

NEW TRENDS IN FRENCH SECOND LANGUAGE (FSL) EDUCATION IN ONTARIO AND THEIR IMPACT ON TEACHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

New curriculum guidelines for FSL (2011) will most likely only be implemented starting September 2012. First discussed in 2009, the advocated new grammar approach and the heavy cultural content have subsequently created a number of reactions, the most recent required another set of consultation meetings. In addition the new assessment perspective, in line with the European Common framework of references for languages, although seen as favorable for learning meets with a set-in rigidity. Needless to say, some of the stakeholders foresee great expenditures associated with new recommendations because of teachers who will have to be given upgrading courses among other things. Also interesting is the fact that some of the recommendations, not yet voted in for implementation, are already receiving very positive feedback and have even been implemented in some school boards, for instance a Grade 9 Beginner French course (corresponds to the 9th year of schooling in Canada). It appears that audiences are receptive to formulations that fill identified learning gaps. We will also discuss how plans to implement best practices can meet with resistance. A study was conducted to investigate a number of aspects connected to the new implementations. Findings will be reported and recommendations made.

Key Words: New grammar; culture teaching; impact of assessment *Can Dos*.