

FSL Fundamentals

Building a Strong Foundation for FSL Educators

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The FSL Teacher Shortage in Canada



- Canada faces a shortage of up to 10,000 qualified FSL teachers.
- Key challenges include:
 - ▶ Professional isolation
 - ▶ Insufficient French-language proficiency
 - ▶ Lack of training in L+ pedagogy

Background Research

- CASLT research identified key issues:
 - ▶ Confidence in French proficiency is critical for retention
 - ▶ Inconsistent teacher preparation across Canada
- Many in-service teachers lack formal training but are teaching anyway due to the shortage.



Introducing FSL Fundamentals



- Launched in 2022 with funding from Canadian Heritage
- Aims to improve teacher confidence and sense of self-efficacy
- Targets:
 - ▶ Pre-service teachers
 - ▶ New FSL teachers
 - ▶ In-service teachers needing support

Project Components 2023-2024

- Asynchronous online courses
- Online community-building sessions
- Instructor-led online courses:
 - ▶ Proficiency courses: French for Teachers (A1, A2, B1)
 - ▶ Pedagogy courses:
 - Finding, Evaluating, and Creating Resources for FSL Programs
 - FSL Teaching Approaches and Strategies

Project Components 2024-2025

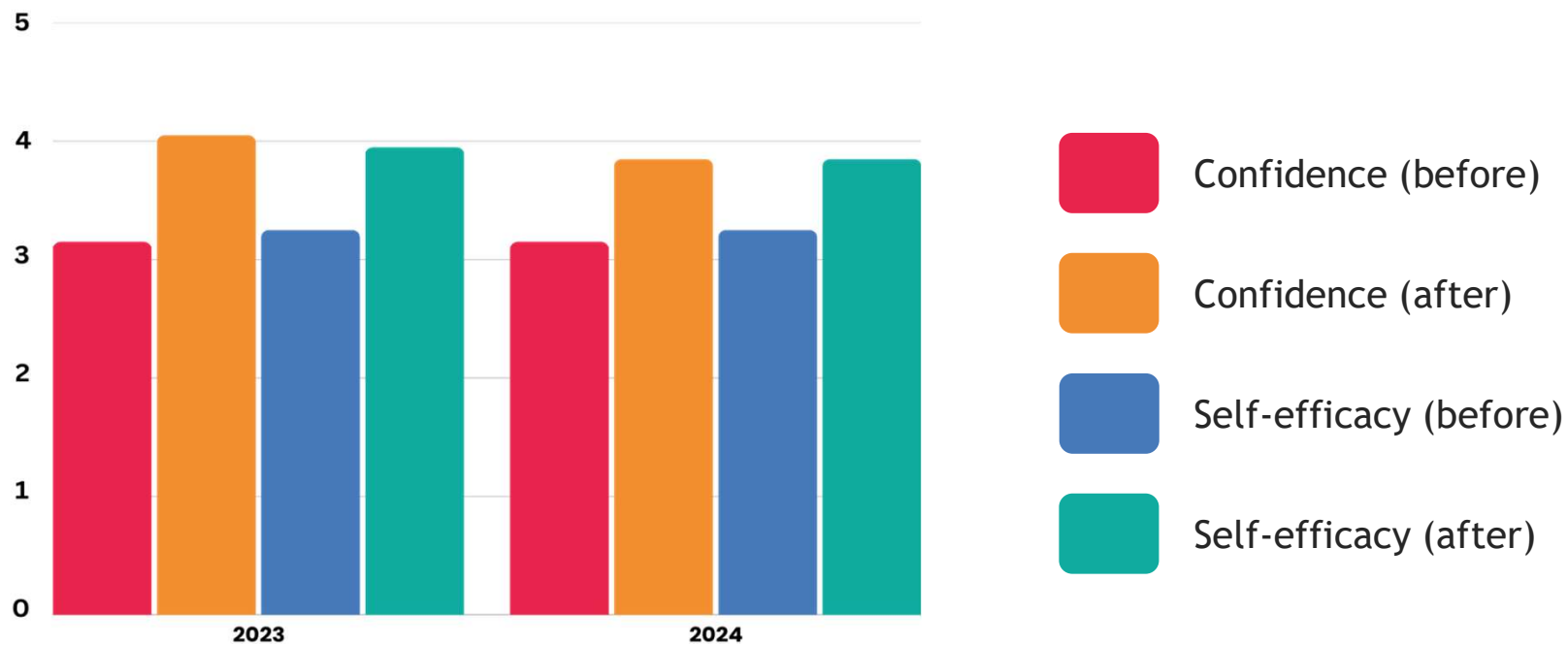
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- ▶ Instructor-led online courses:
 - Proficiency courses: French for Teachers (A1, A2, B1, B2)
 - Pedagogy courses:
 - Finding, Evaluating, and Creating Resources for FSL Programs
 - FSL Teaching Approaches and Strategies
 - Effective Assessment Strategies for FSL
 - Fostering Equity and Diversity in the FSL Classroom

What Sets FSL Fundamentals Courses Apart?



- Classroom-focused vocabulary and communication skills
- Integration of language learning with teaching strategies
- Practical application through real-world scenarios
- Community-building among participants

Implementation and Results



Participant Feedback

- Positive learning environment and non-intimidating atmosphere
- Practical resources shared among participants and instructors

“[The instructor] was so warm and made me feel at ease... Being able to speak with other FSL teachers in French, about DELF topics, or topics of personal interest was very refreshing and helpful.”

“This class helped me realize what my strengths and weaknesses are with French language learning... This was a great confidence builder, and a wonderful place to gain resources for classes in the future.”

Next Steps

- Expand course offerings and frequency
- Develop flexible scheduling options to accommodate different time zones
- Continue refining content based on participant feedback
- Launch asynchronous versions of the courses for self-paced learning

Questions?

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