The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers

CASLT/ACPLS

CASLT Annual Report 2001
A Year of Growth

Outgoing President Message

There is probably a Sinatra song somewhere that would sum up my feelings as I step down from the presidency of this professional Association. During my years on the Board I was fortunate to have met and retained as friends, an outstanding group of second language educators, people with a love of and a devotion, beyond the call of duty, to the promotion of all second languages, but in particular our official languages. Though I have ended my term and now hand over the reins to a very competent Susan Forward, I remain only a phone call or email away from continuing to help out if help is needed.

As I move forward with my new challenges (and there are many), I will remember always the fine people of CASLT, the good work they are doing and the outstanding achievements of the Association, from the National Core French Study, through the Assessment Toolkits to the new educational aids that are currently in development. Thank you for allowing me to give my voice and my ideas over the years; and I wish great success to the new Board of Directors.

Helen Coltrinari, CASLT President 1999-2001
Educator Recognition Awards

Prix H.H. (David) Stern Award 2001 - Innovation in Second Languages
Exploring the Use of Error Analysis & Corrective Grammar to Help Reduce Errors - by Yvonne Dufault, Interim Head of Department at Markham District High School, York Region District School Board, Ontario.

A two year classroom action research project focusing on the use of error analysis and corrective grammar to classify language errors. It explores fun ways to further increase motivation and learning in grade nine Core FSL by incorporating knowledge of error analysis, corrective grammar and multiple intelligences.

Burry Heights Mini Immersion Program - by Kevin Flynn, Assistant Principal/French Teacher at Holy Trinity High School, Torbay, Newfoundland.

An overnight 30 hour immersion program joining about 50 students from two schools to offer an opportunity to communicate in French using their second language skills in a non-school setting. Participants interact during the activities with students, teachers, and French Language Monitors in activities such as, Brise glace, Jeux olympiques, Renseignements, Théâtre et Rapport.

Prix Robert Roy Award
Dr. Wally Lazaruk has been a member of CASLT for many years and worked closely with CASLT on the National Core French Study. He has been involved in the field of second language education for over 35 years. Wally has served as a French as a Second Language Teacher, a second languages consultant with Alberta Education, Associate Director of Second Languages and Assistant Director of Administration & French as a Second Language at the Provincial level. Currently, he is Principal Consultant with the consulting company Evaluation Plus Inc.

Publication of Réflexions, the CASLT Journal

This year, the CASLT journal underwent a transformation. New features include classroom-ready activity suggestions, resource reviews, and language conference listings. Guidelines for Writing for Réflexions were also completed and posted on the website.

Feb 2001 - Second Language Teaching and Assessment Go Hand in Hand,
Theme: Constructivism

May 2001 - Second Languages Matter!
Theme: Best Teaching Practices

October 2001 - CASLT Chez Vous, Manitoba Style,
Theme: Second Language Teaching in the Global Perspective.
A Website to Remember... www.caslt.org

Traffic has increased exponentially on our website this year. Over 24,000 hits were recorded. We estimate that approximately 35-40% of visitors are Canadian, about the same are American, and the rest are from all over the world.

Our Awards page now has a list of 11 organizations that have in one way or another given recognition to the CASLT web site (awards or kudos). All but one of these were received since January 2001.

The web site was given a major face lift with a new navigation system. There were 145 new pages created bringing the number of pages on the site to 278, not including the technology activities section which contains over 500 pages.

Among the New Additions:

• Annotated links pages and clipart sections for special topics of interest to educators, including specific holidays (Mother's Day/Father's Day...), Back to School, and Teaching ESL Through Music.
• A monthly online newsletter, provided in French and in English, listing new resources added, news about CASLT activities and other noteworthy information. We now have 187 subscribers in these newsletter mailing lists – 33 French and 154 English.
• Five activities in FLASH format were developed and posted in five different languages (English, French, Italian, Spanish, and German) for a total of 25 activities.

Below are comments made by visitors to the web site this year:

"I actually took some time on the weekend to look through it and found it to be exceptionally well done. Do you believe they even have clip art for teacher use divided up by themes? So if you have a minute check this site out."
Valérie Leclaire, conseillère pédagogique, EPS

"That's a great web site. I especially liked the listening comprehension games. I think some of the musical games I found on the web site will help a lot...thanks!"
Mindy

"We took you up on your invitation to take a look at your site and were very impressed by what we saw. Congratulations on being awarded the Medaille d'Or for it!"

"I am an Egyptian teacher and I'd like to thank you for this great site and the Back to School page. It is very useful. With all my best wishes from Egypt."
Dalia

CASLT High School FSL Proficiency Test - Year 1

In response to requests from teachers and in an effort to increase the profile of French Second Language Programs in our secondary schools, CASLT is exploring the idea of a certificate of proficiency in French Second Language. Such a certificate could be awarded to high school students who continue their FSL programs to the end of high school. Through consultation with experts in the field of evaluation and language learning, the Board is presently exploring the feasibility of a proficiency test or some other type of assessment tool to determine a student's level of proficiency in FSL at the end of high school.

To date the project has reviewed the types of assessment tools and language proficiency tests, which are already in use in Canada and internationally. We have a database of outcomes of High School FSL programs. Meetings with ministries of education and experts in evaluation and language learning are ongoing and a decision as to Year Two of the project will take place.
Strengthening Our Partnerships

>Create The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers continues its educational initiatives thanks to the ongoing financial support of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

To better provide a cohesive voice on second language issues on behalf of its members, CASLT continues to work with sister-associations on the national level including the Canadian Parents for French (CPF), l’Association canadienne des professeurs de l’immersion (ACPI), la Société des échanges et visites éducatives du Canada (SEVEC), and the Canadian Modern Language Teacher Review (CMLR).

On the international level, the CASLT is also affiliated with the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF), and la Fédération internationale des professeurs des langues vivantes (FIPLV).

New partnerships are emerging with provincial language associations such as the Ontario Modern Language Teachers Association (OMLTA) and the British Columbia Association of Teachers of Modern Languages (BCATML). We look forward to strengthening these ties in the coming year.

CASLT Future Focus

Preparations are underway for A Meeting Place for Languages: Celebrating our Ties, the joint conference to be held with our partner association ACPI in Prince Edward Island on November 7-8-9, 2002. The organizing committee expects over 500 Canadian and American delegates, over 35 educational publishing exhibitors and over 40 presenters from across Canada to share their expertise in workshop presentations.

Preparations are underway for a CASLT Spring Celebration of Language Teaching and Learning. We are honoured that our patron, His Excellency John Ralston Saul, C.C. will address members of our association and invited guests.

A revised and expanded conference/event planner will be released this coming year. A French version of the teacher guide which accompanies the Assessment in the Classroom video will be printed. A workshop is being developed and will be presented to promote the CASLT/SEVEC online educational unit posted at www.canadaexchanges.org. Finishing touches are being put on two new services to members, the CASLT Seal of Approval process and the CASLT Speaker Bureau directory.

New resources are in development including Strategies for Second Language Teaching & Learning, a resource based on the use of key visuals and graphic organizers to simplify introduction of content to study in second language context (ESL and FSL) and Cooperative Learning Activities in the Second Language Classroom, a resource of classroom ready activities to model different cooperative learning strategies in a second language context (ESL and FSL).
A decision to streamline the membership invoicing process was put into effect. Renewals of membership in the CASLT will now occur on September 1st each year. Members having joined after April 1st are given a complimentary extension to their membership. In the year 2001, membership has more than doubled from the previous year.

A CASLT National Council Representative half day training session was held on December 1st, 2001, in Edmonton, AB to increase awareness of the role of each representative and the support provided by the National Office in membership recruitment and maintenance.

This year, CASLT revised and enhanced membership benefits and established a multilevel membership structure. This created the opportunity for interested institutions, companies, and organizations wishing to engage with the second language educational community to do so in partnership with CASLT.

Builder Members
In 2001, three new Builder Members joined the association. We welcome and thank them for their support: Les Editions de l’Envolée, Editions Modulo, Editions Passe-temps.

Lifetime Members
A new Lifetime Members category was initiated to honour the dedication and efforts of our Past Presidents and to recognize the winners of the prestigious Prix Robert Roy Award. We congratulate these dedicated individuals for their commitment to second language education.

Affiliate Members
An affiliate membership was also established in partnership with participating provincial language associations. This new category encourages educators already provincial level members to obtain the benefits of our national Association at a reduced rate.

Honorary Patrons and Friends of CASLT Honour Roll
CASLT is to be proud to have as honorary patrons Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, C.C., C.M.M., C.D., Governor General of Canada and His Excellency John Ralston Saul, C.C. In 2001, many prominent Canadian individuals have extended their support by adding their name to our prestigious honour roll. We sincerely thank them for their continued support of our initiatives.

Marketing Initiatives and Distribution Services

- Updated and reprinted CASLT logo, letterhead, conference folder, membership brochure, website bookmark, Assessment Toolkit documents.
- Developed an educational resource catalogue and a series of resource samplers to promote CASLT educational products. These can be obtained in print or available on our website in a downloadable format.
- Promoted sales of the FSL Assessment Toolkit which continue at a steady rate of over 700 copies sold this year.
- Introduced a distribution service for educationally related materials created by other not-for-profit associations or government departments.