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## 2005/06 OFFA FINAL MINISTRY REPORT

Final Report on the Projects and Activities of the ***Office of Francophone and Francophile Affairs*** of Simon Fraser University to the British Columbia Ministry of Advanced Education for the fiscal year 2005-2006 ending March 31, 2006.

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### 1 INTRODUCTION

This year-end report of the initiative of the Office of Francophone and Francophile Affairs/ Bureau des affaires francophones et francophiles (OFFA/BAFF) has been prepared for the British Columbia Ministry of Advanced Education, and will also be submitted to the federal Department of Canadian Heritage.

The report summarizes the project and activities incurred in the third year of operations of OFFA. The report is divided into four sections. Section one presents the structure of the report. Section two provides a brief overview of the OFFA project. Section three summarizes the projects and activities and in particular, details program development in both of the Faculties involved, as well as the administrative initiatives of the OFFA office.

### 2 BACKGROUND

A grant application for the Office of Francophone and Francophile Affairs/Bureau des affaires francophones et francophiles, (OFFA/BAFF), known at SFU as French Language Program Initiative, was submitted to the Department of Canadian Heritage in May 2003. Initial funding was received on March 16, 2004, shortly before the end of the first fiscal year. The project was put forward in collaboration with the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The rationale for the initiative is contained in a study conducted by the Fédération des Francophones de la Colombie-Britannique (FFCB) surrounding the post-secondary education needs of the Francophone and Francophile communities. The FFCB has remained an important partner in the establishment of OFFA and the ensuing academic program planning, as well as in facilitating community liaison for outreach purposes. The initiative was supported by the BC & Yukon chapter of Canadian parents for French.

### 3 ACTIVITIES & PROJECT REPORT

The financial structure of the project within SFU has been divided into three areas: (1) Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, (2) Faculty of Education, and (3) OFFA Office.

**Note:** When reporting on the OFFA activities the reference to the points in the Ministry Action Plan are put into brackets with the symbol **MAP**.



### 3.1 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) has continued to deliver courses to two Cohorts of students (2004-05 and 2005-06) registered in the 4-year Bachelor's degree program in Public Administration and Community Services (also known as FCP -French Cohort Program). This cohort program allows students to move together in small groups through courses that are designed and scheduled especially for them. A minimum of 75% of those courses are offered in the French language each semester.

The half-time (2½ days/week) Student Advisor, Tara Carmichael, hired in April 2005 to help coordinate the program left on maternity leave in November 2005. A temporary replacement was found. Since January 2006, Maureen Curtin, works 4 days/week. **(MAP 1.4)**

The tasks of this period focused on program delivery to the first (2004-05) and second (2005-06) Cohorts. A number of limited-term instructors were hired to teach the full range of course offerings, including newly developed mandatory courses in French and Political Science. In addition to the pre-established mandatory courses, one elective course in Canadian Studies (CNS 160), taught in the French language, was offered to students. As well, one course in French (FREN 270) integrated online technology and interactive components. **(MAP 1.4, 2.6)**

SFU's VP Academic has granted permission to add five tenure-track positions in three departments (French, History & Political Science) delivering to the FCP in the next two years. Two of these five positions have been filled in: French and Political Science. The new Faculty members will start in September 2006. **(MAP 1.4)**

Linguistic support, outside regular classes, was provided to FCP students as they met regularly with tutors from the Department of French "Writing Centre". French language library resources (books, electronic journals and magazines) have been added to the Political Science and History collections. **(MAP 1.4)**

In addition to the academic program, students attended a number of lectures in French related to the curriculum. Other presentations focused on the SFU Co-op program and the exchange program that will give FCP students the opportunity to study at a francophone university during their 3<sup>rd</sup> year. **(MAP 1.4)**

A comprehensive student recruitment plan was implemented for the 2006-07 academic year. This included visiting the majority of French Immersion schools in the province as well as schools offering the Programme francophone. Newly designed promotional material was printed and distributed to potential target audiences. Claire Trépanier, OFFA (FASS) Associate Director, visited 50 schools (out of a possible 60) covering the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, Northern BC, Interior and Vancouver Island (driving a total of 3700 km and taking 21 return flights, and 4 ferry return trips). A PowerPoint presentation was used to inform Grade 12 students (64 groups), Grade 11 students (54 groups) as well as some Grade 10 students (4 groups) of the academic program. More than 90 presentations informed approximately 1400 students of the advantages and career opportunities related to their possible studies in the FCP. **(MAP 1.4)**



As of March 31, 2006 30 students applied to enter the FCP for September 2006. Qualifying students originating from all regions of the province are being offered admission from SFU. An assessment of applicants' French language abilities is in progress.

Additional promotion of the FCP included participation in numerous conferences/meetings/career fairs (High School Liaison Committee at SFU; BC Secondary School Counselors' Day at SFU; French for the Future; Canadian Parents for French; U. of Regina's *Institut français* Career Fair; Riverside High School Career Fair). A variety of media were used to advertise the FCP (radio and TV, newspapers, magazines) locally, in BC and nationally. An updated bilingual website, [www.sfu.ca/frcohort](http://www.sfu.ca/frcohort), is now available. (MAP 1.4, 2.7) The TV5 Québec Canada French Cohort Program Entrance Scholarship (\$1 000) was awarded to 5 students in 2005-06 (section 3.3).

To help support students' financial needs, both an Award and a Scholarship were created. The FCP Language Training Award with a \$20,000 fund will allow students to study at a francophone post-secondary institution during the summer months. (MAP 3.3)

### 3.2 Faculty of Education

The OFFA Faculty of Education is comprised of: Danielle Arcand, Associate Director ; Marianne Jacquet and Cécile Sabatier, limited term assistant professors ; Claude Dionne (50%), PDP coordinator ; Marina Enns, PDP Faculty Associate ; Jim O'Rourke, Field Programs Faculty Associate (resigned February 1st, 2006, replaced partly by coordinator Suzanne Arkell and by several appointed contractors) ; Betty Giroux, program assistant (75%, see section 3.3). Summer undergraduate courses were taught by sessional instructors (Teed, Spicer).

Continued development and program expansion have taken place in the four areas of the Faculty of Education Professional Development Program (PDP), Undergraduate Programs (UP), Graduate Programs (GP) and Field Programs (FP).

#### PDP (MAP 2.2)

In September 2005, 47 students were admitted to PDP, half being future immersion teachers, the other Core French teachers. Two international projects in relation to PDP French Module have taken place.

- RESO student mobility ( *Rayonnement de l'éducation dans les sociétés ouvertes*): SFU hosted Portuguese, Spanish and French students while French module graduates traveled to teach in Spain, France and Portugal. Claude Dionne collaborated with colleagues from partner universities to plan and supervise these exchanges.
- Cuba project : Hilary Spicer accompanied a group of 8 students to Santa Clara's *Felix Varela Institut Pedagogico* for a practicum, teaching French to Grade 11 students.

Claude Dionne promoted and facilitated a student exchange linked to the "Explore" Summer Bursary Program for a group of sixty or more SFU PDP students. A French module intake of 16 students is planned for January 07 at the Surrey campus of SFU. Promotional materials were distributed to attract students to SFU's French teacher education program on both the university's Burnaby and Surrey campuses.

#### UP (MAP 2.4)

The course Educ 380 has been taught on a regular basis (3 semester/year) and has been added to the regular SFU academic calendar. Other French language Education courses have been



offered : Educ 450 (Fall 05), Educ 481 (Spring 06 in Dawson Creek), additional sections of Educ 480 (127 students in summer 2005) and Educ 416/476.

Some of these and other didactic courses have been bundled to form a Minor in French Education within a Bachelor of Education, which is granted as a second degree to qualifying PDP students. The Minor received approval from the SFU Senate and is currently being implemented.

### **GP (MAP 2.5, 2.1, 3.4)**

Five Students in the Victoria-based Master of Education (M. Ed) cohort will complete the two-year program in July 2006. Since September 2005, recruitment for the next cohort focused on the Central Okanagan area. The admissions process for a Kelowna-based cohort for September 2006 is currently taking place.

In response to a need expressed by leaders of the francophone community, a French language Doctor of Education in Leadership (Ed D), with a focus on Diversity, has been developed. This program, planned to start in January 07, is open to people in leadership positions in different sectors within the Francophone and Francophile communities.

### **FP (MAP. 2.3, 2.1)**

#### *Non-credit*

Three teacher workshop series have taken place : SD #72 Campbell River (literacy), SD #93 Conseil scolaire francophone (Writing Performance Standards), SD #57 Prince-George (FSL).

#### *Credit*

The Graduate Studies Diploma program in French Language Education which started in January 2004 in SD #36 Surrey will conclude in summer 2006. Promotional materials for a second Graduate Studies Diploma in French Language Education were distributed and information sessions were held in SD #38 Richmond, SD #39 Vancouver and SD #37 Delta. The program is scheduled to start during the 2006-07 academic year.

Through partnership with SD #93 Conseil scolaire francophone (CSF), a Graduate Studies Diploma in Differentiated Pedagogy is being implemented. This program is scheduled to start with a summer institute in July 2006 ; a cohort of 17 teachers from the CSF and Coquitlam school districts are currently going through the Faculty of Education Field Programs admissions process.

In support of the above described courses and programs, promotional activities have taken place **(MAP. 2.1, 1.2)**, as well as local, national and international networking and research activities **(MAP. 2.8, 2.2, 3.4, 2.1)**.

Information sessions were held :

- Master of Education off-campus (5)
- Doctor of Education, Leadership (3)
- PDP and related programs (10)
- Minor in French education (2)
- Graduate Studies Diploma in French Language Education (4)
- Graduate Studies Diploma in Differentiated Pedagogy (5)

Promotional material was distributed at conferences, meetings and events :

- SFU Faculty of Education Teacher Development Conference
- ACPI (Canadian immersion teacher association)
- ACREF (*Association canadienne des responsables en éducation*)
- College advisors meeting
- BC Counsellors Day at SFU
- Federation of Francophones of CB Immigration project (teacher booklet)



- BCTF coalition for French
- PDP brochures to Colleges and universities in BC
- MEd information cards and emails to all Central Okanagan schools (Francophone, Immersion & Core French, school districts #73, 22, 23, 67, 58, 83 & 93)
- EdD information cards and emails to Lower Mainland school districts, civil service offices, community associations

OFFA Education webpages were designed and updated. They are available at [www.sfu.ca/educfr](http://www.sfu.ca/educfr)

Dual diplomas with two universities in France (Le Mans and Tours) are currently being developed. One diploma would link the French Master 1 & 2 with PDP, leading students to eventual BC certification; other diplomas would involve Graduate Programs of the Faculty of Education. An ongoing partnership between the Faculties of Education at SFU and UBC has led to a project aiming at continued didactical and linguistic support to students of both institutions via new on-line courses.

Books, journals and magazines have been purchased to supplement existing collections in support of French education programs.

In collaboration with Vancouver Immigrant Services Society and CSF, OFFA Education faculty members are principal researchers in a project titled *Mapping and Assessing African Students, educational needs and expectations*, in the framework of the national initiative, Metropolis-RIIM (*Recherches sur l'immigration et l'intégration dans les Métropoles*) 2005-2007.

### 3.3 OFFA Office

The OFFA Office is now currently staffed with 5 members: a Director (Dr. Yolande Gris ) two Associate Directors (Danielle Arcand in the Faculty of Education and Claire Tr panier in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences), the first seconded from the Conseil scolaire francophone (CSF) and the second from the Department of French, for a period of two years (July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004-June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006); Claire Tr panier still teaches one course in the Department. An Administrative Coordinator, St phanie Sauro, hired in May 2005 is principally responsible for the management of the budget and specific communication and promotional projects. In addition, a Program Assistant working primarily with the OFFA Education programs (section 3.2) also assists the OFFA Office (25%): Betty Giroux assumed her duties on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005. **(MAP 1.1)**

The general set-up of the office area and the student lounge in the new OFFA premises have been completed with the late delivery of furniture, computer and multi-media equipment. An expansion is currently underway to provide space for a meeting room, small offices for the program assistants who meet with and advise students, and for additional uses such as student testing area and storage. **(MAP 1.1)**

SFU developed an extensive new 3-year budget planning process and underwent a systems change. Consequently, OFFA was required to follow the same university guidelines and training as all departments and submit several budget summaries and reports (for 2006/07 & 2007/08). **(MAP 1.1)**

As a fundamental part of its on-going promotional plan, the redesigned OFFA website was launched with expanded information, links and additional features resulting in a more accessible and comprehensive informational and marketing tool ([www.sfu.ca/baff-offa](http://www.sfu.ca/baff-offa)). The official OFFA logo was designed and incorporated into the promotional materials. Advertising for the Office and its programs was included in several local, provincial & national media such as newspapers,



magazines, directories and websites. To promote its initiatives, OFFA prepared press releases for the media and invitations to the SFU and Francophone and Francophile communities. **(MAP 1.2)**

OFFA negotiated a sponsorship contract of \$ 25,000.00 with the broadcasting company *TV5 Québec Canada* to create an Entrance Scholarship into the French Cohort Program (FCP) and was one of the judges responsible for allocating the first 5 scholarships (section 3.1). The agreement will also result in visibility of OFFA's programs on *TV5 Québec Canada's* website. OFFA has approached potential sponsors such as *SNC –Lavalin* to seek out their interest in creating scholarships for students. OFFA also created two annual achievement awards for FCP students. **(MAP 1.2)**

As a unit of SFU, OFFA worked closely (through different committees\*, numerous candidates' presentations, reports, etc.) with the Departments of French and Political Science in the hiring of professors (tenure track positions) and was involved in the external review of the Department of French. OFFA participated in several events at SFU, such as the opening of the new International Student Lounge, and met with representatives from different faculties and departments: Continuing Studies, Admissions Office, W.A.C. Bennett Library, SFU International, and SFU Art Gallery. **(MAP 1.2, 2.1)**

During this period, OFFA mourned the accidental death of two SFU students, one being Brendan Midgley, who was to be accepted in the FCP. OFFA was asked by Brendan's family to say a few words at his memorial service and later contributed a donation to a scholarship that was established in both students' honour. **(MAP 1.2)**

OFFA contributed to and organized many events to develop and support French cultural activities at SFU: a 'Back to School' reception in the OFFA Student Lounge with guests including students from the FCP and French sectors of the Faculty of Education (FOE) from both SFU and UBC; end of Fall semester receptions for students from both FASS and FOE; numerous events and activities for "*la Semaine de la Francophonie à SFU*"; a week-long festival of African movies in French (in collaboration with the French Consulate in Vancouver, *l'Alliance Française* and UBC). **(MAP 1.2, 3.5)**

To increase its visibility at SFU, OFFA was involved with Simon Fraser University's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations by participating in the opening year festivities on campus and in the preparation of several different cultural events for the June 3, 2006 Open House. **(MAP 3.5)**

OFFA was asked by SFU President's office to propose candidates for an honorary degree of Doctor of Law (*Honoris Causa*). Consequently, the Honourable Monique Bégin received an honorary degree at the June 2006 convocation. At OFFA's initiative, SFU will be joining the AUF (*Agence universitaire de la Francophonie*) and is in continued discussions with the AUFC (*Association des universités de la francophonie canadienne*) to be accepted as an associate member. **(MAP 1.2, 3.5)**

To promote its activities locally, nationally and internationally, OFFA undertook different initiatives:

- Co-sponsorship of a Canadian Club Conference featuring Quebec MLA Benoît Pelletier
- Workshop at the national conference on "Cultural diversity and the Future of Francophone cultures in Canada"
- Participation in the Citizens Forum at Radio-Canada, prior to the 2006 Federal Elections
- Participation in the *Rendez-vous de la Francophonie* at the Vancouver Public Library



- Membership in the *Comité du Flambeau* (“Olympic Flame Committee” established by the *Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique* (FFCB) for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics)
- Meeting at OFFA with the CSF (SD #93) school principals
- Meeting with the Director of *l’Institut français* (U. of Regina), Dominique Sarny
- Further promotion included OFFA accepting to be nominated for the Lyse-Daniels Award presented by the Quebec organization, *Impératif Français*.
- OFFA was invited and attended several receptions in honour of: the historical agreement between British Columbia and Quebec with both ministers of Intergovernmental Relations (John Van Dongen and Benoît Pelletier); the departure of the French Consul General in Vancouver (Jean-Yves Defay); the two visits of the French Ambassador to Canada (Daniel Jouanneau); the arrival of the new French Consul General in Vancouver (Luc Serot Alméras); the visit of an African poet and musician (Laminé Konté); the opening of the new Francophone school André-Piolat in North Vancouver.
- OFFA joined many Francophone and Francophile organizations to celebrate the “Journée de la Francophonie en Colombie-Britannique” at the BC Parliament Buildings in Victoria. **(MAP 1.2, 3.5)**

OFFA hosted several presentations and seminars: the International Canadian Studies Western Summer Seminar; EduFrance seminar for representatives from French universities; SFU International in conjunction with the French Consulate; SFU international student mobility project in the Faculty of Education (RESO); information session with representatives from the French and Belgian Press accompanied by the spokesperson of the Canadian Embassy in Paris (Norman Smith); “*Espaces culturels*” conference organized by the *Centre d’études francophones Québec-Pacifique*; conference *L’Incidence française sur la littérature canadienne-française du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle*; 2005 BC Francophone Book Fair; the nationally broadcasted *Radio-Canada* program *Des idées plein la tête* with host Serge Bouchard from Montreal; a series of journalism writing workshops organized by the BC Francophone newspaper *L’Express du Pacifique*. The OFFA Director met in Paris with representatives from the Institute for Political Studies and dialogued with the Centre for European Studies to discuss current program initiatives including student exchanges for the FCP and future partnerships. **(MAP 1.2)**

To further establish OFFA's academic presence across Canada, the OFFA Director accepted nominations both as Board member of the *Association internationale des études québécoises* and as Director of the *Lettres et sciences humaines* Division 2 of Academy I of the Royal Society of Canada. The OFFA Director was chosen to join *La Compagnie des Cents Associés*. **(MAP 1.2)**

OFFA participated in a number of on-going meetings and discussions regarding Francophone and Francophile issues:

- Coalition for French Education in BC
- Francophone Identity, a conference organized by the FFCB in honour of their 60th anniversary
- Development for Francophone postsecondary programs in the Western provinces, such as: a B.A. program in theatre (with Canadian Heritage, universities and institutes, representatives from different arts’ organizations across the country interested in the project, and the SFU School of Contemporary Arts’ Director); an Educational Masters in Leadership (with the *Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface*, Manitoba, the *Institut français*, Saskatchewan, the *Faculté Saint-Jean*, Alberta. **(MAP 1.2, 3.5)**



OFFA also took part in several meetings and conferences that include:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Awards of Excellence of the Association of the Francophone Press
- Canadian Club sponsored Conference with featured Francophone guest, Catherine Bachand
- BC Francophone Women's Network
- Consultation by the Ministry of Economic Development regarding the Provincial Nominee Program for the recruitment of students and teachers from France
- Discussion forum on the vitality of Official language minority communities (Ottawa)
- Forum on new approaches to regulating Official languages (Ottawa)
- Panellist meeting (with OFFA's Director as a featured speaker) organized by Canadian Heritage regarding the contribution of the arts and cultures to the development of Francophone minority communities across Canada (Ottawa)
- Meeting at SFU with the Quebec delegate in Toronto, Mr. Jocelyn Beaudoin.
- Annual Conference of the APPIPC (*Association provinciale des professeurs d'immersion et du programme-cadre francophone*)
- Creation of a Consultation Table on postsecondary education, involving BC and Quebec governments, SFU, *Collège Éducacentre* and institutional partners from Quebec (**MAP 1.2**)

The second meeting of the OFFA Advisory Committee was held in June 2005. The Committee is comprised of designated members from FOE and FASS as well as student representatives and members of various associations: Canadian Parents for French, FFCB, *Fédération des parents francophones de la Colombie-Britannique*, and *Société de développement économique*. Also included are representatives from the provincial and federal ministries responsible for OFFA funding. The OFFA Director chairs the committee. A sub-committee, chaired by the OFFA Director, was created to revise the Advisory Committee mandate. (**MAP 1.3**)

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\* The SFU administrative committees for OFFA:

- OFFA Steering Committee. Its membership is comprised of the Associate Deans of both FASS and FOE, as well as designated members of FASS, FOE and OFFA. It meets on a regular basis. The OFFA Director chairs the committee.

- French Cohort Program Steering Committee. Its membership is comprised of student and Faculty representatives from the departments of French, Political Science and History in the FASS. It meets regularly to plan program development and course delivery. Claire Trépanier, OFFA Associate Director (FASS) chairs the committee.

- OFFA Education Steering Committee. Its membership is comprised of the Associate Dean of the FOE, Faculty members of the 4 program areas (Field Programs, Undergraduate Programs, Graduate Programs & Professional Programs) as well as designated Faculty members of the French Program and administrative representatives in the FOE. It meets at least twice a year. Danielle Arcand, OFFA Associate Director (FOE), chairs the committee.