



To be published immediately

PRESS RELEASE

LAUNCH OF THE CEFR COMPANION VOLUME WITH NEW DESCRIPTORS

Ottawa, May 16, 2018. – The Conference “Building Inclusive Societies through Enriching Plurilingual and Pluricultural Education” for the launch of the [CEFR Companion Volume with New Descriptors](#) occurs on May 16 and 17, 2018, in Strasbourg, France. The CEFR Companion Volume complements the existing Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment (CEFR), a framework to which the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) adheres and promotes.

The English version of the Companion Volume with New Descriptors is online on the CEFR website since last September, but the French version and aspects of signing competences (sign language) are now available. Between 1,500 and 2,000 language professionals were involved in the development, validation, consultation and piloting processes, including Enrica Piccardo, associate professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), and CASLT’s treasurer.

Piccardo explained that the new descriptor scales cover various aspects of mediating text, mediating concepts, mediating communication, online interaction and plurilingual/pluricultural competence. In addition, the original scales have been supplemented with new descriptors that improve the description, particularly at A1 and the C-levels. The changes reflect the advances of research in the domain of second/foreign language education since 2001 and aim to promote the intercultural and plurilingual dimensions of our society.

CASLT supports the adoption/adaptation of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) to provide clear measures of language proficiency across the Canadian provinces and territories. Since 2004, CASLT has assisted in increasing awareness of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and the Language Portfolio across Canada. Moreover, many resources on the subject are available in the [association’s online boutique](#), including the adaptation of the Language Portfolio to the Canadian reality.

CASLT fosters and advances professional excellence in the teaching of languages in Canada.

- 30 -

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