



Canadian Languages Association (CLA)
L'Association canadienne des langues (ACL)



Panel Presentation

Languages Without Borders National Conference

May 2009 - Edmonton












What is the CLA?

CLA's primary objectives include:

1. Raising awareness of the value and benefits of language learning for all Canadians.
2. Recognizing Canada's ethnocultural communities and their historical and ongoing contributions to language education.
3. Promoting the development of programs in international/heritage languages and other related areas for the creation of positive educational outcomes for learners.
4. Strengthening communication and cooperation among providers and supporters of international/heritage languages organizations across Canada.
5. Coordinating and participating in the sharing of information and resources pertinent to language education.
6. Enabling the teaching of international/heritage languages within educational systems.
7. Enhancing teaching skills and resource development for language classrooms.
8. Supporting the efforts of educators in international/heritage languages programs.

CLA Advisory Committee...

- International Languages Society of British Columbia – ILSBC (Vancouver) 
- International Heritage Languages Association - IHLA (Edmonton) 
- Southern Alberta Heritage Languages Association - SAHLA (Calgary) 
- Saskatchewan Organization for Heritage Languages - SOHL (Regina) 
- Heritage Languages Program – Seven Oaks School Division (Winnipeg) 
- International Languages, Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board (Ottawa) 
- International Centre, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (Ottawa) 
- International Language Educator's Association - ILEA (Ontario) 
- Association Québécoise des Langues d'Origine (AQLO) / Québec Heritage Language Association (QHLA), (Québec) 



General CLA goals and objectives...

Short term:

- Raise awareness of language education, benefits and opportunities.
- Provide an overview of the state of language learning in Canada beyond English, French and aboriginal languages.
- Set an agenda for continued networking and development.

Medium / Long term:

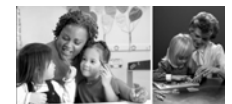
- Develop a national agenda that sees Canadians promoting and supporting the instruction of all languages.
- Develop a business model, establishing the links between international language education and the new global economy.
- Advocate for continued recognition and implementation of international language programs within public education systems across Canada.
- Monitor provincial policies and curricula that support language education as a key component of inclusive systems.

Direction: *Strengthening*

- **Issue:** *The level of international / heritage language education varies greatly across the country with provinces having varying degrees of commitment / understanding of the importance of this skill to its economic, social, and cultural well-being.*



- **CLA Role:** Provinces need to be attentive to language education and give it more support and importance as a building block for the future of Canadian society.

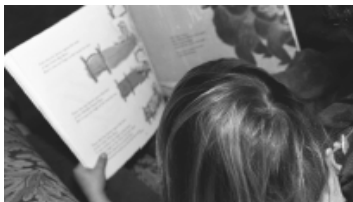


Research (i.e. Cummins) has continuously indicated that languages contribute to personal growth, educational success and career enrichment whether the target language be new or of one's heritage. CLA will act as lead advocate in this regard.



Direction: *Promoting*

- **Issue:** *Promoting international language education at the national level.*
- **CLA Role:** The CLA concerns itself with the promotion, growth, and cross-sharing of international / heritage language programs across Canada. The CLA has also acted as a well-informed voice for the promotion of multilingualism at the federal level and informs the public and policy-makers of the benefits of multilingualism to all aspects of Canadian society – economic, cultural, and social.





Direction: *Connecting*

- **Issue:** *Connecting individuals, organizations, institutions, levels of government, etc. associated with international / heritage language education.*
- **CLA role:** The CLA is fortunate to have various provincial associations, district school boards and University faculties as its members, all of which are affiliated with language programs in their own respective regions. The CLA therefore will voluntarily act as advisors, resources and facilitators in the ongoing tasks associated with this proposal.

CLA representatives will be able to activate further work within their own regions. Community organizations will take an active role during the process and will be encouraged to influence change as needed within their own regions.

CLA is implementing its new website to increase our national exposure. The website will share background on CLA and its role, the various I/HL organizations and affiliated language schools, and act as a central clearinghouse of information and resources related to language education.

CLA encourages you to...



Speak up!

- ✓ There are 85 living languages spoken across Canada.
- ✓ Over 6,000 languages are spoken around the world.
- ✓ Language learning promotes cognitive, social and academic development.
- ✓ Language learning creates career opportunities and great economic capacity for Canada.

So why aren't we learning more languages?

Join up as a Member to help support the CLA/ACL in promoting a multilingual Canada



Affiliates...



- CLA: www.canadianlanguages.ca
- Vancouver, BC: www.canadianlanguages.ca/ilsbc
- Edmonton, AB: www.ihla.ca
- Calgary, AB: www.sahla.ca
- Saskatchewan: www.heritagelanguages.sk.ca
- Winnipeg, MB: www.7oaks.org/divisional_languages.aspx
- Ontario: www.ilea.ca
- Ontario: www.continuingeducation.occdsb.on.ca
- Ontario: www.ocdsb.edu.on.ca/op_international_programs.asp
- Quebec: www.canadianlanguages.ca/aqlo-qhla

