



## PRESS RELEASE

### **CASLT is concerned about the lack of consideration given to second languages in the latest report of the Standing Committee on Official Languages**

**OTTAWA, December 13, 2012** – The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) has recently reviewed the report *After the Roadmap: Toward Better Programs And Service Delivery. Report of the Committee on Official Languages*. CASLT is delighted with the Committee's first recommendation, which is to introduce an initiative that will take over where the Roadmap left off and to provide financial resources equivalent to the amount granted for Roadmap 2008-2013.

Although CASLT generally supports the report's other recommendations, it is concerned about the lack of consideration given to second languages in Canada. The association believes that many of the recommendations should explicitly describe the federal government's commitment to second language learning in Canada on many levels, such as transfers to the provinces, access to French as a Second Language (FSL) and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs throughout Canada, teacher training and support in implementing the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Second languages are actually only mentioned once, in Recommendation 19. This recommendation pertains exclusively to support for immersion school graduates and Francophile and Anglophile students at the postsecondary level. Of course, one might think that the term *official languages* includes second official languages, but the failure to make specific mention of that in many of the report recommendations leads to a limited interpretation of the term and excludes second official languages. CASLT therefore recommends, at the very least, that the report include an explicit general reference to second official languages in order to exclude any possibility of a limited interpretation.

The recent results of a Statistics Canada survey on bilingualism in Canada demonstrate the success of Canadian Heritage's efforts and of its Roadmap, and CASLT firmly believes that second language learning has a direct impact on the acceptance of linguistic duality in Canada.

*Established in 1970, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) increases awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the importance of second language learning and teaching throughout Canada and promotes the advancement of professional excellence among language educators. See [www.caslt.org](http://www.caslt.org) for more information.*

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Promoting the advancement of second language teaching and learning.  
Favorise l'essor de l'enseignement et de l'apprentissage des langues secondes.