

1997 CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

French Programs and Services Division

Every year the Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs presents the Certificate of Appreciation during Provincial French Awareness Week to recognize individuals, sections or divisions of the Provincial Government who have actively contributed to the development and enhancement of French services.

This year's recipient, by means of its knowledgeable, experienced and dynamic team members, has developed, implemented and maintained quality French first language, immersion and core French educational programs in support to our school system throughout the Province, which have been rated among the best in the country. Furthermore, the Division is not only being recognized today for the excellent work it has accomplished over the last year but also for its progressive evolution as a division and its many achievements over the last number of years in ensuring quality educational programs on a continuous basis to Island students.

It is also worth mentioning that the Division initiated French Awareness Week years before being joined by the Francophone Affairs Division along with the Société Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin and the many other community and private sector partners.

As the key player in the coordination of activities within the school system throughout Prince Edward Island, it has been able to transmit its vitality to the many schools and its students, as over 80% of Island schools actively participate in French Awareness Week by organizing or hosting activities. This year's highlights include a series of concerts by Barachois for secondary students, Matt Maxwell for 4th grade Core French students and the Drama Festival which this year will include 24 presentations by students from grades 1 to 12 in French first language, immersion and Core French programs.

One of the initiatives in which the Division has and continues to play an instrumental role include the Québec/Prince Edward Island Student Exchange Program. This program has enabled many students from both provinces over the past 10 years to not only improve their knowledge of a their second language but also to acquaint themselves with the social and cultural life in Québec and PEI society which has been a rewarding experience.

The Division has also assumed the administrative responsibilities of the Official Languages in Education Program which has enabled them to support the development and implementation of an array of French first language programs equivalent to those being offered in English. Support to immersion and Core French programs as well as training for teaching staff has also been an important component supported by the Official Languages in Education Program.

A new initiative, in collaboration with the University of Prince Edward Island, the *Institut d'été* will be offered this summer for the first time. This *Institut d'été* will provide professional development to French first language, immersion and Core French teachers in the area of evaluation of student achievement. The end result will allow teachers to better communicate to parents, students and school administrators the achievements of their students in the various programs that they teach.

As the Division continues to strive towards excellence in education and given its many achievements of which it can be proud, the French Programs and Services Division continues their efforts and maintains their dedication in the development, implementation and maintenance of quality French first language, immersion and core French educational programs.