



President's Report for 2019 Ontario Association of Teachers of German

Fortbildungstag 2019 Thank you to all attendees for their participation and the Executive Committee for their hard work in executing this dynamic and important weekend. Cheers to our presenters and for the ongoing support from the Goethe-Institut, DAAD, Goethe Books, and many other colleagues. The workshop information and full details are found at <http://oatg.org/sunday-november-17-2019-oatg-fortbildungstag-professional-development-day/>

Teacher Certification A great joy of my time as OATG President has been working towards the creation of initiatives to give day school teachers (or anyone who is an Ontario Certified Teacher) the opportunity to obtain their qualification as a German teacher. After many years of discussion with multiple parties, particularly the Consulate in Toronto, **this will be a reality in 2020.**

The creation of the course was funded by the Goethe-Institut Toronto. As such, the International Languages – German, Part 1 Additional Qualification course will be offered by Nipissing University in spring-summer 2020 in a fully online environment. Candidates will explore second language pedagogy principles, resources from the Goethe-Institut, the Ontario curriculum for International Languages, and other important content.

Bursaries will be available from the Goethe-Institut Toronto and the OATG, as well as other possible sources. Nipissing University will explore whether the course can be audited by non-Ontario Certified Teachers (the Ontario College of Teachers must approve such a request first) and the OATG will report back in kind; if no, non-OCTs would be eligible for bursaries from the Goethe-Institut and OATG as well. This course could be the catalyst towards starting new programs across Ontario!

OATG Dinner Meeting at the OMLTA Spring Conference Our annual dinner meeting for OATG members, partners and friends of DaF-teaching took place again on Friday of the OMLTA Spring Conference. Many friends from the Consulate and Goethe-Institut were special guests for the evening. This event is a highlight for the OATG membership, as we are able to capitalize on the fact that some teachers from outside the Toronto area are attending the conference anyway.

Outreach and Professional Development: Conferences We continued our participation in the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association (OMLTA) spring conference. Here, we hosted our traditional information booth

for the two days of the conference, sharing the cost with the Goethe-Institut Toronto. We greeted teachers and other people interested in the German language, informed prospective new members about the services of the OATG, and promoted the value of German language teaching in Ontario.

CATG 2019 The 2019 CATG conference was held in Toronto. A full weekend of workshops was held and OATG members were encouraged to attend. There was a good turnout of over 35 delegates from across Canada, including several from Ontario, who attended and profited from the outstanding PD presented. Two official delegates and some additional educators from Ontario attended.

KVDS Ost 2019 This event was held in Toronto and we were pleased to assist with some logistical support, particularly from Nicola Townend.

Contests 2019 The *Ontario High School German Contest* was held with great success on April 6, 2019 at Appleby College in Oakville. A PAD-Reise for the winner of „Gruppe B“ category was again awarded, thanks to the generous support of the German Consulate in Toronto. Beginner and senior-level categories were held, and over \$3000 in cash and prizes were awarded. Nearly 40 students participated and we welcomed many special guests from the Consulate, Goethe-Institut, and other agencies.

We did not offer an additional student contest in 2019 but intend to do so in 2020.

Netzwerk-Deutsch-Antrag Our most recent budget request was submitted on time to the German Embassy in Ottawa. We continue to work within the confines of the expected funding reductions and are being prudent about our costs.

Additional Collaboration The OATG was also involved with many additional activities in 2019 (a busy year indeed):

- multiple initiatives with the German Consulate in Toronto, including two “taking the pulse of DaF/DaZ in Ontario schools” meetings with the Consul General
- supporting A2 level tests for students in Toronto
- supporting Sprachschulen to navigate the challenges of no longer being able to grant high school credits and to provide some parents/guardians with information about the credit challenge process known as “PLAR”; Jimmy acted as PLAR facilitator for two school boards offering LWGCU and DU credits

Other Liaison Work OATG remains a member in good standing of the Ministry of Education Subject/Division Association and the Ontario Teachers’ Federation (OTF) Curriculum Forum. Through these groups, we can advocate on behalf of our members for issues of relevance to second language educators in publicly-funded elementary and secondary schools. Jimmy attended various meetings from these organizations and passed on relevant information to our members by email and Twitter.

At the most recent OTF meeting (October 2019) attended by Ministry of Education representatives, concern was expressed at the decreasing numbers of International Languages courses offered in day schools.

Executive Update Both Maria-Luise Sebald (Treasurer) and myself (President) have roles whose terms expire this year. We would both be pleased to continue in these roles.

Final Words

1. The OATG and the Ontario H.S. German Contest turn 50 in 2021! What sort of celebrations should we have?
2. Only 60% of our funding comes from the German government. We thank all of our active members for their ongoing support in maintaining their memberships! A discount is always available at the Fortbildungstag (\$20 per year, a savings of 33%); otherwise, memberships are just \$30 per year. A tax receipt is always issued within a short time of receiving payment.
3. In lieu of funding members to attend the OMLTA conference (as there are fewer and fewer OATG members who are also day school teachers and in light of the limited workshops for International Languages teachers there), I will suggest funding members in good standing for this **or** other events that can best serve our members via our Netzwerk-Deutsch-Antrag, starting in 2021.
4. OATG applied for a grant from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF, the secondary public school teachers' union) for refreshing our website and for bursaries for the AQ course. We should receive a response in December.
5. With CATG 2020 taking place in Montréal in April, there will again be funding for one OATG member in good standing to attend this exceptional P.D. opportunity as an official delegate. Most costs are reimbursed thanks to the support of the German government. More information will be shared in the winter.
6. Our members are first and of the utmost importance to us! The collaboration with the Consulate, Embassy, Goethe-Institut, ZfA, CATG, PASCH Network, KVDS, DAAD, Ministry of Education, OTF, and other stakeholders is fundamental to our success. Wir bedanken uns herzlich!

Respectfully submitted,
Jimmy Steele OATG
President, 2013-2019