



**Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes**

For immediate release

NEWS RELEASE

CASLT WELCOMES SUPPORT FOR LANGUAGE EDUCATION AND REVITALIZATION IN FEDERAL BUDGET

Ottawa, April 22, 2021 – The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) is pleased with the Government of Canada’s support for language learning in the 2021 federal budget. Knowledge of more than one language brings many personal and societal benefits, and increased bi- and multilingualism will lead to a more inclusive and resilient Canada well-positioned for success in the 21st century.

CASLT welcomes the budget’s commitment to promoting French-English bilingualism across the country. Over three years, \$180.4 million provided to Canadian Heritage will help Canadian students achieve greater levels of bilingualism, and \$121.3 million will help make high-quality post-secondary minority-language education available across Canada. In addition to offering more opportunities to students, this funding will also improve the experiences and working conditions of French as a second language (FSL) and English as a second language (ESL) educators. The additional \$2.3 million proposed for modernizing the Official Languages Act is another positive step in promoting bilingualism in Canada.

Additionally, funding to support Indigenous language reclamation and revitalization will contribute to addressing an urgency facing Indigenous languages in Canada. Language revitalization efforts are imperative to ensuring the future of many Indigenous languages, crucial parts of Canada’s linguistic landscape. CASLT applauds this commitment, part of a \$460 million investment for First Nations to advance initiatives across a number of priority areas.

“As an association dedicated to fostering and advancing professional excellence in the teaching of languages in Canada, CASLT is looking forward to supporting the implementation of new language education initiatives that will emerge from the funding outlined in the 2021 federal budget,” says Gillian Blackmore, President of CASLT. “The budget offers promising signs of renewed federal commitment to language education and revitalization.”

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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.



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