My Bilingual Experience

My Views on the Importance of French Language And Culture In Canada Today

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My Beginnings In French

- Began my experience as a late immersion student in grade 7
- My motivations were:
  - Wanted the certificate
  - Needed more of a challenge that what I was already being given
- As time passed, I realized that I really liked French.
  - Gave me a new challenge I hadn’t had before
  - Saw the passion in my teachers, and wanted to mirror that passion
  - Began to see a different side of things.
FNJA 2015

- **Forum présenté par le Français pour l’Avenir**
  - Le but du FNJA est de promouvoir le bilinguisme aux jeunes Canadiens(ne)s
  - D’aider les gens à comprendre la culture française

- **Moncton 2015**
  - Tintamarre
  - Soirée Canadienne Française
  - Activité de Polarisation

- **Important d’exposer les gens au culturel français**
  - On ne peut pas comprendre complètement la langue si on connait pas la culture de la langue.
Where I See Flaws- And Possible Ways to Fix Them

One thing I was asked about was how youth identify with the language & culture associated with French.

- The simple answer is: **MOST DON’T**
  - Many students fail to fully appreciate French because they don’t receive a full French experience; they see it as a language only

- The solution? Pretty simple.
  - Give students that cultural experience; if you’re going to teach them the language, show them everything that comes along with the language
  - From experience, students who appreciate the language more are students who have gotten the chance to experience the culture
  - Groups like French for the Future, trips to visit the culture, etc, help students appreciate what exactly it is that they’re being exposed to.
Opportunities

- So many opportunities have come from my being able to speak French...
  - FNJA
  - Parks Canada
  - Speaking here today
- ...and so many more are yet to come.
  - Possibilities are endless
Why French Is Still Important To Me - Even After Having Received My Certificate

- French is really where I found my niche.
  - Really where I was able to be confident in my abilities
- Finished with french classes, but not with french
  - Gives me the opportunity, as a lifelong learner, to continue to get better and grow.

Thank you!