AVIS AUX MÉDIAS

CASLT congratulates the Louisiana State Government for adopting Bill HB424 regarding the provision of government services in French

OTTAWA, **July 22**nd, **2011** – The Louisiana State Government recently adopted Bill HB 424, which became Act 106 providing that the state government will take all necessary measures to provide services in French to its Francophone population. The bill was signed by Louisiana State Governor Bobby Jindal on June 20th and will become effective on August 15th, 2011. CASLT believes that the reasons that motivated the adoption of this law, which are based on economic, cultural and social benefits not only for the francophone population, but for the whole of Louisiana, must be emphasized. With a Francophone population of about 250,000 individuals over a total population of 4,5 million people, Lousiana recognizes with Act 106, the importance of cultural diversity and therefore of second language learning in a context of globalization and transnational migrations. CASLT is delighted by this new law that represents a significant support to the organization's mission and values.

Since its debut, CASLT values the importance of languages and the diversity of culture and the ability to communicate in a second language contributes to the full development of the human potential. Consequently, CASLT provides its members with professional development opportunities, supports research in the field of learning and teaching languages and committed itself to the promotion and implementation of a common framework of references for languages. CASLT believes that Louisiana's Act 106 serves as a perfect example of the necessity of implementing a common framework of references for languages in Canada and in North America.

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 for more information.

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