

# 2004 Annual Report

The Canadian  
Association of  
Second Language  
Teachers



L'Association  
canadienne des  
professeurs de  
langues secondes

CASLT/ACPLS

## A Year of Activity

### President Report

#### CASLT Board of Directors and National Council 2004

Carolyn King, AB

Dr. Miles Turnbull, PE

Diane Tijman, BC

Rhéal Allain, ON

John Erskine, MB

Valerie Pike, NL

Lyne Montsion, NB

Valerie Kamel, QC

Diane Lacasse, SK

Madeleine Lanctôt, YT

Yves Rossignol, NS

Hélène Hamilton, NWT

#### The CASLT Office

##### Executive Director

Nicole Thibault

##### Office Administrator

Angélique Tremblay

##### Technology Officer

Gilles Côté

##### Research Officer

Alina MacFarlane

##### Education Officers (contractual)

Nicole Thibault

André Charlebois

In recent months CASLT/ACPLS has been pleased to be increasingly involved with its partner organizations. As President, I met with the national presidents of the CPF, SEVEC, CMLR, and ACPI to increase our collaboration. Throughout the year, on behalf of CASLT, I have participated with various groups at various functions, including as a workshop presenter and keynote speaker at language conferences, a panel member for national FSL consultations, a judge for the CPF National Concours d'Art Oratoire, a member of the Advisory Board of the French Language Renewal Project of Edmonton Public Schools, and as an invited guest at the BC Premier's Literacy Summit. All of these contacts and conferences enrich our knowledge and experience that we share with our provincial partners. CASLT/ACPLS perceives itself as the national umbrella association to provide promotion, support and assistance to teachers of second languages.

CASLT/ACPLS continues to pursue the goal of joint membership in the provincial associations. Some provincial associations have already decided to do this. We are happy to report that the SATF and BCATML included the CASLT membership with the annual conference registration. We welcome 250 members from Saskatchewan and 350 members from BC. A 'CASLT Corner' is included in many provincial newsletters supporting the sharing of information.

In July, we participated in the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) in Atlanta, Georgia. This year, the conference was held jointly with the Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Français (FIPF). The conference was comprehensive including professional development in the form of workshop sessions as well as presentations of research findings and new works all related to the teaching of French, whether as a Second Language or la Francophonie. It was most impressive to be part of the extremely high level of commitment to the teaching and learning of the French language in all its diversity, demonstrated by both presenters and participants from all over the world. We presented workshop sessions and met with representatives from both the federal and the Quebec governments. Many eloquent speakers enhanced our week including Dr. Dyane Adam, the Commissioner of Official Languages and Michael Kergin, the Canadian Ambassador to the USA. We have now received official confirmation that the CASLT/ACPLS is a member of the Federation Internationale des Professeurs de Français (FIPF).

We have met at the invitation of Patrimoine Canadian Heritage with L'Association Canadienne des Professeurs d'Immersion (ACPI) with a view to move towards increased collaboration on projects for French.

As your President, I am looking forward to the second year to working on behalf of our members and in the cause of promotion and support of second language teachers, research and programs. I will take this opportunity to express my appreciation to your Board of Directors 2003-2004 and to our staff for their dedicated commitment to our Association and its work. In closing, I thank Patrimoine Canadian Heritage for their continued funding and support of the projects, designed in the interest of assistance to our members.

Carolyn King - CASLT President 2003-2005



CASLT/ACPLS

# CASLT/ACPLS

## Executive Director Report - Nicole Thibault

Now into my second year as Executive Director, I am happy to report that I still love my job. And that I feel fortunate to work with such a dedicated group of volunteers as make up the CASLT Board of Directors and National Council.

During the past year, CASLT has actively participated in the national response endorsing the federal government's Action Plan for Official Languages. Members of the CASLT Board and Staff attended the preliminary meeting and the Symposium on Official Languages hosted by the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages in March 2004, as well as the Provincial/ Territorial and National consultations organized by Canadian Parents for French to follow up the symposium.

Membership in CASLT continues to grow steadily and this year on our August 31st renewal date we surpassed 3,000 members. Membership continues to be a primary focus as we feel it is important to serve every teacher dedicated to FSL education in Canada. We continue to do our regular check-ins for member satisfaction and this year's survey indicated members are pleased with our print publication *Réflexions*, they enjoy receiving the monthly online newsletter, and the classroom ready materials found on our website.

Our projects kept us busy this year and we are thankful to the Dept of Canadian Heritage for their continued financial support and confidence. At CASLT we are in regular contact with representatives from the OCOL, CMEC, and CTF as well of course as PCH. We look forward to new activities that will come to fruition in the coming years. Support for updating pedagogical materials at OCOL, a teacher orientation guide for CMEC related to the Official Languages Monitor Program, marketing support for resources produced by the CTF, and finally a maintenance and resource expansion role for the Langanada website with PCH (policy branch).

Between the staff support and the volunteer board and council, CASLT is well placed to build on our expertise and is committed to dialogue with stakeholders who have similar goals to effectively work together to make our vision a reality, the promotion of second language education in Canada.

## CASLT Summary of Projects

### 🌿 Strategic Planning Initiative Year 2 / 3

The focus of this project is long-term strategic planning to help prioritize Association activities, and to build organizational capacity. This year of the project focused on the development of policies and procedures, clarification of roles and responsibilities, financial accountability and reporting, and strengthening partnerships. A membership satisfaction survey was completed. We developed a clear vision and response to the federal government's plan of doubling the number of bilingual graduates by 2013. Strategic areas of focus for future include membership recruitment and retention, advocacy guidelines, fundraising and marketing.

### 🌿 CASLT Chez Vous Year 3

The CASLT Chez Vous initiative involves one day professional development opportunities primarily to reach out to remote or underserved areas, in partnership with provincial groups such as language associations, school boards, and ministries of education. In 2004, the CCVs were presented in the following cities: Regina, SK; Saskatoon, SK; Ottawa, ON; and Yellowknife, NWT. Sessions for the new year are planned for BC, AB, ON, and NS. In addition to the CCV initiative, CASLT presents workshop sessions at provincial language association conferences and in the international arena.

### 🌿 Status of Language Teachers and their Programs - Year 1

This one year project allowed for a focus on the needs of Core French teachers and their programs. What is their status as professionals within the school community? What are their identified needs to promote their programs and enhance practices? What concerns are reported related to teacher shortage, or mobility away from the program? CASLT facilitated working sessions, telephone focus groups, and distributed questionnaires and the data was collated to provide direction for future CASLT initiatives.

### 🌿 Intensive Core French Initiative Year 1

Two committees were formed. An examination committee coordinated by CASLT has the purpose to review the status of this innovative delivery model in FSL education, to provide general support information and to identify recommendations for its implementation. A second committee focuses on the development of basic program and teacher support materials in areas of oral communication skills, reading and writing and in understanding the key components of this language arts/ literacy based approach. A colloquium was held for teachers implementing this delivery approach in August to encourage the sharing of ideas and the exchange of information.

### 🌿 CASLT /UQAM Stage-Echange Pilot Project Year 2

A pilot project established with the Université de Québec à Montréal (UQAM) involved the coordination of a francophone teacher candidate completing a practice teaching session in a rural anglophone region outside Québec. In year 2, two candidates were selected and completed a nine week practica in two locations, one in St. John's, NL and the other in Richmond, BC. The experience from the school, receiving teacher, and student teacher perspectives is being documented to increase awareness of job opportunities and to identify barriers related to mobility of candidates across the country.

### 🌿 Language Proficiency Assessment - Year 3 / 4

This third phase of the project focussed on monitoring progress on potential language proficiency assessment initiatives including the administration of the pilot project of the Public Service Commission Test on high school graduates by Alberta Learning / Edmonton Public schools as part of their French Renewal Project. The CASLT consulted the PSC and the researchers involved in the pilot and brought attention to the need of expanding the student sample to include a larger representation of core French graduates to accurately assess the test's feasibility for national implementation. Discussions with representatives from the provincial ministries of education have begun.

## CASLT Ongoing Initiatives

### Educator Recognition Awards

#### ☘ Prix H.H. (David) Stern Award 2004 - Innovation in Second Languages

The award program encourages school-based educators to focus on innovations in the classroom, the school and the community. Three winners from across the country were announced:

**Wendy Maxwell**, Bowen Island, BC - AIM, Accelerated Integrative Method or Gesture Approach;

**Kim Siegfriedt**, Spaniard's Bay, NL - Inventons! Household Invention Project;

**Karn Laursen**, Airdie, AB - Notre cabane à sucre, une journée thématique.

#### ☘ Prix Robert Roy Award 2004

The award was presented to Mr. Stan Frey, former Director of French Curriculum Development for the Official Minority Language Office of Saskatchewan. Stan was CASLT President in 1986-87 and supported the work of the National Core French Study. His leadership in the development of the interprovincial curriculum guide for Intensive French was also noted in the nomination.

#### ☘ Honourary Lifetime Membership 2004

The award was presented to M. Hilaire Lemoine, former Director General of the Department of Canadian Heritage, Official Languages Support Branch. Hilaire's clear vision and leadership, and his contributions to and beliefs in the advancement of our mutual cause, the strengthening of linguistic duality were noted in the nomination.

#### ☘ Website - [www.caslt.org](http://www.caslt.org)

The association's award-winning website continues to provide updated information and support to language educators across the country. In January 2004, the website received its one-millionth visitor. Traffic will be much higher than anticipated and will be close to 2 millions visitor sessions in 2004.

New sections were completed including a section for administrators, a section on teaching FSL, and one on innovative projects in the news. A speaker bureau initiative has been initiated to bring together experts in the field and those pursuing quality professional development opportunities.

## CASLT Summary of Publications

#### ☘ Réflexions, the CASLT Journal

There were three issues of the Réflexions journal published this year. It continues to be well received by our membership as a means of sharing current pedagogical trends, classroom ready activities, and new resources and materials of interest to second language educators. Articles on language proficiency, cooperative learning and the Gesture Approach were published.

#### ☘ Newsletter Communiqués

Brief information pieces on various CASLT projects and updates, the 'CASLT Corner', were shared this year in provincial association newsletters and in the Patrimoine Canadian Heritage Bulletin 41/42.

#### ☘ Monthly Digital Newsletter

The newsletter brings together major updates and additions to the CASLT website, noteworthy events of interest, and resources to explore. A new feature incorporates a calendar of events and links to websites for special celebration days. The newsletter is distributed to over 1,000 subscribers per month.

## CASLT Summary of Provincial and Territorial Activities

The CASLT was represented at the CPF Provincial Stakeholders Consultations in each province and territory in March 2004. Each year, CASLT invites representatives from the provinces and territories to exchange ideas and inform each other during the National Networking day held in November. In addition, the National Council representatives continue to disseminate information about the association services and projects on an ongoing basis.

#### ☘ BRITISH COLUMBIA

Exhibitor table at BCLCA & BCATML conferences, beginning teacher sessions; Workshops and Keynote at BCATML conference; BCATML joint membership initiative; Committee participation and support CPF, FFF, French coalition; Meetings, mailings, telephone calls to key contacts in the province; Newsletter contributions and website links established to BCATML; Partner contacts CPF FFF, Teacher Federations, Ministry of Education, Faculty of Education, OCOL; Contacts with Lifetime members.

#### ☘ YUKON

Meetings, mailings, telephone calls to key contacts in the territory; Information sharing sessions with teachers.

#### ☘ ALBERTA

Workshops & Exhibitor table at ISLC & SAHLA conferences; Committee participation and support EPSB French renewal Project Advisory Committee, CPF National Concours d'Art Oratoire judge, Alberta Learning Languages Initiative Launch; Meetings, mailings, telephone calls to key contacts in the province; Contacts with Lifetime Members. Newsletter contributions and website links established with ISLC, SAHLA, IHLA; Partner contacts CPF, Teacher Federations, ACPI, FFF, Ministry of Education, Faculty of Education, OCOL, PCH.

## CASLT Summary of Provincial and Territorial Activities (*continued*)

### 🍁 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Exhibitor information table at PD day; CCV in Yellowknife, August 2004; Committee participation and support CPF Stakeholder Consultation; Territorial information emails and faxes to L2 teachers list; Meeting with CPF and ACPI reps.

### 🍁 SASKATCHEWAN

Workshop and Keynote for SATF conference; SATF joint membership initiative; Exhibitor information table at SATF conference; CCV in Regina and Saskatoon, May 2004; Committee participation and support CPF; Meetings with key contacts CPF, SATF, Teacher Federations, Ministry of Education, Faculty of Education; Newsletter contributions and website links established to SATF.

### 🍁 MANITOBA

Workshop and exhibitor information table at MATF conference; Presentations of CASLT materials and website at Divisional In-service sessions and Faculties of Education; Committee participation and support CPF; Meetings, mailings, telephone calls to key contacts in the province; Partnership established with Manitoba Association of Spanish Teachers; Meetings with Ministry of Education, Faculty of Education; Website links with Metro Winnipeg School Divisions; CCV planning with MATF for spring 2005.

### 🍁 ONTARIO

Exhibitor information table at conferences and meetings; Workshops presented at OMLTA conference; CCV in Ottawa, May 2004; Committee participation and support OMLTA, CPF, CREO; Information exchanges and website links OMLTA; Presentations at Faculty of Education (U Ottawa).

### 🍁 QUEBEC

Meetings, telephone calls to key contacts in the province; Attendance at the AQEFLS conference; Partner contacts SPEAQ, CPF Quebec, Ministry of Education, Faculty of Education (UQAM); Colloque pour le français intensif in Montreal, August 2004.

### 🍁 NEW BRUNSWICK

Meetings, telephone calls to key contacts in the province; Partner contacts NBTA, Ministry of Education, district FSL supervisors, ESL supervisor in Bathurst area, CIAF (Centre International d'Apprentissage du Français, Shippagan), Intensive French creators, teachers and researchers; Presentations of CASLT materials and website during various PD sessions with teachers; Promotion of CASLT during district Curriculum Implementation Day (November); CASLT invited to sit on the SLEC/UNB Advisory Committee.

### 🍁 NOVASCOTIA

Meetings with, telephone calls to key contacts in the province; Partner contacts NSLTA, Ministry of Education, district FSL supervisors; Workshops presented at NSLTA conference; exhibitor table at NSLTA conference.

### 🍁 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Exhibitor table at PEI Teacher Federation Convention; Mailing to all core French teachers; Meetings with Ministry of Education; Presentation at Faculty of Education (UPEI); Co-sponsored a social for FSL teachers with provincial language association; Door prizes to promote membership recruitment; Committee participation and support CPF; FFF; Workshop at Provincial PD day.

### 🍁 NEWFOUNDLAND and LABRADOR

Exhibitor information table at conferences and meetings; Workshops presented at teacher in-service sessions; Conference, committee participation and support CPF; FFF; Publication of descriptors for CASLT awards in provincial teachers' bulletin; Meetings, mailings, telephone calls to key contacts in the province; Facilitator for CPF Provincial Stakeholder Consultation (Plan 2013).

## CASLT Future Focus

The CASLT has identified key national projects that would enhance the status of FSL education in the schools across the country. It has shared information with provincial ministries of education to solicit their interest and support at its annual networking activity. The development of national proficiency guidelines based on the ACTFL and PSC proficiency criteria and a national sampling of high school graduates using the PSC test to establish baseline proficiency expectations based on hours of study. A certificate of student recognition upon completion of the final FSL course available; and a language portfolio initiative to encourage classroom and extra-curricular recognition of language learning.

Building on our expertise from previous national projects, we are committed to undertaking these initiatives in a leadership or a support role. We look forward to continued dialogue on these activities with all stakeholders who have complementary goals.



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