



NEWS RELEASE

PAN-CANADIAN RESEARCH TEAM TO EXAMINE FSL TEACHER RETENTION

Ottawa, July 1, 2020. – To address the shortage of qualified teachers in FSL programs across the country, CASLT has embarked on a research project to establish a pan-Canadian overview of the issue. The objective is to identify the alignment, gaps, strengths, opportunities, and challenges in FSL teacher preparation and professional support.

Funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage, this research will be conducted by a partnership of three separate teams comprising nine researchers from three different universities. Each team will focus on different provinces and territories, allowing for insight and recommendations unique to each context.

The lead researcher, Stephanie Arnott (EduLang Research Group, University of Ottawa), and several other team members have worked previously with CASLT on other research projects. All nine researchers have long-standing expertise in Canadian FSL Education.

The three teams are from the Faculties of Education at the University of Ottawa (EduLang Research Group), the University of British Columbia (Language and Literacy Education), and the University of New Brunswick (Second Language Research Institute of Canada). This partnership offers a feasible way to reach all corners of the country and meaningfully expand on existing research. It will also strengthen the long-term prospect of optimizing FSL teacher education on a national level.

The research task is to look into present practices and standards in FSL teacher pre-service K–12 education, its alignment with provincial teacher certification requirements and employer requirements, and its potential effect on FSL teacher attrition and/or retention. The researchers will start by conducting focus groups and roundtables, and distributing surveys to collect data. There will be opportunities for CASLT members to be part of the research as participants and to share this research opportunity within their networks.

The project — entitled **Identifying Requirements and Gaps in French as a Second Language (FSL) Teacher Training: Recommendations and Guidelines** — is expected to launch at the end of June 2020, beginning with survey development and data collection. Work will continue throughout 2020 and 2021 with an estimated completion date of February 2022.

CASLT is thrilled to be working with such a strong, representative team of dedicated researchers who share our goals of addressing the current FSL teacher shortage and improving the supports for both FSL teachers and, ultimately, for FSL students.

Since 1970, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) is dedicated to promoting the advancement of language learning and teaching throughout Canada. This is achieved by creating opportunities for professional development, by initiating and disseminating research, and by facilitating the exchange of information and ideas among language educators.

For more information:

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