

***Successful Implementation of
Heritage/International Language
Programs in Canada:
Selected strategies & Case studies in Alberta***

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Successful HL/IL programs in Canada: Selected Strategies & Case Studies in Alberta

- SAHLA, IHLA and **community-based language education programs.**
- The importance and value of teaching and learning **heritage / international languages. How community-based HL/IL education has contributed greatly towards multiple literacies for children and adults,**
- Alberta-based examples of **strategies and practices** that best aid the **development of multiple literacies** for the province, and the many cognitive, educational, cultural, social and economic benefits that languages education brings to our province, including our educational institutions and our workforce. Language education **policies, programs, trends and issues** from Alberta Education, as well as local school districts. **How schools, academics, community organizations and government policies assist** in this development.

(sahla)

Southern Alberta Heritage Language Association

SAHLA's mission

*SAHLA is a Calgary-based non-profit
educational umbrella association*

founded 26 years ago in 1985

whose mission is:

***To lead, advocate and provide
resources for the promotion
of international & heritage
languages education.***



(sahla)

Southern Alberta Heritage Language Association

SAHLA's vision

*Every student in the province of Alberta will have the opportunity to access and learn an **International Language** as part of their **basic education**.*

- Alberta Education helped this vision to become very close to **reality** in 2006, when 52 out of Alberta's 62 **school boards** introduced a **languages requirement** starting at grade four!
- Community-based language programs through SAHLA & IHLA continue to be a strong and vital source for teaching & learning many different languages.



(sahla)

Southern Alberta Heritage Language Association

SAHLA's role

- SAHLA plays invaluable unduplicated role in bringing **diverse language and cultural communities**, schools, principals and teachers together, ***teaching 38 languages to over 6,000 students.***
- ***Share curriculum and best teaching practices*** between linguistic and cultural communities.
- ***Develop, enhance and promote our rich linguistic and cultural diversity*** through community-based language schools.
- ***Advocate for effective language policies and programs,*** to benefit students both at public school and community levels.

Some of our schools...

Chinese Academy

- established in 1997
- celebrated its 13th anniversary this year.
- **1925 students** (K-12)
- **88 teachers** (10 certificated)
- 54 volunteers
- high school Curriculum developed provincially and recognized by AB ED.
- Mandarin & Cantonese
- includes martial arts, speech, writing & singing competition
- operates in a public school on Saturday mornings
- *Largest community language school in Alberta!*

Eritrean Language School

- established in 1990
- **105 students**
- **10 teachers**
- 9 volunteers
- grades 1-10
- curriculum developed locally, looking ahead for curriculum to be recognized by AB ED.
- Tigrigna language
- includes soccer & dance programs
- operates in a public school on Saturday afternoons

Some of our schools...

John Paul II Polish School

- established in **1934**
- celebrated its 75th anniversary this year.
- **433 students** (K-12)
- **31 teachers**
- high school Curriculum developed locally and recognized by Alberta Education
- operates in a Catholic school on Saturday mornings

Armenian School

- established in **2009**
- **10 students**
- **2 teachers**
- grades 1-8
- curriculum developed regionally
- operates in a cultural centre on Saturdays/Sundays



U of C - Continuing Education

Teaching Second Languages

Professional Development Certificate

in partnership with SAHLA

LEVEL ONE

4 Courses total = 130 hours

*All 4 courses offered in class
& on-line nationally*

- **Pedagogic Fundamentals**
- – 40 hours
- **Teaching Specific Language Skills 1**
– 30 hours
- (Reading/Writing/Grammar/Vocabulary)
- **Teaching Specific Language Skills 2**
– 30 hours
- (Speaking/Listening/Pronunciation)
- **Assessment and Materials Development** – 30 hours

LEVEL TWO

4 Courses total = 130 hours

*All 4 courses offered in class
& on-line nationally*

- **Teaching Second Languages - Foundations**
- – 40 hours
- **Teaching Second Languages - Methodology**
- – 30 hours
- **Linguistic Structures**
- – 30 hours
- **Teaching Culture**
- – 30 hours

International/Heritage Languages

- Since language & culture are inextricably linked, learning languages can contribute to awareness of one's own **cultural identity** as well as **intercultural understanding** between different groups in several ways. **Together, multiculturalism and multilingualism are part of an inseparable family.** Reinforces **Canadian multicultural identity** and strengthens our country's way of life. The result is social cohesion, which includes:
 - cross-cultural awareness, understanding, respect and harmony, peace-building & civic participation.*
- **Language is the most vital communication skill in society.** It is necessary for everyday life & is related to every single part of our community. Contributes towards the **social, cultural, educational and economic development** of the Alberta/Canadian society:
 - International relations & cooperation*
 - International trade*
 - International development*



ALBERTA CULTURAL POLICY

(2008) Alberta Culture & Community Spirit

- **Vision:** *an Alberta where all citizens feel a sense of belonging and pride, and participate in cultural and recreational activities that reflect their diverse heritage and enrich their lives*
- **Mission:** *To ensure Albertans have the opportunity to share, express and experience culture in a province that respects the past, celebrates the present and welcomes the future.*
- **“Culture is who we are, what we value, what we consider beautiful, how we spend our leisure time and how we think about and treat others.”**

Benefits of Second Language Learning: **Alberta Education**

- ***Intellectual Potential***

- Students fluent in two language score higher in both verbal and non-verbal intelligence.
- Students studying a second language are superior in divergent thinking tasks and in memory ability and attention span.

- ***Scholastic Achievement***

- Second language students have higher test scores in reading, language and mathematics.
- Each additional year of second language training created a greater positive differential compared to students not receiving a second language.

- ***Effect on First Language***

- Second language education significantly strengthens first language skills in areas of reading, English vocabulary, grammar and communication skills.
- The earlier the start, the greater the positive effect on the first language.

- ***Citizenship***

- Students studying a second language have superior cross-cultural skills and adapt better to varying cultural contexts.
- Students studying a second language display greater cultural sensitivity.

- ***Economic Potential***

- There is an urgent requirement for qualified speakers of languages other than English in areas of science, technology, medicine and global commerce.



A Review of the Literature on Second Language Learning: Alberta Education

prepared by the University of Calgary

Language Research Centre (LRC) - 2nd edition 2006

The Effects of Learning a **Third language for students whose First Language is not English.**

1) Learning a 3rd language is aided by proficiency in the 1st language, and acquired skills can be transferred among the languages spoken.

1) The acquisition of a 3rd language is a **common occurrence around the world. The number of trilinguals in Canada and in Canadian schools is **growing.****



Alberta Education

Provincially Developed Languages Programs

in addition to French (FSL), Immersion & Aboriginal languages

- *International Languages Programs*
- *Bilingual Programs (4 different languages)*
 - **Chinese, German, Spanish and Ukrainian**
- *Language and Culture Programs*
 - *(8 different languages taught in public & community HL schools)*
 - **Chinese, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian.**



Alberta Education

Locally Developed/Acquired

Jr & Sr High School Language Courses.

-38 different languages – taught in community IL/HL Schools

- do not duplicate provincially authorized courses, further develop & cultivate the unique interests & abilities of students, to foster educational improvement and excellence through innovation at the local level ***to meet the unique needs of a local community.***

The Common Curriculum Frameworks for International Languages: Western Canadian Protocol (WCP) for Collaboration in Basic Education can used as a guideline.

- The Govt of Alberta has recognized the **multicultural** nature of the province through the ***Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act.***
- Accordingly, **Alberta Education encourages school authorities to develop second language courses to meet the needs of the local community** when such courses are not available as provincially authorized courses.
- www.education.alberta.ca/teachers/resources/learnlang/.aspx



Calgary Board of Education

Calgary Board of Education

offers the following language programs:

- *French Immersion, FSL Spanish, German and Chinese Bilingual, Chinese, German and Spanish Language and Culture, Cree & Blackfoot*



The CBE International Certificate

- *Recognizes & values the significant contributions, work & experiences that IL/HL students have accomplished throughout their CBE journey.*
- *Provides credit from HL/IL study towards high school certificate*



Calgary Catholic School District

offers the following language programs:

- *French (FSL)*
- *French Immersion*
- *Spanish*
- *Spanish (Bilingual)*
- *Italian*
- *Japanese*
- *Chinese - Cantonese*
- *Chinese - Mandarin*
- *Polish*

