



# New Teacher's Handbook

Surviving and Thriving  
in the Second Language Classroom

Canadian Association of  
Second Language Teachers



Association canadienne des  
professeurs de langues secondes

# New Teacher's Handbook: Surviving and Thriving in the Second Language Classroom

Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT)

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CASLT encourages excellence in second and additional language teaching and learning throughout Canada by creating opportunities for professional development, by encouraging research, and by facilitating the sharing of information and the exchange of ideas among second language educators.

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**New Teacher's Handbook: Surviving and Thriving in the Second Language Classroom**

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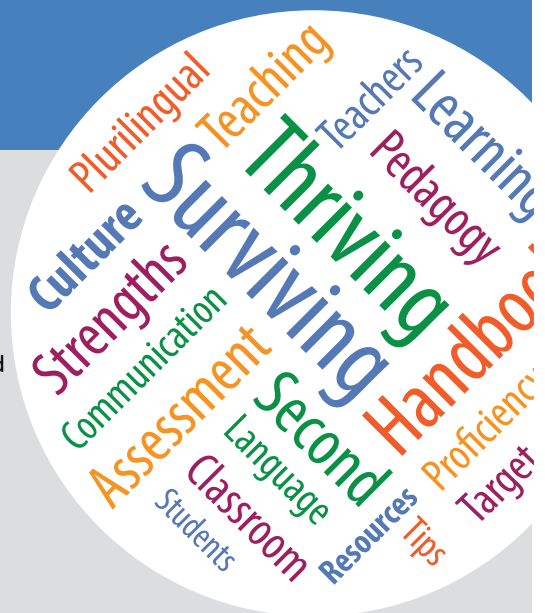
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# INTRODUCTION

## Purpose of the *New Teacher's Handbook*

As a teacher of a second language, you have an important and rewarding task: you empower students to communicate with others across more than one language and culture, and prepare them to take a more active role in the global community. Teaching second languages is incredibly gratifying; yet sometimes it can also be challenging, particularly for new teachers.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide concrete, practical solutions to address many of these challenges. This handbook was developed using the input of new and experienced second language teachers. Over 200 strategies have been included in this document, all intended to support you over the short- and long-term of your second language teaching career.

As a teacher of second languages, you will be doing so much more than simply imparting language skills to your students. There are many key benefits to second language learning, including enhanced cognitive development and economic opportunities ([Aiming Higher: Increasing Bilingualism of our Canadian Youth](#)<sup>1</sup>). Students who study another language are exposed to more cultural experiences, gain unique perspectives, and acquire learning strategies that they can apply to other subject areas. As a teacher of a second language, you are playing an important role in enhancing each of your student's personal opportunities, as well as contributing to a plurilingual and pluricultural Canadian society.

Second language teaching and learning requires teachers to plan instructional and assessment strategies for a wide range of diverse learners. Common challenges frequently identified by new second language teachers include no or limited access to a dedicated teaching space, quality resources, professional development, or colleagues with whom to collaborate. Some teachers feel they lack proficiency in the second language they are teaching, while others have proficiency, but lack second language pedagogy. What is important to assess in second language learning is not always clear to many. Keeping students engaged in second language learning, while meeting the needs of a range of diverse learners, challenges new and experienced teachers alike. Finally, new second language teachers can sometimes feel isolated in their assignments in locations where second languages may not always appear to be valued by the school community. This handbook provides specific strategies to address these challenges.

Before getting started, let us first thank you for choosing a career that contributes to a more interconnected world through the teaching and learning of second languages and cultures!

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1 [www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/412/ollo/rep/rep06jun15-e.pdf](http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/412/ollo/rep/rep06jun15-e.pdf)

The *New Teacher's Handbook* will guide you through some of the hardest challenges you will face at the beginning... and maybe even throughout your entire career as a second language teacher. Be it funding for relevant professional development, sharing classroom space with other teachers, or improving your own language proficiency, our experts have gathered what you need to survive and thrive.

## What's in it?

- Tips from new and experienced teachers
- Solutions to ten frequent situations new teachers face
- Planners to help you implement those solutions in your day to day teaching
- Plenty of resources to explore new strategies

Fear not. You will succeed!

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