



IHLA Newsletter

January 25, 2005

Volume 2, Issue 3

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Special points of interest:

- **International Mother Language Day:**
February 19, 2005
Polish Veterans Hall
9205 144 Avenue
Edmonton
See inside article.
- **Special Insert from Dr. Olenka Bilash: The Value of Obtaining Students' Feedback**



Bonnie Szulc at the 50th Anniversary party of the Saturday Polish School.

Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, please allow me to "wish you all the best" in 2005 - an old refrain that remains ever new when said with sincerity.

As we reflect upon 2004, many of us will agree that IHLA has been blessed with so many great things. To name a few, we have successfully completed two major Community Language Initiative Projects such as, Revitalizing Languages in the 21st Century and Needs Assessment-Role of the Communities in Alberta's Mandatory Language Initiative; Learning Resource Centre; TOEFL Preparation classes and Exams; on - going workshops and credit courses for language teachers as well as three programs of studies including Korean, Filipino and Russian.

I could go on and on with our achievements but IHLA's milestone is Mother Language Day celebration which falls on the third Saturday of February, in conjunction with UNICEF's recognition of the importance of one's first language.

Kuljit Madan and Melody Kustiuk working together at the Punjabi Language and Culture Curriculum Writing session.



I cannot ignore the fact that the Association's achievements are dependent upon people who believe and strongly support IHLA's goals and mission. I want to acknowledge the dedication and the work of our new Board of Directors, Sab Roncucci, our adviser; Dr. Wally Lazaruk, our consultant; Valeria Palladino, our coordinator; Leticia Cables, our office assistant, all our parents, teachers and students; and to our funders: Alberta Learning, Canadian Heritage, Alberta Community Development - Human Rights Commission and Alberta Gaming Commission; and lastly, our cohort and partner, Changing Together: Centre for Immigrant Women.

To everyone, thank you very much.

Josephine

Congratulations and Best Wishes

The International and Heritage Languages Association (IHLA) is proud to congratulate the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky on his appointment as the new Minister of Education. IHLA is extremely pleased to count Mr. Zwozdesky among its long-time friends.

Minister Zwozdesky has been a long time supporter of IHLA and the Association's efforts to develop international and heritage language education at the community level. We are pleased that the Minister has a deep understanding of the importance of language learning and maintenance, as well as a profound commitment to the teaching profession at large.

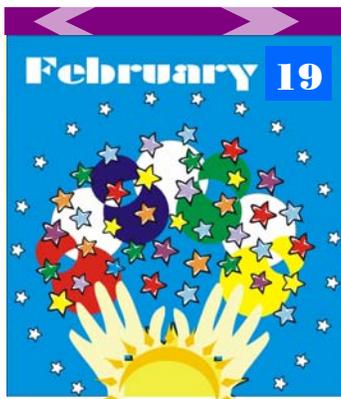
We certainly hope that the Minister's plans for the 2006 Languages Initiative will include language education at the community level. This year, over 2,000 students are enrolled in more than 18 different international language courses in IHLA coordinated community-based language schools in the Edmonton region.

We hope the province will be able to support IHLA in its importance mission of nurturing international and heritage language learning in Alberta.

Best of luck, Gene!



Mr. Zwozdesky shakes hands with Josephine at the 25th Anniversary Event, held at the Santa Maria Goretti Centre back in October 2003.



International Mother Language Day

International Mother Language Day

Polish Veteran's Hall, located at 9203 144 Avenue, in Edmonton.

The day's celebrations will include special activities organized by individual IHLA member schools at their display tables, special entertainment acts and special award ceremonies. This is a fun event for the whole family.

Come and learn about languages, cultures and traditions from all over the world. You can travel several different countries and meet people from all over the world in the comfort of a cozy and welcoming environment, at no cost

to you.

Take on a passport and go through all display tables, earn your country stamps and collect special prizes. Or simply come and enjoy the special dance, art and musical performances organized by members of the different linguistic and cultural communities.

What a wonderful way to celebrate a day together with your family during Alberta's Family Day Long-weekend!

IHLA hopes to see you all there to help us reaffirm the value and the importance of all languages and cultures.

On February 19, 2005 IHLA invites everyone to its second annual celebration of the International Mother Language Day. IHLA schools, supporters and special guests will meet throughout the day from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the



Terry Cavanagh, City Councillor (left) and David Kilgour, MLA (right) pose for a group picture at the International Mother Language Day on February 21, 2004. Both guests have confirmed their attendance to this year's celebration.

Punjabi Language and Culture

As part of the plan to implement the new Language Initiative by 2006, Alberta Education has commissioned the Edmonton Public Schools Division (EPSB) to lead on the writing of the first draft for the Punjabi Language and Culture 4-12 Program of Studies, which has reached its completion on January 14, 2005.

Among the several members of the first draft committee team, are the Calgary Board of Education, SAHLA and IHLA representatives as well as members from the University of Calgary and U of A. IHLA was pleased to be a participant in this first step in the building of this new curriculum, and cherishes the opportunity to share its expertise and wisdom at the table while at the same time nourishing its relationships and involvement in the process.

For those less familiar with the stages involved in the process of creating a provincially based program of studies, IHLA would like to share its understandings with its community members at large.

When a need for a program of studies is identified, a process is put in place to choose a leader institution that will organize working sessions with representatives from a wide range of perspectives

and expertise. In the case of the Punjabi program of studies, members from the Punjabi communities, university professors and teachers from the major school boards were called upon to work together and design the first draft of the curriculum, based on the Common Curriculum Framework from the Western Canadian Protocol. A number of sessions were held under the direction of the EPSB, and the first draft was designed.

Upon approval of the first draft by Alberta Education, the community at large will be contacted through different channels, and be asked to provide feedback on the document, which will then undergo further revisions, until the final draft is ready for the piloting stage.

At the piloting stage, a number of public schools will be selected to try out the new curriculum, and continue to inform the process with further feedback and assessment of the document, which will then be fully approved for provincial use by 2006. At this stage every Grade 4 student in Alberta will be required to include the study of a second language in their instructional day.

Alberta Education will provide all school boards in its jurisdiction with 8 different program of studies for this particular initiative while several other curricula will also be available to use at the local level. The initiative will continue from 2006 onwards, with a new grade of instruction added each succeeding year. The initiative will see all students between grade four and nine learning a second language.

IHLA wishes to extend its congratulations to Melody Kostiuk, consultant for Modern Languages at EPSB for her gracious and expert leadership in development of the first draft of the Punjabi Language and Culture Program of Studies.



Melody Kustiuk and Linda Vargas

IHLA Activities and Initiatives Update

International Mother Language Day—February 19, 2005. See article on page 2. Volunteers are being sought to help out with the celebrations. If you wish to help and support your school, come to the volunteer meeting that will be held at the IHLA office on Monday, February 7, 2005 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All volunteers will be officially acknowledged for their contribution.

Dr. Olenka Bilash Language Resources Analysis Course is underway. 16 IHLA teachers are currently enrolled in this intensive course, which not only provides expert insights in the analysis and selection of a good learning resource for second language classes, but also challenges teachers to create better resources, based on their own expertise, that best fit the needs of their students. The course includes 40

hours of instruction and will conclude in April 2005.

IHLA is preparing to write a proposal for a **Language Summer Camp Initiative**. More information will be provided in the next issue.

In December of 2004 IHLA completed and submitted the first draft of the locally developed Program of Studies for the **Filipino Language and Culture**, Levels 15-25-35. The document is currently being reviewed by Alberta Education.

Later this month, two more locally developed programs of studies will be following the same reviewing process. **The Russian K-12 and Russian Levels 15-25-35 curricula** are presently being finalized.

The IHLA Office has moved to a new location. We are now located at: Room 302, 10010 105

Street, just south of the ATCO Centre. Our office hours remain 8:30 to 4:30 Monday—Wednesday. The best way to contact us is to set up an appointment through phone or e-mail. You are invited to come and visit us.

IHLA has completed its Revitalizing Languages for a 21st Century Canada Project. The final report was submitted to its funder, Canadian Heritage on December 29, 2004. Upon approval of this project IHLA will post and share its findings and recommendations. This project was conducted jointly with SAHLA.

IHLA participated at the **ISLC Annual Conference**, on November 5-7, 2004. IHLA board members presented a session on IHLA's initiatives and involvement, with a

special focus on the Revitalizing Languages Project update.

IHLA organized **two special workshops** for its teachers which focused on **practical ideas and resources for second language classes**. Both sessions were successfully attended, and IHLA is planning to continue these and other types of initiatives that concretely support IHLA member schools in their quality instruction at the community level.



IHLA teachers at the Practical Ideas Workshops.

MULTICULTURALISM POSTCARD CAMPAIGN

IHLA has launched its first multiculturalism postcard campaign.

Come to the IHLA office if you have not yet received a copy of this postcard that IHLA is inviting all to mail to the Prime Minister in defense and promotion of all policies that support multiculturalism across Canada!

Languages Initiative Advisory Committee

A very important role that IHLA is proud to have taken is the representation of International and Heritage Language Schools at the community level on the Advisory Committee for the Language Initiative at Alberta Education.

The committee learns about the multifaceted tasks that are involved in implementing the initiative. It has the very significant role of sharing information and advising on the direction that the provincial government should take in support of the initiative that will see all students

learning a second language in their daily instruction, beginning at the grade four level from 2006 onwards.

The Advisory Committee has met three times so far, and it is very impressed with the amount of work and the initiatives that are being supported and promoted by Alberta Education. The committee chairperson and project leader Mr. John Sokolowski is working very hard to ensure the success of this Language Initiative. IHLA and all other committee members are currently involved in providing feedback on the policy-writing process that will support the initiative.

By providing the opportunity to share views and understandings at a common table, Alberta Education is ensuring that the community at large has a prominent role in the implementation process. If you are interested in learning more about this process and the diverse aspects discussed at that table, feel free to contact the IHLA office. We will ensure that your concerns and views will be heard.

**International and Heritage Languages
Association**

NEW OFFICE LOCATION

WE HAVE MOVED TO:

**#302
10010 105 STREET
T5J 1C4
EDMONTON**

Phone: 780 - 428-5510

Fax: 780-428-5549

www.nahla.net

Established in 1978 and formerly known as NAHLA, IHLA is a non-profit organization that actively promotes cross-cultural understanding through heritage/international language instruction and education. IHLA serves as the umbrella body for approximately 25 heritage schools involved in the teaching of international and heritage languages in Central and Northern Alberta. The Association represents all levels of language instruction and education for over 32 languages and 12,000+ students of international languages outside the public school system in Alberta.

IHLA's primary objectives include:

- ▲ supporting and promoting international and heritage language education
- ▲ assisting in the development of international and heritage language curriculum, teaching resources and materials
- ▲ supporting international and heritage language teacher training and skill development

IHLA supports the view that international language education increases the level and respect and appreciation for multiculturalism and the diversity of Canada's peoples.

Language Learning Corner

IHLA is pleased to announce a new corner in its newsletter entitled: **The Language Learning Corner**. Check this section for interesting articles that deal with the latest research about language learning. Articles abstracts will be included—to find the entire articles follow the links provided. Or check the IHLA website at the LINKS page to access these articles directly.

Good reading!

Good practice in teaching and learning vocabulary

Author: Richard Wakely

The vocabulary of any language is huge and its acquisition takes time, even for a native speaker. Research has concentrated more on how words are learnt than on what should be taught, though everyone agrees that a threshold of around 2000-3000 words is a requirement for further progress. The research suggests that extensive reading leads to good vocabulary gains, though this knowledge needs to be activated, e.g. in productive exercises. The teacher can also help the learner to become autonomous by teaching strategies and ensuring the availability of appropriate, motivating materials.

(Read about this article at this link:

<http://www.lang.ltsn.ac.uk/resources/goodpractice.aspx?resourceid=1421>)

Writing in a second language

Author: Alasdair Archibald

Writing is not only the process the writer uses to put words to paper but also the resulting product of that process. This process and product are also conditioned by the purpose and place of writing (its audience and genre). Writing in a second language is further complicated by issues of proficiency in the target language, first language literacy, and differences in culture and rhetorical approach to the text. Instruction in writing can effectively improve student proficiency in a number of key areas. Approaches to instruction have variously targeted process, product and purpose of writing. More recent approaches both to its teaching and assessment recognize the need to integrate all aspects of writing.

(Read about this article at this link:

<http://www.lang.ltsn.ac.uk/resources/goodpractice.aspx?resourceid=2175>)