

Canada - BILC National Report - 2009



CONTEXT – This report is submitted annually to the Bureau of International Language Coordination for the purpose of providing a summary of the most notable activities, changes, and accomplishments that took place in the reported period (from Jan – Dec 09) within the training establishments that fall under the managing authority of the Canadian Defence Academy (CDA).

INTRODUCTION – The CDA’s mission is “to lead Canadian Forces professional development, uphold the profession of arms and champion lifelong learning to enable operational success”. Under the CDA leadership, language programmes are offered and conducted in Official Languages (English and French) and Foreign Languages to CF members, and English and French as Foreign Languages for foreign governments.

TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS – The following Training Establishments provide language programme delivery: The Canadian Forces Language School (CFLS) with its three detachments (Borden, National Capital Region Training Company, and St-Jean); four Language Training Centers (LTC) operated by the Environments (Esquimalt and Shearwater by the Navy, Winnipeg by the Air Force, and Valcartier by the Army); and the Language Centres of the Royal Military College in Kingston and Collège militaire royal in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu.

MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES – No major changes took part within the period covered by this report.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES – Of the 2860 candidates enrolled in SLET during calendar 2009, 759 (27%) were enrolled in courses that led directly to Government of Canada certification of BBB or CBC. The majority of candidates were enrolled in either modular services (levels 1 through 6) leading up to BBB certification at level 7 (1661), or in language maintenance and refresher services (274) – this group represents 1935 candidates or 68% of the total enrolment. Sixty-eight per cent of the candidates were enrolled in French courses and services while thirty-two per cent were enrolled in English courses and services. Of the 759 enrolled in courses or services leading to GoC certification, 544 achieved BBB or CBC certification by 31 December 2009 (courses normally run from August to June). Among officers, 932 majors and below were enrolled in courses and services; among Non-Commissioned Members (NCMs), sergeants and below account for 1268 candidates. And while most candidates taking English were concentrated around progress levels three to six (of eleven levels), among those taking French, the concentration was at progress levels one to four.

Some language training is given outside of Canada. Military personnel attend French language training in Europe, and in North America at CDLS Washington (DC) and AFB Paterson (Colorado),

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at AFB Elmendorf (Alaska), and AFB Tinker (Oklahoma). The demand for training and services delivered abroad has increased by 95%, and training is predominantly requested in the French language.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAMME (FLTP) – Foreign language programmes are delivered by the Canadian Forces Language School (NCR Trg Coy). These programmes are offered to Canadian Military Attachés and their Assistants, Exchange Officers, Arms Control Verification Officers, Communication Research Linguists, and Military Interpreters (Pashto only). In the period covered by this report, training was conducted in the following foreign languages: Arabic (Egyptian), Chinese, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Korean, Pashto, Polish, and Portuguese (Brazilian), Portuguese (South Africa), Russian, Spanish, Thai, and Turkish.

Even though the FLTP is comprised of numerous languages, it is still a small programme in terms of student numbers (52 students in 2009).

MILITARY TRAINING AND COOPERATION PROGRAMME (MTCP) – In addition to FL and OL Language programme delivery, CFLS is also responsible for the conduct of English and French as foreign languages to foreign nationals. The training is offered at all three Detachments; however, a special English course, Language Teacher Training Course is offered exclusively at CFLS (NCR Trg Coy). In the covered period, thirty six students attended this course over two course serials.

In St. Jean, as part of the MTCP, the Foreign Division provided an English course to 126 students and a French course to 60 students. These students came from 32 countries: Albania, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Romania, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Ukraine.

In this period, this course marked the arrival in the MTCP of four new countries: Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru.

CURRICULUM AND TEST DEVELOPMENT – CDA is responsible for curriculum and test development in all language programmes it delivers. In the reported period, about a dozen development projects were undertaken and executed. Among them were the curriculum development projects in Chinese, Creole, Dari, Dutch, Italian, Pashto, Portuguese, Russian, Thai, Turkish and Urdu. Achievement Tests were updated in a number of languages in order to reflect the currently used training materials. In St. Jean, the English Curriculum Cell worked on the MTCP curriculum development plan and a preparatory Guide for Oral Proficiency testing. In 2009, the demand for FL test administration increased significantly in comparison to 2008. Most of the oral proficiency tests were administered in the Pashto language for the purpose of testing civilians of Afghan origin who were considered for deployment in Afghanistan as interpreters. Also, a new direct measure writing test in English and in French was used officially for the first time in December 2009 for both language groups in Borden and St. Jean.

THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA – RMC conducts language programs in both English and French for cadets, who are expected to acquire functional proficiency in their second official language. Cadets from other countries are provided additional language support when required.

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