



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

For immediate release

NEWS RELEASE

2021 CASLT AWARDS GRANTED TO SPANISH, BLACKFOOT, AND FRENCH LANGUAGE EDUCATORS

Ottawa, October 6, 2021 – The Canadian Association of Second language Teachers (CASLT) is honoured to recognize language educators who have developed innovative teaching practices and contributed significantly to the advancement of language teaching and learning. Each year, it presents three awards:

1. The **Robert Roy Award**, granted to an educator or education researcher who has contributed significantly to the advancement of the field of second language education
2. The **H. H. Stern Award**, granted to a second language teacher in recognition of their innovative teaching practices
3. The **Honorary Lifetime Member Award**, which recognizes individuals who have rendered significant service and demonstrated leadership in the advancement of second language education

This year's recipients were announced at CASLT's Annual General Meeting and Networking Day held virtually on October 1.

Robert Roy Award Winner: Dr. Angela George

Dr. Angela George is an Associate Professor at the School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures in the Faculty of Arts, University of Calgary. Dr. George has taught all levels of Spanish in both secondary and post-secondary classrooms. In addition, she has delivered several pedagogical workshops and language pedagogy courses. Her research in Hispanic Linguistics addresses the teaching and acquisition of Spanish for all learners, including heritage speakers, in both formal and informal contexts.

H. H. Stern Award Winner: Patrick Twigg

Patrick Twigg is a former student of residential schools in Southern Alberta. As an adult, he made the brave choice to go back to school and get his first degree from the University of Lethbridge and then his B.Ed. and Masters of Education. Pat has worked as a school counselor, teacher assistant, full time teacher, and associate principal. He is currently the Blackfoot Language and Culture Coordinator for the Kainai Board of Education. Pat has made instrumental contributions to the revitalization of Blackfoot language and culture. He consulted with the Blackfoot community and with an education curriculum expert to develop resources that help the students learn their language and culture. The educational materials that he and his department created ensure that



students now know who they are as members of the Kainai Nation. His initiative is benefitting his students, their parents, his colleagues, and the wider community.

Honorary Lifetime Member Award Winner: Léo-James Lévesque

Léo-James Lévesque has a master's degree in education with a specialization in curriculum and instruction. He is currently an assistant professor at St. Thomas University's School of Education in Fredericton, New Brunswick. He has also taught at the University of New Brunswick, the University of Prince Edward Island, and Memorial University in Newfoundland. Throughout his career, Léo-James has been a teacher, an elementary school principal, and a school district supervisor. He has over 30 years of experience in teaching French as a second language (FSL).

One of Léo-James' goals involves promoting the importance of bilingualism in Canada. Thanks to his wide-ranging expertise, drive, and dedication to the teaching of FSL, he is a highly sought-out expert and workshop leader across Canada on a variety of topics. As the author of many children's books, Léo-James strives to nurture reading and writing from an early age. He also helped design and develop various educational resources and adapt teaching manuals now used by students throughout Canada.

Léo-James has won several awards over the years, among them the André-Obadia Excellence Award from the Canadian Association of Immersion Professionals (ACPI/CAIT) for his outstanding contribution to fostering French-language teaching in Canada. He has also received the J. Elmer Hynes Excellence in Leadership Award from Canadian Parents for French (CPF) as well as the Hilroy Scholarship Award, bestowed by the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE) in recognition of his innovation in the field of education.

CASLT is delighted to honour these outstanding educators for their contributions to furthering CASLT's vision of excellence in language teaching.

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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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