



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

c/o 205 – 1409 Edmonton Trail N.E., Calgary, AB · T2E 3K8

Tel: 403.233-7998 Fax: 403.232-8760

Web: [www.canadianlanguages.ca](http://www.canadianlanguages.ca) E.mail: [info@canadianlanguages.ca](mailto:info@canadianlanguages.ca)

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# **2011 Federal Election**

## **CLA All-Candidates Questionnaire on *Languages Education in Canada***

### ***Results***

#### **2011 Federal Election**

The 2011 Canadian federal election will take place on May 2. During the campaign period, the Canadian Languages Association will be analyzing any issues and developments that may be of interest to the languages education sector in Canada.

#### **Canadian Languages Association's Information Campaign**

- The CLA is a non-partisan organization and this is consistently reinforced through all CLA information, communications, and other materials that may be developed during the period of a federal election.
- The CLA will provide its membership and Affiliates information relating to the languages education sector as expressed by individual candidates as well as the platforms of the federal parties.
- The CLA will not endorse any candidate or political party based on their electoral platform; the decision to cast a ballot is the right and duty of every Canadian citizen, who will form their judgment on an individual basis.
- The CLA will offer any political party an opportunity to rebut analyses and such rebuttals will be made available to our members and to the sector through bulletins and postings on the CLA website.
- The CLA will circulate information from each federal party without amendments or editing.

## **Background on Languages Education in Canada**

Canada's identity is the mosaic of its languages and cultures, all working together to illustrate our uniqueness as a peaceful multicultural country. Second language education plays an important role in the strengthening of Canada's identity by providing an intercultural perspective on our country through language learning and appreciation.

English, French, Aboriginal languages, and International/Heritage languages, are integral members of Canada's multilingual mosaic inseparable from our concept of multiculturalism.

The Canadian Languages Association (CLA) believes in the economic, cultural, and social benefits of multilingualism. We need to recognize that our much-celebrated cultural diversity can indeed be a wellspring for the new ideas and knowledge that will generate innovation, grow and attract high-technology industries, and spur economic growth and prosperity. The teaching of languages reinforces our Canadian multicultural identity and strengthens our country's unique sense of belonging and economic diversification.

In short, Canadians possessing skills in more than one of our official languages are an invaluable human, social, cultural and economic resource for our country.

The CLA and its Affiliates represent in excess of 250,000 second language learners across Canada who have a vested interest in your responses to the following questions.

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The **CLA All-Candidates Questionnaire** was sent out to approximately 980 declared candidates in the upcoming 2011 Canadian federal election.

The four primary parties were approached:

- **Conservative Party of Canada**
- **Green Party of Canada**
- **Liberal Party of Canada**
- **New Democratic Party of Canada**

The response rate to our Questionnaire was approximately 10%.

We invite you to peruse the following pages and read the responses.

# Questions and Candidate/Party Responses

## Question 1

**Canada's identity is the mosaic of its languages and cultures, all working together to illustrate our uniqueness as a peaceful multicultural country. Second language education plays an important role in the strengthening of Canada's identity by providing an intercultural perspective on our country through language learning and appreciation.**

**The Government of Canada, in partnership with the provincial ministries of education, should cooperate and develop national standards for international languages education policies and programming at the provincial level.**

**Do you agree or disagree with this statement?**

### **Conservative Party of Canada**

**Response:** Unfortunately, there were no Conservative Party of Canada federal candidates who responded directly to this question.

**Candidate's Comments...**

### **Green Party of Canada**

**Response:** 95% of Green Party of Canada federal election candidates who responded Agreed with this statement.

**Candidate's Comments...**

*I am bilingual myself with a certificate from Niagara College in Spanish as a Second Language.*

(Robin Williamson, Green Party, Welland, ON)

*The federal government should provide guidance to the provinces, and facilitate sharing of best practices between provincial ministries of education.*

(Mike Schwindt, Green Party of Canada Candidate - Kenora, ON)

*In principle we agree with your statement, specifically in the area of partnerships between the Gov't of Canada and the provincial ministries of education, The development of national standards must be both implementable and be in the best interests of all Canadians.*

(Cameron Hastings, Green Party Candidate, Richmond Hill, ON)

*To have someone available in every school across the country with a grasp on every international language seems like a hugely expensive and largely redundant proposition. Perhaps in larger centers where the demographics calls for such education it could be considered.*

(Greg Chatterson, Green Party Candidate, Regina Qu'Appelle, SK)

*NB is the only official bilingual province in Canada and in recent years both official languages have flourished. I think the federal government can play a vital role in ensuring that this success is transmitted to other provinces so that they may realize the tremendous possibilities especially when it comes to tourism.*

(Ronald Mazerolle Green Party Candidate, Miramichi, NB)

*The Green Party of Canada fully supports initiatives that add to the rich cultural diversity of Canada. A Green government will work together with the provinces to establish national standards for international language training.*

(Ellen Michelson, Green Party Candidate, Toronto Centre, ON)

## **Liberal Party of Canada**

**Response:** 95% of the Liberal Party of Canada federal election candidates who responded Agreed with this statement.

### **Candidate's Comments...**

*The Liberal party does not have a specific policy for second language education.*

(Margaret McLeod, Liberal Party of Canada Calgary - Nose Hill)

*I fully agree. I am of Irish heritage and began learning Ukrainian language as an adult. It has greatly enriched my life.*

(Lee Reaney, Liberal - Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar)

*The standards should be established and shared - not imposed by a federal government.*

(Jennifer Pollock, Liberal Party of Canada Candidate - Calgary Centre, AB)

*There are elements of this in the Liberal Platform for new Canadians.*  
(Glen Pearson, Liberal Party Candidate, London-North-Centre, ON)

*One of Canada's greatest strengths is that we can talk to the world in the world's languages. It is essential we maintain and strengthen this competitive advantage.*  
(James Morton, Liberal Candidate, Oshawa, ON)

*Language is key to educational instruction and we should be prepared to use technology and diversity of culture to give our children and youth the best learning opportunities possible.*  
(Deb Walker, Liberal Party Candidate, Blackstrap, SK)

*The Liberal Party recognizes that our two official languages are the cement of our identity and must be promoted and safeguarded. Canada is a bilingual country, with a multicultural and creative people, proud of their heritage, their communities, provinces, cities and cultures. A Liberal government will immediately begin consultations for a next generation Official Languages Plan so that it can be inclusive and comprehensive as possible.*  
(Bernadette Clement, Liberal Party Candidate, Liberal Stormont Dundas South Glengarry, ON)

*Canada's most important asset is not oil but is multiculturalism. As an international businessman, I have travelled all over the world. It is amazing to find Canadian connections in every country of nearly 80 I visited.*  
(Ken Beck Lee, Liberal Party Candidate, New Westminster – Coquitlam, BC)

*The more work we put into learning international languages, the easier it will be to teach English and French to new Canadians. Languages education always leads to enriched cultural exchange.*  
(Rob Oliphant, Liberal Party Candidate, Don Valley West, ON)

## **New Democratic Party of Canada**

**Response:** 100% of New Democrat Party of Canada federal election candidates who responded Agreed with this statement.

### ***Candidate's Comments...***

## **Question 2**

**Canada needs to educate students and communities about the importance of language instruction within our global economy.**

**It is vital that our Federal Government work in partnership with ministries of education, educational institutions, business, government and the community to develop a major promotional effort to increase and reinforce student and community awareness of the educational, social and economic importance of languages learning, and the existing language learning resources across provinces and communities.**

**Do you agree or disagree with this statement?**

### **Conservative Party of Canada**

**Response:** Unfortunately, there were no Conservative Party of Canada federal election candidates who responded to this question.

**Candidate's Comments...**

### **Green Party of Canada**

**Response:** 95% of Green Party of Canada federal election candidates who responded Agreed with this statement.

**Candidate's Comments...**

*Languages are our heritage, and I try to reinforce this every day teaching my class of First Nations students. Languages are our future, as immigration provides more and more of our population. (Mike Schwindt, Green Party of Canada Candidate - Kenora, ON)  
Again with this statement the agreement come from the "partnerships" and the reinforcing of student and community awareness.*

*(Cameron Hastings, Green Party Candidate, Richmond Hill, ON)*

*My son is in a french immersion program.*

(Eric Benoit Walton, Green Party Candidate - Kingston & The Islands, ON)

*Multilingualism enhances student achievement in other subjects and contributes to a higher standard of education.*

(Kate Storey, Green Party Candidate, Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette, MB)

*I'm still not sure what this organization is getting at here. True languages are important in a global economy but to classify them as vital ignores the standard of two official languages. A standard that simplifies communication within this Country. Certainly a language like Latin can be offered in a class from several venues for anyone that wishes to understand and speak the Latin language but I cannot foresee expending any major promotional effort towards educating the population of this Country in Latin.*

(Greg Chatterson, Green Party Candidate, Regina Qu'Appelle, SK)

*Tourism is a leading industry in Canada. It creates many jobs and generates much income. Promoting languages will only strengthen this sector.*

(Ronald Mazerolle Green Party Candidate, Miramichi, NB)

*The Green Party of Canada strongly supports promoting the many educational, social and economic benefits of learning languages, as well as the existing resources that are available for people to use. We will cooperate with all levels of government and relevant stakeholders to ensure this happens.*

(Ellen Michelson, Green Party Candidate, Toronto Centre, ON)

## **Liberal Party of Canada**

**Response:** 95% of the Liberal Party of Canada federal election candidates who responded Agreed with this statement.

### **Candidate's Comments...**

*The Liberal party prefers to work with stakeholders to develop strategies for addressing issues.*

(Margaret McLeod, Liberal Party of Canada Calgary - Nose Hill)

*As we seek to emerge as a leader in a global society, it is a necessity to educate our youth with the tools that will allow them to succeed. A second and third language are among the most important.*

(Lee Reaney, Liberal - Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar)

*A Liberal government created the Official Languages Act and Canada's first official language plan. We are committed to making sure that linguistic communities in our country stay vibrant and dynamic.*

(Sydney Garrioch, Liberal Candidate, Churchill, MB)

*Beginning with strong support for all Canadians to be highly literate in English or French. (Jennifer Pollock, Liberal Party of Canada Candidate - Calgary Centre, AB)*

*Canada's competitive advantage in having a multilingual nation must be maintained as a matter of national importance.*

(James Morton, Liberal Candidate, Oshawa, ON)

*We are terribly behind on this compared with other countries beyond the shores of North America.*

(Deb Walker, Liberal Party Candidate, Blackstrap, SK)

*The consultations will seek public views on how Official Languages policy should deal with digital technologies, among other issues. Another important issue will be how to encourage development of more bilingual programs in post-secondary institutions. Bilingualism is one of the dimensions of that growth. Bilingualism is among the many attributes that enable the Canadian forces to both serve and reflect our country with pride and professionalism.*

(Bernadette Clement, Liberal Party Candidate, Liberal Stormont Dundas South Glengarry, ON)

*Speaking local language and understanding local culture are tremendous assets in doing international business. We should not only teach language but also culture. Please don't convert Canada into a US style melting pot. The role of elderly family members is very important in maintaining mother tongue and culture. Please reinstate the family reunion class immigration as a priority.*

(Ken Beck Lee, Liberal Party Candidate, New Westminster – Coquitlam, BC)

*Les deux langues officielles du Canada aident à définir notre identité. La gouvernance au niveau des langues officielles par le gouvernement fédéral s'est atrophiée sous le gouvernement Harper. Et il faut maintenant renverser cette tendance. Un gouvernement libéral amorcera immédiatement des consultations pour la prochaine génération du plan sur les langues officielles afin qu'il soit le plus inclusif et le plus complet possible. Un gouvernement libéral s'assurera de bâtir sur ces progrès et de continuer à favoriser le rapprochement entre les Canadiens.*

(Marlene Jennings, Liberal Party Candidate, Notre-Dame-de-Grace—Lachine, PQ)

*Stephen Harper has failed to be a leader on the international stage. Under a Liberal government we will be in a period of Canadian renewal in global politics and will be in need of international speakers of business, diplomacy, etc.*

(Rob Oliphant, Liberal Party Candidate, Don Valley West, ON)

## **New Democratic Party of Canada**

**Response:** 100% of New Democrat Party of Canada federal election candidates who responded Agreed with this statement.

**Candidate's Comments...**



### **Question 3**

**A proposed Canadian Languages Strategy would set out the Federal Government's commitment to increasing Canada's languages capability, and a vision of languages as both a life skill and an engine of economic growth – to be used in business and for personal growth, to open up avenues of communication and career enhancement, and to promote, encourage and instill a broader cultural understanding.**

**Can your party commit to the implementation of a national languages strategy?**

#### **Conservative Party of Canada**

**Response:** 100% of the Conservative Party of Canada federal election candidates who responded Agreed with this statement.

**Candidate's Comments...**

#### **Green Party of Canada**

**Response:** 95% of Green Party of Canada federal election candidates who responded Agreed with this statement.

**Candidate's Comments...**

*One condition; such a strategy would need to be a practical document that provided real guidance to affected parties.*

*(Mike Schwindt, Green Party Candidate - Kenora, ON)*

*Accurately stated, I cannot commit to the implementation of a national languages strategy, however I can commit to become fully informed and advocate for it as appropriate. (Cameron Hastings, Green Party Candidate, Richmond Hill, ON)  
I can agree with this statement. My personal opinion on the question is only in the context of classes offered in an educational setting like any other education one might pursue.*

*(Greg Chatterson, Green Party Candidate, Regina Qu'Appelle, SK)*

*The Green Party of Canada believes that multilingualism not only enriches the lives of the speaker, but also strengthens Canadian competitiveness worldwide. We will work together with the provinces, educators, and interest groups such as the CLA to establish an effective national languages strategy. I have taught ESL in Canada and in several other countries. As well, while living in another country, I took community courses in the country's language, becoming fluent enough to obtain employment as a teacher. My new language skills made it possible for me to contribute, and take pride in sharing my professional skills. I thus have personal experience of the value of good public policy for languages.*

(Ellen Michelson, Green Party Candidate, Toronto Centre, ON)

## **Liberal Party of Canada**

**Response:** 95% of the Liberal Party of Canada federal election candidates who responded Agreed with this statement.

### **Candidate's Comments...**

*We do not have a specific policy in this matter. I agree with the value of your initiative, but I am reluctant to make promises I am not sure I can keep.*

(Margaret McLeod, Liberal Party of Canada Calgary - Nose Hill)

*Yes, and in addition to my last comment, I would seek to improve the ability of Canadians to communicate in both official languages.*

(Lee Reaney, Liberal - Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar)

*The Liberal Party created the Official Languages Act and put into place the first, national official languages plan. We are committed to vibrant and dynamic linguistic communities throughout the nation. An essential component to that goal is effective language education.*

(Karen McCrimmon, Liberal Candidate, Carleton-Mississippi Mills, ON)

*A Liberal government will immediately begin consultations for a next generation Official Languages Plan so that it can be as inclusive and comprehensive as possible. These consultations will seek public views on how Official Languages policy should deal with digital technologies, among other issues. Another important issue will be how to encourage development of more bilingual programs in post-secondary institutions.*

(Hon. Navdeep Bains, Liberal, Mississauga-Brampton South)

*In 2003, the Liberal government announced its Action Plan for Official Languages 2003-2008, also known as the Dion plan. The total budget for the Action Plan over five years was \$751.3 million.*

(Sydney Garrioch, Liberal Candidate, Churchill, MB)

*Yes, it is possible and I am very supportive of this goal.*

(Jennifer Pollock, Liberal Party of Canada Candidate - Calgary Centre, AB)

*Absolutely: speaking a language creates common ground, and respect.*  
(Deb Walker, Liberal Party Candidate, Blackstrap, SK)

*The new Learning Passport will open the doors for every young Canadian who wants to go to college or university, and help every family struggling to save enough to pay for it. There will be \$1,000 a year over four years for every high school student in Canada to use when they go to college or university, or \$4,000 in total. For students in low income families, the amount will be \$1,500 a year, or \$6,000 in total.*  
(Bernadette Clement, Liberal Party Candidate, Liberal Stormont Dundas South Glengarry, ON)

*I will be a big promoter of this.*  
(Ken Beck Lee, Liberal Party Candidate, New Westminster – Coquitlam, BC)

*Les libéraux croient qu'il est dans l'intérêt de tous que les Canadiens réussissent dans le marché du travail et qu'ils participent pleinement au sein de leur communauté. À travers la stratégie canadienne d'apprentissage, un gouvernement libéral augmentera de manière significative les fonds alloués afin d'améliorer et d'élargir les programmes de formation linguistique, pour atteindre une majoration de 100 millions de \$ annuellement dans un horizon de 4 ans.*  
(Marlene Jennings, Liberal Party Candidate, Notre-Dame-de-Grace—Lachine, PQ)

*Liberals have committed to initiatives such as increased language training for new Canadians, and an international dimension of Canadian learning to send students abroad. These policies are designed to indirectly and directly increase the language capacity of Canadians.*  
(Rob Oliphant, Liberal Party Candidate, Don Valley West, ON)

## **New Democratic Party of Canada**

**Response:** 100% of New Democrat Party of Canada federal election candidates who responded Agreed with this statement.

### **Official Party Response...**

*A New Democratic government would be open to sitting down to discuss with key stakeholders how the federal government can play a role, along with the provinces and territories, to ensure that Canadians have access to quality language learning. Included below are aspects of our platform that we believe would be of interest to your organization. For more information you can also visit [www.ndp.ca](http://www.ndp.ca)*

## **Question 4**

**Language is the most vital communication skill in society. It is necessary for everyday life and is related to every single part of our community from industry, including tourism, import/export, economy, as well as social justice and international relationships. Clearly learning a language contributes towards the social, cultural, educational and economic resources of Canada.**

**What is your party willing to do to ensure that Canadians are afforded opportunities to acquire, maintain and enhance language learning, particularly as the new global knowledge-based economy emerges?**

### **Conservative Party of Canada**

#### **Candidate's Comments...**

*Thank you for your correspondence regarding the importance of second languages, particularly in a multicultural country like Canada. I always appreciate hearing from Canadians actively interested in particular issues.*

*The Conservative Party has been very clear with its support of multiculturalism. An important part of this is encouraging Canadians to maintain or learn second languages. We are fortunate to live in a country with two official languages and where maintaining your native tongue is encouraged. This helps make Canada an extremely welcoming nation for new Canadians and we are all better for it. I believe that helping Canadians maintain or learn a second language is extremely important.*

*I appreciate your letter on this topic, as it is an important one. Thank you very much for your correspondence.*

(Diana Dilworth, Conservative party Candidate, New Westminster-Coquitlam, BC)

### **Green Party of Canada**

#### **Candidate's Comments...**

*In order to ensure our economic and social development, it is time for the federal government to provide leadership to ensure language learning becomes a priority in education.*

(Jared Giesbrecht, Green Party, Victoria, BC)

*Tax deductions for anyone wanting to learn a second language.*

(Robin Williamson, Green Party, Welland, ON)

*The Green Party believes in the value of our public education system, and will reinvest in it to reinvest in our future. There is research that shows that language learning is an important component of a balanced education, and we will use this to guide our policy suggestions on education.*

(Mike Schwindt, Green Party of Canada Candidate - Kenora, ON)

*Allocate much greater funding for training in official languages (ESL and FSL for new immigrants) through earmarked transfers to the provinces for primary and secondary public school and free night school programs.*

(Tanya Gutmanis, Green party of Canada, Riding of Random-Burin-St.George's, Newfoundland)

*Green Party MPs will:*

- *Lead a national discussion to define “environmental refugee” and advocate for the inclusion of environmental refugees as a refugee category in Canada and accept an appropriate share of the world’s environmental refugees into Canada.*
- *Eliminate the valuation of foreign credentials for immigration purposes except in those cases where such credentials are recognized in Canada or a clear and expeditious path to Canadian accreditation is established, and in place establish realistic criteria for immigrants based on existing job opportunities for immigrants to Canada.*
- *Press professional societies to remove unnecessary barriers hindering the recognition of valid professional credentials of immigrants.*
- *Ensure professionals being considered for immigration will have the licensing requirements for their professions clearly explained before entry. Landed immigrants with professional qualifications will be supported and given the opportunity to obtain Canadian licenses consistent with public safety.*
- *Allocate much greater funding for training in official languages (ESL and FSL) for new immigrants, knowing that many new immigrants are not fluent in either official language, through earmarked transfers to the provinces for primary and secondary public school and free night school programs.*
- *Establish a program to deal with the estimated 200,000 people living in Canada without official status that leads to full landed immigrant status for those who have become contributing members of Canadian society.*
- *Work with municipalities and provinces to improve the integration of new Canadians into the multicultural fabric of our country.*
- *Support multicultural communities by assisting cultural organizations to obtain charitable status. Vision Green - Part 4 79*
- *Seek to have the regulations governing the practices of immigration consultants toughened and enforced and increase penalties in the Criminal Code for those convicted of human smuggling.*
- *Amend the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Public Safety Act to require that, after a reasonable length of time, formal charges be brought against all those detained.*
- *Open an investigation into allegations by the United Nations Human Rights Committee of Canadian officials cooperating with foreign agencies known to use torture.*

- *Ensure the “lost Canadians” quietly being denied citizenship through archaic laws are protected and their citizenship restored. Although some significant progress has been made, some are still “lost.”*
- *Implement the recommendation made by the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration to immediately allow those who have refused or left military service regarding a war not sanctioned by the United Nations permanent resident status in Canada.*
- *Oppose legislation imposing jail time retroactively, and targeting people who arrive by ship.*
- *Oppose the Harper government’s efforts to place barriers on family reunification.*

(William Hamilton, Green Party of Canada Candidate - Calgary Centre, AB)

*I would be prepared to take forward your concern and position in this regard for the development of a party policy relevant to this issue.*

(Cameron Hastings, Green Party Candidate, Richmond Hill, ON)

*Support policy, programs, and opportunities to acquire, maintain and enhance language learning.*

(Glen Carabin, Green Party Candidate, Canso, NS)

*Allocate much greater funding for training in languages through earmarked transfers to the provinces for primary and secondary public school - Promote Aboriginal culture, language and history as a fundamental source of Canadian identity.*

(Greig Crockett, Green Party of Canada Candidate, Okanagan-Shuswap, BC)

*Openly message on the importance of learning a second language and support this through policy. I am bilingual: English/French.*

(Eric Benoit Walton, Green Party Candidate - Kingston & The Islands, ON)

*First strengthen education in Canada's Official languages. Education in Canada's official languages to be open to all Canadians. Work with provinces, communities and the private sector on creating opportunities for all Canadians to learn international languages. I strongly support language education. It enhances our culture and understanding of how Canada fits in the World.*

(Paul Simas, Green Party Candidate - Mississauga South, ON)

*Two points: extra languages are now being shown to also improve brain health in later life; and Self learning via the web, for example, must be available, free, for all Canadians. The public schools have not been very successful in teaching a 2nd language and this is even more so in unilingual schools and communities.*

(Matthew Friesen, Green Party Candidate, Portage-Lisgar, MB)

*The Green Party recognizes the strength in diversity. We will develop a national program to encourage multilingualism.*

(Kate Storey, Green Party Candidate, Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette, MB)

*What must be done is to support existing language programs while bolstering with new programs and ideas.*

(Bryan Hunt, Green Party Candidate, BC Southern Interior)

*Ensure that all students learn at least a second language between Grades 4 and 12.*

(Roger Benham, Green Party Candidate, Skeena/Bulkley Valley, BC)

*Again the comment # 6 has merit. To differentiate between my personal commitments and the Party: The policy of the party is developed on the floor of the Annual general meetings and it is documented in the policy manual vision green. The document is well indexed and user friendly, but too long and wordy to type out here, please refer to it. Exception I would think were interpretation could be needed would be in the courts if a defendant could not understand the proceedings or in government offices.*

(Greg Chattersson, Green Party Candidate, Regina Qu'Appelle, SK)

*Provide adequate funding to language arts in our education institutions Support cultural organizations that are providing opportunities for language education.*

(Vicki Strelieff, Green Party Candidate, Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar, SK)

*We are committed to provide education in not only both official languages but also to languages courses to native communities so that they can relearn their native tongue which will instill a sense of pride which is much needed.*

(Ronald Mazerolle Green Party Candidate, Miramichi, NB)

*The Green Party of Canada believes that one of the best ways to ensure a range of strong skills in many languages in Canada is to maintain our nation's rich history of immigration. Canada's multicultural diversity is an essential part of our national identity. New Canadians are a source of incredible skills and potential for our country, Moreover, they bring a wide array of linguistic skills, which further deepens Canada's linguistic mosaic and strengthens both our society and our economy.*

(Ellen Michelson, Green Party Candidate, Toronto Centre, ON)

## **Liberal Party of Canada**

### **Candidate's Comments...**

*I think a tax deduction for language learning should be considered.*

(Hardy Staub, Liberal Party of Canada: South Surrey-White Rock-Cloverdale, BC)

*I agree that language learning enhances the ability of Canadians to be effective in the global knowledge based economy. If elected I would be willing to advocate for your languages initiative.*

(Margaret McLeod, Liberal Party of Canada Calgary - Nose Hill)

*As the MP for North Vancouver, I think we must improve access to education and training by ensuring that education is affordable, open to the widest number of Canadians and that we use technology to improve accessibility to Canadians living outside of major urban centres. Education is an area of provincial responsibility and we will have to work with the provinces to ensure they have access to an appropriate level of financial resources.*

(Taleeb Noormohamed, Liberal Party of Canada and North Vancouver BC Riding)

*The Liberal Party's platform is based around not just the Canadian family, but also the importance of life-long learning. From a national early learning and child care fund to create new quality, affordable child care spaces, to support for students to get a post-secondary education as well as skills-upgrading to continually upgrade our labour force. Speaking fluent English, French, and Italian, Maria Minna understands the importance of speaking multiple languages, particularly in the new global economy. In the mid-1980s Maria fought the Mulroney Conservative government because they refused to fund English as a second language training for immigrant women. At the time it was only available to immigrant men. Maria succeeded in getting funding for language training for immigrant women. Maria Minna understands the importance of language education and will continue to advocate enhanced supports.*

(Maria Minna, Liberal Candidate for Beaches-East York, ON)

*Willing to bring this issue forward to Caucus.*

(Ken Boshcoff, Liberal Candidate - Thunder Bay-Rainy River)

*Needs far more time to formulate a cogent plan than we have here.*

(Max Khan, Liberal Candidate – Oakville, ON)

*Liberal governments always focus on what Canadians have in common, and what we can accomplish as one country. That kind of leadership is needed again. More than ever, we need to bridge the gaps that divide us, and welcome all contributions to the ongoing work of building stronger communities and a better country. Canada is a country, with a multicultural and creative people, proud of their heritage, their communities, provinces, cities, and cultures. We draw strength from our diversity. A Liberal government will immediately begin consultations for a next generation Official Languages Plan so that it can be as inclusive and comprehensive as possible. Within the Canadian Learning Strategy there are provisions for expanded language training for new Canadians, as well as funding for Canadian workers to gain the skills and knowledge that they need to be successful. Language abilities are essential to success of a workforce in the global economy.*

(Karen McCrimmon, Liberal Candidate, Carleton-Mississippi Mills, ON)

*In addition to our next generation languages plan a Liberal government will implement a Canada Service Corps. It will leverage the energy and engagement of Canadian youth by financially supporting their volunteer service abroad, bringing international experience within reach for greater numbers of young Canadians.*

(Hon. Navdeep Bains, Liberal, Mississauga-Brampton South)

*Expanded language training for new Canadians: The policy initiatives anchoring the Canadian Learning Strategy entail nearly \$3 billion in new federal funds over the first two years of a Liberal government, a bold investment in Canada's future.*

(Sydney Garrioch, Liberal Candidate, Churchill, MB)

*Fund English/French literacy in Canadians of all ages including immigrants of all ages. The current Liberal platform supports working together with provinces to promote and fund language instruction, study abroad and the promotion of Canadian artists and culture abroad.*

(Jennifer Pollock, Liberal Party of Canada Candidate - Calgary Centre, AB)



*Under the Canadian Learning Strategy, a Liberal government will significantly increase federal investment to improve and expand language skills training programs.*

(Janice Kinch, Liberal Party of Canada Candidate - Calgary West, AB)

*We will be developing and investing in a next generation Official Languages Plan and invest \$100 Million to improve and expand language skills training programs for new Canadians.*

(Glen Pearson, Liberal Party Candidate, London-North-Centre, ON)

*The Liberal Party is supportive of the use of both official languages in government and will work to ensure that there is a stronger emphasis placed on language learning in all levels of schooling. Part of this will be promoting the advantages of being multilingual not only in Canada but also in the ever-globalizing world where speaking multiple languages is a big asset.*

(Glen Pearson, Liberal Party Candidate, London-North-Centre, ON)

*By increasing early childhood learning, funding for aboriginal education and the Learning Passport, the Liberal Party has committed to making all education -- including the economically critical language education -- a governmental priority.*

(James Morton, Liberal Candidate, Oshawa, ON)

*We need to work with and support community groups that are working in the community to expose Canadians to language and cultural opportunities.*

(Mike Holland, Liberal Party Candidate, Vancouver Island North, BC)

*We need better access to these programs at an early age, so we would ensure targeted funding for these program to the provinces.*

(Scott Hemming, Liberal Party Candidate, Sackville-Eastern Shore, New Brunswick)

*Use of technology, innovation and community organizations. people in our midst have the solutions and the know how.*

(Deb Walker, Liberal Party Candidate, Blackstrap, SK)

*The Liberal Party believes that investing more in learning is one of the most important things that the government can do. In fact, we believe the most crucial long-term task for the federal government is to make learning through all stages of life truly a Canadian priority. The Liberal Party believes that Canada's approach must be based on a simple objective: "If you get the grades, you get to go." That is why a Liberal government will invest \$1 billion over two years in the Canadian Learning Passport, a significant financial boost for higher education.*

(Bernadette Clement, Liberal Party Candidate, Liberal Stormont Dundas South Glengarry, ON)

*The third language of choice should be part of the curricula which should offer all types of languages. There should be a foreign language teacher accreditation system to qualify the teachers. Considering less popular foreign languages, taking foreign language classes in other schools or even other school districts should be allowed. The use of classrooms on weekends by the non-profit language and/or cultural societies offering the accredited foreign language teachers should be allowed. A full or partially user-paid system may be considered depending on the financial burden of multi-language curricula on the education system.*

(Ken Beck Lee, Liberal Party Candidate, New Westminster – Coquitlam, BC)

*Dans un monde axé sur les réseaux, ceux qui sont les mieux connectés réussissent le mieux. Les personnes capables de travailler au-delà des frontières et des océans dans le cadre de partenariats mondiaux, qui forgent des alliances avec les gouvernements, le monde des affaires et la société civile, qui font le pont entre les cultures, qui parlent plusieurs langues, qui préconisent la diversité et transcendent les différences sont celles qui réussiront le mieux. Lorsque le plan sur les langues officielles a pris fin en 2008, le gouvernement Harper s'est empressé de mettre en place une nouvelle initiative, mais a négligé de consulter les minorités linguistiques qui sont censées en bénéficier. Un gouvernement libéral augmentera les fonds alloués aux programmes de formation linguistique, pour atteindre une majoration de 100 millions de \$ annuellement.*

*(Marlene Jennings, Liberal Party Candidate, Notre-Dame-de-Grace—Lachine, PQ)*

*Language training for new Canadians, an international dimension to Canadian learning, a youth service corps working abroad and a strong policy on multiculturalism will all facilitate enhanced language sharing and learning with which to become leaders in the new knowledge-based economy. One of our Canadian champion sectors in which we plan to invest is the digital economy, whereby increased cultural learning is even more likely to occur.*

*(Rob Oliphant, Liberal Party Candidate, Don Valley West, ON)*

## **New Democratic Party of Canada**

### **Official Party Response...**

*A New Democratic government would be open to sitting down to discuss with key stakeholders how the federal government can play a role, along with the provinces and territories, to ensure that Canadians have access to quality language learning.*

*Included below are aspects of our platform that we believe would be of interest to your organization. For more information, you can also visit [www.ndp.ca](http://www.ndp.ca)*

*Improving access to post-secondary education:*

- We will make post-secondary education more affordable by directly attacking skyrocketing tuition costs with a designated.*
- \$800 million transfer to the provinces and territories to lower tuition fees, as per the NDP's "Post Secondary Education Act;"*
- We will increase the funding in the Canada Student Grants Program by \$200 million a year, targeting accessibility for Aboriginal, disabled and low-income students, in particular;*
- We will raise the education tax credit from \$4,800 per year to \$5,760 per year to help with increasing education costs.*
- Building a new relationship with First Nations: Addressing the education deficit with a \$1 billion per year investment over the next four years, inspired by Shannen's Dream.*

Additional NDP Candidates reiterating the Parties response:

- Kennedy Stewart, NDP Candidate, Burnaby-Douglas, BC
- Yvon Godin, NDP Candidate, Acadie-Bathurst, Nova Scotia
- Danielle Ouellette, NDP Candidate, Scarborough, ON
- Bobbi Stewart, NDP Candidate, Guelph, ON
- Robert Chisholm, NDP Candidate, Dartmouth-Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia
- Rita Jackson, NDP Candidate, Malpeque, PEI

### **Candidate's Comments...**

*The New Democrat platform commits us to improve access to post-secondary education and address the huge education deficit facing First Nations. A New Democrat government would be willing to work with stakeholder, provinces and territories to identify an appropriate role for the federal government to support language learning for all Canadians.*

(Susan Levi-Peters, New Democrats Beausejour, MB)

*We will protect and foster Canadians' right to live and grow in the official language of their choice; We will work with linguistic minorities across Canada to ensure programs and regulations under the Official Languages Act meet the real needs of communities; We will restore the Court Challenges Program; We will ensure that the right of Canadians to have their case heard in the official language of their choice at all levels of the judiciary includes the Supreme Court, in accord with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.*

(Trevor Haché, NDP Candidate, Ottawa-Vanier)

*Promote Canadian products and services e.g. Momon that support these goals Establish an on-line Language Learning Exchange.*

(John Parry, NDP Candidate, Saskatoon-Wanuskewin, SK)

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## **Organization Profile**

The Canadian Languages Association (CLA) / L'Association canadienne des langues (ACL), established in 1990, is a national umbrella organization committed to working in cooperation with language and cultural associations, educational institutions, government departments and ministries, business groups, and community stakeholders at the local, provincial, and federal levels to promote the value of international/heritage languages education for all Canadians.

L'Association canadienne des langues (ACL), établie en 1990, est un corps national consacré à la conservation et la promotion de langues internationales/patrimoniales au Canada.

L'ACL agit comme réseau entre les organisations de langues internationales/ patrimoniales à travers le Canada. L'Association canadienne des langues est engagée à travailler en collaboration avec toutes les associations de langues et les associations culturelles, les établissements d'enseignement, les départements gouvernementaux, les groupes en affaires, et les parties prenantes communautaires au niveau provincial ainsi que fédéral, afin de promouvoir la valeur de l'enseignement des langues internationales/ patrimoniales pour tous les Canadiens.

The CLA's primary objectives include: raising awareness of the value and benefits of language learning for all Canadians; promoting the development of programs in additional languages and other related areas for the creation of positive educational outcomes for learners; and, coordinating and participating in the sharing of information and resources pertinent to language education.

[www.canadianlanguages.ca](http://www.canadianlanguages.ca)

[info@canadianlanguages.ca](mailto:info@canadianlanguages.ca)



# Addendum:

## Liberal Party Platform

Attached are the official responses of the Liberal Party.

Sincerely,  
Paul Szabo, Mississauga South

### Languages Education in Canada

Points to consider:

#### **The Canadian Learning Strategy (p.22-28 of the 2011 Liberal Platform)**

- Expanded language training for new Canadians
- The policy initiatives anchoring the Canadian Learning Strategy entail nearly \$3 billion in new federal funds over the first two years of a Liberal government, a bold investment in Canada's future.

#### **Look also at the Hot Issue Sheet on Official Languages**

- The Liberal Party recognizes that our two official languages are the cement of our identity and must be promoted and safeguarded. We believe in Canadians' rights to use the official language of their choice.
- A Liberal government created the *Official Languages Act* and Canada's first official language plan. We are committed to making sure that linguistic communities in our country stay vibrant and dynamic.
- We are deeply concerned about the flaws highlighted by the Official Languages Commissioner in his last annual report, particularly on the lack of leadership from the Conservatives.
- Stephen Harper has said: "*make no mistake. Canada is not a bilingual country. In fact it is less bilingual today than it has ever been...As a religion, bilingualism is the god that failed.*" (Calgary Sun, May 6, 2001)
- In 2003, the Liberal government announced its *Action Plan for Official Languages 2003-2008*, also known as the Dion plan. The total budget for the Action Plan over five years was \$751.3 million.

**In the English debate**, Mr. Ignatieff underscored the importance of language skills in both official languages. Where possible it is good to highlight the Liberal Family Pack.

#### **Additional Language that can be used:**

Today governments do many things, but Liberals believe the job of the Prime Minister really comes down to one thing – bringing Canadians together. Liberal governments always focus on what Canadians have in common, and what we can accomplish as one country. That kind of leadership is needed again. More than ever, we need to bridge the gaps that divide us, and welcome all contributions to the ongoing work of building stronger communities and a better country.

Canada is not a small or selfish country. It's a bilingual country, with a multicultural and creative people, proud of their heritage, their communities, provinces, cities, and cultures. We draw strength from our diversity. We expect our leaders to reflect the best in us, and to build on it. Canada's two Official Languages help to define who we are. It was a Liberal government that made official

bilingualism a reality over 40 years ago. Working with minority Official Language communities across the country, Liberals put in place an effective program to support and promote French and English throughout Canada. Its success has helped bring and keep Canadians together.

We know what Stephen Harper thinks about bilingualism. Stephen Harper has said: “make no mistake. Canada is not a bilingual country. In fact it is less bilingual today than it has ever been...As a religion, bilingualism is the god that failed.” (Calgary Sun, May 6, 2001) This attitude was manifested in policy when the Official Languages Plan came to an end in 2008, the Harper government hastily put together a replacement but failed to consult the linguistic minority communities that the program is supposed to serve. Two years later, some elements of the program have still not been implemented, causing significant concern and disruption to those communities. Official languages governance within the federal government has atrophied under the Harper government, and this slide must be reversed.

### **A Liberal government will immediately begin consultations for a next generation Official**

**Languages Plan** so that it can be as inclusive and comprehensive as possible. These consultations will seek public views on how Official Languages policy should deal with digital technologies, among other issues. Another important issue will be how to encourage development of more bilingual programs in post-secondary institutions. Canada is always evolving and always growing.

Bilingualism is one of the dimensions of that growth. For example, today no one can envisage a prime minister who is not able to communicate well in both English and French, but that was not always the case. Bilingualism is well-established in today’s federal public service. A Liberal government will work to continue that progress, in order to strengthen the ties that bring Canadians together.

Bilingualism is among the many attributes that enable the Canadian Forces to both serve and reflect our country with pride and professionalism. The same is true of their emphasis on knowledge and learning. A renewed commitment to bilingual learning is now required. Collège Militaire Royal de St-Jean (CMRSJ) has played an important role through various phases of its history. A Liberal government will invest in CMRSJ to restore it to full university status. The francophone milieu of CMRSJ will help attract motivated young francophones to the Canadian Forces, and offer Anglophone officer-students enhanced opportunities to master their second official language while advancing their studies in the RMC system.

Regardless of what language they speak or where they reside, Canadian families are facing the same pressures. That’s why in this election the corner-stone of the 2011 Liberal platform is the « Liberal Family Pack » -- a plan with five components to support families:

#### **1. Learning Passport**

The new Learning Passport will open the doors for every young Canadian who wants to go to college or university, and help every family struggling to save enough to pay for it:

- \$1,000 a year over four years for every high school student in Canada to use when they go to college or university, or \$4,000 in total.
- For students in low income families, the amount will be \$1,500 a year, or \$6,000 in total.

#### **2. Early Childhood Learning**

To give our kids the best start while giving parents access to affordable, quality child care, a Liberal government will create a new Early Childhood Learning and Care Fund. This fund will help create new affordable child care spaces across Canada.

### **3. Family Care**

To help Canadians who care for elderly or seriously ill loved ones manage the financial pressures of caregiving, the Liberal Family Care Plan will offer:

- A new Family Care Employment Insurance Benefit, similar to EI parental leave, to let caregivers take six months off work to care for gravely ill family members at home; and
- A new Family Care Tax Benefit up to \$1,350 annually, modeled on the Child Tax Benefit, to help low- and middle-income family caregivers manage costs

### **4. Stronger Public Pensions**

To make sure every Canadian has a secure retirement, a Liberal government will:

- Work with the provinces and territories to gradually expand the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), the most reliable, simple and low-cost way to save;
- Put forward the Secure Retirement Option (SRO), a voluntary supplement to the CPP for any Canadian worker who wants it. Under the SRO, Canadians could save a tax deductible percentage of their pay in a secure retirement fund backed by the CPP; and
- Help low-income seniors with a \$700-million boost to the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)

## **Addendum:**

### **Green Party of Canada Platform**

Dear Respected Members of the Canadian Languages Association,

The Green Party firmly believes that all levels of government ought to develop national standards for international languages education policies and programming at the provincial level. We hold in our hands an identity that warrants and is deserving of this positive initiative.

We firmly believe that we need to do more to work in partnership with ministries of education, educational institutions, business, government and the community to develop a major promotional effort to increase and reinforce student and community awareness of the educational, social and economic importance of languages learning, and the existing language learning resources across provinces and communities. Our economy depends on it. We as a nation deserve it!

The Green Party and its respective candidates firmly believe in the proposed Canadian Languages Strategy and will commit to the implementation of a national languages strategy if elected on May 2nd.

We are willing to do everything possible to ensure that Canadians are afforded opportunities to acquire, maintain and enhance language learning, particularly as the new global knowledge-based economy emerges. If we are to be a leading nation in the global economy, we must depend on strengthening the acquisition of language learning skills.

Respectfully,

*Trifon Haitas*

Green Party Candidate, Oak Ridges-Markham, ON