



## President's Report for 2020 Ontario Association of Teachers of German

**Fortbildungstag 2020** 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 and many other colleagues. There were 26 participants from all across the province (and overseas!). The Goethe-Institut Toronto will provide gift certificates to Goethe Books for all who attended.

**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 became 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 was offered by Nipissing University in spring-summer 2020 in a fully online environment. Candidates explored second language pedagogy principles, resources from the Goethe-Institut, the Ontario curriculum for International Languages, and other important content. Bursaries were available from the Goethe-Institut Toronto, OATG, and the OSSTF. Nicola Townend was an exceptional facilitator.

The course will be offered again in 2021.

**OATG Dinner Meeting and the OMLTA Spring Conference** Our annual dinner meeting for OATG members, partners, and friends of DaF-teaching was postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis. We were refunded the cost for our booth (shared with the Goethe-Institut) and will put this towards attending again in 2021.

**CATG 2020** The 2020 CATG conference, scheduled for April in Montréal, was also postponed.

**Contests 2020** The *Ontario High School German Contest* was scheduled for April 8, 2020 at Appleby College in Oakville. We hope to be able to welcome back this event in 2021, to celebrate its 50th anniversary. One small change was made to the application at the request of the consulate: there can be no “entry fee” for an event where a PAD-Reise is awarded, so any costs that we would collect would need to be classified as a “refreshment” or “hospitality fee”.

The “50 Reasons to Learn and Love German” contest was launched in October and we hope to create a 2021 calendar for distribution in January 2021 and posters for Spring 2021.

**Website** Thanks to a grant from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation, we received funding to overhaul our website. It is now live, the URL is hosted on a more easily-accessible server, and looks fresh.

**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 2020:

- multiple initiatives with the German Consulate in Toronto, including a January “taking the pulse of DaF/DaZ in Ontario schools” meeting with the Consul General
- 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”
- attending the AGM for CASLT with and on behalf of other DaF organizations

**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, including OTF meetings in February, April, June, and November.

**Executive Update** Vice President Nicole Nascimento’s term expires this year. She would both be pleased to continue in this role.

## **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 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),

bursaries for members will be offered via the Netzwerk-Deutsch-Antrag for other conferences, starting in 2021.

4. 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, 2013-2021