



**The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers**  
**L'Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes**  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### **CASLT and other second language associations want Statistics Canada to keep the long-form census questionnaire**

**Ottawa, July 29, 2010** – The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) and other second language associations, namely the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC), French for the Future, and the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers (CAIT), as well as the Society for the Promotion of the Teaching of English as a Second Language in Quebec (SPEAQ), are joining forces to voice their support for maintaining the long-form census questionnaire. The data that would be lost through its elimination would have negative impacts on the development of our national policies and on research in the field of second language teaching in Canada.

“These impacts would have direct consequences on the roughly 4,000 members of CASLT,” explains CASLT President, Valerie Pike. “For example, not having any specific data on the linguistic and cultural composition of communities would make it harder to establish policies regarding the number of teachers or resources to be assigned to a school board, or the delivery of second language programs in certain regions.”

Furthermore, it would also impair the research carried out by CASLT aimed at supporting second language teachers. CASLT publishes an annual research report. Last year, it published a research report entitled *Profile and Pathways — Supports for Developing FSL Teachers' Pedagogical, Linguistic, and Cultural Competencies*. The authors, Michael Salvatori and Alina MacFarlane, based their research on statistics provided by Statistics Canada. The elimination of the long-form census questionnaire would impede CASLT in its mission to make its research results available to government authorities, such as the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages and the provincial Ministries of Education. “These statistics help us and our colleagues with our research, because they inform us about the respondents' level of education, what they do for a living, and what languages they speak,” explains Michael Salvatori, co-author of the report and Vice President of CASLT. “Without these statistics provided by the long-form census questionnaire, we would not have as clear an understanding of the Canadian population's needs.”




On behalf of the thousands of teachers, parents, and students who support bilingualism and second language teaching, CASLT and the other above-mentioned second language associations would like to encourage the federal government to review this decision and find a solution that is acceptable to all Canadian citizens.

*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. See [www.caslt.org](http://www.caslt.org) for more information.*

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