



The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers  
L'Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes  
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## NEWS RELEASE

### Language Teachers' Association Encourages Teachers and Students to Participate in National French Language Week Activities

**Ottawa, March 3, 2010** – The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) once again joins its partners to celebrate National French Language Week as part of *Les Rendez-vous de la francophonie* (5-21 March), organized by Fondation Dialogue and now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year. *Les Rendez-vous de la francophonie* are two weeks of cultural events and activities, which take place across the nation and highlight the importance of French in our lives. One of the main events will be the International Day of La francophonie on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Each year, CASLT encourages French as a second language (FSL) teachers and students to participate in French Language Week activities in their schools and communities by developing and distributing a FSL teacher support document. This year, the teaching suggestions are tied to politics and sports; two themes that affect us as Canadians, as we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Official Languages Act* and because we have athletes participating in the Olympic Games. CASLT members can access French Language Week activities online: [http://www.caslt.org/what-we-do/publications-french-week\\_en.php](http://www.caslt.org/what-we-do/publications-french-week_en.php).

This year's edition of French Language Week is especially important as 2010 is designated as the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures by the United Nations. The goal is for local, national, regional, and international level policy-makers to aim to bring cultures together when making decisions. CASLT President Valerie Pike invites all to reflect on the role that cultures, especially the French culture, play in promoting a greater understanding and respect for diversity during French Language Week and throughout the year. "UNESCO's *Culture Counts* poster competition is also taking place this month and goes hand in hand with celebrating French culture in Canada. Understanding different cultures is an important factor if we wish to grow as a multicultural society."

*Established in 1970, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) increases awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the importance of second language learning and teaching throughout Canada and promotes the advancement of professional excellence among language educators. See [www.caslt.org](http://www.caslt.org) for more information.*

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