

Practically Bilingual – Pratiquement bilingue

London Local Forum / Forum Local London

Western University
November 9, 2012

Practically Bilingual – Pratiquement bilingue
London Local Forum / Forum Local London

Tentative Programme / Programme provisoire

8:30 – 9:00	Opening Session / Séance d'ouverture
9:00 – 9:40	Workshops / Ateliers – Session I
9:50 – 10:30	Workshops / Ateliers – Session II
10:40 – 11:20	Workshops / Ateliers – Session III
11:30 – 12:00	Quiz Game (plenary session) / Jeu-concours (séance plénière)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch / Déjeuner
13:00 – 13:30	Special Guest or mini-concert with Nick Moroz and Western musicians / Invité spécial ou mini-concert avec Nick Moroz et des musiciens de Western
13:30 – 14:00	Closing Session / Séance de clôture

Workshops Topics / Thématiques des ateliers

1. Francophone Music / Musique francophone
2. Theatre in French / Théâtre en français
3. Study Elsewhere / Étudier ailleurs
4. French at Work / Le français au travail
5. Work in French – Student summer jobs / Travailler en français – emplois d'été pour les étudiants
6. University French Lesson / Cours de français de niveau universitaire
7. Sports in French / Activités sportives en français
8. French in the Media / Le français dans les médias

Practically Bilingual – Pratiquement bilingue
London Local Forum / Forum Local London

Organizing Committee

President of the Organizing Committee:

- Dr. Marilyn Randall, Chair, Department of French Studies

Executive Committee:

- Dr. Madeline Lennon, Professor Emeritus, Western University
- Prof. Chantal Dawar, Department of French Studies
- Dr. Jeff Tennant, Department of French Studies
- Sherry Foster, Alumni and Development Officer, Western Libraries
- Dr. Mirela Parau, Local Coordinator for London French for the Future Forum

Advisory Committee:

- Dr. Marilyn Kidd, Professor, Huron College; President of the 2009 Local Forum Committee
- Dr. John Hatch, Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Arts and Humanities
- Jo Jennings, Communication Officer, Faculty of Arts and Humanities
- Dr. Jessica Schagerl, Alumni and Development Officer, Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Practically Bilingual – Pratiquement bilingue
London Local Forum / Forum Local London

Contact Information

President of the Organizing Committee:

Dr. Marilyn Randall
Chair, Department of French Studies
Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Western University
mrandall@uwo.ca
Tel: 519-661-2111 x85703
Fax: 519-661-3470

Local Coordinator:

Dr. Mirela Parau
mparau2@uwo.ca

French for the Future:

366 Adelaide Street East, Suite 444
Toronto, ON M5A 3X9
Tel: 416-203-9900
866-220-7216
Fax: 866-506-7589

info@french-future.org
www.french-future.org

Mission, Vision, and Beliefs

Mission

French for the Future promotes Canada's official bilingualism and the immediate and lifelong benefits of learning and communicating in French to students from grades 7 to 12 across Canada.

Vision

French for the Future envisions a Canada in which all young people value our French heritage, appreciate francophone cultures and endeavour to excel in the French language.

Beliefs

French for the Future believes that:

1. The development of strong French language proficiency will benefit youth in their personal lives and career paths.
2. The creation of relevant linguistic and cultural links among young Canadians will foster an appreciation of diversity and motivate students to persevere with their French studies.
3. Strong and personal connections will inspire students to nurture a lifelong relationship with the French language and francophone cultures.

History

French for the Future was conceived by world-renowned author and philosopher John Ralston Saul and Toronto journalist Lisa Balfour Bowen. The original goal of the founders was to demonstrate a commitment to bilingualism and French language education through programs that provide information and encouragement to Canadian youth, while celebrating French language and culture.

With the assistance of former Toronto Mayor, Barbara Hall, the first French for the Future event was held in Toronto in 1997. Attended by 200 students from eight high schools in the Toronto area, the event consisted of workshops, plenary sessions, lively discussions with bilingual professionals, and underlined the positive career potential arising from continued French language education.

While initially envisioned as a single event, the founders of French for the Future quickly became aware of the need and demand for programs that focus more strongly on French language education. The success of the Toronto event spoke to the idea that the model of uniting French First Language, Immersion, and Core students in an atmosphere of dialogue, encouragement and exchange offered a unique and effective method to educate and inform.

As a result, the French for the Future conference model was adopted in cities across Canada. In 2011, these forums reached out to students in 17 cities. The organization later identified the need for more programs to be developed, in the goal of promoting Canada's official bilingualism and the immediate and lifelong benefits of learning and communicating in French to students: the National Ambassador Youth Forum had its first event in 2004, the National Essay Contest saw the day in 2005, and Franconnexion Sessions were launched in 2010.

In 2012, French for the Future will be celebrating its fifteenth anniversary. Indeed, the need for French activities identified in 1997 is as strong as ever and French for the Future is well-placed to continue playing a leading role in promoting French to students across Canada.

Local Forum Objectives

A full-day interactive event in French, French for the Future's Local Forums unite FSL (French as a second language – core French, extended, and immersion) and FFL (French as a first language) high school students and gives them the opportunity to discover and experience the cultural and professional value of continuing a bilingual education. By attending a Local Forum, students participate in creative and informative workshops, engage in discussions, and take part in exciting cultural events and activities.

Objectives

1. Facilitate dialogue between FSL and FFL students.
2. Provide students with a positive French environment in which to practise their French-speaking skills.
3. Educate students on the career possibilities and potential that bilingualism brings.
4. Encourage students to continue their studies in French.
5. Celebrate the French language and francophone culture and show students the important role that French plays in Canada.

French for the Future Programs

French for the Future has four main programs that are organized every year. For more information, please refer to French for the Future's website www.french-future.org.

Local Forums

EXPERIENCE THE FRANCOPHONIE IN YOUR REGION!

Please refer to page 15.

National Ambassador Youth Forum

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!

Each year 30 bilingual high school students from all over Canada are selected as French for the Future Ambassadors to attend the National Ambassador Youth Forum (NAYF). The NAYF guides these ambassadors in their roles as experts on the benefits of pursuing French in their personal and professional lives, and prepares them in representing bilingualism across the country. During several jam-packed days of engaging activities and workshops centered on the significance of bilingualism, these students come together to discuss, discover, and share their experiences and perspectives on the challenges and advantages of speaking both of Canada's official languages. It is an event in which cultural and linguistic connections are forged, dialogues and exchanges are created, and bilingualism is celebrated!

National Essay Contest

OVER \$200,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE WON!

French for the Future has partnered with the University of Ottawa, the Université Sainte-Anne (Nova Scotia), the University of Alberta's Campus Saint-Jean, Laurentian University (Ontario), and Glendon College of York University (Ontario), to offer students the chance to win over \$200,000 in scholarships for their postsecondary studies each year! Students write and submit a 1,000 word essay in French on a chosen theme for their chance to win one of a number of scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$20,000! This is an excellent opportunity for students to put their French skills to use and to gain the opportunity to partially or completely continue their postsecondary education in French.

Franconnexion Sessions

*PREPARE TO MAKE A **CONNEXION**!*

Franconnexion Sessions help students connect the French learned in the classroom with the real-life benefits of being bilingual. A Franconnexion Session is an event that is organized for students in grades 7 to 12 enrolled in any French program. This one-hour, half-day, or full-day event takes place within a school or school board and gives students the opportunity to participate in workshops and cultural activities centered on the benefits of speaking French. Teachers, students, French program coordinators, and guidance counsellors can build and customize their own unique Franconnexion Session to :

- encourage students to stay in their French courses throughout high school and beyond;
- help students see that French is very much alive outside the classroom walls;
- motivate students to make French a part of their lives;
- provide students with a positive environment in which to practise their French-speaking skills;
- re-energize in-class French learning!

Organizational Structure

The Board of Directors

French for the Future has an engaged and committed Board of Directors. The dedicated individuals come from across Canada and meet twice a year and additionally via teleconference approximately four times a year. The Board of Directors' main responsibilities are to:

- determine the mission and purpose that enunciates the organization's goals and vision;
- select the Executive Director (ED), support and evaluate his/her performance annually;
- ensure effective planning and monitor achievement of the plan's goals;
- provide proper financial oversight and protect the organization's assets;
- build a competent Board, assuring appropriate composition and continuity of the Board, and evaluate its performance annually;
- ensure legal and ethical integrity;
- enhance the organization's public standing;
- adopt policies that guide the operations of the organization;
- advise the Executive Director on strategy; offer expert advice on operational issues and other issues where warranted;
- ensure proper management of the organization;
- recommend and establish appropriate committees as needed.

The following constituted the directors as of August 2011:

Helen Coltrinari – President

Max Cooke – Vice-President

Karim Manaa – Treasurer

Robert Yalden – Secretary

Danielle Arcand

Dawn Arnold

Hughie Batherson

Micheline Dubé

Anne Kothawala

Tannie Ng

Caterina Sotiriadis

Lisa Balfour Bowen – Advisory member, Founding President

John Ralston Saul – Advisory member, Founder

For information regarding each board member, please refer to French for the Future's website:
www.french-future.org.

National Office Staff

As of September 2011, the National Office located in Toronto consists of four full-time staff members as well as one part-time administrative assistant:

- Myriam Lafrance, Executive Director: reports to the Board of Directors
 - François Chevrollier, Operations Coordinator
 - Pier-Nadeige Jutras, Communications Coordinator
 - Kristy Brezina, Program and Liaison Officer
 - Michelle Mayer, Administrative Assistant
- } report to the Executive Director

The main responsibilities of the National Office are to:

- Communicate national goals;
- Oversee the Local Forums and organize all other French for the Future programs;
- Fundraise on a national level and liaise with all donors and sponsors;
- Ensure French for the Future has the appropriate funds to organize all programs;
- Communicate with all target audiences and stakeholders;
- Promote French for the Future throughout Canada;
- Ensure that the French for the Future brand is consistent;
- Ensure appropriate accountability of all funds received and spent related to French for the Future events;
- Provide administrative support for the Board of Directors and the Youth Advisory Council;
- Liaise with all student participants of French for the Future programs;
- Ensure the organization's strategic plan is followed throughout Canada;
- Report to funders and other stakeholders;
- Maintain an interactive website and social media network for its target audiences.

Youth Advisory Council (under development)

The purpose of the Youth Advisory Council is to serve as a sounding board with respect to programs offered by the National Office.

The Youth Advisory Council will consist of a group of at least six student representatives from across Canada aged 18 to 24. Members will be recruited through recommendations received from the National Office, Board of Directors, Local Coordinators and Local Committee members. The students will be chosen by the National Office.

Members of the Youth Advisory Council agree to participate in a maximum of 3 teleconferences per year, provide written feedback when asked via email, and participate in activities which will be determined by the Council.

Local Coordinators

The Local Coordinator has the overall responsibility of organizing a Local Forum in his community. The Coordinator reports to the Executive Director and works with the Local Committee to organize the Local Forum. (See Local Committee responsibilities in the next section.)

The general responsibilities of the Local Coordinators include, but are not limited to, the following:

- act as the main contact person for the event;
- manage the logistics and coordination of the Local Forum;
- organize and participate in Local Committee meetings;
- participate in teleconference calls with the National Office and other coordinators;
- prepare and manage the budget;
- ensure media coverage of the event, including high quality photos;
- prepare a printed program for the event;
- raise funds to help finance the event;
- ensure the French for the Future brand is accurately represented;
- provide the National Office with texts for the Local Forum website pages;
- represent French for the Future to the local public and helps promote the organization's other programs if possible.

For a detailed list of responsibilities, please see pages 49 –50.

Local Committees

The Local Committees have the overall responsibility of helping the Local Coordinator organize a French for the Future Forum in their city.

Local Committees may have a Local Chair. The Local Chair's main responsibility is to offer expertise and ideas for the organization of the Local Forum as well as help the National Office recruit a Local Coordinator if needed.

Local Committees ensure that the French for the Future Forum of a particular region maintains a local flavor and focuses on the issues and attitudes that define each unique region. As such, Local Committees should represent the community in which the Forum is being organized. Teachers, partner organizations (e.g., CPF), organizations concerned with French as a First and Second Language studies, students, parents, French for the Future Ambassadors (from the current year and previous years), business people, and school board representatives are all people that might be asked to be part of the Local Committees. French for the Future also encourages committees to include representation from both the French First Language and French Immersion/Core French education fields.

Responsibilities of the Local Committees:

- hold regular meetings beginning at least 6 months before the Forum;
- ensure that students are involved in planning the Forum;
- approve a Forum budget (prepared by Local Coordinator) that is submitted to the National Office;
- raise the funds that are required in addition to the core funds provided by the National Office;
- help determine the Forum date, programming, food and venue, budget and fundraising, participant selection (the Local Coordinator MUST consult the Local Committee when deciding on these elements);
- help with various tasks involved in the organization of the forum, depending on needs and areas of expertise;
- ensure that nation-wide funding practices are applied locally;
- represent French for the Future to the local public and help promote the organization's other programs;
- may provide mentorship to the coordinator if deemed necessary.

Final decisions are made from general consensus among the members of the Local Committees and the coordinator. If there is disagreement and decisions are difficult to make, the Executive Director should be contacted.

Local Committee members are encouraged to sign up for French for the Future's e-newsletter so that they can remain up-to-date on the organization's news and programs.