

The Bilingualism in a Plurilingual Canada colloquium took place on June 19th and 20th 2008. This video clip and fact sheet series is an initiative brought to you by the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI) of the University of Ottawa in partnership with the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) and funded through the Official Languages Research and Dissemination Program jointly sponsored by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Department of Canadian Heritage.

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The goal of this initiative is to make current research in second language teaching and learning available to teachers and the general public.

All video clips and fact sheets from this series can be downloaded from the CASLT and OLBI Web sites.

Round Table : Future Directions for FSL Teaching in Canada: Core French

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This presentation, part of a round table on future directions for Core French in Canada, outlines some changes that can lead to an optimal program across the country.

Facts

- Early core French (K –3 and higher) appears to make no difference to eventual achievement in French proficiency by the end of Grade 8.
- Similar results emerged from a large-scale European study (Munoz, 2006) where no differences were found between Spanish students starting instruction in English at age 8 and age 11. Where there were differences, they were in favour of the older group.
- The accumulated hours of instruction from K-6 could better be distributed over a three year period, beginning in Grade 6.
- Compacting instructional time allows for concentrated longer chunks of instructional time with improved language and affective outcomes.
- A project-based curriculum, with real-life tasks, can lead to more student involvement, better integration of grammar with communicative outcomes and more use of the target language.
- The use of portfolios, particularly the Biography component of the European Language Portfolio, helps students take greater responsibility for their own learning.
- Teachers need to make French real through more emphasis on speaking French.