



La Fédération
des francophones de
la Colombie-Britannique



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

SUMMARY



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BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT



The 2021-2022 fiscal year has been a busy one for the Chair of the Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique (FFCB)!

Padminee Chundunsing has completed a six-year term, laying a solid foundation for her successor to move forward on the most critical issues facing our community:

- **The modernization of the *Official Languages Act*;**
- **The province's French Language Services Policy.**

Ms. Chundunsing also made strong commitments to the community, advancing the issue of diversity and inclusion and bringing members together around important community issues, such as immigration. She increased the goodwill of the FFCB and the community with elected officials and policy makers.

I am grateful for all of this work, and it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I began my term as FFCB Chair following my election in November 2021. I have taken over the reins and, with a Board of Directors that is always ready to commit, we have been able to move forward on projects that have been in the works for several years. I traveled twice to Ottawa for meetings with the Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne (FCFA) du Canada to work on federal issues that are essential for the good of our community.

On the provincial policy front, I met with Minister Dix (in charge of Health and Francophone Affairs) twice in March. We are very encouraged by his commitment earlier this month to work towards the establishment of a French Language Services Policy in 2022, which we hope will ensure that French is well protected in our province.

On the federal policy front, during a trip to Ottawa, I met with six members of the Senate and the House of Commons, including the Minister of Official Languages, Ginette Petitpas Taylor, to raise our issues regarding the modernization of the *Official Languages Act*.

I must congratulate my predecessors for their vision in suing the federal government 10 years ago over the loss of employment assistance services. It has been a long, difficult, and costly legal battle (which is not yet over), but one that is now paying off. The Minister of Official Languages has taken into account the conclusions of the Federal Court of Appeal judges in Bill C-13, tabled on March 1, 2022. The Francophone community in British Columbia and, in particular, the FFCB and the co-appellants, can be very proud of their hard work to obtain more rights for Francophones.

Finally, at the community level, I spent the first months of my mandate meeting with several organizations to better understand the realities, challenges, and issues of each one. I have also participated in several events and AGMs and I am looking forward to meeting those organizations that I have not yet had the opportunity to visit.

The coming year promises to be a pivotal one for the FFCB and for the community.

Together, we will do our best to ensure that BC Francophones are happy and fulfilled in French here, and to encourage everyone to speak French, to live in French, and to make our communities vibrant. Not everything is simple, not everything is pleasant, but together we will move forward, and I am convinced that we will succeed!

LILY CRIST

Chair of the Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In a context that remains somewhat complex, with pandemics, natural disasters, and federal elections, the FFCB has continued to work hard to defend the interests of Francophones in our province and to support its member organizations. To include all of the FFCB's activities in this report would probably require several volumes, so we have focused on the most salient facts.

2021-2022 has been a year of transition for the FFCB team in many ways, as you will see below.

New Chair and visual identity

There has been a lot of renewal at the FFCB this year! We started by welcoming our new Chair, Lily Crist, in November, and then worked with her and other board members on the new FFCB logo. At the same time, we undertook a major redesign of the website.

• New strategic planning

The FFCB's new strategic planning is leading us towards more openness, diversity, and inclusion, as well as more assertive leadership that will allow for better political representation. We have begun to lay the groundwork for implementing these new outlooks. In the first place, we have strengthened the Community Development Department with an additional person to serve our members. Secondly, we have carried out projects that put the community at the forefront, such as the FrancoQuiz and the Directory of French Language Services. The Immigration Department has also been involved in new projects that allow the coordination team of the Réseau en immigration francophone de la Colombie-Britannique [BC Francophone Immigration Network] to carry out its role of providing coordination and support to organizations in order to facilitate the integration and settlement of newly arrived Francophones.

• Progress on policy issues

The bill to modernize the *Official Languages Act* was (finally) tabled twice during the year: Bill C-32 in June, by Mélanie Joly; and Bill C-13 in March, by Ginette Petitpas Taylor. The FFCB worked hard, in coordination with the FCFA, to advance this bill. Numerous meetings with members of the House of Commons and Senate and an appearance before the Standing Committee on Official Languages marked our year. The October hearing of our Employment Assistance Services appeal and the release of the verdict in January also provided opportunities to strengthen our political case for Bill C-13. Finally, at the provincial level, we were pleased to hear Minister Dix announce the start of work on the development of a future French Language Services Policy.

• Gradual return to normalcy after the pandemic

The gradual return to face-to-face activities prompted us to readopt some degree of normalcy at the November Annual General Meeting (AGM), by organizing this major event in a hybrid format. Our workshops and meetings are still often held online, but we are readjusting to face-to-face meetings. The FFCB team has partially returned to the office, and face-to-face meetings in Ottawa have also resumed.

For each of these files, we conducted information, consultation, or community coordination sessions to ensure that FFCB members had all the information available and the opportunity to express their expectations and needs. For example, we were able to submit a brief to the Standing Committee on Official Languages in May 2021, which included feedback from British Columbia's Francophone organizations.

In this year of movement, our team has also evolved. We have created an executive position in Administration and Finance and a position in Community Development. We also renewed a position in Communications and two positions in Immigration.

The FFCB has been able to count on a team of 13 people in 2021-2022. Hiring is done in accordance with the ethical principles of the Anti-Racism Charter and British Columbia's human resources practices.

Thank you to the entire team for their support and commitment every day!



MORE EFFORT, MORE FOCUS, FOR A FEDERATION THAT DRIVES ITS COMMUNITY

INDIGENOUS ISSUES: UNDERSTANDING IN ORDER TO ACT

Following the Indigenous 101 workshop held in March 2021, we wanted to pursue our reflections in order to bring them more concretely into the Francophone community sphere, both for the FFCB and for its members. After having identified existing activities, we started, as part of the November 2021 Community Forum, a reflection with Ms. Diane Campeau on [the actions we could take as community organizations](#).

We believe that the first step is to educate ourselves. Therefore, we have begun to procure the necessary resources to do so. In addition, we have explored working with the Office of Francophone and Francophile Affairs and other organizations to provide more access to French language educational tools on Indigenous issues in our province.

We have also begun the process of reaching out to the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Musqueam First Nations. While we recognize that this will be a slow and non-linear process, we are committed to working tangibly to achieve this rapprochement.



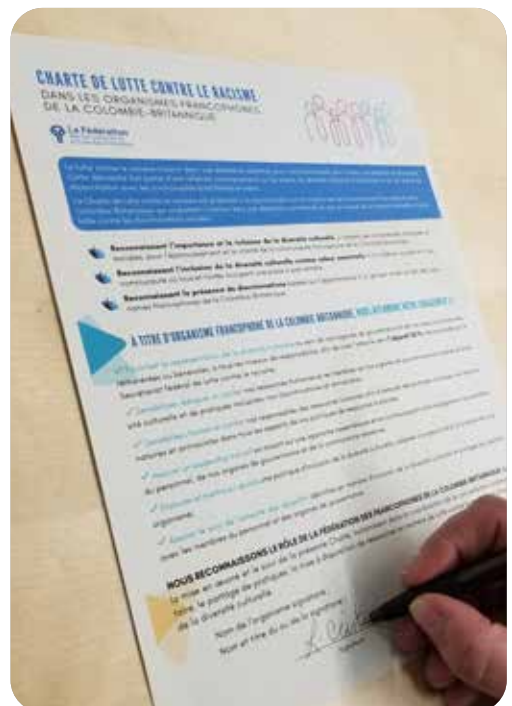
Elder Shane Point of the Musqueam Nation

INCLUSION OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY: PROGRESS TO BUILD ON

In late 2020, a project group brought together, for the first time, 15 member organizations of the FFCB to address the issue of systemic racism in the Francophone community. After a year of discussion, analysis, work and community consultation, the FFCB adopted the [Charter to Combat Racism in British Columbia's Francophone Community](#).

Although it involves a sometimes painful introspection for our organizations, the Charter, in our view, sends a strong message to Francophone people from ethnocultural minorities in British Columbia, especially to those who are newcomers and are looking for a welcoming and safe community.

This declaration, which is the first of its kind at the level of official language minority communities, is being watched with great interest in other Canadian provinces and territories. We have been invited to present this work at the Pathways to Prosperity National Conference: Canada in November 2021 and a training session organized by the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants.



THE IMMIGRATION TEAM AT THE SERVICE OF THE COMMUNITY

The FFCB coordinated the activities and meetings of the Réseau en immigration francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (RIFCB) by gathering, consulting, informing, and coordinating its 34 members.

This consultation was done through the following activities:

- **Four community update** plenary sessions in June, September, November, and March, attended by between 20 and 40 people
- **10 meetings** (sectoral, working groups)

In June 2021, the process of developing the strategic planning for the RIFCB was completed, with four strategic areas of focus:

- **Visibility of RIFCB members and their services to newcomers**
- **Building capacity to deliver services**
- **Diversification of funding**
- **Awareness and advocacy**

These areas fit perfectly with the FFCB's Comprehensive Development Plan and strategic planning.

In partnership with IRCC, the RIFCB has also initiated the process of developing a community plan to improve service delivery to Francophone immigrants in BC. To carry out this plan, the RIFCB has selected two consulting firms.

In an effort to develop strong links with Anglophone immigration organizations and to facilitate the integration of newly arrived Francophone persons, the FFCB created a new position of Anglophone Partnership Officer within the Immigration Department in 2022.

Other immigration activities include:

- The coordination of National Francophone Immigration Week, which brought together 813 people through 15 activities organized by members of the RIFCB in November 2021
- The coordination and co-hosting of a virtual kiosk (786 visits) at the Destination Canada Mobility Forum (with 6 members) in November 2021
- The organization of a panel, in partnership with AMSSA, during Black History Month, with 85 participants in February 2022

The FFCB's Immigration Department continues to work with the Cercle des Canadiens Français de Prince George [French Canadian Association of Prince George] to coordinate the Welcoming Francophone Community of Prince George initiative.

We have convened a Community Advisory Committee, which brings together local stakeholders and member organizations of the RIFCB. Several actions have been taken to promote the Welcoming Francophone Community to newcomers and members of the Francophone community.



2021-2022, A YEAR OF CELEBRATION AND PREPARATION FOR AN IDENTITY CHANGE FOR THE FFCB!

In November 2021, we celebrated our 75th anniversary at our AGM. To mark this occasion, with the help of a small committee of the Board and a member of the community, we have created the *Golden Book*. It includes portraits of 75 Francophone personalities who have played an important role in the British Columbia community. The *Golden Book* was presented at the 2022 Members' Rendezvous.

During the year, the FFCB began the process of renewing its visual identity. This work, which lasted several months, was carried out with a graphic designer and a small committee of Board members. At the same time, we have also undertaken the redesign of the website, which will be available online in mid-November 2022.

YOU CAN EXCLUSIVELY DISCOVER THE FFCB'S NEW LOGO HERE:



In addition, we launched our member newsletter in January 2022.

It includes four sections:

- WHAT'S NEW AT THE FEDERATION?
- NATIONAL NEWS
- THE POLICY SECTION
- FROM THE MEMBERS' CORNER

KEY FIGURES

 1,400 visits per month on average to our website

A constant growth on social networks:

 4,350 subscriptions on Facebook (+350 over the year)

 755 subscriptions on Instagram (+150 over the year)

 1,320 subscriptions on Twitter (+220 over the year)

DIRECTORY OF FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES

The Directory website, launched on March 20, 2021, continues to grow and has 150 active advertisers as of March 31, 2022.

After one year of online activity, the Directory has had:

- 7,800 visits
- 44,000 page views

Since its launch, the Directory site has evolved to include resources for newcomers, in addition to the original announcements, events, and job postings.



THE FRANCOQUIZ

Developed in collaboration with six FFCB member organizations, the bilingual mobile game FrancoQuiz is the first of its kind for Francophone minority communities.

Through its educational and entertaining interface, the game promises to deliver great discoveries about British Columbia's Francophone communities of the past and present, thanks to its thematic and tourist circuits.

Launched in March 2022, the game is aimed at the general public: it reinforces students' learning, helps young people forge their own Francophone identity, helps parents pass on the language and culture, informs adults of all the services and news in the Francophone sphere, invites tourists to discover or rediscover British Columbia's Francophone community, and promotes the integration of newcomers.

The FrancoQuiz at the time of launch (in figures):

- 600 downloads
- 21 circuits
- 200 players
- 150 subscriptions on our social networks



ADAPTING TO BETTER SUPPORT YOU

Thanks to the arrival of a new person in the Community Development Department, we have been able to better work on building the internal capacities of our members. As a result, we have presented them with training on governance (June 2021) and another on diversifying non-governmental funds (October 2021). In the context of the last federal election, we also thought it would be useful to organize a training workshop on the electoral system in Canada (September 2021).

We have systematized the monitoring of funding opportunities, which has been the subject of weekly communications since January 2022.

We also launched the Community Recipe, a workshop to share practices among members.

Still dealing with the pandemic, we continued the counseling program for staff of our member organizations.

As we do every year, we stood by our members to support them on a variety of other needs: grant writing, governance and strategic planning advice, and connections to experts and government agencies.

Key figures:

- 8 workshops and trainings held
- 17 federal funding programs presented in workshops to members
- 18 funding applications supported
- 65 free counseling sessions offered



ON THE AGENDA THIS YEAR: CONTINUITY AND REFLECTION

Among the issues raised by the Provincial Advisory Committee this year, questions emerged about its role and composition. This encouraged us to extend the reflection to all community consultation bodies. As provided for in its strategic planning, the FFCB will review these bodies during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

This necessary reflection has not prevented us from having a year filled of activities. We have continued to coordinate the consultation bodies established by the Cooperation Agreement between Canadian Heritage and the Francophone community of British Columbia.

Our team has also continued its mandate to collect data on the health of the community through a study on the impact of the health crisis on our organizations, as well as the annual monitoring of global development indicators related to the community strategy plan.

Key figures:

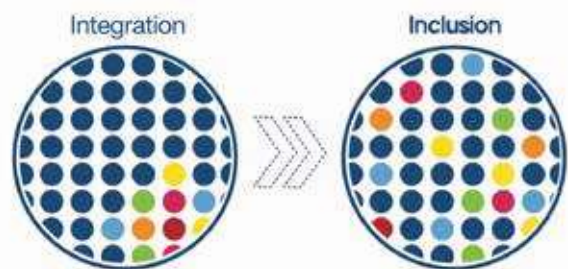
- **18 grant submissions filed** with Canadian Heritage
- **two community forums** on the issues of inclusion of cultural diversity and on rapprochement with First Nations
- **two working groups** on strategic priorities created, one on Francophone identity building and the other on infrastructure



“In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist; we must be antiracist.”

Angela Davis, Academic and Political Activist.

Difference : Integration - Inclusion



THE FFCB IS CONSOLIDATING ITS ROLE AS THE **VOICE** OF THE FRANCOPHONE COMMUNITY AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL.

In 2021, we said goodbye to Chairperson Padminee Chundunsing and welcomed our new Chair, Lily Crist. During her six-year term, Ms. Chundunsing led countless political meetings. Her hard work earned her eloquent testimonials at her farewell party from the Commissioner of Official Languages and members of the House of Commons, among others.

After her election, the FFCB Chair had her first meetings with members of the House of Commons and the Senate, including Minister Petitpas Taylor, who are active in the official languages file.

In 2021-2022, we continued our meetings with Minister Joly's team in anticipation of the tabling of the bill to modernize the *Official Languages Act* (OLA). This bill was tabled in June 2021 and was entitled Bill C-32. The FFCB and other FCFA member organizations were pleased with the content, but had some reservations about specific provisions.

After the September 2021 federal election and the appointment of Ms. Petitpas Taylor as Minister of Official Languages, we met with her to ensure that the process of modernizing and enriching Bill C-32 would continue. A new bill was to be tabled.

In the meantime, the FFCB's appeal against the federal government in the Employment Assistance Services case took place at the end of October 2021, and the verdict was released in January 2022. As the Federal Court of Appeal judges clarified the federal government's obligations with respect to certain provisions of the OLA, Minister Petitpas Taylor took the time to incorporate these obligations into the new Bill C-13, which was tabled on March 1, 2022.

During this process, the FFCB met with several members of the House of Commons and the Senate and met regularly with Minister Petitpas Taylor's team to ensure that the interests of British Columbia's Francophones were taken into account. We also appeared twice before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages.

In parallel with our national efforts to modernize the OLA, we have been working with the province to advance the process of developing a French Language Services Policy. At a meeting in March 2022 with Minister Dix, he announced that the province would begin work on the French Language Services Policy. Once the announcement was made, we, in collaboration with the community, began the work in question.



Lily Crist, Chair of the FFCB

and Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Official Languages

POLITICAL CALENDAR

JUNE 2021

Introduction of Bill C-32 on the modernization of the OLA by Minister Mélanie Joly

SEPTEMBER 2021

Federal elections

OCTOBER 2021

Federal Court of Appeal hearing on employment assistance services

JANUARY 2022

Federal Court of Appeal verdict partially in our favor for employment assistance services

FEBRUARY 2022

Appearance of the FFCB before the Standing Committee on Official Languages

MARCH 2022

Statement by Minister Dix on the launch of a French Language Services Policy

Introduction of Bill C-13 on the modernization of the OLA by Minister Petitpas Taylor

At the same time, the FFCB has continued to work with the FCFA at the national level, participating in meetings and discussions that allow them to move forward together on issues under federal jurisdiction.

One last thing to note: this year, the FFCB participated in the organization of Forum citoyen de l'Ouest [Western Citizen's Forum] in February 2022 as part of the États généraux sur l'éducation postsecondaire en français [General Assembly on Post-Secondary Education in French].



*Lily Crist, Chair of the FFCB
before the Standing Committee on Official Languages*

THE FFCB STAFF



EMMANUELLE CORNE BERTRAND
General Director



MANOLE REGNIER
Administrative and Financial Director



ANNE KEARNAN
Administrative Assistant



CHRISTIAN DERON
Government Relations Coordinator



LOUISE D. COUTURE
Receptionist and Secretarial Agent



LEYLA CHERIF
Community Development Coordinator



HIBA HILAL
Community Development Project Manager



NADIA IMGHAREN
Communications Coordinator



AUDREY DE LUCA
Communications Assistant
until January 2022



ASHTON RAMSAY
Communications Assistant
until February 2022



CHLOÉ REYNAUD
Communications Assistant



EMMANUELLE ARCHER
IMMIGRATION Program Manager



CORALIE TANNEAU
IMMIGRATION Operations Coordinator



RAISSA NTOUBA
IMMIGRATION Liaison and Development Officer
until July 2021



ZASKYA MOUSSEAU
IMMIGRATION Liaison Coordinator



ORLY MULANGA KALOMBO
IMMIGRATION Project Coordinator



SOPHIE GIRY
IMMIGRATION Project Manager
until September 2021

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



LILY CRIST
Chair



MARIE-NICOLE DUBOIS
Vice-Chair



WILLIAM QUESNEL
Treasurer



PIERRE LECOURT
Representative of the Northern
Region



ROGER HÉBERT
Representative of the Southern
Region



SUZANNE JACOB
Representative of Greater
Vancouver



GILLES TOUPIN
Representative of the Northern
Vancouver Island Region



MARIE-FRANCE LAPIERRE
Representative of Greater
Vancouver



DIANE BERGERET
Representative of the Southern
Vancouver Island Region

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

This annual report lists the main activities of the Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique for the period of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.



2021-2022

REVENUE

Department of Canadian Heritage	\$ 800,735
Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)	333,499
IRCC – Administration	74,873
Independent revenue	37,056
Summer job program	34,427
BC Economic Development Corporation	13,000
Dues	10,150
Miscellaneous	8,500
Interest	101

 \$ 1,312,341

EXPENSES

Salaries and benefits	\$ 634,443
Immigration	333,499
Professional fees	121,083
Legal fees (employment services litigation)	103,972
Rent	41,008
Operational costs	29,497
Travel and accommodation	25,317
Advertising and public relations	21,946
Office and postage	18,463
Directory production	17,435
Telephone	14,972
Chair compensation	13,558
Maintenance	12,811
Amortization of capital assets	7,593
Insurance	3,780
Awards and grants	3,150
Newsletters and reports	1,915
Bank charges	796

 \$ 1 405 238

DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES

OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR \$ (92 897)

AWARDS AND GRANTS 2021- 2022

SCHOLARSHIPS

FFCB Scholarship – Awarded to:

BÉATRICE MOWAT
Student of École des Pionniers-de-Maillardville

BAFF Scholarship – Awarded to:

JUSTINE HENRIQUES
Student of École secondaire de Nanaimo



LE CORNOUILLER D'OR

Awarded to: **ISABELLE MAJOR**
Senior Program Advisor, Canadian Heritage



PRIX D'EXCELLENCE GÉRALD-ET-HENRIETTE-MOREAU

Awarded to: **JEANNE LANDRY**
Executive Director, Association francophone du centre de l'île



PRIX NAPOLÉON-GAREAU

Awarded to: **MARIE-HÉLÈNE BOURRET**
Volunteer with Association historique francophone de Victoria and at Radio Victoria



PRIX PÉDAGOGIQUE HENRIETTE-MOREAU

Awarded to: **BERTRAND DUPAIN**
Principal, École Victor-Brodeur



PRIX LITTÉRAIRE GÉRALD-MOREAU

Awarded to: **LYNE GAREAU**
for her book *Le chat Janus*



A BIG THANK YOU

The Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique would like to thank its funders, including Canadian Heritage; Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada; the Société de développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique; the Western Canada Francophone Economic Development Fund; the members of its Board of Directors and its staff; and the volunteers and staff of its member organizations who have supported it.

Financé par
Funded by

Canada



Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

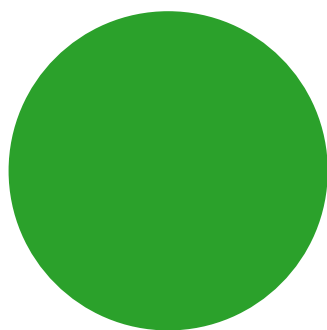
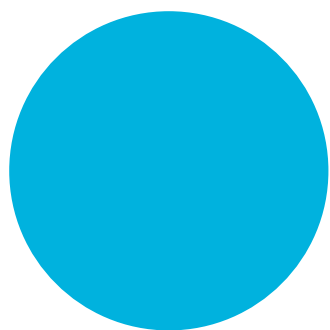
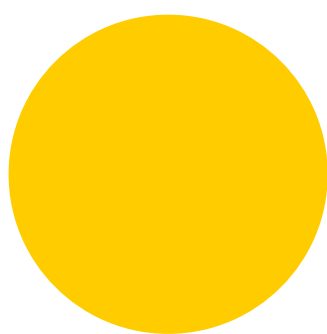
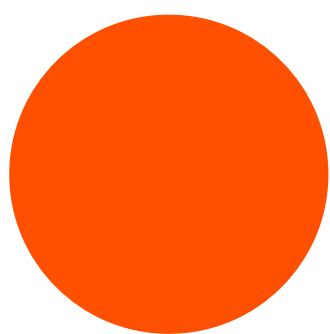
Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

SDE

Colombie-Britannique



Fonds de développement économique
francophone de l'ouest



La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique



La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique

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