les Éditions Louis Riel*, the implementation of an action plan to establish French-language health care programs, the renewal of the *Rés-O* service's video collection and the acquisition of computer hardware and equipment by the *Coopérative des publications fransaskoises*.
- After a nine-week hiatus in publishing the weekly *L'eau vive*, the members and staff of the *Coopérative des publications fransaskoises* successfully relaunched the only Francophone newspaper in Saskatchewan in a new format. The revamped newspaper is one element of a recovery and restructuring plan for the cooperative and its activities.
- The Francophones of Ponteix officially - opened the *Centre culturel Royer* on June 24, 1994. The centre brings together a wide range of activities and services for the region's Francophones under one roof.
- The *Association des artistes de la Saskatchewan* and the *Commission culturelle fransaskoise* offered a series of workshops for the next generation of musicians. The workshops were designed to identify and support candidates for the *Gala provincial de la chanson*.
- The Fransaskois communities of southern Saskatchewan, in particular those of Ponteix, Gravelbourg and Willow Bunch, pooled their efforts to develop a Fransaskois tourist route to highlight the French fact in the region.
- The *Association des juristes d'expression française de la Saskatchewan*, in cooperation with the Saskatchewan Department of Justice and the Public Legal Association of Saskatchewan, published a series of information brochures on certain provincial laws. This project is a follow-up to the translation of laws in Saskatchewan.

Promotion

- Canadian Parents for French in Saskatchewan devoted considerable time to promoting French immersion with school boards and parents. Consequently, the Saskatoon public school board joined Canadian Parents for French to develop a promotion plan for French immersion at the kindergarten level.

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- A first meeting was held between representatives of the *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta* (Peace River region), the Peace River Health Council and representatives of the Alberta Department of Health with a view to concluding an agreement on the delivery of French-language health care services in the Peace River region.
- As follow-up to the *Canada-Alberta special agreement for the enhancement of French minority-language education and French second-language instruction in Alberta*, two sub-agreements were concluded in March 1994 on approved school management measures.
- Under the terms of the *Canada-Alberta sub-agreement on the establishment of Francophone school governance, on French program development, and on student fellowships*, 76 students received special fellowships to complete their studies in French in master's programs at the *Faculté Saint-Jean* or outside the province.
- A dozen projects to provide more French-language educational programs or resources were completed.
- The funding allocated to Alberta under the capital projects sub-agreement made it possible to begin major renovations and extension work at the *Faculté Saint-Jean*. The building is to be modernized and some facilities, including the library, are to be made more functional.
- The preparatory phases of the construction of the *Centre scolaire et communautaire de Calgary*, supported jointly by the governments of Canada and Alberta under the *Canada-Alberta sub-agreement on capital*

projects, were completed. Construction of the centre is now under way and is slated for completion by the beginning of the 1997-98 school year.

Community Development

- Edmonton area Francophones obtained a commitment from the departments of Western Economic Diversification and Canadian Heritage with regard to the construction of *La Cité francophone* community centre.



Working on the construction of Edmonton's La Cité francophone in two feet of snow!

- In September 1994, the Department and the *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta*, on behalf of the Francophone community of Alberta, signed an agreement to promote the development and enhanced vitality of the Franco-Albertan community.
- The Peace River community radio project continues to move ahead and the *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta* received support from the Wild Rose Foundation of Alberta. The technical scenario chosen ensures complete autonomy for the community station. The station will have its own frequency and broadcast hours adapted to the needs of the community.
- The Fort McMurray *Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta* and the *Fédération des parents francophones de l'Alberta* organized workshops to increase their effectiveness in the context of the Canada-community agreement.

- The *Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Alberta*, in cooperation with the Alberta Bar Association, published five new brochures for Francophones in Alberta. The brochures discuss questions of civil litigation and the law of succession. The brochures were distributed through lawyers' offices and Francophone associations.
- A special project provided elected officials of non-profit organizations with training in managing committees. The training was intended to help give volunteers a better understanding of their role and thus increase their effectiveness in promoting the development of their region.
- The economic development of Franco-Albertans is evolving at an increasingly rapid pace. Business people in Edmonton, Calgary and the rural areas pooled their efforts in order to open an information and human resources office that will serve the Francophone business community and future entrepreneurs.
- The *Bonnyville Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta* opened an office in Grand-Centre to serve Francophones at the Cold Lake military base. This is a one-year pilot project. Known as *Franco-départ*, the centre offers a number of primarily cultural activities.

Promotion

- The *Société francofun* de Calgary organized a number of activities in order to raise the profile of the *Semaine nationale de la francophonie*. The major event was the official proclamation of the *Semaine* by Mayor Al Duerr, who raised the Franco-Albertan flag in front of Calgary City Hall on March 15, 1995.

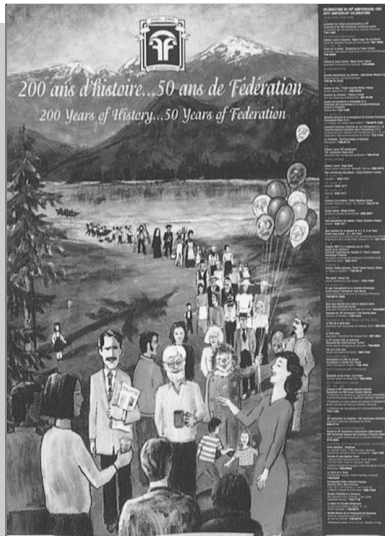
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- The *Association des parents francophones de Colombie-Britannique* succeeded, after three years' efforts, in implementing an early francization project, primarily for junior kindergarten. The objective is to set up a pilot project in two regions using a model developed in Manitoba.
- The British Columbia Ministry of Education released a bilingual report on education and culture. The report proved very useful to the *Association des parents francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* during the colloquium on culture in February 1995, where teachers and parents had a chance to discuss problems of a cultural nature. It will allow the *Association* to facilitate school management and curriculum development.
- *Éducacentre*, the French-language education and training service for adults, continued to offer services in priority areas such as literacy, professional development, community training and distance education.
- The *Télécolombie* distance education project, linking 25 schools which offer the *Programme cadre de français* at the secondary level to an electronic network for distance education and media courses, continued for a second year.

Community Development

- During its annual general meeting in October 1994, the *Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* launched a program of activities to celebrate the *Fédération's* 50th anniversary and over 200 years of Francophone presence on the West Coast.



A magnificent poster entitled "200 Years of History ...50 Years of Federation" (in both official languages) was produced and widely distributed throughout the province and Canada. All the activities undertaken during the year were

designed to highlight the Francophone presence in British Columbia and to raise awareness of the contribution that Francophones have made to the province's political, economic and cultural history.

- The third edition of the *Jeux francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* was held in Kamloops in May 1994 and brought together more than 450 Francophone and Francophile athletes from the schools and the community. In addition to sporting events, 10 forums were offered on subjects ranging from dropping out of school to AIDS to racism and violence in the media. The *Conseil Jeunesse de Colombie-Britannique*, which organized the event, met its objective of overcoming the feeling of physical and linguistic isolation of the province's young people.
- The Francophone Scouts and Guides of British Columbia worked on preparations for the celebrations marking the movement's 40th anniversary in November 1995. A historical exhibition was presented at the Maillardville *Place des Arts* for three weeks. Three young people and the scout leader of the Maillardville Pioneers represented

Western Canada at the World Jamboree in the Netherlands in July 1995.

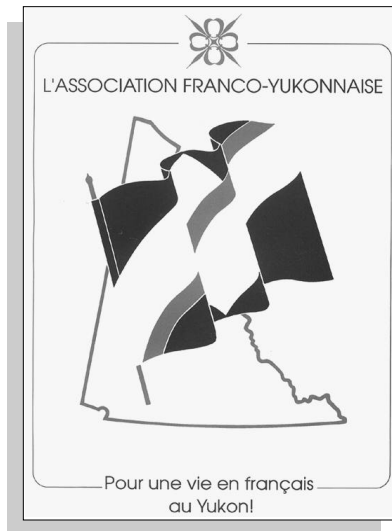
- The *Société Maillardville-Uni* presented the 6th edition of the *Festival du Bois* in March 1995. This festival is a major cultural and community event for Francophones in Maillardville and for the province, because it celebrates the values and traditions handed down from the first Francophone pioneers who came to work in the lumber industry at the turn of the century. This year the festival attracted more than 7,000 people from across the province and the United States. The *Festival du Bois* is becoming increasingly popular and makes an important economic and touristic contribution to the municipality of Maillardville/Coquitlam.
- During the *Festival d'été*, the *Centre culturel francophone de Vancouver* offered cultural activities over three days. Some 2,000 people took advantage of this event celebrating the French language.

Promotion

- The Department's British Columbia regional office continues to support the efforts of the provincial chapter of Canadian Parents for French which contributed in a significant way to increasing the number of students enrolled in French immersion over the past 25 years (from 35 to 30,000).
- The *Fête colombienne des enfants*, the popular French-language children's festival in British Columbia, directed its efforts at three municipalities this year - Coquitlam, Nanaimo and Kelowna - thus allowing all students taking French classes in the province to participate in this cultural event. A special program was also developed for students learning French as a second language. In each municipality, a day was set aside especially for them in order to better respond to their language needs. This format proved to be very popular and the *Fête* was a resounding success again this year.

Federal-Territorial Cooperation

- The Department of Canadian Heritage and the Government of the Yukon renewed, in April 1993, a five-year agreement on the development, enhancement and implementation of language rights and services in



French, as is intended by the Yukon *Languages Act*. The Yukon model for the implementation of French-language services was developed in cooperation with the Francophone community to establish a "one-stop" French-language centre and to provide services in priority areas, such as education, justice, health, communications and social services.

- The Bureau of French Language Services, which is responsible for the coordination of the application of the Yukon *Languages Act*, was instrumental in organizing tripartite meetings with territorial, federal and community representatives, and drafted a three-year contribution agreement with the *Association franco-yukonnaise*.
- The Department contributed to the construction of a new building for the *École Émilie-Tremblay* and an adjoining daycare service.

Projects of interest:

- production of the Yukon Tourist Guide in French;

- production of a video by students at the *École Émilie-Tremblay* about important pioneers such as Émilie Tremblay, the first non-native woman in the area during the Gold Rush;
- production of an incentive passport for Francophones to request service in French at local businesses and government offices;
- purchase of French-language material for the territorial/municipal library.

Community Development

- Enrolment at the *Garderie du petit cheval blanc* doubled in two years, which shows that parents realize how important it is to maximize their children's exposure to the French language. The daycare also offers extra-curricular activities.
- The *Société Les EssentiElles*, created in March 1995, is an organization bringing together almost 30 Francophone Yukon women. A permanent reception service is provided at the office of the *Association franco-yukonnaise* and includes a documentation and resource centre. The *Société* offers referral services for Francophone women, dinner meetings and educational workshops.
- The Department of Canadian Heritage collaborated proportionally with other partners on the construction of an economic, cultural and community centre in Whitehorse.

Promotion

- La *Francofête*, a week of activities for Francophones as well as the community as a whole, was held in October and was highlighted by community breakfasts, dinners and film presentations.
- The *Semaine nationale de la francophonie* was celebrated in March where presentations were made and activities held in French immersion classes.

- In order to strengthen ties with other members of the community, particularly Native, the Francophone community took part in celebrations surrounding the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and participated in activities involving Native and Francophone artists and joint sporting events under the banner *Ensemble en harmonie* (together in harmony).

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Federal-Territorial Cooperation

- On March 14, 1995, the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories ratified the renewal of the Cooperation Agreement to support and reinforce French and Aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories. This cooperation allows the Government of the Northwest Territories to continue providing French-language programs and services to Francophone communities and to preserve, promote and reinforce Aboriginal languages.
- The Canada-Northwest Territories Cooperation Agreement is a three-year agreement supporting various services and programs: for example, the delivery of territorial services in all official languages; cultural and community development projects for Francophones; French- and Aboriginal-language broadcasting projects; translation and interpretation services for courts and the legislative assembly; and the production of material and the offer of services in French and Aboriginal languages designed to increase awareness and understanding of health issues.

- French-language teaching programs in Iqaluit (kindergarten to grade 7) and Yellowknife (kindergarten to grade 9) were consolidated and the French immersion program for grades 10 and 11 of the Yellowknife Catholic School Board was developed.
- In 1994-95, the *Conseil scolaire francophone de Yellowknife* began its second year with five trustees. Enrolment at the *École Allain St-Cyr* in Yellowknife (50 students) and the *École Nagasuk* in Iqaluit (20 students) continues to grow.



Students of the *École Allain St-Cyr*
at a winter camp.

Community Development

- On March 21, 1995, the *Prix littéraire franco-ténois* was launched by the *Fondation franco-ténoise*. The goal of this competition is to encourage all forms of literature (poetry, essay, short story, etc.) bearing on Northern Canada. The ten prizes include stays at a summer literary camp for young people, a stay at the *Camp littéraire de Félix Leclerc*, a trip to the *Salon du livre* in Montreal, books, etc.

- In an effort to improve communications with its members, the *Fédération franco-ténoise* began publishing an internal newsletter.

Promotion

- The *Semaine de la francophonie* was celebrated by all Francophones in the Northwest Territories. For example, Iqaluit held a Francophone film festival, and all students at the *École Allain St-Cyr* in Yellowknife were treated to a visit to a sugarbush as well as a dog sled ride.

B. On the national scene

1. Federal-Provincial Cooperation

- At the initiation of the Government of New Brunswick, a preliminary federal-provincial/territorial meeting of the ministers responsible for official languages and services to official-language minority communities was held on August 15 and 16, 1994, in Moncton, as part of the World Acadian Congress. This meeting helped lay the foundation for a permanent forum which will facilitate the sharing of information and expertise with respect to services in the minority official language. The work of this forum will also serve as a guide for the Department of Canadian Heritage in concluding agreements with provincial and territorial governments in this regard. In promoting the creation of this forum and participating in multilateral cooperation, the federal government is attempting to increase the positive repercussions of its promotional efforts with the provinces.
- Negotiations with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada with a view to concluding a new multilateral Protocol of Agreement on official languages in education continued in 1994-95. The previous Protocol, which expired in 1993, established the conditions of federal support to the provinces and territories for retaining and developing minority official-language education and second-language instruction programs. However, the lack of a multilateral Protocol has not hindered program delivery. Since 1993, the Department has signed annual bilateral agreements that enable it to continue supporting provincial and territorial governments.