

THE CANADIAN LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

**Saturday, May 26, 2007, 4:20 p.m.
Commerce 103, University of Saskatchewan**

PRESENT:

Yves Roberge (Toronto; Co-Chair), Gary Libben (Alberta; Co-Chair), Martha McGinnis (Calgary; Secretary), Gabriela Alboiu (York), Isabel Belzil (Toronto), Gustavo Beritognolo (McGill), Parth Bhatt (Toronto), Elizabeth Cowper (Toronto), Sarah Cummins (Laval), Rose-Marie Déchaine (UBC), Stefan Dollinger (UBC), Monique Dufresne (Queen's/UQAM), Fernande Dupuis (UQAM), Noureddine Elouazizi (Leiden/UBC), Elaine Gold (Toronto/Queen's), Daniel Currie Hall (Toronto), Paul Hopkins, Sarah Kresh (UQAM), Eric Mathieu (Ottawa), Ana T. Pérez-Leroux (Toronto), Charlotte Reinholtz (Queen's), Antoine Tremblay (Alberta), Mireille Tremblay (Queen's), Michelle Troberg (Toronto).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alessandra Riccardi (Alberta/Montreal), Noreen Golfman (CFHSS President), Jody Ciufu (CFHSS Executive Director), Stephanie Turple (CFHSS Administrative Officer).

1 INTRODUCTIONS

The Executive was introduced: Yves Roberge (President), Gary Libben (Vice President), John Archibald (Past President, in absentia), Carrie Dyck (Treasurer, in absentia), Martha McGinnis (Secretary), Rose-Marie Déchaine (CJL Editor), Mireille Tremblay (Program Chair), Ana Pérez-Leroux (Member-at-Large), Gabriela Alboiu (Member-at-Large), Milica Radisic (Student Member, in absentia).

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Three items were added (7.7, 7.8, 7.9). Adoption of agenda MOVED (Bhatt), SECONDED (Pérez-Leroux). Motion PASSED.

3 PRESENTATIONS BY CFHSS

(Postponed until after 7.1.) FedCan was pleased by the appointment of SSHRC president Chad Gaffield, who was to attend the entire Congress (a first). The March federal budget added \$11 million to SSHRC's budget, but tied to management, business, and finance. 200 graduate scholarships have also been added.

SSHRC-funded journals have been given a year's extension to move towards digitization and open access. [See item 7.3 below.] Associations may need to find new ways to raise funds. FedCan is planning an advertising and internet campaign to increase association memberships.

The Committee on Women's Issues/Equity (originally the Committee on Women's Issues) has been renamed the Committee on Equity.

FedCan is looking for new members for their Board of Directors.

Next year's CLA meeting will be at UBC/Simon Fraser from May 31-June 3, with the President's Reception on June 1. Upcoming meetings will be at Carleton (2009), Concordia (2010), UNB/University of St. Thomas, Fredericton (2011); Waterloo/Wilfred Laurier (2012).

4 APPROVAL OF 2006 MINUTES

Approval of minutes MOVED (Hall), SECONDED (Gold). Motion PASSED.

5 PRESIDENT'S REMARKS (Roberge)

Thanks to outgoing Executive members (Archibald, Alboiu, Radisic) and committee members Kevin Russell (Nominating Committee) and Sali Tagliamonte (Program Committee). Thanks also to Paul Pupier (former CJL squibs editor) and Ileana Paul (Acting Secretary). Thanks to Pérez-Leroux (Student Paper Competition); Libben (Round Table); Jila Ghomeshi, Tremblay, and Dyck (presentation by Nicola Luksic)—and FedCan, for funding; Radisic and Claire Gurski (Proceedings of 2006 CLA), Yvan Rose (e-mail list); Hall (website); and Eliane Lebel (translation).

6 NEW BUSINESS

Roberge reported on new Outreach Committee, chaired by Susanne Carroll. This year's talk by Luksic is a good outreach event. Carroll suggests a change to the CLA website, with separate sections for CLA members and the public. Members discussed what to include in the public section. Bhatt and Elouazizi agreed to help Hall and Carroll put together a website, and report back next year.

Carroll also suggests doing outreach at the university level (journalism schools, medical schools). She notes that Concordia has a program where students make presentations about linguistics in primary and secondary schools, and even in a maximum-security prison in New York State.

Roberge suggests "inreach", to increase communication across linguistics subfields. Members discussed holding special workshops as part of the CLA.

7 REPORTS

7.1 Report of the Treasurer (Roberge, for Carrie Dyck)

The CLA has a surplus, but finances are gradually declining. It may be time to raise rates. Roberge noted that donations are also welcome. Acceptance of report MOVED (Bhatt) and SECONDED (Hall). Motion APPROVED.

7.2 Report of the Secretary (McGinnis)

Membership/subscriptions: see attached report. There is a 45% decrease in subscriptions, with 54% of institutions not renewed. This is probably because of the delay in the renewal cycle caused by delayed issues. Déchaine suggested that we find out from UTP how much money CJL gets from the electronic publisher, Muse, to see whether this offsets the subscription losses. UTP's line item for Royalties (\$14,279 this year) includes Muse but also other sources.

Constitutional ballot: see attached report. The proposition to change the editorial structure of the CJL was rejected (17 for:17 against). Since the second proposition (removing the requirement that the Editor name an Assistant Editor) depended on the

first, the editorial structure will remain unchanged. The proposition to add the FedCan representative to the Executive Committee was approved (31:3).

One voter expressed hypothetical concerns about anonymity. Libben and McGinnis have agreed to study the feasibility of an anonymous electronic ballot. McGinnis will also contact UTP to suggest that e-mail addresses be “required information” for subscription/membership renewals, flagged on both the mail-out and internet forms.

7.3 Report of the CJL Editor (Déchaine)

CJL is now caught up on its publication schedule. 52.1/2 (Mar/Jul 2007) will be published in July, and 52.3 (Nov 2007) is underway, along with 53.1 and 53.2/3. The number of pages per volume is lower now (about 350, down from 450), spread over three issues instead of four. The new system is more manageable for the Editor. It now takes about 18-24 months for an article to progress from submission to publication.

Roberge thanked Déchaine for her leadership and invited members to submit names of potential new editors to the Nominating Committee.

Acceptance of report MOVED (Tremblay), SECONDED (Dollinger).

7.4 Report of the Nominating Committee (Roberge, for Archibald)

See attached report. Roberge clarified that the student Executive member is usually from the institution hosting Congress, and that his/her role is to attend the Executive meeting and edit the CLA Proceedings. David Heap was nominated to replace outgoing Program Committee member Sali Tagliamonte; Mireille Tremblay will remain on the committee, but will not serve as Chair in 2007-08 because she is on sabbatical.

No nominations were received from the floor. Alboiu MOVED to adopt the proposed nominations; Bhatt SECONDED. Motion PASSED.

7.5 Report of the Program Committee (Tremblay)

See attached report. Numbers are down from last year at York (78 talks, vs. 99), with only 10 in French. Tremblay suggested separate French and English student paper awards, or thematic sessions on topics that will attract more francophones, such as sociolinguistics.

The Executive has recommended adding a poster session to reduce three parallel sessions to two, with senior linguists encouraged to present posters. Gold asked if the conference could be cut back to three days, but Tremblay replied that this may not work at popular upcoming venues like UBC, Carleton, and Concordia. Cowper noted that everyone should be invited to submit papers to the proceedings. Gold asked whether people would apply for the poster session, or be assigned to it, and Tremblay replied that people would apply. Déchaine suggested that the number of slots for oral presentations might be limited. Cummins objected that this has never been the case before. Roberge noted that the number of submissions is increasing, and Déchaine added that three parallel sessions are hard on speakers and audience members. Libben and Perez-Leroux noted that poster sessions are community-building and increase participation. Mathieu added that there would be separate student awards for best poster and best paper.

Bhatt MOVED that the CLA should explore the feasibility of holding a poster session; McGinnis SECONDED. Motion CARRIED unanimously (with applause).

- 7.6 Report on the Student Paper Competition (Alboiu)**
 See attached report. The winner was Catherine Macdonald (Toronto) for “Tongan personal pronouns,” with Honourable Mentions to Janet Leonard (Victoria) for “Formalizing the Phonology of Stress” and Ulyana Savchenko (Toronto) for “L2 Acquisition of the semantics of Russian.” Roberge reminded members that the President sends a letter to winning students and their Department Chairs, and students are invited to submit to CJL.
- 7.7 Report of the CFHSS representative (Mathieu)**
 See attached report.
- 7.8 Report of the Advisor on Aboriginal Languages (Y. Roberge, for P. Shaw)**
 See attached report. Roberge, Shaw, and Dyck sent a letter (also attached) to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and the Heritage Minister, supporting the restoration of funding for aboriginal languages that has been substantially cut by the Conservative government.
 Shaw would like to see more information added to the CLA’s Aboriginal Languages website (hosted by the University of Calgary). Members were invited to contact Shaw with suggestions.
 Déchaine suggested sending a copy of the letter to the Assembly of First Nations. Dollinger suggested notifying the media. It was agreed to discuss the matter further at the lunchtime meeting on Aboriginal languages.
- 7.9 Report of the Advisor on the Status of Women in Linguistics (Gold)**
 This year’s lunchtime discussion is on “Negotiating from A to Z.” Gold thanked last year’s presenters Jonathon Herd, Nicole Rosen, Susana Bejar, Marie-Hélène Côté, and Martha McGinnis (in absentia) at the panel discussion on “Is there ever a good timeto have a baby?” Thanks to Nicole Rosen for running the 2006 discussion and helping to organize the 2007 discussion.
- 8. OTHER BUSINESS**
 Dollinger noted that a revised edition of the 1967 *Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles* is underway at UBC, with publication expected in 2014.
 Libben thanked Roberge for his service as CLA President, and presented him with a gift.
 Gold MOVED to adjourn; Bhatt SECONDED. Motion CARRIED. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Report on the 2006 Constitutional Ballot

There were three main propositions (summarized below) and two additional housekeeping propositions.

Proposition 1: Limiting the Editor's term to three years; electing the Associate Editor to succeed to the Editor's position after three years; making Editor's and Associate Editor's positions non-renewable; requiring alternation of English and French Editors (*Note:* the Editor and Associate Editor are currently required to represent different official languages).

Proposition 2: Adding the requirement that the Editor name a Squibs Editor; removing the requirement that the Editor name an Assistant Editor.

Proposition 3: Adding the FedCan representative to the Executive Committee.

The ballot was sent out on November 24, 2006, with votes due on December 24, 2006. After a request from Jack Chambers, there was some discussion of Proposition 1 over the ACL-CLA e-mail list from November 29-December 6. Chambers spoke against Proposition 1, arguing that under the right circumstances, an Editor should be allowed to continue beyond one term. Sheila Embleton and Paul Pupier also wrote in support of this position. There was no further discussion.

34 votes were received from CLA members in good standing.

Proposition 1: REJECTED 17:17

Proposition 2: ACCEPTED 31:3

Proposition 3: ACCEPTED 31:3

The results of the votes on Propositions 1 and 3 were announced over the ACL-CLA list on February 7. There is a bit of a problem with the combination of Proposition 1 being rejected and Proposition 2 being accepted: there is now no provision in the Constitution for selecting an Assistant Editor. Therefore, the President and Secretary decided to treat Proposition 2 as a housekeeping amendment, on the understanding that the Executive will craft a new proposition regarding the Associate Editor.

Some concerns were raised about the lack of confidentiality of the e-mail ballot procedure. The most straightforward alternative is a mail-out ballot, which is expensive. Another possibility would involve a fair bit of work, and would require two individuals. One would assign each member a confidential code and e-mail it to them (perhaps only upon request), then supply the list of codes (without names) to the other individual, who would tally votes submitted via an anonymous web form, and check the associated codes against the list. This is something the Secretary and another Executive member might be able to handle.

—Submitted by Martha McGinnis, CLA Secretary

**Report of the Treasurer of the CLA
April 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007**

OPENING BALANCE as of March 31, 2006			\$ 49,821.90
March 07	SSHRC travel grant 2007	\$ 4,860.00	
	U of Toronto Press	\$ 10,648.00	
	Donation from UWO (Aboriginal languages)	\$ 36.00	
November 06	Congress 2006 revenue	\$ 1,048.77	
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 16,592.77	\$ 16,592.77
EXPENSES			
	Industry Canada registration fee	\$ (30.00)	
	Program committee - courier, long distance, printing, travel	\$ (1,135.80)	
December 06	Fed can membership fees 2006	\$ (2,032.00)	
December 06	CIPL (\$150.00 US, plus bank charges = \$173.97	\$ (173.97)	
	Travel - Executive	\$ (712.12)	
	Travel - members	\$ (4,693.55)	
	Program Committee advance for 2006 (York U)	\$ (1,000.00)	
	Additional expenses Congress 2006	\$ (535.96)	
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ (10,313.40)	\$ (10,313.40)
REVENUE MINUS EXPENSES			\$ 6,279.37
CLOSING BALANCE for 2006-7			\$ 56,101.27
Financial Activity from April 1, 2007			
March 07	Translation of Minutes	\$ (570.84)	
May 07	U of T Press (Jan-Mar, 2006)	\$ 9,380.00	
	TOTAL	\$ 8,809.16	

Cell: D4

Comment: Carrie Dyck:

In 2005-6 we transferred \$40,000.00 to the CJL to cover a two-year period (2005-2007). This means that the opening balance as of March 31, 2006 should have been 59,821.90.

Cell: C17

Comment: Carrie Dyck:

Expenses for member travel (\$4,693.55) are less than the travel grant (\$4,860.00) because we did not take into account the GST rebate.

Current CJL Subscriptions by Category and Region

May 11 2007

	Regular	Student	Life	Comp	Institut	Total	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
AB	9	11	1	0	4	25	36	25	20	17	13
BC	15	23	0	0	2	40	66	51	52	42+1	30
MB	5	3	0	0	2	10	10	11	14	10	10
NB	5	0	0	0	3	8	11	11	11	9	9
NL	3	0	3	0	0	6	7	4	7	6	6
NS	1	1	0	0	2	4	4	5	4	6	5
ON	49	40	3	3	5	100	180	158	135	130	112
PE	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	0
QC	20	18	6	0	6	50	76	70	63	70	49
SK	2	0	0	0	2	4	6	7	5	6	6
YT	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
SUBTOTAL	109	97	13	3	27	249	398	344	313	300	243
USA	10	7	0	1	97	115	219	205	222	223	210
OTHER	9	3	1	2	37	52	133	119	119	119	112
TOTAL	128	107	14	6	161	416					
2006	183	197	15	9	346		750				
2005	169	151	15	3	330			668			
2004	167	123	15	5	344				654		
2003	168+1	120	14	7	332					642	
2002	137	83	14	7	324						565

Summary

- Most subscriptions are in Canada: about 45% regular members, 40% student members
- Regionally, about 40% in Ontario, 20% in Quebec, 16% BC, 10% Alberta
- US now below AB for numbers of individual subscribers
- Most institutional subscriptions are in US

Comparison with 2006 levels

- 45% decrease overall
- Biggest decrease is in institutional memberships (54% not renewed yet)
- Probably because renewal cycle is delayed by delayed issues
- Electronic accessibility may also be playing a role

Thanks to Amy Desrochers at University of Toronto Press for the numbers.

— Submitted by Martha McGinnis, Secretary

Nominations Committee Report 2006/2007

1.0 Composition of the Committee

The members of the Nominations Committee were Kevin Russell, Terry Nadasdi, and the chair, John Archibald.

2.0 Thanks to Outgoing Members

- Gabriela Alboiu (Member-at-Large)
- Milica Radisic (Student Representative)
- Kevin Russell (Nominating Committee)
- Sali Tagliamonte (Program Committee)

3.0 Nominations

The committee would like to propose the following nominations to the membership:

- Vice-President (2007-2009): Ruth King (York University)
- Member-at-Large (2007-2009): Julie Auger (Indiana University)
- Nominating Committee (2007-2009): Lisa Travis (McGill University)
- Student Member (2007-2008): Susie Jones (UBC)
- Advisor on Aboriginal Languages (2007-2008): Pat Shaw (UBC)
- Advisor on the Status of Women in Linguistics (2007-2008): Elaine Gold (University of Toronto)
- Program Committee (interim chair – 2007-2008): David Heap (UWO) -- Mireille Tremblay on sabbatical

Submitted by,

John Archibald
Chair, Nominating Committee

2007 Report of the Program Committee

1. Abstract Acceptance Rate

Of the 101 abstracts received by the Committee, 11 were rejected, and 12 were withdrawn, leaving 78 talks on the final program. In previous years, the figures were:

2007	U. of Saskatchewan	101/11/12 =	78 talks
2006	York U.	116/14/3 =	99 talks
2005	U. of Western Ontario	111/15/6 =	90 talks
2004	U. of Manitoba	85/10/8 =	67 talks
2003	Dalhousie U.	101/18/10 =	73 talks
2002	U. of Toronto	110/16/11 =	83 talks
2001	U. Laval	67/9/12 =	49 talks
2000	U. of Alberta	78/12/8 =	58 talks

The distribution and acceptance rate by subject area are as follows:

AREA	SUBMITTED	ACCEPTED	ACCEPTANCE RATE
Discourse Analysis	3	2	66,67%
L1/L2 Acquisition	14	13	92,86%
Historical Linguistics	3	3	100%
Morphology	8	6	75%
Phonetics	7	6	85,70%
Phonology	9	7	77,78%
Psycholinguistics	5	5	100%
Semantics	10	10	100%
Sociolinguistics	3	1	33,33%
Syntax-Semantics	2	2	100%
Syntax	34	33	97,06%
Neurolinguistics	0	0	--
Pragmatics	0	0	--
Sign Language	0	0	--
Other	3	2	66,67%
TOTAL	101	90	89,11%

The overall acceptance rate was 89.11%, similar to the rate for previous years

2007	89.1%	2005	86.5%	2003	82.1%	2001	86.5%
2006	87.9%	2004	88.2%	2002	85.4%	2000	84.6%

Of the 78 talks on the final program, 10 (12.8%) are in French, and 43 talks (55.1%) have student authors. Last year, 13% of the talks were in French, and 52.9% had student authors.

	French	Student
2007	12.8%	55.1%
2006	13%	52.9%
2005	21.1%	44.4%

2 Call for papers

The Call for Papers was posted on the CLA website and sent to members by e-mail.

3 Committee Meeting

At the beginning of March, two members and the chair of the committee were to meet in Toronto, but ultimately found it more convenient to hold a teleconference. The preliminary program was put together by the program committee chair and the student assistant.

4 Electronic Submission of Abstracts

100 of the 101 abstracts were submitted by e-mail via the permanent Gmail address, with no serious technical problems. The submission process should be automated to allow for a more efficient management of the files.

5 Invited Speaker

The Program Committee has invited Nicola Luksic, producer of *And Sometimes Y*, a radio program on language that airs nationally on CBC Radio One every Saturday morning. The Committee wishes to thank Jila Ghomeshi and Carrie Dyck for organizing the visit. Partial funding for this event has been provided by the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

6 Informal meeting with Program Officer from SSHRCC

This year, the participants are invited to attend an informal meeting with Lorraine Anderson, Program officer, SSHRCC. Ms. Anderson is responsible for Committee 5 (linguistics, applied linguistics, and translation), and will be speaking on success rates, grantmanship, SSHRCC programs of interest to linguists, etc.

7 Acknowledgements

The Program Committee wishes to thank Daniel Currie Hall, who posted the Call for Papers, the Conference Program, and the many updates on the CLA website, as well as Yvan Rose, who sent announcements to the CLA list. Special sessions were organized by Elaine Gold (Committee on the Status of Women in Linguistics Discussion Panel “Negotiations from A to Z”), and by the group (Committee on Aboriginal Languages Discussion Panel). Marco Nicolis handled the management of abstracts and of the database. The chair of the Program Committee also wishes to thank the local representative, Mary Marino, for her exceptional support.

Mireille Tremblay (chair), for the CLA Program Committee:
Sarah Cummins, Lisa Matthewson, Jeff Steele, Sali Tagliamonte

2006 CLA Student Paper Competition Committee Report

Committee Membership

Gabriela Alboiu (**Chair**), Antonia Androutsopoulou, Peter Avery, Michael Barrie, Parth Bhatt, Carrie Dyck, Elissa Flagg, Alexei Kochetov, Eric Mathieu, Ileana Paul, Mihaela Pîrvulescu, James Walker.

The CLA extends sincere thanks and appreciation to the evaluators, who generously gave of their time and expertise.

Student Paper Competition

A total of **47** student papers were entered into the competition.

Papers were from the following areas: First and Second Language Acquisition, Historical Linguistics, Language Contact, Morphology, Phonetics, Phonology, Pragmatics, Psycholinguistics, Semantics, Sociolinguistics, and Syntax.

Due to privacy considerations, a numerical breakdown is not provided here. The evaluators were impressed by the high calibre of many of the student talks and found it difficult to choose between the many excellent presentations. The evaluators chose one winner and two honourable mentions, as follows.

The committee concluded that the award for **best paper** should be presented to:

Catherine Macdonald (University of Toronto), “Tongan Personal Pronouns”.

For “a very professional presentation with brilliant content, denoting good, careful work. Interesting and clear style, humorous at times, with the right balance between the two. The paper evidenced an enormous amount of work, was carefully thought out, with great attention to detail, lots of interesting data and keen insights into theoretical concepts. Catherine’s performance denotes solid training in linguistics and excellent mastery of the subject matter. The committee unanimously agreed that this paper clearly stood out among the others.”

Two papers received **honourable mention**:

Janet Leonard (University of Victoria), “Formalising the Phonology of Stress”.

For “a well-organized and very interesting paper tackling an inherently difficult subject matter (stress in Sencoten, or the Saanich dialect of North Straits Salish). Janet convincingly demonstrated that the traditional ad-hoc, morphologically-based description of stress placement in this dialect could be replaced by a very elegant phonological statement.”

Ulyana Savchenko (University of Toronto), “L2 Acquisition of the Semantics of Russian”.

For “an important contribution to a less studied topic of L2, specifically, acquisition of the semantics of Russian Dative subjects. Ulyana’s presentation showed mastery of the previous work and general framework and was clearly delivered.”

As Chair of the Committee, I would like to express my thanks to all involved in the competition, particularly the students who delivered such interesting papers, as well as to all the evaluators listed above for helping ensure the success of the competition.

Gabriela Alboiu, Member-at-Large, CLA
Outgoing Chair, Student Paper Competition 2006

RAPPORT Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines

- Réunion de novembre dernier et passage du flambeau
- Nouvelle personne contact Stephanie Turple

- Qui invite le représentant de la FedCan
- renouvellement
- formulaire avec détails des membres du comité exécutif, etc.
- increase in association fees (frais pas augmentés depuis 2000)
- Congrès 2008 UBC, 2009 Carleton, 2010 Concordia, 2011 Université du Nouveau-Brunswick/Université de Saint-Thomas à Fredericton, 2012 Université de Waterloo/Université Wilfrid Laurier à Waterloo.
- le CRSH recevra 11 million \$ de financement, une hausse de presque le double de l'augmentation de 5 millions \$ contenue dans le premier budget du gouvernement conservateur. Cependant, ce financement est lié aux priorités gouvernementales qui, pour notre communauté, sont les finances, les affaires et la gestion.
- Graduate Student Scholarships
- SSHRC 200, \$510 million for CFI
- Qu'en est-il du projet pilote subventions autochtones

- Nouveau président du CRSH
- Chad Gaffield

- Le PAES (Programme d'aide à l'édition savante) incorporera la numérisation dans un projet pilote. Augmentation annuelle de 500000 \$ en financement du CRSH au PAES.
- Libre accès
 - helping journals with the transition to new business model and conversion to open access
- Éthique de la recherche au cours de l'année à venir
 - inviter les membres des associations à commenter l'exposé de principe sur l'éthique -de la recherche et l'intégrité scientifique qui a été approuvé par la conseil en mars dernier
 - Promotion des normes de déontologies supérieures en recherche avec des êtres humains par l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre de cet énoncé. Appel de la Fédération, mais retour très lent. 'Il est important que la collectivité des sciences humaines réponde à cet appel pour s'assurer que le protocole de recherche proposé soit bien adapté à nos disciplines.'
 - nature changeante de la propriété intellectuelle
 - plagiat chez les étudiants
 - universités qui adoptent des politique sur le conflit d'intérêt institutionnel
- Manuel 'L'université en tant que communauté'
- Manuel des meilleures pratiques pour répondre aux besoins des nouveaux chercheurs.'

Report of the Advisor on Aboriginal Languages

Activities:

The major activity this past year was to draft a response to a request from Chief Ronald E. Ignace for support for the implementation of the Task Force Report on Aboriginal Languages in Canada. A copy of this Letter of Support is attached. I gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Carrie Dyck (MUN) in co-authoring this draft. Additional input from other CLA/ACL members would be welcome.

Recommendations:

1. Individual Letters of Support

I would strongly encourage individual members of the CLA/ACL, as well as institutional units (departments, programs, faculties, student bodies, etc.) to submit individual Letters of Support on the issue of the federal government budget cut of \$160 million dollars of Aboriginal Languages funding.

2. CLA/ACL website on Aboriginal Languages

The current website (<http://www.fp.ucalgary.ca/aborlang/index.html>) is in need of up-dating. Many people – students, faculty, Aboriginal community members, educational leaders, and others – from across Canada and from other countries seek information on what is happening in Canada with respect to Aboriginal languages. There is a considerable amount of very innovative, effective, and inspiring work going on across the nation, but the lack of a central clearinghouse for current information about these valuable programs and initiatives means that much very dedicated research and development, as well as productive role-models for community partnerships, is difficult to find out about and/or to access. With some funding to hire a webmaster (e.g. an interested student) and with a team of CLA/ACL members representing different Aboriginal linguistic constituencies across the country to help oversee the process, this website would serve as a very useful and informative tool.

Please accept my sincere regrets at not being able to attend the meeting this year. I'll look forward to receiving any further suggestions that may arise from discussion of these or any other related issues.

Respectfully,

Patricia A. Shaw
<shawpa@interchange.ubc.ca>

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

The Honourable Jim S Prentice
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
And Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

The Honourable Bev Oda
Minister of Canadian Heritage
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Re: The Federal Budget Cut of \$160 Million Funding for First Nations Languages

Dear Prime Minister Stephen Harper,

We are writing to you in our capacity as linguists, language specialists, language workers, and supporters of language maintenance and renewal across Canada. Many of us have worked in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, documenting the rich diversity of our country's Aboriginal languages, providing support in the development of educational materials, or engaged in the teaching and learning of the rich Aboriginal linguistic and cultural heritage of Canada.

Facts about First Nations languages in Canada: Canada has a unique and extraordinarily rich linguistic heritage. Within Canada, provincial jurisdictions such as British Columbia are globally renowned as being among the most linguistically diverse and complex regions in the world. Alongside of the commonly – and proudly – recognized diversity of immigrant multilingualism and multiculturalism in our country, how many citizens – or politicians – are even aware of the extent of Aboriginal multilingualism? Fundamentally important to our national multilingual identity is the fact that there are no fewer than 52 First Nations, Inuktitut, and Métis languages that are indigenous to Canada.

The tragic reality is that all of these languages are seriously threatened with extinction, under critical pressure from the two official languages, English and French. The large number and diversity of Canadian First Nations languages poses a unique set of challenges for language maintenance and renewal, especially since most of the language groups face the loss of their last generation of fluent speakers *within the next decade*. Unlike other minority languages spoken in Canada by post-colonial immigrant groups, most Canadian First Nations languages are spoken no where else in the world.

Moral obligations: Section 35(1) of the Canada Constitution Act 1982 states that “The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.” Although the Supreme Court of Canada has yet to comment on the status of

Aboriginal languages under section 35(1), “existing aboriginal and treaty rights” were defined in the Supreme Court of Canada’s 1996 decision in *R. v. Van der Peet* as “...the practices, traditions and customs central to the Aboriginal societies that existed in North America prior to contact with the Europeans.”

Research has shown unequivocally that language is directly related to a sense of identity, and to the physical and economic health of individuals and of communities. Language is one of the most tangible symbols of cultural and group identity. It is the living expression of intellect, of specific cultural understanding, the link to the past, the key to future survival: language and its renewal play a vital role for communities to be healed and move forward equipped to build strengthening economies. In response to the growing awareness of the critically endangered state of their languages and of the profound impact of their loss, there is an increasingly active and passionate movement in First Nations communities to make their languages fully alive again and, in so doing, to strengthen their communities and themselves. Aboriginal youth are the largest growing sector of the provincial population; the stronger their sense of identity, the greater their contribution to their own socio-economic well-being and that of the community and province. The human and economic costs of doing nothing to support language renewal, would be massive and irreparable.

Political context: In recognition of its legal and moral responsibilities towards First Nations languages, the Canadian government, through the Department of Canadian Heritage (DCH), established the Aboriginal Languages Initiative (ALI) in 1998. (http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/pa-app/progs/ila-ali/guide_e.cfm) A total of \$5 million per year was allocated for preserving Canadian First Nations languages, Inuktitut, and Michif. ALI funding was coordinated and monitored by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), who in turn allocated the responsibility for approving project proposals to ‘regional delivery agents’, including First Nations Cultural and Educational Centres. On December 19, 2002, the former Minister of Canadian Heritage, Sheila Copps, announced \$172.5 million in funding to establish and operate a new Aboriginal Languages and Cultures Centre (ALCC). This funding was to replace the ALI program. http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/newsroom/index_e.cfm?fuseaction=displayDocument&DocIDCd=2N0327

The Task Force on Aboriginal Languages and Cultures was formed in December 2003. (http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/progs/pa-app/lang-cult_e.cfm) The task force consulted broadly with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis groups over the next two years in order to determine the best way to structure the ALCC and disburse ALCC funding. In June 2005, the Task Force foundational report was completed and presented to the Minister of Canadian Heritage. http://www.aboriginallanguagetestaskforce.ca/e/e_index.html

By 2006, the original \$172.5 million had become \$160 million. \$2.5 million was deemed to have been spent on the Task Force for Aboriginal Languages and Cultures. The remaining \$10 million was deemed to have been spent on a two-year extension of the ALI for 2003-4 and 2004-5. On Nov. 3, 2006, Minister Oda announced that the \$160 million allocated to this program was being cut from the budget. In place of this funding, she announced a \$40 million extension of the ALI program, with \$5 million per year to be allocated for the next eight years (until 2013 - 2014).

Why extending the ALI program isn’t enough: After administration fees have been deducted (the Department of Canadian Heritage deducts an administration fee too), the funds remaining

from the \$5 million per year are divided up between 10 provinces and thousands of communities. After undergoing a rigorous selection process, bands who have successfully applied for funding in British Columbia and Ontario are typically only able to obtain amounts averaging less than \$2000 per community project per annum. No project is guaranteed continuing funding from year to year.

Welcome as this money is, this amount falls far short of what is necessary to ensure that each language – represented by a diversity of regional dialects - is properly documented, let alone to fund crucial aspects of language maintenance and renewal such as development of language resources (dictionaries, grammars, textbooks, videos, tapes, story-books, etc.), language education and maintenance programs, community human resource capacity-building (teachers, Elders' councils for language and culture knowledge transmission, etc.), and renewal implementation strategies. The current level of funding is not enough to address the most basic needs of even one endangered language.

Currently, because of the paucity of available funding relative to the need, communities are put in the divisive position of having to compete with each other for funding dollars; and funding agencies are forced to make heart-breakingly difficult decisions to fund some languages in their renewal efforts but not others.

We therefore implore you and your government to take the necessary financial and structural steps to provide continued major support for language documentation and maintenance, language research and development, language learning, language teaching, and language renewal in all First Nations communities in Canada.

Our recommendations: We in Canada have the possibility of being world-leaders in endangered language revitalization. There are many individuals in First Nations communities and many researchers who are committed to making a difference. Much good groundwork has been laid, and many local and institutional educational projects are making significant progress, but without adequate long-term funding and support, the opportunities facing Canada's First Nations communities to renew their ancestral languages and the cultural values and identities reflected in their languages will be lost forever.

We urge you and your government to reinstate the \$160 million, and consider instituting a larger and more stable long-term funding package. With such a contribution to language renewal, community renewal, and language rights, you would create a unique legacy within Canada, and indeed around the world. We sincerely hope that you and your government will take all the steps needed to meet this challenge.

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