



## CASLT Member Satisfaction and Needs Assessment Survey 2006 - Preliminary Report

Over the past few years, CASLT has used a variety of research methods such as random telephone interviews and target focus groups to gauge member interests and needs. During the months of May to August 2006, CASLT conducted an electronic Member Satisfaction and Needs Assessment Survey, our first large scale survey since 2001. A total number of 162 responses were received from members representing 11 provinces and territories, with almost half the respondents representing Ontario. Members shared information about themselves, their professional priorities and their suggestions for CASLT in the future.

### About CASLT Members

Respondents were asked at what grade level, which languages and programs they taught and the number years of experience in the profession. The spread of years was well distributed with 10 to 30% of respondents in each of 5 categories (less than 1 year, 1-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-20 years, and more than 20 years).

The vast majority (82%) represented teachers within the regular school grades from elementary through to high school (K-12) and most often cited teaching various programs of French – Core French (extended, intensive and enriched – 93%) and Immersion (32%), some teaching in both programs.

University professors, adult educators, consultants and student teachers made up the other categories with Teachers of ESL and of Spanish as the next most numerous groups. Teachers of German, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic were also represented (Other languages than French – 12%). Many teachers noted that their teaching responsibilities also included other subjects (histoire, géographie, English language arts, keyboarding and computers).

We asked members what other memberships they held in other professional associations. The main organizations are presented in descending order.

Professional Associations
Respective Provincial Language Association
CAIT – Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers
ASCD – Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
CAAL – Canadian Association of Applied Linguistics
TESL – Teachers of English as a Second Language
AATF – American Association of Teachers of French
TESOL – Teachers of English as ??? Language
Canadian Parents for French
ACTFL – American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages
AASP – American Association of Spanish and Portuguese

The vast majority of our members have the authority to recommend purchases for their classroom, department or institution. And budgets ranged broadly, from less than \$200 through to approximately \$10,000. Some instances identified larger scale institutional budgets ranging from \$20,000 to over \$250,000.

### Association Professional Services

Associations provide many products and services to members and provide a forum for many other activities among members. Respondents were asked to **rate the importance** of specific services to them as second language professionals. These are the top 5 services rated as extremely important in descending order.

<b>Professional Services / Importance</b>
Promoting the value of second language education to the Canadian public
Information about teacher support and instructional materials
Networking with second language teaching professionals
Keeping up-to-date on current events that affect the profession
In-person professional development

### **CASLT Professional Services to Members - Rating Importance**

CASLT provides a series of specific services, programs and activities to address the needs and interests of its members. Respondents were asked to **rate the importance** of the services available to them as CASLT members. These are the top 5 services rated as **extremely important** and **somewhat important** to CASLT members in descending order from a list of 12 services. Respondents noted that they were extremely satisfied with only 1 service – Keeping up to date on current events that affect the profession.

<b>CASLT Professional Services / Extremely Important</b>
CASLT Web Site - Content
CASLT Web Site – Ease of Navigation
CASLT Research Reports
CASLT PD Workshops (provincial conferences, CASLT Chez Vous, regional in-services)
CASLT Free Publications (Language Teacher Calendar, Semaine de la langue française PDF)

<b>CASLT Professional Services / Somewhat Important</b>
CASLT Monthly Online Newsletter
CASLT professional journal, Réflexions
CASLT Free Publications (Language Teacher Calendar, Semaine de la langue française PDF)
CASLT Publications for Purchase (Assessment Toolkit, Plan for it! Event Handbook)

### **CASLT Professional Services to Members - Rating Satisfaction**

Members were asked to rate the **level of satisfaction** with the services provided to them by CASLT. These are the top 5 CASLT services rated as **extremely satisfied** in descending order from list of 12 services.

<b>CASLT Professional Services / Satisfaction</b>
CASLT Web Site - Content
CASLT Free Publications (Language Teacher Calendar, Semaine de la langue française PDF)
CASLT Monthly Online Newsletter
CASLT Research Reports
CASLT Web Site – Ease of Navigation

### **L2 Education Issues – Advocacy Suggestions from CASLT Members**

Members were asked to identify what CASLT should be doing related to their most important issues facing the second language teaching profession. Respondents encouraged CASLT to continue to work with schools, school board administrators and trustees to better understand needs of the teachers, to request time for PD, to improve timetabling. CASLT could do further networking with universities and the general education community to get colleagues to see the importance of L2 learning. CASLT should continue to share current research on the association web site and develop literature to share with parents at interview time.

### **Expanding CASLT Membership – Member Suggestions**

Members were asked for suggestions on what can CASLT do to encourage more second language educators to join our association.

- More direct contact - with teachers at conferences and events, at faculties of education encouraging interactive activities and at school board orientation sessions for new teachers.
- Better promotional materials - brief informational pamphlets of benefits to teachers and mailing to private schools.
- More advertising - through provincial associations and in provincial newsletters to general teaching profession and to student teachers, and consider exchanging free advertising with companies.
- More communication via school boards, and on their web sites by having a link.
- More membership deals - school level membership rate, discounts for members of other subject associations, enlist support of school administrators to pay, and incentives to current members to recruit new ones.
- More publications - increase the number of reproducible learning ideas ready to use in the classroom, publish articles or a handbook on classroom management, letters and posters to guidance counselors.

We would like to thank each and every one of the 162 members for participating in the 2006 CASLT Member Satisfaction and Needs Assessment survey. We truly value your input and appreciate your time and effort. The CASLT staff and Board of Directors use these types of reports to inform our decision-making and to better understand the members we represent across Canada.

Consider participating in our next opportunity for CASLT member feedback! Your voice counts!