



CASLT Intensive French Report 2005

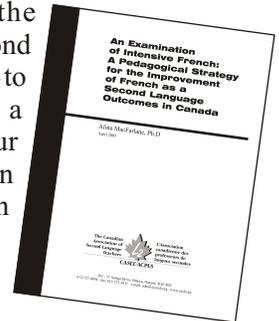
The CASLT presented its report, *An Examination of Intensive French: A Pedagogical Strategy for the Improvement of French Second Language Outcomes in Canada*, on April 19th, 2005. Over 40 invited guests and interested stakeholders took part in the breakfast exchange session in Ottawa. Speakers included John Beatty, Chair of the Examination Committee and Dr Alina MacFarlane, the CASLT Research Officer. His Excellency, John Ralston Saul, C.C., provided reactions to the report and the recommendations. A question and answer period followed and offered opportunity for groups to share their commitment to communicating information on Intensive French and in supporting the advancement of second language initiatives.



His Excellency, John Ralston Saul, C.C.

Partner groups including CPF, SEVEC, ACPI, OMLTA and CMLR as well as the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages were well represented. Members of the Intensive French Steering Committee and of the CASLT Examination Committee provided positive reactions to the report and its recommendations. John Erskine, spokesperson for CASLT, said, "The positive impact of implementing an Intensive French model goes beyond the acquisition of French as a Second Language. It includes benefits to students in overall literacy and is a viable route to empowering our students to participate more fully in the bilingual, multicultural Canadian society."

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THE INTENSIVE FRENCH PROGRAM *by Alina MacFarlane, CASLT Research Officer*

Intensive French (IF) was begun in 1998 as a three year experiment in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) to address the difficulty of teaching communication skills in Core French and an escalating drop-out rate. It is now an official alternative to Core French in grade 6 in that province. Since 2002, similar programs have been initiated in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. The program will be introduced in Manitoba and possibly in the Northwest Territories in 2005-06.

CASLT Intensive French Examination Committee

During the summer of 2004, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers received funding from Canadian Heritage to examine the Intensive French program as a potential way to improve Core French in Canada. The timing of this examination responds to the high current interest in Intensive French and the federal government's Action Plan to renew French as a second language teaching and learning.

The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers invited individuals who were involved in FSL from seven provinces to participate in the Intensive French Examination Committee. The committee's mandate was to create:

- a synthesis of findings (i.e. clarification of the meaning of Intensive French; identification of key practices; comparison to regular core French and immersion models);
- a discussion paper of key questions and issues surrounding the introduction and implementation of Intensive French; and
- recommendations related to access to and funding of the Intensive French delivery model in a pan-Canadian context.

This article will briefly outline these three points.

What is Intensive French?

Intensive French is an enrichment of the Core French program in grade 5 or grade 6, similar to the model used for Intensive ESL in Québec. It is called Intensive French because students receive an intense dose of FSL instruction in during the year of the intervention. This intensive dose is normally scheduled during the first five months of the school year (September to January). During this time, students spend approximately 70% of their school day in French

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Message de la présidente



Carolyn L.M. King,
CASLT/ACPLS
President

In November at the AGM, The Board of Directors named Hilaire Lemoine to Life membership in the association. M. Lemoine was unable to attend due to prior work-related commitments. In March, in Ottawa for board meetings, the Board was happy to welcome well-known Hilaire Lemoine, to receive the honour at a special evening. Many present and former Board members have had the great pleasure of working with Hilaire Lemoine, who remains very interested in the CASLT. Please check the previous *Réflexions* for detailed information, read at the AGM.

The CASLT was pleased to hold the official Launch of the Report on Intensive French. This was celebrated in Ottawa on April 19, 2005. Dr. Joan Netten and Dr. Claude Germain, the originators and



Carolyn King (CASLT) and Hilaire Lemoine

researchers of Intensive French, were in attendance. The findings of the Report were presented by the authors of the document, researchers Dr. Alina MacFarlane and John Beatty, who responded to questions. His Excellency John Ralston Saul spoke eloquently on learning French as a Second Language and invited an interesting and animated discussion.

This spring, CASLT has continued to provide professional development opportunities in various regions across the country. A CASLT *Chez Vous* session was held in Kemptville, Ontario, a rural area near Ottawa. Thanks to André Charlebois who presented the sessions and to Angela Quinn, FSL Consultant for the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (Western Region) for hosting the event. The Executive Director, Nicole Thibault, and I held a CASLT *Chez Vous* in Okotoks, Alberta, a town south of Calgary. Mary Ann Hiscock, Supervisor of Teaching and Learning with Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools, was the host. The FSL teachers came long distances to their centre for this event and were most appreciative of the information from CASLT. Another successful CASLT *Chez Vous* was held in May in Winnipeg in partnership once again with the Manitoba Association *continued on page 23*

Executive Director Update

by Nicole Thibault



Nicole Thibault
Executive Director

CASLT has had the opportunity to meet with representatives and discuss the many activities administered by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC). Many of these programs are well known to teachers of second language but are now sporting new "brand" names. The **Accent** and **Odyssey** programs were formerly known as the Official Language Monitor Program (both full and part time), the **Explore** program was formerly the Summer Language Bursary Program and **Destination Clic** was formerly the Programme de bourses d'été pour francophones hors Québec.

Mise à jour de la directrice générale

CASLT specifically recognizes the potential of these enrichment opportunities to enrich the acquisition of second language learning for students. We are discussing opportunities with the CMEC staff for CASLT to provide support to the teachers receiving monitors into their classrooms.

CASLT is now undertaking a new committee initiative directed towards a better understanding of the challenges of teaching FSL across the country. The project has been conceived as a partnership project with the Canadian Teachers Federation and with l'Association canadienne des professeurs d'immersion. The initial committee formation and meeting will take place in June and we look forward to sharing more specific information in the fall.

This March, CASLT provided its first resource for **La semaine du français** which was made available on our website in PDF format for download. It was also shared with our partner associations. We look forward to expanding this project to include multiple components and ready-to-use classroom materials.

New this fall, CASLT will be instituting a member-only section of the website, www.caslt.org. Many new materials are being added over the summer. A reminder that renewal of CASLT membership is due on September 1st. This year your membership card will also provide *continued on page 15*

Opinions expressed by authors are their own and not necessarily those of the Board of Directors of CASLT.

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