



Perspectives d'avenir - Looking Ahead

What Now for French Immersion?

Morning topics

Options-études Châteauguay : a 'shared schooling' program

In 2007, an innovative school program called "*Options-études Châteauguay*" was launched, offering a unique opportunity for Quebec secondary school students, educated in linguistically separate school boards, to come together in a shared second-language learning experience. More specifically, it allowed students to cross over to the other educational sector and spend half the year in a French-medium school and the other half in an English-medium school, while respecting the educational clauses of Quebec's *Charter of the French Language*. This program is unique in two ways: it is based on an intergroup contact model developed in social psychology; and it brings together students in a shared schooling experience in their second language, organized around themes that draw on common interests, such as sports and entrepreneurial studies. A qualitative and longitudinal research study assessed the perceived short- and mid-term impacts of this experience on students' intercommunity relationships and identities.

Attitudes of English-speaking students toward learning French as a second language

In this intervention, the authors will present the partial results of an ongoing study about English-speaking college students' perceptions of French as a second language (FSL) teaching and learning, and about what motivates them to learn French. This study, conducted in 11 colleges in Quebec, under the PAREA program of the *Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche du Québec*, has revealed the factors influencing FSL learning in the educational milieu in Quebec, as perceived by the learners themselves.

The results of this study have led the authors to propose developing a pedagogy of cultural mediation favouring authentic and meaningful intercultural exchanges in and beyond the classroom in order to have a positive impact on the cultural representation of learners.

Creating Spaces for Young Quebecers: Strategic Orientations for English-speaking Youth in Quebec

In 2008-2009, the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) led province-wide consultations with hundreds of English-speaking youth aged 15-29 that culminated in a provincial forum and the publication of *Creating Spaces for Young Quebecers: Strategic Orientations for English-speaking Youth in Quebec*. QCGN's most quoted policy report, *Creating Spaces* outlines the collective vision of English-speaking youth in our communities and chronicles their struggle to become bilingual, access services, create strong ties with their communities, participate in Quebec society and define their own identities. Chief among their objectives is becoming truly bilingual to ensure they can actively participate in the workforce and in their communities. This presentation will explore the challenges expressed by youth, their suggested strategies to overcome them, and the actions QCGN has taken to address some of their concerns.

PRESENTERS

Dr. Michael Canuel, a former English teacher, financial analyst, and entrepreneur, is currently the Chief Executive Officer of LEARN, the Chairman of the Canadian e-Learning Network, and Senior Educational Consultant to Braincloud Learning in Thailand. Over the last 11 years with LEARN he has worked with the educational community to help the organization become a recognized leader in the field of online pedagogy and professional learning. Five years ago, he co-founded the Canadian e-Learning Network, the only pan-Canadian organization which brings together educational leaders at the K-12 level in the area of e-learning and blended learning across Canada. He has also designed and helped implement a blended learning program which integrates a neuro-linguistic approach to English as a second language teaching in Southeast Asia.

Benoit Côté, is an Associate Professor in the Psychology Department at the Université de Sherbrooke. An expert in intergroup contact theory, he has worked in the educational milieu in the metropolitan area for over 10 years, focusing on rapprochement among students from the Francophone, Anglophone and Allophone communities, as well as on the intercultural climate in the schools. He notably led three action-research pilot projects: *Peliq-AN*, *Options Études Châteauguay* and *Mobilisation d'une équipe-école pour l'amélioration des relations interculturelles* for MELS and various school boards.

Philippe Gagné has taught French as a Second Language (FSL) at Vanier College since 2002 and has participated in many research projects on education. One of these projects, which was jointly conducted with two of his colleagues, earned him the *Prix de la ministre de l'enseignement supérieur* from the Government of Quebec in 2016. He is interested in motivations for learning FSL in Quebec and in intercultural twinning as a means to promote rapprochement among communities.

Rita Legault has been the Director of Communications and Public Relations for the Quebec Community Groups Network since 2009. She is responsible for managing the QCGN's internal and external communications and is the main media contact for the organization. Before joining the QCGN, Legault was the senior reporter for *The Record*, a daily newspaper covering the Eastern Townships region of Quebec. During this time, Legault freelanced extensively for *The Gazette* (Montreal) and other publications, including the *National Post*. She was a founding member of the Estrie chapter of the *Fédération professionnelle des journalistes du Québec* (FPJQ) journalists' federation and was the volunteer journalist charged with the editorial services committee of the Quebec Community Newspaper Association (QCNA). In more than two decades of reporting, Legault won dozens of writing awards from the QCNA and the Canadian Community Newspaper Association (CCNA) and is a three-time winner of QCNA's Paul Dumont Frenette Award for overall reporting excellence.

Alison Maynard has a background in educating and engaging youth. Before returning to school to obtain her Bachelors of Education at Concordia University, she was the youth coordinator for the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) where she managed *Young Quebecers Leading the Way*, a multi-year bilingual youth project which aims to instill a sense of pride and belonging among Quebec youth. Alison also ran the QCGN's *Vote it Up* campaign encouraging youth to vote in the 2014 provincial election. In 2012, as Director of the *KEEP IT COOL!* children's summer camp in Quebec City, she ran an ESL day camp in the province's capital. As the Canadian Village Leader for Children's International Summer Villages in 2011, she encouraged peace education among children in the Netherlands. Alison holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Guelph and attended the French as a Foreign Language program at the University of Laval.

Holding an undergraduate degree in Education Sciences, a Master's in modern letters and a Ph.D. in French Studies, **Maria Popica** has taught French as a Second Language in Quebec and abroad since 1994. Currently a professor at John Abbott College and a researcher in education, she is interested in the motivations of learning a second language and in the question of intercultural communication at the post-secondary level. She is also the co-author of several pedagogical works for teaching and learning French as a Second Language, published by Éditions CEC.

PANELISTS: How can we make French Immersion Better?

Martine Delsemme holds a Ph.D in French as a Second Language (FSL) Linguistics from McGill University. She is also a translator. She has taught French at both the primary and secondary levels and has also supervised Masters' students interns and has given classes at the Masters level. For the past 16 years, she has been the educational advisor for FSL at the secondary level for the Lester B. Pearson School Board. As a volunteer, she was president of CPF-Quebec for several years. Qualitexte is her personal business, in which she offers translation, editing and proofreading services. She is currently participating in the creation of a French as a Second Language program at the secondary level for the Cree School Board.

Dr. Caroline Erdos has been practicing as a pediatric speech-language pathologist at The Montreal Children's Hospital of the McGill University Health Centre since 1996. Her areas of expertise include reading impairment, oral language impairment, bilingualism and multilingualism and she has published research in peer-reviewed journals on each of these topics. She is a lecturer at McGill University (learning disabilities) and at Université de Montréal (language impairment in the context of bilingualism and multilingualism). Caroline has also served as a legal expert in court cases involving children with oral and/or written language deficits in the context of multilingualism and as a language and reading consultant for Lester B. Pearson School Board. In 2011, she obtained a PhD from McGill University. The topic of her dissertation was predicting oral language and literacy outcomes of elementary students in French Immersion programs.

Michael Nalecz is the Vice-President English Parents' Committee Association, a Parent Commissioner at the Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB) and is a Member of the Rights and Education Committee of the Quebec Federation of Home & Schools Association. Born and raised in the West Island, studied at John Abbott College, he received a B.A Honours from Queens University and Graduate Diploma in Management from McGill University. A bi-literate, bi-cultural father of two and volunteer at the LBPSB for the last 16 years, he is the outgoing Chair of the LBPSB Central Parents Committee. In 2013 he co-authored the CPC brief on Bill 14 (*An Act to amend the Charter of the French language*) presented to the Culture and Education Committee at the National Assembly. He also co-authored the CPC brief on Bill 60 "Charter of Values". He was instrumental in preparing EPCA's position on Bill 86 and has recently presented to the Culture and Education committee on Bill 105 (*An Act to amend the Education Act*). Since 2006, he has been actively involved in school governance as past member of the Dorval Elementary Governing Board and past Governing Board Chair Lindsay Place High School and numerous roles in Parent Committees at the LBPSB.

Marc-Albert Paquette has worked in the field of education for over 15 years. He is the French Second Language Educational Advisor at the secondary level for the Lester B. Pearson School Board and is the Vice President for the *Association canadienne des professeurs d'immersion*. He received the Ghislaine-Coutu-Vaillancourt prize for his contribution to French as a Second Language teaching by the *Association québécoise des enseignants de français langue seconde* (AQEFLS) in April 2016.

PANELISTS: Are we asking too much of the schools? What role can the community play?

Paule Langevin is the Program Director at LEARN for the Community Learning Centre (CLC) Initiative. The Community Learning Centre Initiative (CLC) is an approach to community and school improvement that supports student achievement, and offers recreational, educational, social, and cultural opportunities for students, families and the community. Paule was a teacher for 23 years in the alternative system on the Island of Montreal, she is now responsible for scaling out and sustaining a Network of 50 CLC coordinators working in over 75 CLC schools. Over the past 10 years she has been actively involved in developing services and activities to be offered within the CLC network and in building the capacity of coordinators, principals and teachers.

Jennifer Maccarone is President of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) and Chairperson of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board (SWLSB). Prior to these elections, she served as Governing Board Chairperson, Chairperson of the SWLSB Parents' Committee, and Chairperson of the SWLSB's Special Needs Advisory Committee. As President of QESBA, Ms. Maccarone has been at the centre of the discussions concerning the potential reorganization of the school governance system in Quebec and modifications to the *Education Act*. Ms. Maccarone is a strong advocate for English public education and services in Quebec and believes in a collaborative and cooperative community approach to serving all students in Quebec. She is the proud mother of 2 children and is a professional business owner with over 16 years' experience specializing in marketing and communications.

Sylvia Martin-Laforge, who has been Director General of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) for almost a decade, has vast experience at the federal government and Government of Ontario dealing with linguistic minority communities as well as women's and indigenous peoples' issues. Prior to her taking the helm at QCGN, Martin-Laforge was involved in policy and program development in employment equity and linguistic duality. At the Intergovernmental Affairs Directorate of the federal Privy Council Office, Martin-Laforge was responsible for policy, program management frameworks and led evaluation and risk management strategies for the federal government's investments in official language minority communities. Earlier, at the Ontario Ministry of Education, she developed and led key programs for French-language education at primary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. Between 2008 and 2013 she sat on the Board of the *Conseil supérieur de la langue française* where she advocated for Quebec's English-speaking minority community. In 2012, she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal which honours significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.

Marylène Perron is a graduate of the TFSL Program at McGill University. She taught FSL in Quebec and Alberta. In 1992, she was part of the team that implemented the bilingual program at Gerald McShane School in Montreal North. She is currently the principal of Parkdale Elementary, a Community Learning Center school located in St. Laurent. She was chosen as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals 2016.