

PRESS RELEASE

The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers Honours Senator Claudette Tardif



The CASLT's Hilaire Lemoine (right) presents the Honorary Lifetime Member Award to Senator Claudette Tardif (centre), photographed with CASLT President John Erskine (left).

OTTAWA, October 27, 2008 – Alberta Senator, the Honorable Claudette Tardif, was recognized for her exceptional accomplishments in the field of official languages during the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers, held in Vancouver, BC, on September 25, 2008. The CASLT presented her with an Honorary Lifetime Member Award.

The award is given to distinguished individuals, such as public servants, political and media personalities, artists, and other leaders, who have demonstrated leadership in second language teaching based on their work, their research, or their private support. Senator Tardif has been both teacher and dean at the St. Jean Faculty of the University of Alberta. She has written numerous works in the field of French immersion, and teacher training and education. She is a passionate spokesperson on the topic of Canada's linguistic duality.

"Language training and learning have always played a central role in my life. Forty years ago, I began my career as a second language teacher in an Edmonton school. This marked the beginning of my passion for teaching and research, which I felt I could use to promote bilingualism to our youth and as a value for our country," declared Dr. Tardif.

"Now more than ever, we must double our efforts in order to ensure a secure future for the teaching of languages. Often, administrators and school board administrators do not consider the teaching of languages a priority, which unfortunately, contributes to less than ideal working conditions for teachers, as well as to a scarcity of both human and material resources. There is a lot of work to do in the field and I applaud the Association's efforts, which continually initiates projects to encourage research and facilitate networking and information exchange among its members," she stated.

Senator Tardif's name will now be added to the list of distinguished recipients who have received the Honorary Lifetime Member Award, and who have been honoured by the CASLT for their outstanding contributions in the field. Boyd Pelley, Dyane Adam, and Vincent Bueti are among those honoured in the past.

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 for more information.

– 30 –

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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.