

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

Réflexions

May | mai 2009
Vol. 28, No. 2

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The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT)

L'Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes (ACPLS)

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Légal Deposit Number • Numéro de dépôt légal
ISBN/ISSN D680889

Publication Mail Agreement No. 40846073

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Use of the masculine in this publication is generic and applies to both men and women. • L'utilisation du masculin dans cette publication pour désigner des personnes renvoie aussi bien à des femmes qu'à des hommes.

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Even though we see continual evidence of erosion across the country of FSL programs, such a North American perspective, there are many positive things happening. Voici quelques exemples: the Languages without Borders conference in Edmonton, a CCV for ESL teachers in Halifax on May 8th, an international conference on Bilingualism and Biculturalism at Dalhousie University in Halifax in June, and a marked increase in the demand for bursaries to attend the summer program at uOttawa. During our National Council Networking Day, c'était évident que nous faisons énormément de bon travail à aider nos jeunes à apprendre une langue seconde. Demonstrating the importance and effectiveness of CASLT's work in promoting L2 and in advocacy. We must continue to fight the good fight.



Anthony Orlando

President's Message • Message du Président

By John Erskine



As I write this message, our ground-breaking conference **Languages without Borders/Langues sans frontières**, held in Edmonton, is coming to a close.

The opening inspirational address by Senator Claudette Tardif, thought provoking keynote speakers, Milton Bennett and Helena Curtain, workshops dealing with a wide variety of themes and languages, great entertainment and social activities, and a large and varied publisher and exhibitor trade show have made this a premiere event for sharing ideas and celebrating language learning in our country. Among the highlights for me were the conversations with many CASLT members, truly dedicated

language educators, and the importance of what we do to enrich the lives of our learners. I am particularly gratified by the strong participation of teachers of many of the languages being learned in Canada, as well as the collaboration from beyond the Canadian border. Thank you for your strong support – Over 600 registered delegates, 70 exhibitor companies, and sponsorship from the Embassies of China, Japan, Spain, Germany, and France.

CASLT has benefited tremendously from the dedication and expertise of our local conference organizing committee, many of whom stem from our partner group, the **Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education (IISLE)**. Others, from **Alberta Education, International and Heritage Languages Association (IHLA)**, and both Edmonton School Districts. Bravo et un gros merci! We are able to share some photo highlights in this

issue and look forward to sharing further details in the fall.

La vie à l'ACPLS est toujours mouvementée, et ce printemps ne fait pas l'exception. J'ai eu le plaisir de représenter notre association à la conférence de l'AOPLV à Toronto et le CASLT CHEZ VOUS à Winnipeg, où on avait de la littérature et le cadre commun comme thèmes principaux. Nous sommes vraiment chanceux d'avoir un soutien par excellence au bureau de l'ACPLS et je tiens à remercier Louise St-Amand de son dévouement et de sa volonté de faire tout ce qu'il faut pour assurer la réussite de nos projets. Je suis très heureux de souhaiter la bienvenue à Sarah Du Broy, maintenant responsable des communications pour l'Association.

As the school year is winding down, I would like to join the National Council Provincial and Territorial Representatives and the Board of Directors in wishing you a healthy and restful summer.

Executive Director's Update • Mise à jour de la Directrice générale

By Nicole Thibault



CASLT projects continue to focus on second language teacher and program support with a special emphasis on expanding access for teachers

to attend local, regional, and national events and on increasing public awareness, media and government relations on behalf of L2 programs.

This spring, CASLT coordinated or participated in a variety of professional development in various regions of the country. Seven **CASLT Chez Vous** Sessions, one or two day PD sessions coordinated with a local partner group have been delivered in Cape Breton (February 3), Eastern Ontario (March 6), Winnipeg (April 14), Edmonton (April 27), Fredericton (April 31-May 1), Halifax (May 8) and St.-John's (May 29). Our session

in Halifax was a first in serving our members teaching English as an additional language.

We also provided **workshop sessions** at the North West Territories (Feb 16-17) and the OMLTA (April 2-4) language conferences and the CCERBAL, University of Ottawa, *Symposium on Language Immersion as Formal and Informal Learning* (April 30-May 1). CASLT will also be presenting at the joint ACLA/CASLT/SPEAQ Special Symposium on L2 Language Teacher Education: *Assessment, Achievement and Advancement in Canada's Official Languages* (May 29). There are more details on many of these events in this issue of *Réflexions*.

On the advocacy front, CASLT was invited to present to the **Parliamentary Standing Committee for Official Languages** on March 12th, 2009. John Erskine and Nicole Thibault spoke about concrete initiatives underway such as the common framework and portfolio for languages and innovations in delivery methods for improving L2 education in Canada. The CASLT comments

were well received by the Committee and we submitted a written report.

In April, CASLT responded publicly to the announcement of the cancellation of the **Accent Second Language Assistant Program**, coordinated by the CMEC and delivered by each ministry of education. We emphasized the positive impacts of Accent in supporting effective second language teaching and learning across Canada while understanding the challenges in administration of such a program. CASLT, with its partner ACPI, met with Mme. Shelley Glover, Parliamentary Secretary to the minister of Canadian Heritage, to share our concerns and to suggest positive measures that could be considered as we move forward.

At CASLT, we proudly advocate on behalf of our members and look for ways to work with partner organizations to support professional development opportunities and to advance the quality of all second language programs across the country.