

ANNUAL REPORT 2006–2007

The Canadian Association
of Second Language Teachers



L'Association canadienne des
professeurs de langues secondes

Formed in 1970, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) is a professional association with 3,000 members representing every province and territory. CASLT is committed to advancing second-language teaching and learning across Canada through professional development and research, and by providing opportunities for information and idea exchanges among second-language educators. CASLT cooperates with partner organizations to provide a cohesive voice and effective action on second-language issues. CASLT has formalized partnerships with national organizations, ministries of education, national and provincial language associations, and university-based research centres.

Flowing from activities and discussions with interested parties in several provinces and territories, CASLT developed a vision for successfully achieving a key goal of the federal government's *Action Plan for Official Languages*: doubling the number of bilingual high school graduates by 2013. *Improving French Second Language Education through Effective Partnerships* was released in January 2006. This vision relies first and foremost on the collaboration of interested stakeholders in three areas:

- Revitalization of core FSL programs;
- Preparation of national language competency initiatives (framework, portfolio, certificate); and,
- Recruitment and retention of qualified FSL teachers.



Statement of Operations (Year ending March 31st, 2007)

Revenue	2007
Contributions from Canadian Heritage	\$ 533,817
Memberships	\$ 41,435
Publication Sales	\$ 20,046
Other Revenue (Contracts, Registration Fees, Advertising, Grants, Interest)	\$ 94,022
	\$ 689,320

Expenses	
Salaries, Benefits, Contractuals	\$ 175,798
Travel and Accommodations	\$ 141,968
Printing and Publicity	\$ 86,027
Office Expenses	\$ 22,683
Professional and Consulting Fees	\$ 164,479
Rent	\$ 13,525
Insurance	\$ 1,056
Telecommunications	\$ 8,636
Association Dues	\$ 2,220
Bank Charges and Service Fees	\$ 1,555
Amortization of Capital Assets	\$ 674
	\$ 618,621

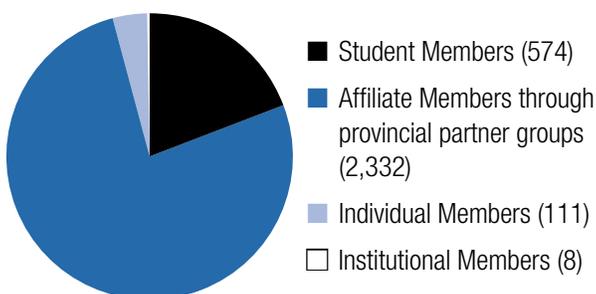
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenses	\$ 70,699
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Statement of Changes in Net Assets	
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 104,626
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ 70,699
Balance, End of Year	\$ 175,325

Membership Status

- 3,025 Active Members (from 2,286 in 2006)
- 8 Institutional Memberships

Membership by Type



Strategic Focus for 2006–2007

1. Build Organizational Capacity
2. Ensure Sound Financial Management and Diversify Funding
3. Support and Diversify Partnerships
4. Engage in Strategic Advocacy Initiatives
5. Undertake Projects and Deliver Programs

1. Build Organizational Capacity

CASLT focused on three main areas to help build capacity: governance, staffing, and support to volunteers and committees.

In a review of its legal documents, the Board of Directors identified updates required for its letters patent and by-laws to be in accordance with Industry Canada standards.

CASLT strengthened its volunteer base and staff complement by adding two new staff positions. We welcomed Nathalie Landry as Communications and Project Support Officer, and Louise St-Amand as Membership and Office Administrator; they joined Nicole Thibault, Executive Director.

We wish to acknowledge and thank our volunteer leaders on the CASLT Board of Directors and National Council for their commitment to second-language education and our association. CASLT has also benefitted from the strong support and commitment of individuals sharing their time, energy, expertise, and knowledge on two committees this year—the CASLT/CTF/CAIT Joint Survey and Research Report, and the CASLT/SATF/CAIT Conference.

2. Ensure Sound Financial Management and Diversify Funding

CASLT continues to be grateful for the ongoing, generous support provided by the Department of Canadian Heritage, demonstrating confidence in our ability to deliver results that help advance second official language education and linguistic duality in Canada.

CASLT believes that it must continue to diversify its funding sources. This year we received funding for a special technology project through the Canadian Council on Learning. We conducted sponsorship activities through direct solicitation and sought contract opportunities with the Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and Training (CAMET), as well as departments of education and school boards.

3. Support and Diversify Partnerships

CASLT is a founding member of the FSL Partners' Network. Through the Network, administrators of national not-for-profit organizations with a primary interest in FSL build on respective areas of expertise and act as policy resources to governments.

In July 2006, CASLT signed an agreement with the Canadian Teachers Federation (CTF), a significant and important partnership that will allow us to reach a greater number of second-language teachers and increase the impact of our activities.

Our joint projects, such as the CASLT/CTF/CAIT *National FSL Teacher Survey and Research Report* and our joint CASLT/SATF/CAIT conference, *Cultivons le français de demain*, have helped strengthen our ties with our partner associations. Our provincial association partnerships also continue to grow with CASLT providing support to provincial and territorial organizations.

4. Engage in Strategic Advocacy Initiatives

With its partners, CASLT has been active in the national response endorsing the federal government's *Action Plan for Official Languages*. CASLT hosts an annual networking event to facilitate sharing information and ideas among its partners and stakeholders. This forum provides the opportunity to discuss recommendations requiring joint initiatives. The involvement of the CTF and its provincial affiliates provides a strong base for future collaboration.

CASLT has significantly increased awareness of our priorities and broadened our reputation among the educational community through involvement in activities, such as the Common Framework and Portfolio for Languages project. Our work with provincial representatives and in support of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) decision to study the feasibility of the common framework for languages in Canada will continue to increase the status of second languages in education.

5. Undertake Projects and Deliver Programs

a. CASLT Awards

- The **Prix H.H. (David) Stern Award 2006**, established to encourage innovation in the classroom, school, and community, was presented to Jan Claes, Dartmouth, NS, for developing a strategic way to increase oral communications in core French.
- The **Prix Robert Roy Award 2006** was presented to Sharon Lapkin, PhD, OISE, University of Toronto, for her leadership, research in core French and French immersion, and long-time involvement as co-editor of Canadian Modern Language Review (CMLR) and President of Canadian Association of Applied Linguistics (CAAL).
- CASLT recognized Dyane Adam of Quebec with **Honorary Lifetime Membership** for her significant leadership related to official language promotion and education in her role as former Commissioner of Official Languages, and her vision promoting linguistic duality and cultural diversity in Canada and abroad.

b. Core French and Intensive French Teacher and Program Support

- CASLT, Saskatchewan Association of Teachers of French (SATF) and the Canadian Association of Immersion Teachers (CAIT) welcomed more than 800 core French, French immersion and intensive French educators to their joint **Congrès**, October 26–28, 2006, in Saskatoon.
- CASLT, CTF and CAIT released the findings of their joint **FSL Teacher Survey and Report**. Key findings from the survey of 2,000 FSL educators are being shared through follow-up communications, and CASLT has established a working committee to explore the development of a Second Language Teacher Competence Profile.
- Six **CASLT Chez Vous** in-service sessions and many workshops were again offered at provincial language conferences. The first “virtual” session was held in partnership with the Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation (CDLI), NL.

“I love being associated with such a proactive group as CASLT. They are always at the cutting edge of policy, methods, materials and teacher education. Whenever I am at a CASLT event, it truly is an “event”—a lot of “can-do” energy in the room, which leads inevitably to real progress in the field of language learning and teaching.”

Sally Rehorick, Director, Second Language Research Institute of Canada, University of New Brunswick

- CASLT provided support for provinces delivering summer in-service training to teachers and administrators of **intensive French** programs. With input from administrators and consultants, CASLT developed a toolkit of print and digital materials for those planning, organizing, and expanding IF programs.
- With funding support from the Commission Amérique du Nord (CAN) of the Fédération internationale des professeurs de français (FIPF), CASLT reviewed research focused on core and intensive French 1986–2006, updating an existing inventory. This **annotated bibliography** will be posted in database format to the CASLT web site.
- In a 14-part **podcast series** initiated and being developed by CASLT, seven prominent second-language researchers will highlight best practices for FSL education to increase interest in research and applications among classroom practitioners. This project is being funded in part by the Canadian Council on Learning.

c. Common Framework and Portfolio for Languages for Canada

- In June 2006, CASLT hosted representatives from Departments of Education with responsibilities for second official languages to gauge support for developing a **common national framework for languages** similar to the European model. CASLT presented follow-up introductory information sessions to the Council of Atlantic Ministers of Education and training (CAMET), the Ontario Ministry of Education, and the Ontario Modern Languages Council.

d. LangCanada Web Site

- CASLT continued to maintain and develop the LangCanada web site to help search engines identify contents and increase its traffic. We added new ESL and FSL resources and featured them in the monthly online newsletter. The **Language Institutions section** now includes all accredited full-time programs with membership in the Canadian Association of Private Language Schools (CAPLS) and the Canadian Language Council (CLC). A series of new promotional items was launched.

e. Support for International Languages

- CASLT conducted a series of focus groups and interviews with key leaders and language advisors related to support for international languages teachers and programs. The National Office has identified potential complementary initiatives and is preparing an **electronic member satisfaction survey** to better understand these teachers' particular needs and priorities.

Conclusion

Building on our expertise, CASLT is well positioned to take leadership for the implementation and coordination of the Action Plan for Official Languages. We look forward to continued dialogue with all stakeholders who have complementary goals—including relevant federal and provincial partners—as we work together to realize the vision articulated in the Action Plan and support linguistic duality in Canada.

Key Events

June

Sally Rehorick, Presenter, Portfolio workshop day and meeting with Ministries of Education



July

CASLT President Miles Turnbull signs partnership agreement with CTF President Winston Carter



October

Press conference launch of FSL Report *Teaching French as a Second Language in Canada: Teachers' Perspective*.

Association Presidents and Co-chairs, Conference, *Cultivons le français de demain!* in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

November

CASLT AGM, Networking, and Member Services Day



CASLT thanks its Board of Directors and National Council

Miles Turnbull, President, Prince Edward Island
John Erskine, Vice President, Manitoba
Diane Tijman, Secretary, British Columbia
Rhéal Allain, Treasurer, Ontario
Lyne Montsion, Director at Large, New Brunswick
Valerie Pike, Director at Large, Newfoundland and Labrador
Hilaire Lemoine, Director at Large
Sandra Henderson, Yukon
Jean Marie Mariez, Northwest Territories
Janice Aubry, Alberta
Diane Lacasse, Saskatchewan
Gladys Jean, Quebec
Tony Orlando, Nova Scotia

CASLT thanks all committee members for their work on the report and conference

CASLT/CTF/CAIT Joint Survey and Research Report, *Teaching French as a Second Language in Canada: Teachers' Perspectives, September 2006.*

Principal Investigators: Sharon Lapkin, Larry Vandergrift,
Alina MacFarlane

Consultant: Doug Hart

Working Group: Wendy Carr, Thierry Karsenti, Karen Olsen,
Maurice Poirier, Linda Roméo, Miles Turnbull, Liliane Vincent,
Lucie Wojciechowski

Production Support: Peter Cheung, Daniel Fletcher,
Joan Howard, Ginette Houle, Catherine Mareschal,
Margaret Oldfield, Lise Robertson, Marzieh Tafaghodtari,
Nicole Thibault.

CASLT/SATF/CAIT Congrès, *Cultivons le français de demain, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, October 26–28, 2006.*

Co-Chairs: Ron Sirois and Jacqueline Castilloux

Committee Members: Guy Verrette, Robert Brisebois, Albert
Lebastard, Angela Banda, Kelli Boklaschuk, Karen Routley,
Robert Tessier, Chad Sawatzky, Gisèle Jean-Bundgaard,
Hélène Cook, Dominic Rivard, François Rivard, Daniel Fletcher,
Diane Lacasse.

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of New Brunswick
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Summer Work Student Exchange
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Yukon Department of Education

"Student teachers who are new to the teaching profession do not have an abundance of resources as do experienced teachers and are constantly looking for material to use in the classroom. Réflexions and the CASLT website are excellent places to find such resources. Being a member of CASLT keeps us informed about what is happening in the second-language field."

Rebecca Montemurro, CASLT member