

# Alberta Education Languages Highlights

Fall  
2008



Alberta Education continues to encourage and support school jurisdictions in the delivery of language learning opportunities for students. The department will continue to develop and maintain programs of study and teacher support materials and to authorize student learning resources for a variety of programs, including:

- alternative French programs (French immersion) and French as a second language
- bilingual programs (Chinese, German, Spanish and Ukrainian)
- international language and culture programs for Chinese, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian (twelve-year, nine-year, six-year and three-year)
- Cree language and culture twelve-year, nine-year, six-year and three-year programs
- Blackfoot language and culture programs.

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Alberta Education is pleased to welcome a new consultant, Pauline Auger, who will work on Aboriginal languages programs. Pauline can be reached at [pauline.auger@gov.ab.ca](mailto:pauline.auger@gov.ab.ca).

The *Language Learning Opportunities for Educators* document is available at <http://education.alberta.ca/media/815511/educatoropportunities.pdf>. The *Language Learning Opportunities for Students* document is available at <http://education.alberta.ca/media/815515/studentopportunities.pdf>. Deadlines are approaching quickly.

## French as a Second Language

*L'Alberta, ma province*, the Grade 6 kit for the nine-year program of studies, is available and can be ordered directly from the Learning Resources Centre (LRC). Its order number is 715873 and its cost is \$254.70, plus GST, shipping and handling.

Grade 4 to Grade 6 tool kits for the field of experience "Four Holidays and Celebrations" are in the final stages of development. A tool kit for each grade (4, 5 and 6) is being developed; these tool kits will be made available later in the school year by grade level.

In August, the *French as a Second Language Nine-year Program of Studies Guide to Implementation—Grade 7 to Grade 9* was sent to all junior high schools in the province.

Additional copies may be purchased from the LRC (order number 750001) at a cost of \$53.60 plus GST, shipping and handling, or the document can be downloaded from the following Web page: [http://education.alberta.ca/francais/teachers/progres/compl/fsl/support/niney/guide7\\_9.aspx](http://education.alberta.ca/francais/teachers/progres/compl/fsl/support/niney/guide7_9.aspx). Please note that the audio and video segments cited in the document are available only in the PDF version available through the department Web page.

Interim versions of the senior high school guides to implementation for the nine-year and three-year programs of study are available on the Alberta Education Web site. Content will be added as it is developed, and completed documents will be sent to schools later in the school year.

These documents can be downloaded at the following Web pages:

- Nine-year Guide to Implementation – Grade 10 to Grade 12  
[http://education.alberta.ca/francais/teachers/progres/compl/fsl/support/niney/guide10\\_12-9y.aspx](http://education.alberta.ca/francais/teachers/progres/compl/fsl/support/niney/guide10_12-9y.aspx)
- Three-year Guide to Implementation – Grade 10 to Grade 12  
<http://education.alberta.ca/francais/teachers/progres/compl/fsl/support/threey/guide1012.aspx>

### Learning Technologies Branch

Alberta Education is currently working on the continuation of the *Hola Amigos* project, with the development of a new digital resource called “*Las Aventuras de los Amigos*.” The tentative completion date for this project is March 2009. Further details about this resource will be available in the spring of 2009.

### Aboriginal Languages Program

Aboriginal language teachers/instructors, Elders and education authorities from various Aboriginal communities met in May 2008 to develop a K–12 Aboriginal Language and Culture Program Framework to assist First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) language groups in developing Aboriginal language and culture programs. The draft framework is scheduled to be available in the winter of 2009. For further information, contact Gena Kolay, Aboriginal Language and Culture Program Manager, at [gena.kolay@gov.ab.ca](mailto:gena.kolay@gov.ab.ca).

The following Cree language and culture guides to implementation are being developed:

- The *Cree Language and Culture Twelve-year Program, Kindergarten to Grade 3 Guide to Implementation* and the *Cree Language and Culture Twelve-year Program, Grade 4 to Grade 6 Guide to Implementation* are scheduled to be published by the spring of 2009.
- The *Cree Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 4–5–6 Guide to Implementation* is scheduled to be published in the fall of 2008.

Development of the *Cree Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 7–8–9 Guide to Implementation* is in progress.

### New Programs of Study

The following new programs of study have been posted on the Alberta Education Web site:

- German Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 7–8–9
- Japanese Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 7–8–9
- Punjabi Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 7–8–9
- Ukrainian Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 7–8–9

These programs can be viewed at <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/interlang.aspx>.

The following programs of study are currently being prepared/validated and will be posted on the Alberta Education Web site:

#### Junior High School

Language and Culture Course Sequences:

- Chinese Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 8–9
- Spanish Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 8–9
- Cree Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 7–8–9

#### Senior High School

Language Arts to Support Bilingual Programming:

- Spanish Language Arts 10–20–30

Language and Culture Course Sequences:

- Italian Language and Culture 10-12Y, 20-12Y, 30-12Y
- Chinese Language and Culture 10-9Y, 20-9Y, 30-9Y
- Cree Language and Culture 10-9Y, 20-9Y, 30-9Y
- German Language and Culture 10-9Y, 20-9Y, 30-9Y
- Japanese Language and Culture 10-9Y, 20-9Y, 30-9Y
- Punjabi Language and Culture 10-9Y, 20-9Y, 30-9Y
- Spanish Language and Culture 10-9Y, 20-9Y, 30-9Y
- Ukrainian Language and Culture 10-9Y, 20-9Y, 30-9Y
- Punjabi Language and Culture 10-3Y, 20-3Y, 30-3Y

12Y = Twelve-year Program 9Y = Nine-year Program 3Y = Three-year Program

To find out more about future programs of study, select a particular language at <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/interlang.aspx> and look under Future Programs of Study.

### Literature Reviews

*A Survey of the Literature on Aboriginal Language Learning and Teaching* is available at <http://education.alberta.ca/media/349351/ablitrev.pdf>. This survey provides an overview of current Indigenous language pedagogy and instructional practices on an international scale. It focuses on three key areas: language and culture connection, pedagogy and instructional practices, and parental and community involvement.

*A Review of the Literature on Second Language Learning*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, is available at <http://education.alberta.ca/media/349348/litreview.pdf>. This review provides information on four aspects of language learning:

- the effects of learning a second language on the first language
- the role of content instruction in offering a second language
- the effects of learning a second language on students with special needs
- the effects of learning a third language on students for whom English is a second language.

## Learning and Teaching Resources

*Speak Globally: International Languages Support Resources* is a CD-ROM that provides the grades 4 to 6 guides to implementation for the Chinese, German, Japanese, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian nine-year language and culture programs. The CD-ROM also includes the Kindergarten to Grade 3 and the grades 4 to 6 guides to implementation for the Ukrainian Language Arts K to 12 program, and it contains Web links to the programs of study, assessment materials, authorized resource lists and other Alberta Education resources, such as *Tips for Parents*, and the *School Administrator's Guide to Implementing Language Programming*. Complimentary copies of the CD-ROM will be mailed to school jurisdictions in the fall, and information on availability will be provided to curriculum coordinators.

A realignment of resources has occurred for Spanish Language Arts K–3. New information concerning Spanish language arts resources can be found in the updated authorized resource list at <http://education.alberta.ca/media/831272/spalares.pdf>.

## Teacher Exchanges

Twenty-five Alberta teachers are currently on a full-year teaching exchange in the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Australia, and 20 more are preparing to depart in December for a year in Australia and New Zealand. This summer, 10 teachers spent a week job shadowing in Germany and Denmark and enjoyed being billeted with their international colleagues.

If you are interested in joining the growing number of teachers who are internationalizing their teaching practice, please visit

<http://education.alberta.ca/students/internationaleducation/teacherexchange.aspx>. This Web page provides full information on Alberta Education's Teacher Exchange Program. The next deadline for applications is December 31, 2008.

## Student Exchanges

In 2008–2009, there are 72 Alberta students from schools across the province involved with the Student Language Development Exchange Program. Eight Alberta students returned on October 19 from two and a half months in Japan; the remainder of the Alberta students involved in exchanges are currently enjoying having their exchange partners here. This fall, in Alberta schools from Grande Prairie to Lethbridge, there are 21 exchange students from Spain, 23 students from Germany, 2 students from Mexico and 18 students from Québec.

The application deadline for the 2009–2010 Student Language Development Exchange Program is February 28, 2009. Application materials will be sent to all Spanish, Japanese, German and French language teachers by October 30. Application forms are also available online at <http://education.alberta.ca/apps/internationalEducation/languages/> or by contacting Katherine McGeean, Coordinator, Student Exchanges, at 780–427–8860 or at [katherine.mcgee@gov.ab.ca](mailto:katherine.mcgee@gov.ab.ca). To be connected toll-free inside Alberta, dial 310–0000.

Katherine is replacing Mindy Bratvold, who is on maternity leave until August 2009.

## Teachers of Languages—Available Teacher Bursary Programs

### Individual Teacher Bursary Program

The Individual Teacher Bursary Program is available to teachers teaching in French or working directly with students who are learning the French language. It allows these teachers to pursue professional development courses and/or conferences offered in French. Interested teachers are encouraged to contact Vivian Abboud, Senior Manager, Languages, at [vivian.abboud@gov.ab.ca](mailto:vivian.abboud@gov.ab.ca) or at 780-427-5538. To be connected toll-free inside Alberta, dial 310-0000.

### Language Teacher Bursary Program

Are you planning post-secondary study in a language other than English or planning to take a language pedagogy course? The Language Teacher Bursary Program is available to teachers of languages other than English. Teachers of:

- international languages, who plan to take a summer program of at least four weeks duration in a language/language teaching methodology other than English, or in a related field at an institution outside of Canada

or

- Aboriginal languages, whose language of study is only available in Canada, and who:
  - hold a valid Alberta professional teaching certificate
  - have been teaching in Alberta for a minimum of three years by the end of the current school year
  - demonstrate a background in language learning, or have recently initiated the study of this language
  - have not previously been awarded a Language Teacher Bursary

may be interested in this program.

Deadline: The school authority must mail its endorsement and the applicant's application package by February 10, 2009.

Further information is available at <http://www.alis.alberta.ca/et/fo/scholarships/info.html?EK=874>.

### Connection: Information for Teachers Newsletter

*Connection: Information for Teachers* is Alberta Education's online newsletter that includes the latest information to support teachers in the classroom. More details regarding this newsletter are included in the flyer that follows.

## We've got a Connection for you!

Check out Alberta Education's [online newsletter for teachers](#) published three times a year in [October](#), [January](#) and [May](#).

It's a one-stop shop where teachers can find the latest information that will support them in the classroom.

### Just some of the features include:

- Information on a wide-range of topics including:
  - updates on curriculum development
  - the latest news related to learning and teaching resources, including recently authorized resources for subject areas
  - what's happening in the areas of learner assessment, special education, technology integration and Aboriginal education
- Quick links to other Web sites that support teachers in the classroom
- English and French versions
- Free subscription service

Visit <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/resources/connection.aspx> and get "connected!"

