

The Centre for Language Training:

*Why Do We Teach
What We Teach?*

Joseph Caron, chairman of the Foreign Language Board, provides a personal explanation: "I have learned Japanese, a difficult foreign language, and I speak from my own experience in saying that it has enriched my career and my personal and professional life."

The Centre for Language Training (CFSL) has developed a teaching program based on a needs analysis of which oral communication, reading and writing skills are necessary at missions abroad. CFSL asked personnel outside Canada to complete a questionnaire to find out which tasks must be carried out in a foreign language. These were then ranked in order of priority. The study also asked respondents what they considered the most useful aspects of language acquisition. Was it necessary to be familiar with idiomatic expressions? How important was an extensive vocabulary, good pronunciation and the ability to understand different accents and nuances in local speech?

The information obtained provided the basis for the development of the core CFSL curriculum and from there, the customized training plans for all 40 languages taught. The plans help

teachers structure the training they provide, taking into account, of course, the particular situations and needs of the learners.

Validation exercises are conducted to confirm that the language instruction meets the requirements of students. CFSL regularly checks to ensure that the students are able to function on their own in the local environment and to be sure that the identified tasks are being performed.

Mr. Caron sums up the impact of this validation process: "Eventually we will be able to measure in simple terms whether there is a continuous increase in the number of fluent foreign language speaking employees filling the Department's designated positions and meeting the language requirements of their jobs."

Contact Us

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Going on Posting in 2001?

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Your training objectives will be:

to develop a useful knowledge of the language in preparation for an assignment; to be able to communicate with the people of the host country in everyday situations; to facilitate social integration of the family into the country of assignment; and to reduce the impact of the culture shock during an assignment abroad.

After completion of the program, you and your family will be able to ask and answer questions dealing with everyday situations; give and understand information and directions; participate in casual conversations; give basic information about yourselves, your family or associates and avoid basic cultural errors.

Check out the course dates on the CFSI Intranet site,

or,

For further information contact J. Guitard, Registrar (CFSL)
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Ready to serve you! The Staff of the Centre for Language Training: Front row, left to right: Josée Guitard, Nicole Coulombe, Raymonde Cloutier, Lise Desmarais, Claude-Sylvie Alschuler, Suzanne Barake, Gerald Redmond, Back row: Martin Comeau, Racheal Leduc, François Deshaies, Bahia Abboudy, Annie Taillefer, Guy Mompoin, Inara Moeser, Delphine Renié.