



## PRESS RELEASE

### **CASLT supports the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages recommendations in its Annual Report 2011-2012**

**OTTAWA, December 14, 2012** – The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) has recently reviewed the *Annual Report 2011-2012* of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages and fully supports its recommendations. In particular, it supports the recommendations related to doubling the number of young Canadians participating each year in short- and long-term language exchanges, and the recommendation to increase cooperation between the federal and provincial governments in order to increase the number of programs in which students can take courses in both official languages.

The benefits of knowing a second language are obvious today, whether related to job readiness, pay or occupational mobility, both within Canada and abroad. In addition to being a unifying value for all Canadians, Canada's linguistic duality presents the image of a welcoming society that is open to the world. Since the Official Languages Act came into force, the proportion of Anglophones and Francophones able to conduct a conversation in both official languages has dramatically increased, thanks in part to the federal government's efforts to support second official language learning and to bridge the gap between Francophone and Anglophone cultures. This has been achieved through a number of organizations such as the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC), which has been organizing educational exchanges between young Canadians across Canada for more than 75 years, and the Explore and Destination Clic programs, as well as the Odyssey program made available by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), all of which are funded by Canadian Heritage. These and other such programs have helped make linguistic duality a profoundly Canadian value that is supported by the majority of Canadians, regardless of first language. For this reason, CALST believes that support for such organizations must continue.

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

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