



Canadian Language Museum Newsletter

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

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Museum News

Dear CLM Supporters,

The past few months have been very busy for the CLM. On **February 9**, we co-sponsored a symposium at Glendon College, York University which brought together people from across Canada to discuss the "Indigenous Language Policy Implications of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada". Our exhibit 'Speaking the Inuit Way' was on display during the symposium. This is a very important discussion for Canadians and the CLM will continue to be involved.

On **February 20**, we hosted a day of children's activities at the Maria A. Shchuka library in celebration of International Mother Language Day and displayed the exhibit 'Canadian English, Eh?.'

On **March 31**, we opened our fifth travelling exhibit: 'A Tapestry of Voices: Celebrating Canada's Languages!'

On **May 1**, we began our move into our beautiful new office and gallery space at Glendon College of York University in Toronto. A very big thank you to Principal Donald Ipperciel of Glendon College for his generous support of the CLM. We are very excited about developing exhibits for this space and collaborating with faculty and students at Glendon. Glendon College is a bilingual campus and their focus on language is a good fit with the CLM's goals.

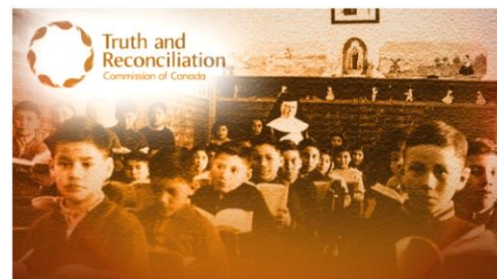
CLM's Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday June 13 at 6 pm in the new gallery space at Glendon College.

We will of course continue to tour our exhibits and work with communities across Canada. Watch for our Grand Opening celebration in September.

Thank you, members and donors, for your continued support of the CLM!

Elaine Gold

Chair



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*Layout & Translation: Chau-Anne Nguyen
Translation: Floriane Letourneux*

Recommendations of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission

by Jennifer Abel

Language features prominently in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's *Calls to Action* document, released in 2015. Of the 94 recommendations made in the document, 9 mention language explicitly, and many more call for culturally appropriate programs and institutional environments for Aboriginal peoples, particularly children. Several of these recommendations are directed toward the federal government, including formally acknowledging Aboriginal language rights, enacting an Aboriginal Languages Act, appointing an Aboriginal Languages Commissioner, and drafting new educational legislation that protects the right to Aboriginal language teaching. As well, the federal government is encouraged to increase funding to the CBC/Radio-Canada, in part to increase Aboriginal

programming featuring Aboriginal language speakers.

In other recommendations, post-secondary institutions are encouraged to create degree and diploma programs in Aboriginal languages. The churches involved in the residential school system are asked to provide permanent funding to community-controlled language revitalization projects. The Aboriginal Peoples' Television Network (APTN) is encouraged to continue to provide leadership in its Aboriginal language

programming and organizational culture.

One particularly powerful recommendation asks all levels of government to help residential school survivors and their families reclaim their names, which were often changed in the residential school system, by waiving fees for five years on the name-change process and the revision of identity documents.

You can read the full report at <http://nctr.ca/reports.php>.



INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY



Left to right: Elaine Gold, Naomi Fisher (Services Specialist of the Maria A. Shchuka library), & Katharine Snider McNair

EXHIBIT OPENING WITH PROFESSOR GOLD AND MMST STUDENTS



From left to right: Professor Elaine Gold and MMST students: Olivia Smith, Veronica Stoneman & Nikita Johnson

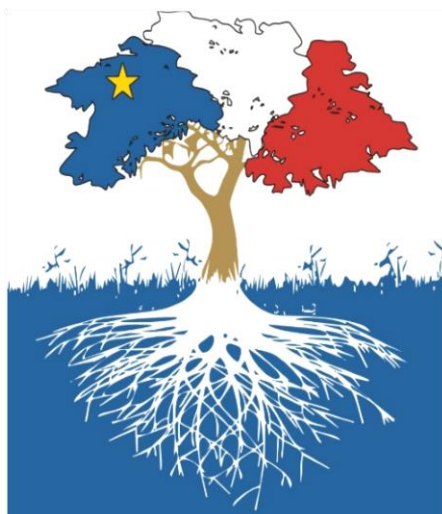


A big **THANK YOU** to *Katharine Snider McNair* who worked tirelessly for two years as my Executive Assistant. Katharine will continue her association with the CLM as a member of the Board of Directors.

Spotlight on Acadian French

By Basile Roussel

Acadian French is a variety of French spoken mainly in the Maritimes. Originating in the *Centre-Ouest* region of France during the first half of the 17th century, more than 280,000 Acadians are currently scattered across the Atlantic Provinces. Among other things, this variety of French is characterized by the retention of traditional features inherited from the first settlers. At the lexical level, some words such as *amarrer* (to tie shoes), *hâler* (to pull), *bâsir* (to disappear) and *hârdes* (clothes) are still used by Acadians (see Cormier, 1999). At the morphosyntactic level, the postverbal affix *-ont* is found in the first-person plural (*Je parlons*) and the third-person plural (*Ils parlont*) tenses to varying degrees in several Acadian communities (Flikeid, 1997). Additionally, the use of the *passé simple* and the imperfect subjunctive are also found in some cases (*Ibid.*). At the phonological level, palatalization of /k/ and /g/ before a front vowel



allows words like *cuillère* and *gueule* to be pronounced [tʃuʎjɛ:r] and [dʒœl] (*Ibid.*).

Moreover, the geographical isolation of Acadian communities has often created situations of longstanding contact with the Anglophone majority.

For example, the Chiac variety spoken in southeastern New Brunswick has

many innovative cases of codeswitching and borrowings from English, such as the use of the adverb *back* with an iterative meaning (*Conduire back chez-eux*) and the use of the preposition *about* (*Parler about quelque chose*) (Perrot, 2014).

The Acadian identity is largely dependent on linguistic practices. Although Acadian French has long been the subject of negative perceptions, more and more Acadians are claiming the richness of their language in the public sphere and in the media.

References:

Cormier, Y. (1999). *Le dictionnaire du français acadien*. Montréal : Éditions Fides.

Flikeid, K. (1997). Structural aspects and current sociolinguistic situation of Acadian French. In Valdman, A. (eds.), *French and Creole in Louisiana*, New York, Plenum Press, 255-286.

Perrot, M.-È. (2014). Le trajet linguistique des emprunts dans le chiac de Moncton : quelques observations. *Minorités linguistiques et société/Linguistic Minorities and Society*, 4: 200-218.

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