



FRANÇAIS EL'AVENIR FRENCHER FUTURE

2024-2025 IN REVIEW



young people reached by our programs

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.

OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH



Articulated and proactive leadership



Authentic and radiant communication



Enriched and accessible programming



A flourishing, collaborative network



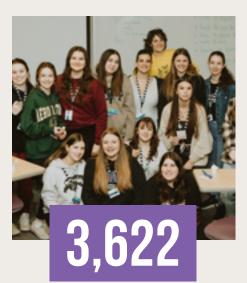
bilingualism ambassadors



scholarships available at 16 partner postsecondary institutions



users on our online space



participants in 16 Local Forums in major Canadian cities



years serving Canadian youth



members on our youth committee





Kathleen Mulawka Interim Executive Director



Miguel Perez Program Agent



Mathieu Gingras Keynote Speaker



Cynthia Mouzaaber Communications Support Agent

This year, we pursued our mission with energy and determination, guided by our new strategic plan adopted in January 2024. Serving as a guiding principle for our actions, it has given new momentum to all our initiatives and given us stronger impact in the field.

Our team distinguished itself through its active presence at numerous community events and conferences bringing together key players within the community. These gatherings provided valuable opportunities to forge new collaborations, strengthened existing partnerships, and amplify the reach of our message.

The highlight of this year was undoubtedly the spectacular progress made by our programs. Thanks to new posters, attractive promotional items, and a stronger message, we reached nearly 56,000 people, 14,000 more than last year. This record engagement reflects the growing enthusiasm for our initiatives and the effectiveness of our approach.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to our team, our coordinators, facilitators, and volunteers, who bring our mission to life with passion and professionalism. Thank you also to our board of directors for their constant support and availability, which make these achievements possible.

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

Together, let us continue to promote Canada's official bilingualism and bring communities across the country closer together.

Emeline Leurent

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ania Kolodziei Marie-Pierre Lavoie **Nicolas Daoust Alec Boudreau** Michel P. Vice-President President Treasurer Secretary Samson Martin Gillian Charles Kristy **Nicolette Denis** Brezina Ashikwé **Fontaine** Katz Blackmore Belliveau

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



John Ralston SaulFounder and Honorary
President



Lisa Balfour BowenFounding President

As we begin this new year, French for the Future continues to move forward with enthusiasm, driven by the 2024-2028 strategic plan adopted last year. Throughout the year, we have continued to innovate with enriched programs, new posters and promotional items, unique partnerships, and a strengthened commitment to our community. Thanks to our increased and more visible presence, our actions have reached even more young people across the country.

Promoting bilingualism among young people remains the guiding principle behind everything we do. With our diverse programs and our Fr+ platform, we offer high school students concrete opportunities to experience French in a different way, to practice it beyond the school setting, and to grasp the full personal and professional value of bilingualism.

For the coming years, it is essential to remember that our work will focus on four priorities: strong and proactive leadership, authentic and effective communication, enriched and accessible programming, and a thriving and collaborative network. These priorities will guide our projects to increase our visibility across Canada and support young people on their journey to bilingualism.

I would like to commend the remarkable work of the national office team: their energy, continuous improvement, and rigor are the driving force behind our successes. A huge thank you also goes to our board of directors, whose contributions and constant support enable us to move forward with confidence.

We would also like to recognize the essential role of French teachers across the country, who enable our programs to resonate with their students, as well as the generosity of our sponsors and donors, without whom our projects would not be possible.

Together, we continue to pursue our ambition of a bilingual and inclusive Canada.

Ania Kolodziej
PRESIDENT



NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

100 students will have the chance to continue their post-secondary education in French with a scholarship.

This year, the National Essay Contest sparked unprecedented enthusiasm: 836 students in grades 10 through 12 took up their pens to answer the question:

"What makes a good friend?"

Among them, 100 young authors stood out for their originality, sensitivity, and the quality of their writing. Their talent earned them scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$28,000, offered by our 16 post-secondary partner institutions across the country, including a new partner, La Cité College. Thanks to this support, they will be able to pursue their studies in French, either partially or completely.

Each year, the contest offers much more than a prize: it is a unique opportunity for young people to experience French through writing. It gives them the ability to share their thoughts in an essay that could earn them a scholarship, strengthen their language skills, and, above all, express themselves with pride. A total of 102 scholarships were available, worth a total value of \$413,000.



"The scholarship had a huge impact because it convinced me to choose Campus Saint-Jean at the University of Alberta instead of McGill for my studies next year. Not only was I uncertain because of finances, but I was also shy about continuing my studies in French since it is my second language. The scholarship strengthened my writing skills and greatly encouraged me to continue my studies in French next year."

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

\$28,000

Jenna Mohany - Whitby, Ont. Amina Elmidaoui - Toronto, Ont.

\$12,000

Gurbakhash Budwal – Brampton, Ont. **Besmah Hernandez** – *Ingersoll, Ont.* Pratistha Sharma – Mississauga, Ont. Sindy Simoni – Etobicoke, Ont. Regan Fasano - Toronto, Ont.

Liliane Melo - Montréal, Que. **Divine Stephanie Lobe Manga** - Yellowknife, N.W.T. Lucia Adam - Montréal, Que.

\$10,000

Gabriela Anguelova - Surrey, B.C. Alexis Rice - Digby, N.S. Rhylie Oliver - Truro, N.S. Rayanne Chawki - Tracadie, N.B. Nicolas Doucet - Saulnierville, N.S. **Liv Pratt** – *Halifax, N.S.*

Discover the 100 winners





Divine Stéphanie Lobe Manga, winner of a \$12,000 scholarship for the University of Ottawa, explains how the theme motivated her to enter the contest.

Listen to the interview with "Regard sur l'arctique"



"The theme of friendship was very inspiring because I have a friend who is very dear to me, so when I saw the theme of the contest, I immediately thought of her."

- Divine Stephanie Lobe Manga, N.W.T.

been recognized. It was a moment of validation, which gave me even more motivation to continue writing and expressing myself in French."

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:





































KEY FIGURES



submissions received

French

First Language

French Second Language



participating schools



would recommend the contest to their friends



would like to use both official languages in their future job

LOCAL FORUMS

One day, one revelation

This year, the 16 Local Forums brought together more than 3,600 students in grades 7 through 12, some of whom speak French as their first language and others as their second language, all motivated by a desire to learn more about the French language and the culture surrounding it.

For one day, young people were able to immerse themselves in French Canadian culture through a rich and varied program of interactive workshops, cultural activities, inspiring talks, and discussions with Francophone personalities from their region. The goal? To show them that French has a place in their daily lives and that they can be proud of it.

Local Forums also help demystify Francophone culture, introduce young people to the professional and personal opportunities offered by bilingualism, and reveal the existence of a vast community of Francophones and Francophiles across the country. Local Forums are reaching more and more young people across Canada, as evidenced by the organization of Local Forums this year in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and Red Deer, Alberta.



KEY FIGURES



Local Forums



participants, 81% 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 that they want to continue French classes next year

"I really enjoyed the day because it was a lot of fun and I learned a lot. I can now speak French with a lot of confidence. Thank you so much for this opportunity!"

- Participant in the Red Deer Local Forum

OUR LOCAL COORDINATORS ORGANIZE FORUMS AROUND THE COUNTRY



Trish Rognvaldson Calgary, Yellowknife and Red Deer



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



Amélie Montour Moncton



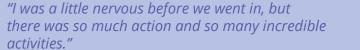
Dominique Légal Winnipeg



Miguel Perez Ottawa and Vancouver



Glendon Campus, **York University** Toronto



- Participant in the Charlottetown Local Forum

activities."



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Campus Saint-Jean Edmonton

FRANCONNEXION SESSION

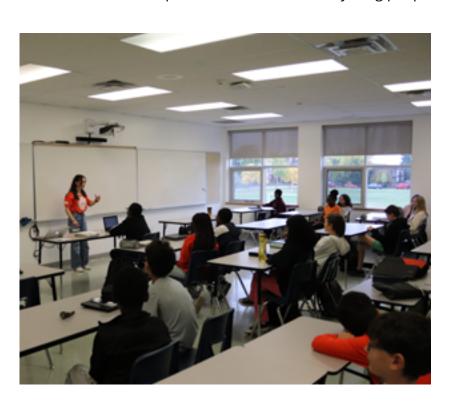
A record year for the program

The popularity of our Franconnexion Session kits reached new heights in 2024-2025, with 858 people downloading our kit. This increase illustrates the continuing need for resources that bridge the gap between French in school and French spoken in daily life, in a slightly less academic way.

75% OF TEACHERS ARE VERY SATISFIED WITH THE QUALITY OF THE MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE FREE KIT.

This trend also shows the loyalty of Franconnexion Session users, highlighting the importance of continuously developing new resources for the toolkit.

New small gifts and a revamped design for our "Why Speak French?" poster have been added to the GO FUN and GO BIG toolkits. New stickers have been created based on a survey of our subscribers to offer options that resonate with young people.





"It gave them the opportunity to see why French is useful and to see that they made the right decision to continue studying French in high school."

"Thank you, thank you, thank you! French teachers NEED this! I shared the information with every member of my department!"

RESPONSIBLE PARTNERSHIPS

In response to a more unstable international economic climate, French for the Future has begun a strategic reassessment of its commercial partnerships. Since last year, we have been giving priority to Canadian suppliers for our promotional material purchases, whether these are items distributed free of charge at our events or offered for sale on our online store. This decision is in line with our commitment to supporting the local economy while ensuring the reliability of our supply chain.

"It was great! Thank you! I will continue to use the resources year after year."



KEY FIGURES

₹ 858

kits downloaded



participants, including 11,238 students in rural areas



participating Canadian secondary schools

1,721

sessions planned



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

THE NATIONAL AMBASSADORS **YOUTH FORUM**

35 young people have become advocates for bilingualism

This year, young people gathered in Edmonton, on Campus Saint-Jean at the University of Alberta. The 35 students selected for the National Ambassador Youth Forum (NAYF) come from Ontario, British Columbia, Manitoba, Alberta, New Brunswick, Quebec, Northwest Territories, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

The FNIA is a week of activities, training, and unforgettable connections. Participants develop their confidence, leadership skills, and pride in being Francophone. By becoming ambassadors, they carry out French for the Future's mission and commit to promoting French in their communities. For young people living in minority communities, the FNJA is a unique occasion to fully experience French, discover Canada's Francophone culture, and create lasting bonds with other committed young people across the country.







- Rose-Ann Nadeau, Ontario

"It may sound cliché, but this event really had a big impact on my personality. The forum allowed me to open up to many new things and realities, and also helped me understand more about myself."

- Isabelle Normandeau, Alberta



Cohen Veysey organizes a fun and educational excursion



benefits of bilingualism











"Thank you so much for your work, I appreciate you all enormously. I will never forget this event and the people I have become friends with!"

- Cohen Veysey, New Brunswick



a cultural day



KEY FIGURES



young people from 10 provinces and territories



13,587

youth reached during the 2024-2025 school year



say that the forum has inspired them to do other activities in French outside of class

Mission accomplished for our advocates!

The momentum initiated during the forum continued successfully throughout the following year. Our ambassadors played a major role in expanding our organization's impact. They participated in Local Forums, held Franconnexion sessions at their schools, led workshops, contributed to Fr+ publications, made a promotional video for the FNIA, and wrote one or more articles for our blog. Other ambassadors got involved in their respective communities in their own way by creating French clubs, tutoring, or even organizing events that they developed from start to finish.



BILINGUAL YOUNG LEADERS

A new committee for a new project

Eight young people, selected from nearly 80 applicants, have been chosen to form the 2024-2026 Young Bilingual Leaders Committee. Hailing from seven different provinces and aged 16 to 20, they are working together to create a docu-series highlighting different aspects of Canada's Francophone community.

To kick off their mandate, the eight young people gathered for a weekend in Ottawa. From January 10 to 12, they got to know each other and began working on their shared project. They also visited the capital and attended workshops and activities to strengthen team cohesion.

THE 2024-2026 COMMITTEE:







WHO ARE THEY?

Chloe Guan - Que.
Justine Perreault - Ont.
Mariam Abdelmalek - Sask.
Sahar Bahramali - N.B.
Stella Rose Bégin - Ont.
Tahi Wilton Geary - B.C.
Yadhiera Despeines - Alta.
Jack Bailey - N.S.

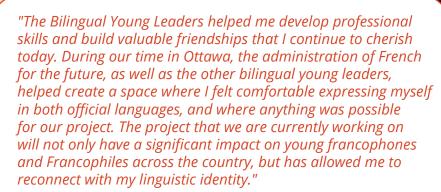
"I was already quite familiar with French for the Future before becoming part of the Bilingual Young Leaders program. This experience only deepened my passion for the organization and for the French language. By meeting and engaging in conversations with Francophones from across Canada, I've come to discover and learn so much more about the people around me. Being involved in promoting French has allowed me to see languages differently. They're not just tools for communication, but powerful expressions of identity, culture, and pride."

- Justine Perreault, Ontario



"Being part of the JLB team is a very enriching experience that has allowed me to exchange ideas 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 talking with influential people from the Francophone community during the filming of the docu-series."

- Stella Rose Bégin, Ontario



- Yadhiera Despeines, Alberta



WE SAID GOODBYE TO OUR 2022-2024 COMMITTEE!



With three podcasts and five online magazine issues, *Le coin canadien* remains available on our website. A big thank you to the 2022–2024 cohort for their commitment!

UNITED BILINGUAL CORRESPONDENTS

An evolving program

The United Bilingual Correspondents program has been the subject of particular attention, as it is the only program that has seen a decline in enrollment compared to the previous year. Accordingly, the team has mobilized to analyze the situation and develop solutions that will be implemented starting in the 2025-2026 edition to reinvigorate the program:

A new visual identity has been created to update the program's image.

A group communication option is now available to encourage exchanges between participants.

"I LOVED THE SMALL GROUP I WAS ABLE TO JOIN IN ADDITION TO HAVING A PEN PAL. IT WAS GREAT TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE MY AGE WHO HAD THE SAME DESIRE TO LEARN FRENCH."

A private group on Fr+ to offer features that strengthen the sense of belonging to a community. A monthly group activity will be offered to keep participants engaged throughout the year.

Despite everything, the program remains very popular among the young people who take part in it.

"My experience with the United Bilingual Correspondents program was truly enriching. I was able to interact with young people from across Canada, share ideas, discover other realities, and above all, practice my French in an authentic setting. It was a wonderful way to learn in a different way, while forming human connections."

"I enjoyed the experience of talking to someone new to improve my French. It was fun to do without being judged."





"My fondest memory is meeting a correspondent with whom I naturally bonded. Our exchanges were genuine and enriching. Thank you to the team at French for the Future for this wonderful experience. You create much more than just projects."

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

French for the Future collaborated with a graphic designer to rethink the program's visual identity. The new artistic direction focuses on a playful and colorful approach, inspired by the codes of communication. With a touch of humor, this identity aims to capture the attention of young people and energize the program's image.



KEY FIGURES



participants including 4 from First Nations



89%

feel confident in their proficiency in French after completing the program



would recommend the program to a friend



77%

of respondents are still in contact with their correspondent

FR+ DO MORE IN FRENCH

New ways to connect

In 2024, French for the Future welcomed a Digital Project Leader dedicated to the Fr+ platform. Several new features have been rolled out to enhance user experience. It is now possible to exchange private messages with friends, navigate more easily on mobile devices thanks to an optimized interface, and consult a new "Events" section that brings together Franco-youth initiatives from different regions. Young people can also respond to surveys, personalize their profiles, and expand their networks by adding friends.

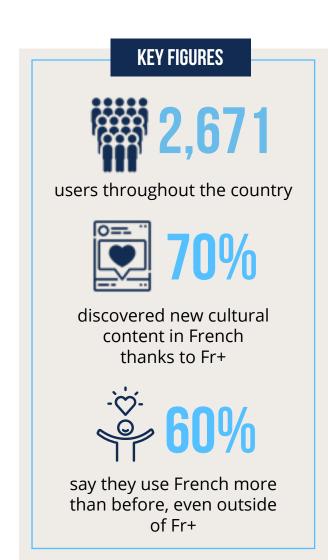
A team to keep the platform fresh

A team of six facilitators was appointed among the young ambassadors of the 2024 FNJA. During the school year, they published and facilitated discussions on the platform to encourage engagement and foster exchanges.

A new line of promotional materials developed

Several new promotional products have been developed and will be distributed at local forums and other youth events. They aim to increase awareness of the platform and strengthen its brand awareness among the youth.





Integration of the Fr+ workshop into several forums

The Fr+ workshop, introduced in 2024, has been rolled out at several Local Forums. Young people take part in a hybrid treasure hunt, combining online elements and activities in the classroom. The puzzles encourage them to explore the main features of the platform, helping them to get to know Fr+ in a fun and interactive way.

LANCE TON BALADO CONTEST

3 years already

The "Lance ton balado" contest is slowly becoming a tradition. In partnership with French for the Future, the Salon du livre de l'Outaouais, and the French Embassy, the contest offers students in grades 7 to 12 (secondary 1 to 5 and CEGEP 1 in Quebec) the opportunity to discover the world of podcasts and learn creation techniques through free training. As usual, students must form teams of up to three people and record a podcast on a given theme. This third edition was no exception to the rule, with its hope-filled theme, "Books to the Rescue."

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:







GRAND PRIZE

Podcast « Livres ou Écrans 2 » Produced by **Stella Morones**, **Camelia Amzil et Renaud Beaudoin** of l'École secondaire Grande-Rivière de Gatineau, Que.

Listen to the winning team's podcast



KEY FIGURES



podcasts submitted

73% French First Language

French Second Language

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024-2025 DONORS

We couldn't do it without you!

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





\$25,000 +

BMO Government of Ontario Lisa Balfour Bowen

\$20,000 - \$24,999

ACUFC Catherine Graham

\$10,000 - \$19,999

FCC - Farm Credit Canada Government of Nova Scotia Michael and Renae Tims Power Corporation of Canada

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Community College of New Brunswick (CCNB) Donald Johnson Employment and Social Development Canada (Canada Summer Jobs) Government of British Columbia Government of Manitoba Government of New Brunswick

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Allen and Marion Lambert Fund (William Lambert) Ouebec Office in the Atlantic Provinces - Moncton Canadian Parents for French - New Brunswick Canadian Parents for French - National Clair Balfour and Marci Mcdonald NHTC - University of Ottawa Branch Expériences Canada Francofonds (Francophone Community Foundation Manitoba) Royal Canadian Mounted Police John Ralston Saul **ImmersART** Robert Yalden The Whiteside Foundation Université Sainte-Anne YMCA of Greater Toronto

\$500 - \$999

Association of Francophone Teachers of New Brunswick Collège La Cité Prince Edward Island Public Service Commission Gabrielle Fredette Fortin Helen Burstyn Martin Katz Michel Samson Ministry of Education of Newfoundland and Labrador Official Languages Program (Explore) - Prince **Edward Island** French Language Health Network Sean Ingram The Vimy Foundation Tim Hortons University of Ottawa University of New-Brunswick Saint Mary's University YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth

\$1 - \$499

Alec Boudreau Amanda Mcintyre on the name of Martin Pilon Campus Saint-Jean, University of Alberta Collège Éducacentre Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages Danielle Arcand **Denis Fontaine** Judith Sabourin Helena Grossman Kristy Brezina Marc Olivella Marie-Pierre Lavoie Translation Inc. Mcinnes Cooper (Nicolette Bellieveau) Michael Salvatori Micheline Dubé Nicolas Daoust Polina Moneva Staunton Bowen



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