



The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers
L'Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes
300-950 avenue Gladstone Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1Y 3E6

NEWS RELEASE

CASLT applauds the Commissioner of Official Languages' Recommendations calling for More Consultation and a Common Framework for Languages

Ottawa, May 28, 2010 - The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) welcomes the publication of the fourth Annual Report of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, released on Tuesday, and supports its recommendations as they address key issues affecting the quality of second official language learning and teaching in Canada today.

CASLT strongly supports the Commissioner's recommendation that the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages should encourage all provinces and territories to consult concerned associations, such as CASLT, so that the bilateral accords can be more effectively designed and applied, and their impact appropriately assessed. In the report, the Commissioner encourages provincial and territorial groups to consult stakeholders affected by the issue of second-language instruction and to increase their level of collaboration with these expert groups.

CASLT strongly supports the Commissioner's recommendation to establish a common frame of reference for second-language instruction in order to clarify expectations related to levels of language proficiency for entry into post-secondary institutions and for key positions for employment. CASLT has been at the forefront of this issue since 2006 and is completing the development of a professional portfolio to help teachers maintain and develop their language proficiency throughout their professional career. We believe such portfolios should be used within the Public Service Commission and for certain professional designations.

CASLT strongly supports the recommendation that universities increase intensive second-language learning opportunities, the number of exchanges and practical day-to-day opportunities for students to practise their second language. These initiatives should be developed in collaboration with the provincial and national language teacher associations.

"The Commissioner's recommendation that Parliament make the necessary changes, during the next year, to accelerate the reviewing and managing of funding applications from organizations is also supported by our organization, stated CASLT President, Valerie Pike. As a national association of second language teachers, we too have been adversely affected by delays in approval for funding projects causing concern in providing a high level of quality in our deliverables to our membership and to our project authorities and in the long run, undermines progress related to our support to promote linguistic duality across the country. We look forward to the recommended improvements in this area."

Established in 1970, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) increases awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the importance of second language learning and teaching throughout Canada and promotes the advancement of professional excellence among language educators.

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For more information, please contact:

Sarah Du Broy

CASLT Communications Officer (bilingual)

CASLT Head Office – Ottawa, Ontario

613.727.0994 x2 (office)

communications@caslt.org

www.caslt.org

☎ 1-877-727-0994

📞 613-727-3831

✉ admin@caslt.org

Promoting the advancement of second language teaching and learning.
Favorise l'essor de l'enseignement et de l'apprentissage des langues secondes.