

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

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This presentation discusses the realities of French Immersion, highlights successes, identifies areas of concern and emphasizes the need for a clear vision for the future of the program.

Facts

- Students emerging from French Immersion (FI) programs contribute to the fabric of our Canadian bilingual society.
- FI is like an iceberg – the visible portion of the iceberg portrays the measurable factors of the linguistic abilities such as grammar, pronunciation and spelling. What is invisible are the results of a good education, the benefits to people, society and the economy, and the challenge of how to measure these benefits.
- Although FI students graduate as functionally bilingual citizens, they need to be reminded to take advantage of opportunities to use the language and to continue to perfect their French language competence.
- All the stakeholders must understand their responsibility in creating post-secondary programs and promoting the value of bilingualism.
- Bilingual children have verbal, non verbal, and cognitive ability advantages over unilingual children.
- FI programs shape the sociocultural and linguistic identity of its participants.
- Areas of concern:
 - ensuring student retention;
 - creating possibilities for student mobility projects in francophone provinces and countries;
 - accessing every opportunity to mingle with francophone students.

Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT)

The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers is a non-profit professional association of over 4 000 members.

Through its research, resources and publications, professional development and advocacy activities, the association plays a significant role in increasing awareness, appreciation and understanding of the importance of second and additional language learning and teaching throughout Canada. www.caslt.org

Official Language and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI)

The Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute of the University of Ottawa provides instruction in Canada's two official languages provides instruction in Canada's two official languages. Through its research centre, CCERBAL, it is committed to strengthening and promoting education and research in the fields of teaching, evaluation, and language policy and planning. www.olbi.uottawa.ca



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Fact sheet series

The Bilingualism in a Plurilingual Canada video clips 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).

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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.

-re-imagining means to impress upon students the value of French in their lives;

-reflecting on pedagogical issues regarding the quality of the language spoken and written by French Immersion students.

- French immersion programs have now existed for 45 years. It is important to realize how far we have come and where we go from here. We must celebrate the successes of the program.
- It is time to revisit the French Immersion program and to collectively participate in the enhancement of what we do well and to address the issues as they emerge. Only when we can remember why and how French Immersion works and the grandeur of our contribution to preparing bilingual citizens in Canada will the program grow to its full potential.

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