



A N N U A L R E P O R T

2020

2019



Intro



Once upon a time...

... on June 24, 1945, the French-Canadian Federation of British Columbia, which in 1992 became the British Columbia Francophone Federation (the Federation), was founded. This year, 2020, marks its 75th anniversary.

The history of the Federation is one marked by transformation and countless stories of dedication by people who have worked tirelessly to defend the Francophone presence. These stories involve men and women who shared common values and who, over time, have learnt to adapt to the environment in which they live.

Since its inception, the Federation has contributed to strengthening the influence of the French-speaking world in North America, in particular on Canada's West Coast. Today, it represents some 40 member organizations that contribute to the growth and support of the province's Francophone community.

Let us now pay tribute to the very first pioneers who settled here before us. Let us celebrate together what has been accomplished and look to a common future that we, the members of the Francophone community, continue to build on a daily basis.

To all those who are making our B.C.'s Francophone community alive and well, happy anniversary!



Contents

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| Page 6 | CHAIR'S REPORT |
| Page 8 | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT |
| Page 10 | POLITICAL AND LEGAL |
| Page 11 | COMMUNITY GROWTH |
| Page 12 | IMMIGRATION |
| Page 14 | COMMUNICATION |
| Page 15 | AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP |
| Page 16 | INCOME STATEMENT |
| Page 17 | STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS |
| Page 18 | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS |



The British Columbia Francophone Federation (the Federation) is dedicated to the growth of a welcoming Francophone community and to strengthening Francophone and Francophile civil society in the province.



Chair's Report

The year 2019-2020 has been marked by interesting events and fruitful meetings for the British Columbia Francophone Federation (the Federation). Over the course of this year, my sense of commitment has grown increasingly, allowing me to serve this inspiring, diverse and resilient community. Before going on, I would like to extend my warmest thanks to the Federation staff, the board of directors, the member organizations of the Federation and our partners. It is by uniting our voices and our resources that we can achieve our goal of consolidating and developing the Francophonie throughout British Columbia.

During the year, political meetings designed to advance the plan to modernize the *Official Languages Act* have punctuated our political agenda.

We hope that a bill will be introduced before the end of 2020. I had the honour of meeting with the leader of the Conservative Party and the official opposition, Mr. Andrew Scheer, who assured me of his interest in modernizing the *Act*. I also met with Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party, who shared with us her concerns and her personal commitment as well as that of her party towards Canada's French speakers. It was a very constructive and warm meeting, during which she said, "I have a deep commitment to the Francophonie and bilingualism." In Ottawa, I also met with the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, the 27th Governor General of Canada and the 3rd Secretary General of the International Organization of the Francophonie. She assured me of her support in moving these issues forward. Finally, the B.C. Francophone Affairs Program was also asked to develop a French-language policy regarding its services. I have been invited several times to represent the Federation and the Francophone community in B.C. For me, this is proof that we have an important role to play.

I was fortunate enough to be able to participate in a presentation on the joint activities put on by the Federation and the Conseil scolaire francophone de la C.-B. (CSFCB) — the BC Francophone school board — at a public meeting of the CSFCB's board of directors. I also had the honour of attending a presentation on promoting linguistic duality at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (PAF) in Victoria.

The PAF is an association of international French-speaking parliamentarians that aims to represent the interests and aspirations of the diverse communities that make up the French-speaking world, as well as to contribute to the influence of the French language and to the mutual knowledge and development of the cultures and civilizations of people who use French as a primary language.

I have also been deeply involved in immigration issues, a subject that is particularly close to my heart. The transition of the BC Francophone Immigration Program to the Relais francophone took place during this fiscal year, and the Federation, through the BC Francophone Immigration Network, supported and participated in the launch of the Welcoming Francophone Community's initiative in Prince George.



Padminee Chundunsing
Chair of the Federation

The first celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Federation took place in Victoria in March 2020, and allowed us to promote simultaneously the Francophonie month.

Unfortunately, immediately after, the world health crisis hit us, and this turned our schedule upside down. We were forced to adapt very quickly to the circumstances and offer each other support. I am very proud of our community, which was able to turn around and face these new circumstances rapidly. There have been many challenges, but we were able to continue our respective missions online.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, I took over the interim position while waiting for an executive director to be appointed. This was essential to ensuring the continuity of our missions and to supporting our community. I am grateful that this interim role has allowed me to get closer to the Federation staff and to see the outstanding work they do on a daily basis.

In addition, I am always very active and present at events held by our community, whether they be general meetings or informal gatherings.

The year ahead will be full of new challenges. Despite the uncertainties associated with COVID-19, I am confident that we will be able to overcome these obstacles and go above what is needed. Our Francophone community is full of people who possess a wealth of valuable skills and creativity, and more than anything, its members know how to stick together. I trust this community and I will remain a close and devoted chairperson and keep up my commitments until the end of my term.



*French-Canadian Federation of B.C.
10th Anniv., 1948, in Victoria*

Executive Director's Report

The year 2019-2020 has been full of events and new activities. Our Federation is alive and well, our community is very vibrant, and this year has been a testament to that.

Robert Rotheron was the Federation's Executive Director for five years and he held this position until he left office in June 2019. The Federation had the opportunity to thank him warmly for his service. Louis Moubarak took over the position until March 2020. For a few months, the Federation team and the Chair, Padminee Chundensing, shared the responsibilities of the Executive Director position pending my appointment in June 2020. It is with an eye to the future that I am taking stock of this past year.

In 2020, we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the British Columbia Francophone Federation. Seventy-five extraordinary, eventful years have seen the Federation grow, mature and assert itself on the public stage. Fortunately, we were able to celebrate our anniversary in early March in Victoria as part of the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, an event that was both warm and solemn. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this gathering!

Unfortunately, we have not been able to celebrate in Vancouver because the anniversary coincided with the beginning of the pandemic that is still raging as I write these words and is painfully affecting our community. We must therefore postpone this celebration until a time more suitable to public gatherings.

In spite of the events that have shaken our Federation, our team members have been able to continue their work brilliantly, and the Executive Director has also accomplished some wonderful things. If I had to mention only one of their achievements, I would highlight the way they successfully supported the independence of direct services in Francophone immigration. The Federation's Executive Director has supported this effort with great dedication and diligence. Thanks in part to this dedication, as of April 1, 2020, the British Columbia Francophone Immigration Program can be proud to have not only a board of directors and a legal structure in place, but also a team of employees and the funding needed to operate. The Federation is pleased with this progress and wishes the organization much success while remaining at its disposal should our help be needed. We would be delighted to welcome it as a new member of the Federation!

The subject of immigration remains a top priority issue for the Federation, and we are very pleased that negotiations with IRCC have resulted in ambitious funding for the BC Francophone Immigration Network (BCFIN). This funding strengthens the team, allowing its members to develop relevant and promising programs and resources for the benefit of its members.

The BCFIN is run by a small team of Federation employees that empowers and equips organizations interested in welcoming and retaining French-speaking immigrants.



This network is informal, welcomes all interested individuals and organizations (including many members of the Federation), and addresses issues that affect our entire community. We are pleased that it can grow and receive funding that is appropriate for its mission.

Finally, in response to a motion passed at the Annual General Meeting, the Federation brought in a contract resource person to analyze its environmental footprint and practices. Based on her recommendations, we were able to establish an environmental policy. We have a long way to go in this area, and this work was started in the fall of 2019.

The challenges we have faced this year have strengthened us as we look to the future. In these still uncertain times of pandemic, we are moving towards digitalizing our operations, as are many member organizations within our community. In alignment with the transition to a digital platform as well as with our goal to make our practices more environmentally friendly, we have chosen to publish the Directory of direct French-language services in British Columbia in an entirely new digital version. As we will be able to offer new features to advertisers on this digital platform, we are confident that this tool will be a real asset to promote the vitality of our community across the province and beyond.

In 2020-2021, we want to see the *Official Languages Act* gain more strength as a result of the modernization promised by the Minister of Official Languages. We also intend to take the next step in our legal case regarding employment services, and are hopeful that we will achieve a positive verdict, based on the Supreme Court victory in the French education case. Our team of employees is strengthening and welcoming new members, and as we head into this new financial year, we are filled with enthusiasm and dreams for our community. We will do our best to make our dreams come true.



Emmanuelle Corne Bertrand
Executive Director of the Federation



Political and Legal

In the year 2019-2020, we have continued to consolidate the commitments made to modernize the *Official Languages Act* and to help develop a B.C. policy regarding French-language services. The Federation and its partners in the Federation of Francophone and Acadian Communities of Canada, in the Standing Committee and the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages, and in the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages have kept up the pressure to move the issue of modernization forward and, above all, to maintain the non-partisan political consensus in the process. We also participated in Minister Joly's consultation in April 2019 and the major national symposium on official languages in Ottawa, which took place in May. The Federation is particularly proud of this teamwork, which allowed us to capitalize on the Gascon ruling to push forward the issue of modernizing the *Act*, in order to address the weaknesses therein, all in a non-partisan spirit.

The Federation has continued to urge the provincial government to establish a policy regarding French-language services and to encourage the Francophone Affairs Program to reflect on how best this policy could support French speakers in the province. This year, our work with the provincial government has shifted from working with elected officials to working with political staff and public servants as we follow up on the Bessette Ruling, and address policies that affect French-language services as well as the issue of the percentage of Francophone dossiers in the BC Provincial Nominee Program. We have also put together, with the valuable support of Mr. Adrian Dix's office, a presentation on British Columbia's Francophone community, which has been used in outreach workshops in various departmental teams. Despite a change in its meeting procedures with its provincial partners, the Federation remains determined and confident about the progress of its provincial dossiers.



Kermode Award Ceremony, October 1, 2019

Finally, October 1, 2019 will go down in the annals of the Federation's history. On this day, the Federation presented MP John Aldag with the first-ever Kermode Award for political commitment to B.C.'s and therefore Canada's Francophonie given to an elected official of British Columbia. Representing Cloverdale-Langley in the House of Commons, Mr. Aldag quickly became involved in all the "hot" issues. His involvement has led to significant progress on all fronts. The Federation and the Francophone community are grateful for the political courage that John Aldag has demonstrated during his tenure as a Member of Parliament. We hope to continue to work together.

23 Meetings with federally elected officials

5 Meetings with provincially elected officials

4 Meetings with other political figures

9 Meetings with political staff

20 Meetings with public servants

Community Growth

A new era for effective collaboration

Bringing people together and taking collaborative action

With the participation of our members, we have continued our mission, which began last year, to develop the Francophone community's 2020-2024 Comprehensive Growth Plan (CGP). The goal of this roadmap is to strengthen, support, and enhance the vitality of British Columbia's Francophonie. After several phases of consultation and teamwork, the main players agreed on a common, crosscutting and inclusive set of fundamental objectives, which are expected to be adopted in June 2020. To attain the objectives set, the Federation wishes to encourage collaboration in order to develop collective strategies and projects.

This new direction we are heading in has led us to reviewing the mechanisms of collaboration which are at the heart of the CGP. The mandates of the consultation bodies have been amended to encourage greater consistency, to allow for more community involvement, and to foster collaboration.

Members of the Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) actively contributed to the CGP, and then to the clarification and enhancement of the collaborative ecosystem. We would like to thank them sincerely for their involvement. Those who participated in the Round Table for Funding Recommendations analyzed applications for projects (7) and for programming (7) submitted to the Department of Canadian Heritage and met with representatives of the latter to inform them of their recommendations.

Supporting and strengthening our network

This year, based on the results of a survey to ascertain which core skills needed strengthening, we offered our members two workshops to train them in governance and finding sponsorships. We received wonderful feedback about these workshops from the participants and are already planning to develop more training courses next year.

In addition, we participated in meetings held by the Official Languages Committee, which bring together federal public service officers. Unfortunately, at the beginning of the health crisis, Francophonie Day in Vancouver, to which we had actively contributed, had to be cancelled.

In line with our underlying objectives, we have continued to network with sponsors and donors to forge stronger ties with public servants in order to help them know us better and potentially collaborate in the future. Throughout the year, we have been actively monitoring funding opportunities. These are then sent to our members and listed on our website.

On one of the calls for proposals that we identified, we did some brainstorming with several of our members and together we developed a unifying province-wide project. To this end, the Federation filed a joint funding application to create a bilingual rally whose goal is to highlight the French language and French-speaking culture in a playful way. We hope to be able to bring this to life in 2020-2021. Finally, we regularly offered support and advice to members who asked us about day-to-day and financial management issues, as well as about the development of their strategic planning. Providing support to the concerned parties doing field work in the province is an important mission that we want to keep up.

Defining 24 strategic outcomes for the CGP

2 community forums
65 participants

2 training sessions
83 participants

8 PAC members,
including 3 new members
7 meetings

Attended 6 meetings
of the Official Languages
Committee of the Federal
Council of B.C.

4 meetings with
representatives of
Canadian Heritage

For every \$1 awarded by
Canadian Heritage, the
community was able to
generate \$1.85 in 2018



Immigration

During 2019-2020, the BC Francophone Immigration Program (BCFIP) has made some remarkable achievements and deftly handled a major transition. Indeed, while continuing to provide many quality settlement services to French-speaking immigrants in British Columbia, the BCFIP has worked to achieve its independence from the British Columbia Francophone Federation (the Federation), by integrating, on April 1, 2020, La Coopérative d'immigration le Relais francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (Relais francophone).

On the operational side, the BCFIP has effectively undertaken its obligations and reached its goals for 2019-2020.

In total, we served 1,275 Francophone newcomers, including 680 permanent residents, and 595 temporary residents and naturalized citizens. These newly arrived Francophones not only received individual support and guidance, but also took part in a range of 59 group activities, including 27 information and orientation sessions, 18 employment activities, and 14 activities to foster a sense of community connection.

Additionally, in parallel with the direct assistance provided to clients, the BCFIP also completed the process of becoming independent from the Federation. After six years under the latter, the BCFIP took off as its own entity, integrating the Relais francophone, which is the new agency mandated to provide settlement services to French-speaking immigrants in British Columbia.

Thanks to this transition, the BCFIP was able to respond successfully to IRCC's April 2019 call for proposals, which resulted in the signing of a new funding agreement with IRCC to continue offering settlement-upon-arrival services to Francophone newcomers to B.C. Furthermore, the BCFIP was able to get back the agreements allowing them to offer services to temporary residents and naturalized citizens, funded by the Province, and to offer pre-arrival services (Western Gateway) funded by IRCC.

In celebrating this historic moment of empowerment for us, we would like to thank IRCC for its continued support as well as the BCFIP team, who has worked so hard to help Francophone newcomers with their goal of successfully settling and integrating into the Francophone community.





IRCC has shown great confidence in the Federation by providing significantly increased funding for the BC Francophone Immigration Network (BCFIN). With a tripled annual budget and an expanded coordination team, the BCFIN now has the means to expand its outreach to Francophone immigrants, to better promote community services, and to strengthen its support for members in order to consolidate Francophone integration in our province.

The success story of Prince George's Welcoming Francophone Community continued in 2019-2020. The BCFIN and the local advisory committee jointly submitted a community plan to IRCC to make the community even more welcoming to Francophone immigrants. This ambitious plan has received funding of \$431,000/year over 3 years, which will enable the French Canadian Association of Prince George (FCAPG) to offer improved services to welcome immigrants as well as a range of activities to newcomers.

Finally, we were pleased to welcome four new members to the BCFIN: the Campbell River Francophone Association, BC Talents, the Collège Éducacentre, and the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages (as an observer), bringing the number of BCFIN members to 36.

The BCFIN would like to thank its partners on the Prince George Advisory Committee, namely the FCAPG, l'école Franco-Nord, the Parents' Association, the Relais francophone, Réseau-Femmes, RésoSanté, and the Société de développement économique de la C.-B. (SDECB). We also thank all the organizations that participated in the organization of the 7th National Francophone Immigration Week: the Francophone Association of Surrey, BC Talents, the FCAPG, the BC Francophone Immigration Program, the Société francophone de Victoria, the Société historique francophone de la C.-B., and the SDECB.

36 members
10 sectors
represented

More than 3,100 views
of the video
"La Colombie-Britannique,
une terre de possibilités"
(British Columbia,
a land of opportunity)

7 community
activities
during the 7th
National Francophone
Immigration Week

More than
3,500 immigrants
and concerned parties
reached

Webinar
"Vivre en français en
Colombie-Britannique"
(Living in French in
British Columbia) watched
in 17 countries

Communication

This year, we implemented our communication strategy and focused our attention on the 75th anniversary of the Federation. Our communication media has begun to reflect our visual identity, and as a result, our messages have been more homogeneous and harmonious. Thanks to this change, we have been able to give a more coherent picture of our mission to Francophones in the province, to institutions and to the English-speaking public during special events and in our media releases.

The Federation hired a young professional in the fall of 2019 to carry out an environmental assessment of our operations and put forward some recommendations. In February 2020, the Federation put in place the final version of an environmental policy that reconciles environmental, economic and social considerations. Members of the Federation can view documents and guides relating to this policy on its website.



Our 75th anniversary, to be officially held on June 24, 2020, was a crucial turning point for the Federation's visual identity. With this in mind, we created a "75th Anniversary Special" logo to show in our communications the pride we feel throughout the anniversary year. The logo was unveiled at the launch of the 36th Directory of direct French-language services in British Columbia on September 18, 2019, and marked the beginning of the festivities. The official presentation of the logo took place on March 5, 2020 in Victoria, on the day of the launch of the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie.

The fully digital Directory project was also launched on the 36th Anniversary of the Directory, which took place at the VanDusen Botanical Garden. This event allowed us to bring together more than a hundred guests and distribute many copies of the Directory. Subsequently, we worked with a web developer to create the new fully digital Directory website, which is expected to be up in late 2020.

Participating in key events has allowed us to strengthen our presence and connect with other communities, among these events: the World Climate March, the Khatsahlano Festival, the Francophone Book Fair, the Uptown Live event, the Maple Sugar Festival, and Vancouver Pride Day.

Our online presence, already clearly visible, will continue to grow. Our website is under constant review, and we have started a brainstorming process regarding its relaunch, scheduled for the end of 2021, in order to improve the user experience and to create a member-only area. Finally, our social media follower numbers continue to grow.

173 advertisers in the Directory



3 153 followers



966 followers



399 followers

Awards and Scholarship 2019-2020



Sue Donaldson

Program Officer at the BC Arts Council



Mireille Turcotte

Teacher at La Passerelle School, in Whistler



Léon Lebrun

Volunteer for the Maillardville Francophone Society



Antoine Minfray

Student of Carihi Mixed Secondary School
in Campbell River



Charlotte McCarroll

Executive Director of the Société radio
communautaire Victoria



Michèle Smolkin

For her book, *Silence, je tombe*



Income Statement

This annual report sets out the main activities undertaken by the British Columbia Francophone Federation from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

| | 2019-2020 |
|--|---------------------|
| REVENUES | \$ |
| Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada | 1,145,311 |
| Ministry of Canadian Heritage - Operating | 783,800 |
| Other revenue - Immigration | 60,165 |
| Independent revenue | 45,560 |
| Summer jobs programs | 25,602 |
| Registrations | 18,341 |
| Membership fees | 7,290 |
| Fondation Dialogue - RVF | 6,000 |
| Donation - Gérald Moreau Prizes | 2,000 |
| Interest | 1,163 |
| | \$ 2,095,232 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Immigration | 1,204,497 |
| Salaries and benefits | 597,649 |
| Professional fees | 119,971 |
| Travel and lodging | 52,158 |
| Annual general assembly | 46,481 |
| Presidents' Meeting | 35,763 |
| Directory production | 32,791 |
| Rent | 30,219 |
| Publicity and public relations | 21,280 |
| Equipment maintenance | 19,291 |
| Amortization | 16,172 |
| Board of Director's meetings | 15,538 |
| Operational costs | 14,423 |
| Chair's compensation | 13,000 |
| Maintenance | 10,034 |
| Telephone | 9,695 |
| Office and postage | 7,265 |
| Insurance | 7,065 |
| Membership fees | 6,201 |
| Bank charges | 1,881 |
| Newsletters and reports | 1,200 |
| Scholarship | 1,000 |
| Printing | 939 |
| Courier | 293 |
| | \$ 2,264,806 |
| Less expenses recovered from projects | 133,731 |
| | \$ 2,131,075 |
| (DEFICIENCY) EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR | \$ (35,843) |



Federation Staff

Executive Director

Robert Rothern
Louis Moubarak

Anne Kearnan

Administrative Assistant

Christian Deron

Government Relations and Research Coordinator

Letitia Ionita

Accountant

Alice Vincent

Communication Coordinator

Mehdi Cherkaoui

Communication and Events Assistant

Agreement Secretariat

Élodie Vialatte
Audrey Bertho

Emmanuelle Archer

Program manager, BC Francophone Immigration Network (BCFIN)

Welcoming Francophone Community, BCFIN

Emmanuelle Corne Bertrand
Coralie Tanneau

Louise D. Couture

Receptionist and Secretarial Officer

Jade Turcot Plante

Assistant (Summer job, Young Canada Works)

Cloé Mariette

Practicum Student

The Immigration Team

Pascaline Nsekera

Program Manager

Ingrid Inabeza

Project Officer

Virginie Jung

Communications Officer

Gilles Verret

Administrative Coordinator

Immigrant Settlement Officers

Didier Saleh Amisi
Jules Tidi Kingiela
Ximena Londono
Bonfils Mada
Véronique Mulungie
Jean-Bruno Nkondi
Jean-Pierre Rugendabanga-Nyambuzi

Settlement Officers

Employment-related services

Bassirou Diène
Alésia Lyele

Samira Nanou

Settlement Officer

Temporary residents and naturalized citizen

Board of Directors

Chair

Padminee Chundunsing

Vice-Chair

Marie-Nicole Dubois

Treasurer

William Quesnel

Northern BC Region Representative

Pierre Lecourt

South Vancouver Island Representative

Diane Bergeret

North Vancouver Island Representative

Gilles Toupin

Southern BC Region Representative

Éric Villeneuve

Greater Vancouver Representative

Marie-France Lapierre

Greater Vancouver Representative

Suzanne Jacob

Acknowledgments

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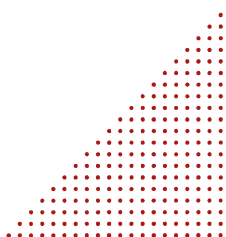
Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada





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