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The current members of this initiative are: CPF PEI, Public Service Commission, Division des Affaires Acadiennes et Francophones, Réseau pour le Santé en français ÎPÉ, Congrès mondial acadien, SSTA, RDÉE and Tourism PEI. The partnerships will be expanded in the fall to include members from retail, private tourism and economic sectors to ensure the tools are distributed widely across PEI. An initial meeting was held with the group and agreement to collaborate on this project was signed. Public Service Commission (PSC) will take the lead. Part of this project will be to encourage employees that speak French to use their French, so employees will be given a coffee card for Timothy's French Fridays. The next steps will include hiring of a project consultant to review the campaign branding (led by PSC) and submitting funding proposals to develop the new tools (led by SSTA & RDÉE). The goal is to have the new branding and tools in place and distributed before the Congrès mondial acadien 2019.

Le Goeland Summer Camp Program

CPF PEI, UPEI B.Ed. French Program and the Panther Academy teamed up to work with Le Goeland to offer French Summer Camps. Currently UPEI Panther Academy operates a summer camp program that has a mini U camp in French. The camps were designed and started by CPF PEI, UPEI B.Ed. French and UPEI Panther Academy to fill a need in the community for French summer camps and to offer graduating B.Ed. French teachers an opportunity to learn more about their craft. Le Goeland Camp will reflect the Panther Camps offering fun, learning, caring camps for children in the western part of the Island.

The One-Stop Shop

This part of the project has been a little more elusive to manage. The original idea was to work with our French newspaper, La Voix Acadienne, who had in their plans the same idea—a place where anyone could go to find out what was happening on PEI in French. Unfortunately they had not received a grant yet to proceed or make the site bilingual therefore made it difficult for us to work with them at this time. La Voix's portal is expected in 2020. The Île Branchée work, which we decided was our best option, will be available to them, and I believe will be helpful to them once they begin on their project.

We investigated working with The Buzz and doing a print version as well. In the end the partner became RDÉE and in particular the Île Branchée. Île Branchée is an existing web portal for the Acadian and Francophone community of Prince Edward Island. This site is made available to Acadian and Francophone organizations in the province to enable them to exchange information with each other and inform the general public of the activities taking place in the various island regions.

We worked with RDÉE to add an element to the site that will be used to post events only, will be bilingual, will be populated by contributors (who will be invited to post), including the Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture, libraries etc. so that Île Branchée can become a useful tool to FSL students and parents as well. The element on Île Branchée will be promoted and launched in April.



CPF PEI Consortium Project



Left to right: Donald DesRoches (President du Collège de l'Île), Zaïn Esseghaïer (UPEI Faculty of Education), Kelly Allen (Core French teacher), Ron MacDonald (Dean, UPEI Faculty of Education), Aubrey Cormier (Director General SSTA), Gail Lecky (Executive Director CPF PEI), Deneen Gallant-Norrington (VP Colonel Grey), Diane Arsenault (Acadian and Francophone Affairs), Jacinthe Lemire (Director General CIPÎPÉ), Sheri Brumsey (CPF PEI staff), René Hurtubise (Director French Programs, Department of Education) et Robert Maddix (RDÉE Î.-P.-É.). Some guests at the Network launch in December 2017.

In 2017 CPF PEI applied for and received a project grant from Canadian Heritage. The desired results of the project were to: build new partnership in the community, establish a French network/consortium, hold a workshop follow up to *The Consultation on Culture and Language Learning 2015: Perspective for the Future* and establish a one stop shop for activities in French. We moved forward with partners and sponsors including the UPEI Faculty of Education, Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin (SSTA), Le Collège de l'Île, and French Programs / Department of Education. We hired Tanya Gallant, Chameleon Productions as staff. The project work was distributed over two fiscal years.

The PEI French Network

A steering committee made up of representatives from each of the above groups (Aubrey Cormier—SSTA, Gilles Arsenault—Dept, Donald DesRoches—Collège, Gail Lecky—CPF PEI and Ron MacDonald—UPEI) was established. We held many meetings and conversations prior to a December 2017 launch. By December we had a second draft of a **Guiding Statement**: *The purpose of this Network is to facilitate consultation and networking among members, as well as with other stakeholders interested in French language education and culture on PEI.* We also had worked through some roles and responsibilities for the Network and had chosen a name for the group: PEI French Network - Réseau pour le français à l'Île.

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“Providing opportunities for young Canadians to learn and use French”

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On December 12 we held a **public launch** at the Havilland Club, with about 30 guests. Donald DesRoches was spokesperson for the group. *"We are excited to have you all here this evening to help us launch a new group... The PEI French Network ... At this time, our expectation is that this group will meet 2-3 times a year, act as a steering committee for various collaborative projects, provide advice and or advocacy to decision makers, share information, address problems and work on common projects, identify common needs at the local level, including strategies, priorities and more."*

This launch was followed up by a **first business meeting** at which the agenda included more discussion on our mission, vision and values, operating and next steps. At this meeting Donald DesRoches was chosen to lead the group in its inaugural year. We came away from that meeting with a mission, vision and with roles/responsibilities.

Mission Statement – The purpose of this Network is to facilitate communication and collaboration among members, as well as with other stakeholders interested in the promotion of French language on PEI.

Vision – A vibrant, inclusive French language community on PEI.

Roles and responsibilities -

- Facilitating conversations
- Identifying common needs and values
- Sharing information, expertise & resources
- Creating new partnerships
- Providing advice

It was also decided that, as this group was also the group that had worked on the 2017 Symposium, we would use our planned workshop to collaborate more broadly and hold a focus group type event on the Network.

The Workshop

The focus group was held in Summerside on March 15. Linda Lowther facilitated the session.

The participants were asked to answer five questions. The **first question** was to validate or express their views on the vision and mission statements that were presented to them and which the January group had worked through. The result of this conversation was that those present though there was some work needed to clarify exactly what the Network's aims were.

The **Question # 2** was about the benefits of having a French Network on PEI. The participants had no problem in identifying benefits including: being active and proactive in support of French on PEI, being language confident, including making the language accessible, offering safe and fun spaces and being inclusive of Francophones and Francophiles, being able to share and collaborate and being focused on youth. This includes understanding what resources are available in French and ensuring youth have as many opportunities to use and interact with those resources as possible.

The focus of **Question # 3** was: How could the Network respond to what is needed to create a vibrant French language on PEI? How could members of the Network respond to these priorities? In response the most popular ideas stemmed from a desire to create knowledge about who and what exists on the Island for French language speakers and learners. The suggestions came with different words such as a website, a blog, a central database but all in all, participants wanted a one stop shop for information.

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Question # 4

Members wanted to identify resources that make French thrive throughout the island community, to ensure they are well known and to reduce duplication. What resources are you aware of and how do they support French language speakers? What is missing? How are they communicated? To this end, a large non-exhaustive list of resources was identified. The biggest challenge is to find them. The participants especially wanted centralization such as an online platform with the resources and services offered and means of communication such as electronic advertising.

Question # 5

What would you see as the next steps for the Network?

There were a variety of answers provided but the most concrete in our opinion include:

- Completing the mission and vision to ensure clarity, elaborating a communication and sharing strategy and acting on parts of the strategy soon to get early successes, and identifying the most pressing needs.

The Report was completed on April 5th and distributed to the list of invitees and network members.

The Partnerships

Looking at the notes from the 2015 Symposium was the starting point for this portion of the project. There were many ideas and

Potential for collaboration indicated in the report from that project. With this information and with new information we set out to see if we could bring some people together to accomplish their intended task.

Timothy's World Café Francophone Fridays

Although this event had been going for some time, in the past few months it had lost interest for the original partners and was floundering. Issues were consistency, volunteers, atmosphere, not enough French spoken. To address the problems we added some partners and implemented some new ideas. Partners in this project are: Timothy's World Café, Coopérative d'intégration francophone, Simple Feast Catering, Francophones de l'Âge d'or de l'ÎPÉ and Canadian Parents for French PEI. The Public Service Commission is also supporting this project as a promotional partner and École François-Buote has demonstrated interest in getting involved at a later date. Improvements include: guarantee live music every two weeks, piped in French music every other week, Acadian and French food each week, improved atmosphere with a new wall mural, checkered tablecloths, availability of La Voix Acadienne newspaper, menu items and some signage in French at all times, and volunteer hosts for each Friday. We also have a publicity and promotions campaign planned that included table tent cards, Ocean 100 ads, and La Voix Acadienne ads.



Hello/Bonjour

This also is not a new idea, but a program that had been implemented several years ago but was not currently being used. The Hello/Bonjour project is meant to help bring awareness to the need for service in both official languages, the benefit to those that offer the service and identifying where you can get service in both languages.

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