



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026





FRANÇAIS POUR
L'AVENIR
FRENCH FOR THE
FUTURE

2025-2026 IN REVIEW

OUR MISSION

French for the Future empowers and connects youth ages 12-18 across Canada through inspiring events and transformative experiences that fuel self-confidence, leadership, and a passion for French and Francophone cultures.

OUR VISION

French for the Future envisions a Canada where young people appreciate their francophonie and Francophone cultures, express themselves confidently in French, cultivate a sense of belonging, and contribute to the rapprochement and development of diverse linguistic communities.



52,000+

young people reached by
our programs

OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH



Articulated and
proactive leadership



Authentic and radiant
communication



Enriched and accessible
programming

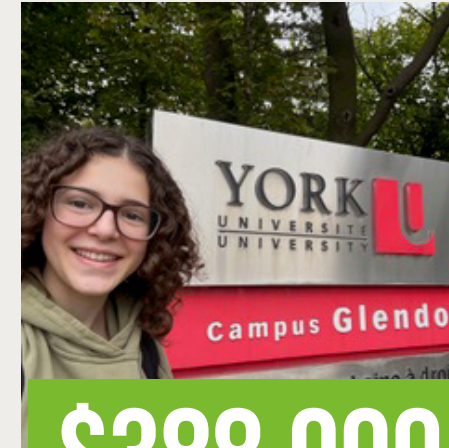


A flourishing,
collaborative network



35

bilingualism
ambassadors



\$388,000

scholarships available at
15 partner postsecondary
institutions



12,203

followers and
subscribers on
our online space



4,322

participants in 18
Local Forums in major
Canadian cities



29

years serving
Canadian youth



8

members on our youth
committee



Agathe Pompon
Interim Deputy Executive
Director

Ange Morane Yapo
Communications Agent

Tobi Atannon
Digital Project
Leader

Josée Bolduc
Program
Coordinator

Polina Moneva
Senior Operations and
Finance Manager

Geneviève Gobeil
Interim Executive
Director

Emeline Leurent
Executive Director

OUR TEAM

Our permanent team, based in Ottawa, Ontario, manages the day-to-day operations of French for the Future



Caroline Roy
Program Agent



Miguel Perez
Program Agent



Mathieu Gingras
Keynote Speaker



Noah Guttman
Communications
Support Agent



Erin Lacey
Programs
Support Agent



Selima Ben Ouda
Marketing and
Communications
Coordinator

This year marks the second year of implementing our 2024-2028 strategic plan. With renewed energy and unwavering passion, we have continued to pursue our mission. Building on the efforts we have been making for several years and guided by our plan, we have advanced the development of our programs and initiatives to expand their reach and strengthen our impact on the ground.

Driven by the desire to do more and enhance our contribution to the Francophonie, the team at French for the Future participated in numerous community events, including the Canadian Francophonie Games, as well as several conferences bringing together key stakeholders.

This effort has resulted in our ability to reach a large number of students. More than 52,000 young people had the opportunity to do more in French, to discover the language in a new way, to experience the full richness of the culture that accompanies it, and to have unique and transformative experiences. This figure reflects the scope of our efforts and, above all, our commitment to creating more ways for young people to build lasting connections with the Francophone world.

I would therefore like to warmly thank our team, coordinators, facilitators, and volunteers, whose passion and professionalism bring our mission to life every day. Thanks also to the members of our board of directors for their constant support, availability, and trust.

I also want to express our deepest gratitude to our partners and donors. Your trust and unwavering support enable us to keep building a Canada where bilingualism is not only encouraged but truly celebrated.

Together, let us continue creating connections between communities, opening new opportunities for young people, and promoting official bilingualism and the Francophonie throughout the country.

Geneviève Gobeil
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THANK YOU!



Alec Boudreau



Kristy Brezina



Denis Fontaine

We would like to extend our warmest thanks to the former members of the Board of Directors. Through their commitment, time and leadership, they have made a significant contribution to the development of French for the Future and the advancement of its mission. Their contribution will leave a lasting mark on the organisation. The entire team at French for the Future would like to express its deep gratitude to them and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The members of the Board of Directors are French for the Future's volunteer leaders



Ania Kolodziej
President



Marie-Pierre Lavoie
Vice-President



Nicolas Daoust
Treasurer



Nicolette Belliveau
Secretary



Michel P. Samson



Martin Katz



Gillian Blackmore



Charles Ashikwé



Catherine McDonald



Patrick Arsenault



John Ralston Saul
Founder and Honorary president

ADVISORY MEMBERS



Lisa Balfour Bowen
Founding President

Halfway through the implementation of its 2024-2028 strategic plan, French for the Future is proud of the progress made. Guided by its mission, the organization has continued its commitment to Canadian youth by evolving its initiatives. This year, we have enriched our programs, strengthened our partnerships, expanded our reach within the Canadian Francophonie, and solidified our presence in communities. Thanks to these efforts, we have connected with even more young people across the country.

Our mission, to promote official bilingualism and highlight the French language among young Canadians remains at the heart of our actions. Through our programs and the Fr+ platform, we offer high school students free, concrete experiences to experience French differently, beyond the classroom, and to discover the many benefits of bilingualism. The growing interest in our initiatives demonstrates their relevance and encourages us to continue striving to provide increasingly accessible, inclusive, and enriching experiences.

As we move forward with our strategic plan, our actions will continue to focus on four priorities: exercising mobilizing leadership, promoting our mission, offering accessible and quality programming, and developing a strong, collaborative network. These directions will guide our growth and strengthen our impact throughout Canada.

I want to highlight the exceptional work of the national office team. Their dedication, professionalism, and creativity contribute daily to fulfilling our mission. I also thank the members of our Board of Directors for their trust and valuable support.

We are also grateful to the teachers who introduce our programs to their students, as well as to our partners, funders, and donors. Their support is essential to offering enriching experiences to thousands of young people across the country.

Together, we pursue the same ambition: to inspire the next generation to make bilingualism a strength and to help build a Canada where linguistic duality is fully valued.

Ania Kolodziej
PRESIDENT



NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

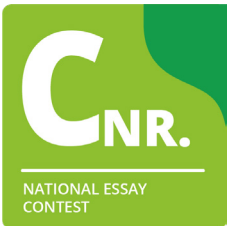
When writing in French opens doors

This year, the National Essay Contest once again offered young people a unique opportunity to reflect, express themselves and develop their French language skills through a writing exercise. The participants responded with creativity and sensitivity to the question, "What is most important: doing, listening or speaking?", demonstrating the richness of their ideas and their command of the language.

Among the entries received, **100 participants were awarded a post-secondary scholarship to study in French, thanks to our 15 partnering institutions.**

These scholarships encourage the winners to continue their studies completely or partially in French and help to support the next generation of bilingual students across Canada.

Beyond the scholarships, the competition remains a powerful source of motivation. Participants emphasize that this experience has enabled them to gain confidence, improve their French and reflect on their future in both official languages. The very high satisfaction rate observed this year confirms that the contest continues to play a vital role in promoting the French language, writing and post-secondary studies in French.



"This experience has enabled me to reflect deeply, refine my writing and express myself more precisely in French. The competition provided me with a stimulating environment that values rigour, creativity and personal reflection."
- Essay contest participant



"After doing some research, I realized that writing was what resonated with me the most. I worked on my essay almost every day for several weeks to develop my arguments. Taking part in the National Essay Contest was a wonderful experience, and I would recommend it to all young people who have the opportunity to do so."
- Nicolas Abrard, NL

Nicolas Abrard, winner of a \$10,000 scholarship for the Université Sainte-Anne, explains how the theme motivated him to enter the competition.

Listen to his interview with Radio-Canada



"I think taking part in this contest is a great way to improve my French. My experience so far has been brilliant, and I wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to anyone else."
- Essay contest participant

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH \$10,000 AND MORE!

\$28,000

Helena Mokbel - Richmond Hill, ON
Anabelle Yakovlev Golani - Toronto, ON

\$12,000

Anthony Yong Kan Chung - Nepean, ON
Dorcas Olatunji - Bedford, NS
Kessy Iriza Karake - Quebec, QC
Malie Mohninger - Ottawa, ON
Aurélie Leblond - Lévis, QC
Lilian Bella Gregory - Dollard-Des-Ormeaux, QC

\$10,000

Micekencia Carlie François - Edmunston, NB
Nicolas Abrard - Pouch Cove, NL
Cassidy Bridges - Bridgetown, NS
Élodie Castonguay - Moncton, NB

Discover the 100 winners



KEY FIGURES

 **635**
submissions received

 **73%**
would like to use both official languages in their future job

317 French First Language

 **288**
participating schools

318 French Second Language

 **97%**
would recommend the contest to their friends

LOCAL FORUMS

A different way to experience the French language

This year, the Local Forums continued to grow, offering thousands of young people across the country an immersive day conducted entirely in French.

Thanks to the addition of new forums in new regions such as **Medicine Hat in Alberta and a return to Montreal**, even more students were able to enjoy a unifying experience, meet inspiring Francophone role models and discover that French is lived and breathed well beyond the classroom. The forums continue to generate great enthusiasm among participants. They highlight the quality of the workshops, the welcoming atmosphere and the many opportunities to build connections with other students from different linguistic backgrounds.

For many, this day boosts their confidence in communicating in French, inspires them to continue their learning and helps them discover the benefits of bilingualism. By bringing together students of French as a first language and French as a second language in an inclusive and stimulating environment, the Local Forums remain a vital gateway to the other programs offered by French for the Future.



KEY FIGURES



Local Forums



participants, **88%** of whom speak French as a second language



participating schools

After the forums:



know what to do to incorporate more French into their daily lives



report wanting to continue incorporating French into their daily lives

"I found the forum really fun and interesting. There was a great atmosphere and some really thought-provoking discussions. I enjoyed being surrounded by people and stepping out of my comfort zone a bit. It even made me want to continue my studies in French."

- Participant at the Toronto Local Forum



"The atmosphere was great and everyone was really friendly. The workshops were really fun and I got to try lots of new things."

- Participant at the Edmonton Local Forum



OUR LOCAL COORDINATORS ORGANIZE FORUMS AROUND THE COUNTRY



Trish Rognvaldson
Calgary, Yellowknife and Medicine Hat



Samuel Landry
Charlottetown, Fredericton, Halifax and St. John's



Dominique Légal
Winnipeg



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Campus Saint-Jean
Edmonton



Annie Vautour
Moncton



Miguel Perez
Ottawa



GLENDON

Campus de Glendon,
York University
Toronto



CONSEIL JEUNESSE FRANCOPHONE
Vancouver

FRANCONNEXION SESSION

Sustained growth and confirmed impact

The program continues to grow and is reaching an increasing number of schools and young people across Canada. The kits remain a valued resource for teachers, who use them to enrich their French lessons.

Feedback collected shows that the activities spark student enthusiasm, boost their confidence in communicating in French, and nurture their interest in the language and Francophone cultures. Teachers also highlight the quality of the materials and their intention to reuse the kits, demonstrating the loyalty of school boards to the program.

The Franconnexion Sessions give young people the opportunity to explore the many ways they can continue engaging with French, while serving as a key moment to spark their interest and encourage them to discover French for the Future's other initiatives.

85% OF TEACHERS PLAN TO REUSE THE KIT NEXT YEAR.



"The Franconnexion Session was extremely beneficial for our students. It allowed them to have an authentic experience in French, to strengthen their confidence in communicating in the language, and to discover Francophone culture in a dynamic and engaging way. The varied activities encouraged participation, collaboration, and open-mindedness."
- Teacher

The results demonstrate that the activities continue to have a positive impact:

94% of teachers affirm that their students really enjoyed their Franconnexion Session.

88% of students would recommend the activity to their friends.

75% are motivated to continue their studies in French.



"My classmates were engaged throughout the activity; they loved working together to complete the escape room and learn more about the different provinces and territories of the country."

- Franconnexion Session Participant



Stickers



macaron



KEY FIGURES

↓ 905

kits downloaded

48,404

participants, including
4,855 youth in rural areas

804

participating Canadian
secondary schools

1,766

planned sessions

93%

believe that the
Franconnexion Sessions
helped their students
understand the benefits of
learning and/or speaking
French

THE NATIONAL AMBASSADOR YOUTH FORUM

A springboard toward community engagement

This year, the 35 selected young people, coming from all provinces and territories except Nunavut, gathered on the University of Ottawa campus, in the national capital, to experience a week where French was at the heart of it all. This pan-Canadian representation demonstrates the national reach of the program.

From the very beginning of the forum, participants immersed themselves in a week filled with activities, training sessions, and impactful encounters that enabled them to enhance their leadership, project management, and public speaking abilities, while also boosting their confidence and pride in living in French. Their stay in Ottawa took them to visit the Parliament, the Senate, and the House of Commons, before exploring downtown aboard the Lady Dive, which also transported them across the river to Gatineau, where they discovered several historic sites. Their journey concluded at the ByWard Market, where they were able to soak up the local culture.

OTTAWA, ON



"The FNJA was an incredible environment for developing various solutions. Being with about thirty young people facing the same challenges as me in a minority language situation helped me to form concrete ideas on how to support the Francophonie in Saskatchewan."
- Maxwell Daniels-White, Saskatchewan



Mission accomplished!

All the determination and enthusiasm of the cohort came to fruition after the forum, as they fulfilled their roles as ambassadors. Indeed, upon returning to their community, these young individuals become ambassadors of French for the future. They put into practice the knowledge gained during the week by organizing Franconnexion Sessions, French clubs, festivals centered on Francophonie, and many other initiatives that promote the French language and help create a positive impact in their environment.



KEY FIGURES

 **35**

participants from 12 provinces and territories

 **6,128**

students reached during the 2025-2026 school year

 **100%**

say that they place greater importance on Francophonie and bilingualism after the forum.

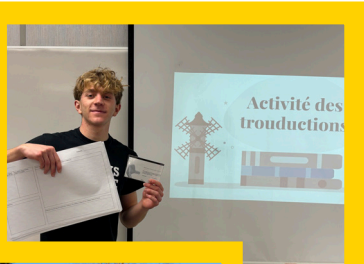


"Thank you for giving me this opportunity. [...] I assure you it was one of the best experiences of my life, and I will use the things we learned this week for the rest of my life."
- An ambassador

"Little by little, I began to speak with more confidence. This experience showed me that leadership does not depend on speaking perfectly, but on having the courage to share one's ideas. At the FNJA, we learned to collaborate, to listen to different perspectives, and to understand that every voice can contribute to a larger conversation."
- Sara Lipo, Ontario



Tyler Dignam is organizing an Olympic Day in French.



Jean-Paul Absi during an "Activité de trouduction" in a school.



Ayman Chahid gives a Franconnexion Session.



Emily Ridge is organizing a Winter Carnival.



Ashley Huang and Stephan Murdock are running a booth in Edmonton.



William Wang (Ambassador of the Year) creates a French club.



Melinda Li creates Christmas cards in French.

BILINGUAL YOUNG LEADERS

The 2024-2026 cohort passes the torch

The mandate of the 2024-2026 cohort of the Bilingual Young Leaders is coming to an end. After two years of commitment, the committee is preparing to pass the torch to a new generation of young leaders, leaving behind a significant contribution to Canadian Francophonie.

At the heart of their mandate is "On est ici," a documentary series that explores the richness and diversity of francophone communities in Canada while highlighting the realities and issues that shape them. The result of several months of work, this resource will be integrated into the Franconnexion Sessions to provide teachers and their students with videos that showcase the francophone realities of today from the perspective of young people like themselves.

THE 2024-2026 COMMITTEE:



"Some of the memories I cherish most from our trip to Ottawa are our session at Level One (the fun restaurant), the bowling activity, watching movies and playing board games together at the AirBnB, and taking the Ottawa Go Train! This trip was truly an opportunity to strengthen our interpersonal bonds as bilingual young leaders, and I am so grateful to have had the chance to get closer to so many passionate and caring young people from all across Canada."

- **Chloe Guan, Quebec**

JLB.

BILINGUAL YOUNG LEADERS



SINCERE THANKS TO

Chloe Guan - QC
Justine Perreault - ON
Mariam Abdelmalek - SK
Sahar Bahramali - NB
Stella Rose Bégin - ON
Tahi Wilton Geary - BC
Yadhiera Despeines - AB
Carmen Peng - NS



"Being part of the JLB team is a very enriching experience that has allowed me to interact with many people about the different linguistic realities in Canada, both by collaborating with the rest of the team, who share my passion for the Francophonie and bilingualism, and by engaging in conversations with influential members of the francophone community during the filming of the docuseries."

- **Stella Rose Bégin, Ontario**



The completion of this project was made possible thanks to the exceptional commitment of the Bilingual Young Leaders, as well as the teamwork they demonstrated throughout their term. The meetings in Ottawa, where they attended training sessions in leadership, project management, and governance, played a key role in their development. For the first time in the history of the program, the 2024-2026 cohort gathered twice in the national capital, an experience that strengthened group cohesion and allowed the youth to advance their project in a spirit of collaboration.



TAKE A LOOK AT THEIR PROJECT



Discover Canadian Francophonie with the series "On est ici!" Explore its history, richness, and unique features in Ontario, New Brunswick, British Columbia, and Alberta.



UNITED BILINGUAL CORRESPONDENTS

A redesigned program to better connect young people

The program underwent a complete makeover this year, featuring a new visual identity inspired by the world of youth and correspondence. This redesign modernizes the program's image and makes its communications more appealing, dynamic, and engaging. As a result, participation increased by 152%, providing more young people the opportunity to connect with a pen pal from across the country and practice their French.

New features: beyond a new identity, several innovations have been introduced to enhance participants' experience and make the program even more engaging. Among these is a stamp system that allows participants to take on challenges and engage in interactive activities to earn rewards. This approach encourages them to communicate and interact with their pen pals throughout the year.

These changes have yielded encouraging results while highlighting areas for improvement. Across Canada, they have taken the opportunity to practice their French by exchanging with a pen pal from another province, simultaneously building their confidence and forging connections that cross provincial borders.

"My fondest memory of the United Bilingual Correspondents was discussing my life in French with a friend far away. I felt free to share the activities and experiences I participate in at school. Additionally, we asked each other questions about subjects, extracurriculars, food, movies, and many other things. To the French for the Future team, thank you for sending emails each month with questions for us to discuss! It has been a very good experience!"

- A correspondent

"My best memory was receiving news from my contact. I think it's amazing that young people with different or similar interests can communicate; it's unique and special. It's not every day that I get to practice my French, but with a friend from the other side of the country, it's more fun!"

- A correspondent



"My most beautiful memory was when I met my new friend for the first time! I was nervous, but it went really well. Thank you for this wonderful experience."

- A correspondent

Feedback has shown, however, that the program can still be improved to better meet the expectations of young people. This work will begin during the next term of the Bilingual Young Leaders, who will contribute to the program's redesign by making this initiative one of their main projects.

"I enjoyed the experience of speaking entirely to someone new to improve my French. It was fun to do without any judgment."

- A correspondent



KEY FIGURES



270 participants



94%

were able to confirm their level of French or saw it improve after the program



82%

participants associate the Francophonie with a positive to very positive emotion

FR+ DO MORE IN FRENCH

Discover the Francophone universe

In 2025-2026, the Fr+ platform continued its development and recorded encouraging growth in its community. The number of users increased from 2,558 to 3,071, representing 513 new registrations. This growth was especially noticeable during targeted campaigns, particularly between August and September.

Fr+ also integrated into French for the Future programs and adopted a more playful communication approach to better connect with young people. Investments were also made to develop new features, including chat functionality, francophone event management, and interactive polls.

A renewed visibility strategy

A new editorial line and targeted campaigns have increased the visibility of Fr+. The back-to-school campaign reached 45,955 young people and generated 565 clicks. Continuing these efforts, the "Heroes of Bilingualism" campaign, launched in February 2026, produced 154,313 impressions and 509 clicks.

Fr+'s presence at Local Forums in Toronto and Moncton allowed for meetings, collecting feedback, and boosting youth registrations. The National Ambassador Youth Forum also helped recruit new volunteers to support the platform's engagement activities.



The user experience

Users describe Fr+ as a safe, caring, and motivating space where they can practice French without academic pressure. The platform receives an average rating of 7 out of 10, and 60% of respondents feel it helps them practice their French. Finally, 89% would recommend Fr+ to their friends.

LANCE TON BALADO CONTEST

4 years and it continues

For its fourth edition, the *Lance ton balado* contest affirms its position among initiatives aimed at French-speaking youth in Canada. Open to students aged 12 to 18, this year it invited them to explore the world of podcasts under the theme "The Voice of Banned Books."

Resulting from a partnership between the *Salon du livre de l'Outaouais*, the Embassy of France in Canada, and French for the Future, the contest provides young people with the opportunity to build their confidence in speaking French and to learn the basics of audio creation through free training. For this fourth edition, the reward system has been revised: a grand winner will now be selected in each of the two categories, French as a first language (FFL) and French as a second language (FSL), compared to only one winning team previously. This change aims to better recognize the talent of the participants while giving more people the chance to discover a new passion.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Salon du livre
de l'Outaouais



AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
AU CANADA
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

KEY FIGURES



53

podcasts received

57%

French
First
Language

43%

French
Second
Language

KEY FIGURES



3,071

users throughout
the country



140%

increase in engagement and
interactions



60%

claim to use French more than
before, even outside of Fr+

GRAND PRIZE

French first language "Banned over time" created by **Gabrielle et Olivier Lechasseur**

French as a second language "Behind the Closed Closet" created by **Balado 2398** (team composed of Aany Mariel Vital Ramos and Christopher Kempcke Ramos).

Listen to the award-winning FFL podcast



Listen to the award-winning FSL podcast



THANK YOU TO OUR 2025-2026 DONORS. WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

French for the Future wishes to thank all of its donors and sponsors, without whom the execution of its activities would not have been possible. Thanks to you, we can offer more and more young people opportunities to experience life in French.

THANK YOU!

\$25,000+

BMO
Government of Ontario
Lisa Balfour Bowen
Margaret McCain

\$20,000 - \$24,999

Government of New Brunswick

\$10,000 - \$19,999

AFC - Agricultural Financing Canada
Government of British Columbia
ACUFC
Government of Nova Scotia
Catherine Graham
Power Corporation of Canada

\$5,000 - \$9,999

French Immersion Stream – University of Ottawa
Economic Development and Employability Network of
Prince Edward Island (RDÉE PEI)
Government of Manitoba
Donald Johnson

\$1,000 - \$4,999

La Cité
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Medicine Hat Public School Division
Allen and Marion Lambert Fund (William Lambert)
The Whiteside Foundation
CNFS – University of Moncton Chapter
University of Moncton
Canadian Parents for French – Nova Scotia
Francofonds
PassepART / ImmersART
Canadian Parents for French – Alberta
TFO
The Vimy Foundation
Dialogue Network
Clair Balfour and Marci McDonald
Official Languages Programs (Explore)
Parents for Bilingual Education NB
Canadian Parents for French – New Brunswick
Public Service Commission of Canada
Gordon McIvor
John Ralston Saul
Robert Yalden

\$500 - \$999

YMCA of Great Toronto
University of Saint Mary's
Sean Ingram
Experiences Canada
Gabrielle Frédette Fortin
Helen Burstyn
Martin Katz
Michael Salvatori
Michel Samson
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Réseau Santé en français de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard
Tim Hortons
University of New-Brunswick

\$1 - \$499

YMCA of Greater Halifax
Canadian Federation of French-speaking Youth (FJCF)
Danielle Arcand
Francophone Community Association of Saint-Jean
Marie-Pierre Lavoie Translation Inc.
Micheline Dubé
Toronto French School
University of Alberta – Campus Saint-Jean
University of Calgary
Alec Boudreau
YMCA
Assembly of the Francophonie of Ontario
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