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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM**  
**OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**COUNCIL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH IN LOUISIANA**

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March 1, 2016

The Honorable John Bel Edwards  
Governor, State of Louisiana  
P.O. Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Edwards:

I am pleased to submit to you the enclosed Annual Report from the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana dated February 29, 2016. Submission of this report is a requirement of Act No. 679 and sums up "actions taken and progress made toward achieving the purposes and duties established for the council."

Respectfully,

William Arceneaux, Ph.D.  
President

Cc: President John A. Alario, Jr.  
Speaker Taylor Barras  
Senator Dan "Blade" Moorish  
Representative Nancy Landry

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**COUNCIL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH IN LOUISIANA**  
**(CODOFIL)**  
**March 1, 2016**

**GOVERNANCE**

**Board**

All twenty-three seats on CODOFIL's board are filled.

**Budget**

CODOFIL's **Existing Operating Budget** for FY15 was **\$609,286**.

**Staff**

The CODOFIL staff is currently comprised of 5 people: a full-time executive director, a full-time communications director, a full-time education program consultant, a full-time cultural program coordinator, and a full-time administrative coordinator. This staffing level is adequate to address the agency's mandates but may be in need of extra human resources to better fulfill CODOFIL's mandates.

**Office relocation**

CODOFIL continues to rent temporary office space at Lafayette City-Parish Government's International Center. Our agency was informed in the past that we would be able to return to the former headquarters of CODOFIL at 217 West Main Street in Lafayette, but we learned in December of 2015 that funding earmarked for the renovation of that building was removed from Lafayette's budget. We are awaiting discussion with the new City-Parish President to reassess the situation. As the agency is expected to grow, it becomes increasingly difficult for staff to adequately perform their duties in the present restricted setting.

**Legislative mandates**

**French Language Service Program/*FrancoResponsable***

“Français au Capitol” was a French language course offered to Capitol personnel interested in becoming “*franco-responsible*” by being able to offer the public and visitors some service in French.

The *FrancoResponsible* and French Language Services programs were launched in **Grand’ Isle**, Jefferson Parish with a press conference held at City Hall. State and parish officials were on hand as well as the French Consul General. CODOFIL seeks to honor parishes that have French Immersion programs (such as Jefferson) by building “*espaces francophones*” in which local bilingual workforces may find a niche. Jefferson Parish is of strategic importance as it is the Gulf Gateway to Sportsman’s Paradise. Through this collaboration in Grand’ Isle, we expect to work our way upriver to Metairie in the same parish, especially in light of francophone needs for the 2018 New Orleans Tricentennial.

## **Education**

### **French Immersion**

CODOFIL continues to concentrate on **growing French immersion** programs for the benefit of all Louisiana stakeholders. Work is still in progress with regard to LDOE and CODOFIL’s vision to significantly expand French immersion throughout the state with a robust, uniform structure with focus on career pathways.

For the 2015-16 school year, French immersion program totals were:

School districts: 9

Type 1 Charter: 1

Type 2 Charter: 3

Type 3 Charter: 1

Private School: 1

Schools (public/nonpublic): 30

Students: 4,331

CODOFIL facilitated the establishment of one new program, Frederick Douglas Elementary in Jefferson Parish that happens to be outside of Acadiana, indicating broad appeal of the advantages of fluency in a second language that may not necessarily be a heritage language for that particular community. Other parishes outside of Acadiana have expressed interest in French immersion (Rapides, Lincoln) and CODOFIL continues to work on empowering these communities to take advantage of this superior educational model. Two Acadiana parishes are seriously considering immersion for the next school year and two other Acadiana parishes show promising prospects.

CODOFIL put together a group of **immersion experts** (former superintendent, principal, supervisors, world languages coordinators, and CODOFIL reps) as an “A-Team” for purposes

of speaking frankly to counterparts in different parishes. In addition, several CODOFIL board members have been promoting the advantages of immersion to local education leaders. Our agency continues to work closely with these school boards to that end.

A French immersion **best practices guide** was completed and is made available to all parishes and communities interested in starting an immersion program.

CODOFIL worked with LDOE in assisting school districts in meeting criteria to become **“Certified Foreign Language Immersion Program”** (as per RS 17:273.2).

A **promotional video** for French immersion was produced by CODOFIL with production assistance provided by Louisiana Public Broadcasting. The three videos target parents, communities and administrators. DVDs were made available to interested parties and the videos are accessible on the CODOFIL website.

As Agency for Louisiana’s Francophone Affairs, CODOFIL facilitated an agreement between the French Embassy’s Cultural Affairs department and the Louisiana Consortium of Immersion Schools (LCIS) where all Louisiana students of French will be able to take the **DELFL (Diplôme d’études en langue française)** as coordinated by the LCIS. The *DELFL Prim* and *DELFL Junior for Schools* are official certifications of language competency as determined by the French Ministry of Education. DELFL testing will allow for greater uniformity in our French Immersion programs and will add value to the state certification process for immersion programs.

In coordination with the Louisiana Consortium of Immersion Schools, CODOFIL remains up-to-date on **trends and innovations** in the sector of language learning.

### **Parents**

CODOFIL participated at the annual **“Grand Pique-nique”** sponsored by French immersion support groups. The 2015 event was held at Magnolia Mound in Baton Rouge.

CODOFIL continues to **organize parent groups** throughout the state in an effort to build alliances and share with Louisiana’s French immersion communities.

### **French as a Second Language**

There were 113 Louisiana public schools in 11 parishes with a French as a Second Language program reaching a total of 19,220 students.

### **Teachers**

CODOFIL continues to recruit highly qualified teachers for Louisiana’s French immersion and French as a Second Language programs. This was done through continued cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and our international partners (specifically France and Belgium). In total, 176 foreign associate teachers from France, Canada, Belgium and French-speaking Africa were employed to teach French in Louisiana. Via the U.S.

Department of State, CODOFIL sponsored 121 foreign associate teachers of French on J-1 visas to teach in French immersion and French as a second language and 63 on H-1B visa. In addition, CODOFIL processes and administers 53 Spanish Teachers on J-1 visas. Foreign Associate Teachers are in more than 30 school systems throughout the state. We continue to recruit and maintain excellent teachers for our language programs and thus meet the demand of ever-growing programs.

Cognizant of the needs per CODOFIL's goals of expanding French immersion, the agency actively initiated efforts to **recruit French teachers in Ontario, Canada**. Special attention is given to retired French immersion teachers.

CODOFIL and the LDOE organized and held the annual 3-day **orientation** for new French Associate Teachers in Baton Rouge.

CODOFIL's completed an updated version of its **Vademecum** (foreign associate teacher informational guidebook).

Following two catastrophic events that occurred to foreign associate teacher families in Lafayette, CODOFIL established a **committee for emergency response** in order to more effectively ensure the welfare of our foreign associate teachers. Thanks to legislative support and added funding, CODOFIL's repatriation policy could be extended to holders of J-2 visas (immediate family members).

CODOFIL developed a close working relationship with the office of **Congressman Charles Boustany** in matters of teacher visa concerns. Congressman Boustany's office was instrumental in facilitating visa application processes with USCIS.

### **Career pathways/readiness**

CODOFIL began discussions with Quebec's "*Education Internationale*" for the purposes of **high school student exchanges**. Also discussed is a plan to have French immersion alumni benefit from **technical professional studies and training** in Quebec *cegeps* (junior colleges).

CODOFIL continues to build career pathways leveraging **French for the military**. A conversation was begun with high schools and colleges to articulate JROTC to ROTC with French language components that could be leveraged for deployment to the Caribbean and/or Africa.

CODOFIL partnered with UL Lafayette's Department of Modern Languages to consolidate efforts toward the promotion of **post-secondary career pathways** for students in immersion programs. UL campus visits are scheduled as well as follow-up visits to Lafayette High School. Central to this initiative is engaging the high school guidance counselors and providing them with assistance in guiding students toward careers where French language skills are an advantage.

CODOFIL met with **UL Lafayette** provost to discuss how the different schools and departments of the university could create **French language components** to their programs, thus enabling French immersion alumni to increase professional opportunities with their French language skills.

### **Visitations**

CODOFIL education and scholarship staff specialists continue to regularly **visit schools** (K through post-secondary) throughout the state thus fulfilling the agency's obligations with regard to teacher follow-up, immersion expansion and certification, scholarship promotion, and Escadrille candidate recruiting.

### **Professional development**

CODOFIL continues to coordinate with LDOE in planning and carrying out professional for Louisiana's French teachers and administrators of French language programs.

### **Partners**

The **Louisiana Department of Education** works in tandem with CODOFIL to provide quality French language and culture education for Louisiana's pK-12 students. The LDOE participates with CODOFIL in MOUs with international governments, provides teacher support, professional development, coordination of summer orientation for foreign associate teachers, and administers 8(g) grants sustaining immersion learning.

The **CODOFIL Consortium of Colleges and Universities** continue to meet every spring and fall. This alliance of higher education institutions becomes more important in the CODOFIL focus on developing Louisiana "homegrown" teachers of French (especially in immersion). (Dr. Susan Spillman, president)

CODOFIL continues to participate in the important conversations and activities of the Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers Association (**LFLTA**)

## **International Relations**

Since 2014, CODOFIL has focused on efforts to finally reconnect Louisiana with her transcultural Caribbean family. In September of 2015 this vision became a reality. In coordination with the French Consulate General of New Orleans, CODOFIL joined an historic mission where Louisiana university representatives went to the French Overseas Departments of **Martinique and Guadeloupe**. Meetings were held with the University of the West Indies, Martinique and Guadeloupe's *Ecoles Supérieures de Professorat et Enseignement (ESPE)*, and their respective *Académies*. These prominent parties represent the highest institutional level of French education entities comparable only to LDOE (the *Académies*) and university schools of education (ESPE). (In December CODOFIL welcomed the heads of the two ESPEs who were guests of the French Consulate in New Orleans.) Agreements were signed in Martinique and Guadeloupe by Centenary College, UNO and

LSU for expansion of CODOFIL's Escadrille program (to begin there in 2016-17), dual masters programs, and exchanges. Other cooperative projects were discussed and agreed upon (teacher and student exchanges, literary and elocution competitions, production of a history textbook chapter on slavery, etc.) Equally important was the connection made between the Antilles and Louisiana in matters regarding the memory and consciousness of trans-Atlantic slavery. Another mission is scheduled for June 2016, one that will center on trade.

As another CODOFIL-Caribbean initiative, the **Louisiana Creole language instruction program** for the Louisiana National Guard (who is partnered with Haiti) remains a viable project. CODOFIL along with GOHSEP officials in Iberia, St. Martin and St. Landry Parishes welcomed a delegation of civil defense leaders from Haiti as they met Louisiana counterparts, and particularly, Louisiana Creole speakers. Plans are underway for a mission to Haiti sponsored by US Army Southern Command. CODOFIL has put together a Louisiana team with capacity to teach FEMA incident command training in Creole French. The ultimate goal is to establish a Louisiana language training center for personnel (such as the Louisiana National Guard who has projects in Haiti) deployed on various missions to Haiti and the Caribbean in general.

CODOFIL brokered an historic **bilateral agreement** between the Louisiana State Legislature and the Quebec National Assembly. This agreement has been signed by all parties and is ready for white papers to be considered at the first conference to be held in May, 2016 when Quebec National Assembly president, Jacques Chagnon, is scheduled to arrive in Baton Rouge. CODOFIL's director met with Mr. Chagnon in October to discuss this important agreement.

CODOFIL's director met with **Quebec Minister of International Relations and Francophonie, Christine St. Pierre**. Her ministry is sponsoring cultural projects with Louisiana and her staff has been working with CODOFIL to select those projects. Plans are underway for Min. St. Pierre to lead a mission to Louisiana soon.

CODOFIL was a principal actor in the conference of the International Association of Francophone Municipalities (**AIMF**) which was presided over by Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo. Francophone tourism and networking were main subjects of discussion. The agency assisted the association's representatives in efforts to create an office of president of the Louisiana region. (Alexandria Mayor Jacques Roy)

CODOFIL was part of the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Session of the **Assembly of French-Speaking Parliamentarians of the North America Region**. Approximately 35 national and state legislators from Canada (including Alberta, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan), Belgium, France, and Louisiana, met in Lafayette and Lake Charles.

In light of Louisiana's MOU with the Federation Wallonia-Brussels, CODOFIL sent a young representative to the **Parlement Jeunesse de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles** (Youth

Parliament of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels) to discuss important issues facing mankind in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Also in the framework of this MOU, CODOFIL sent a representative to the *Forum mondial de la langue française* (World French Language Forum) held in Liege, Belgium where networking, exchange and collaboration were on the agenda.

CODOFIL was present at the **ARAM** (North American network of francophone parliamentarians) conference held in Lafayette in July. Important francophone parliamentary contacts were made, especially in the area of recruiting retired French Immersion teachers from Canada.

CODOFIL collaborated with UL Lafayette and the International Center of Lafayette to bring in a soon-to-be satellite of the **Larochelle Business School in Lafayette**. Alumni of French immersion will now be able to do an MBA, etc., in French, especially with that school's specialization in "economy and heritage."

CODOFIL joined efforts with the Societe Nationale des Acadiens in planning the next **World Acadian Congress** (to be held in New Brunswick and Prince Edouard Island in 2019)

CODOFIL collaborated with the **Quebec Office of International Youth** whereby young francophone professionals are now coming to Louisiana for internships. One particularly successful internship is at the Avoyelles Parish commission of Tourism, which is benefitting from the contributions of a Quebec tourism technician.

CODOFIL began meeting to plan for the **Accords** with France and Belgium. These accords are scheduled for signing in October, 2018.

Following the **Paris terrorism attacks**, CODOFIL showed support with a ceremony that was held in alliance with other francophone groups and associations in Lafayette.

## **Scholarships**

A total of **69 scholarships** were offered from CODOFIL international partners in France, Canada and Belgium, *La Fondation Louisiane*, and CODOFIL (Escadrille Louisiane program) for a combined value of \$306,165.

CODOFIL continues to coordinate the administration of scholarships with the Louisiana Association of High School French Clubs (ALCFES). These students are the next generation of Louisiana Francophones who are not educated in an immersion setting, but are still interested and motivated to explore opportunities using French in Louisiana. Scholarship coordination continues with the Louisiana Foreign Language Teachers Association, and the CODOFIL Consortium of Colleges and Universities serving our teachers and university student stakeholders.



## **Escadrille**

CODOFIL worked to expand the French-language workforce in Louisiana through the “Escadrille Louisiane” initiative, a Master’s degree program envisioned to create Louisiana teachers in and of French for immersion and French as a second language educational environment. This international partnership was piloted in FY12 with 10 participants and anchored by Centenary College in Shreveport and the *Université de Rennes* in Brittany, France. Eight participants are currently studying and working in Rennes, France for the 2015-16 academic year. The three 2014-15 Escadrille alumni are now teaching French in Louisiana.

CODOFIL has successfully concluded an agreement with the *Université des Antilles* and the *Academiés* of Martinique and Guadeloupe as **new partners in the expansion of Escadrille** thus making this French immersion teacher training program even more accessible to Louisiana budding teachers. The first Escadrille cohort to the Caribbean will be in the summer of 2016.

CODOFIL **worked with LDOE** in assisting school districts in meeting criteria to become “Certified Foreign Language Immersion Program” (as per RS 17:273.2). CODOFIL negotiated an agreement with LDOE to have their World Languages Coordinator work out of the CODOFIL office in Lafayette three days-a-week, thus enabling greater reach and effectiveness in the Acadiana region.

## **Culture, Tourism and Communications**

Under the auspices of the Office of Cultural Development, CODOFIL participated in the Lieutenant-Governor’s “**Culture Connections**” in Baton Rouge. Focus was on creative placemaking. In conjunction with the Culture Connection Awards, CODOFIL organized the “*Prix de la Franco-Responsabilité*,” which is awarded to an individual or organization that works toward the creation of an eco-system that allows for the development of French in the economic, educational, cultural, and professional sectors and in which Louisiana’s French and Creole speakers are valorized in their linguistic and cultural identity. The 2015 award went to Philippe Gustin, director of the International Center of Lafayette.

CODOFIL was active in the *FrancoResponsable* and the French Services programs in **Grand’ Isle**, Jefferson Parish. A press conference was held with state and parish officials on hand as well as the French Consul General. Parishes that have French Immersion programs (such as Jefferson) will benefit by building “*espaces francophones*” in which local bilingual workforces may find a niche.

CODOFIL began collaboration with the *Université de Moncton* (New Brunswick) to develop online **French language courses specific to tourism**. The intent is to provide professional

development in French for workers – public and private – involved in tourism. Those who earn certification in French will validate the label of “*FrancoResponsable*” and/or the French Language Services Program.

CODOFIL provided technical assistance and support to “***La Semaine Française***” ***d’Arnaudville***, a multi-faceted, international cultural economy/creative place making initiative. This event is held at NuNu’s Art and Culture Collective of Arnaudville and is sponsored by the French Consulate. Many activities are held in an atmosphere of exchange with CODOFIL representing the State’s francophone affairs.

CODOFIL participated in the **Grand Reveil Acadien** with logistical support and presentations on cultural tourism.

CODOFIL assisted the new **Experience Louisiana Festival** in incorporating francophone elements to add value to the event.

CODOFIL assisted **Festival International de Louisiane** in rendering the event more “franco-centric.”

CODOFIL worked with Lafayette’s **Downtown Development Authority** as they strive to be “Franco-friendly.”

CODOFIL continues to work with the project to convert Arnaudville’s vacant **St. Luke Hospital** into a center for French immersion.

CODOFIL received radio production equipment as per an agreement with the *Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques* who is lending to CODOFIL **Radio-Jeunesse**, a multi-media platform where Louisiana French content will be produced throughout our communities, especially in the school systems. This content will be shared with Louisiana public, community and access television and radio.

CODOFIL completed production of the prototype “**Balado**” phone app for francophone tourism. In collaboration with Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission and the International Center of Lafayette, CODOFIL coordinated the production of a Louisiana French phone app for the historic buildings of Lafayette. This multi-media phone app will eventually be used to interpret Louisiana’s cultural assets in ways that connect content to an international platform through Quebec’s Balado model. Next up for smart phone app interpretation will be Acadiana area Creole culture. These technologies will offer greater opportunities in the Cultural Economy.

CODOFIL initiated discussions with **Television Française d'Ontario (TFO)**, preeminent North American producer and provider of children's French media programming. Negotiations are now underway for TFO to provide French programming for Louisiana students and families. In addition, due to this contact, TFO's series called *Cartes de Visite* produced programs on nine Louisiana francophone subjects, including CODOFIL's director.

CODOFIL helped **sponsor Louisiana musicians** traveling to festivals in New Brunswick (Moncton and Caraquet).

CODOFIL continues to collaborate with the international association « **Shackles of Memory** » and its TOSTEM program of tourism around the trans-Atlantic slave trade sites with those memories.

CODOFIL facilitated contact between the National Park Service (Cane River National Heritage Trail) in **Natchitoches** with the French Consulate for strengthening francophone ties between New Orleans and Louisiana's oldest settlement, Natchitoches.

CODOFIL is collaborating with partners in Poitiers on the production of a smart game that treats the subject of the Marquis de Lafayette's ship, **Le Grand Hermione**. This product will be used in French Immersion classes as well as for the general public such as NuNu's (who exhibits a scale replica of the ship).

CODOFIL continued its « *FrancoResponsable* » relationship with **Travel Host** magazine.

CODOFIL assisted **Les Festivals Acadiens et Créoles** by managing a booth for Louisiana French authors.

CODOFIL met with delegations from **Manitoba and the Atlantic Provinces of Canada** to compare cultural tourism models for linguistic minorities.

CODOFIL met with the **Louisiana Council on Aging** representatives for an eventual collaboration where Louisiana francophone elders are brought into the equation of sustaining French.

CODOFIL attended a "**Volunteer Louisiana**" meeting as the agency seeks to increase collaboration with other state agencies. Also, the volunteering concept is important in the *FrancoResponsable* program where the cataloguing of francophone products and services has proven to be a logistical challenge.

CODOFIL worked with McGee's Landing and the International Center of Lafayette provide McGee's with a **French tourism intern** in an effort to grow francophone marketing in eco-tourism. The agency also worked with the same partners in an effort to establish a **wooden boat museum**.

CODOFIL's director participated on a panel discussing the changes in **Cuba** and how Louisiana heritage languages may have an impact on the ensuing dynamics in the Caribbean.

CODOFIL purchased class sets of a **children's storybook in French**, written by a Louisiana author. All French immersion programs received copies of "Que les Dragons Nous Protègent."

CODOFIL - continued outreach to the Louisiana francophone community via a new web site, newsletter, and **social media**. CODOFIL's Facebook page (currently over 6,700 "Likes"), Twitter, and Instagram.

CODOFIL coordinated its francophone cultural tourism mission with that of the **Atchafalaya National Heritage Area**. This relationship is expected to strengthen in 2016.

CODOFIL began production of a **Public Service Announcement** designed to encourage Louisiana youth to actively engage in millennial French Louisiana.

« **CODOFIL Day** » was held in May at the Capitol in Baton Rouge. French industry CEOs were presented to both chambers where they underscored the importance of a bilingual workforce. Legislators were shown appreciation by CODOFIL representatives for their continued support of this heritage language.

CODOFIL has begun preparations for the agency's **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** in 2018. Discussions are underway for various related projects including a traveling exhibit, etc.

CODOFIL continued to provide technical support and assistance to numerous **francophone journalists, media outlets, researchers**, etc., about Louisiana's diverse French and Creole-speaking reality. As the State Agency for Francophone Affairs, CODOFIL aims to present the most accurate message of Louisiana French reality to an interested international public. The agency's director has written editorials, made presentations to civic groups, schools, chambers of commerce, done interviews for local, national and international media and visitors, etc., all in an effort to promote the CODOFIL mission.

## **CODOFIL Chapters**

The recently revived **Avoyelles** CODOFIL Chapter continues to meet in Mansura every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month and is fully supported by the CODOFIL office. (Sheldon Roy, president) With CODOFIL coordination, Avoyelles Parish will be twinning with ancestral partners, Quebec (Comté Bellechasse). Both parish/county governments have voted in favor of this twinning/partnering with Louisiana "extended family."

**CODOFIL Westbank** in Marrero continues to function as the oldest CODOFIL chapter. The CODOFIL director or his representative is always in attendance of this group's major events. (Floyd Boudreaux, president)

In 2015 a new CODOFIL chapter was established in **Baton Rouge**. (Lane Evans, president)