



CANADIAN LANGUAGE MUSEUM MUSÉE CANADIEN DES LANGUES

Membership Newsletter #1

June 2013

Inaugural Exhibit Tours from Coast to Coast

The Museum's first exhibit 'Canadian English, Eh?' has toured across Canada over the last 14 months. It opened on March 22, 2012 in New College at the University of Toronto and after that went on to ten showings at Canadian universities in Waterloo, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Halifax, St. John's, and Vancouver. It even had an international debut in Boston during the annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Thousands of viewers have enjoyed learning about Canadians' distinctive use of English: its history, unique vocabulary, variations across the country and between generations, and influences from French and Aboriginal languages.

CANADIAN
ENGLISH, EH?

The changing face of English in Toronto

University of Toronto research Sali Tagliamonte and her team of students have been studying ongoing changes in Toronto English. The most well-known shibboleth, *eh*, is being supplanted by *right* by the under thirty crowd, while using *like* to introduce quoted speech (called *quotative 'like'* by linguists) is on the rise.

[http://individual.utoronto.ca/tagliamonte/new_TE.html]

Building Travelling Exhibits

How are the Museum's travelling exhibits developed?

For the past two years, students in the Exhibitions course of the University of Toronto Master of Museum Studies Program have curated the exhibits. Students Caylie Gnyra, Tamara Ivis and Heather Mawby curated the 'Canadian English, Eh?' exhibit, and Brittany Holliss curated the 'Speaking the Inuit Way' exhibit. The students were supervised by Elaine Gold and advised by linguistics experts in each area and by native speaker consultants. We are hoping to continue this partnership with the Museum Studies Program in the future. Plans are underway for an exhibit on Canadian French to open in 2014 and one on Cree to open in 2015.

Dene Zhatie goes high tech

There's an iPhone app for Dene Zhatie (aka South Slavey) for those who want to learn this language. This is just the latest in a continuing trend for endangered languages around the world to embrace modern technology in a bid to preserve and promote their language and culture.

[<http://www.gudeh.com>]

New Exhibit Introduces Viewers to the Inuit Language

New College at the University of Toronto again generously hosted the opening of the Museum's newest exhibit 'Speaking the Inuit Way', on March 28, 2013. The exhibit

then went on for a month's display at Museum of Inuit Art in Toronto and is now on its way to Victoria to be shown as part of the national Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences.

This exhibit introduces viewers to the richness of the Inuit language: where it is spoken, how it is written, what it sounds like, dialect differences and revitalization efforts. Touring plans include showings in Waterloo, Ottawa and Moncton.



Speaking the Inuit Way
Parler à la façon des Inuits



CLM on Facebook and CafePress

The CLM is now on Facebook and CafePress. Visit our Facebook page for updates on upcoming events and exhibitions, or our CafePress site for a wide variety of merchandise, including shirts, mugs, pillows, aprons and tote bags.



Check out our website: www.languagemuseum.ca
See us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/clm.mcl>
CLM on CafePress: <http://www.cafepress.ca/clmmcl>



Spotlight: Cantonese

Cantonese is the most well-known dialect of the Yue language—the primary language of Hong Kong and Guangdong province of China—and has had a presence in Canada since the middle of the 19th century. Although it is closely related to Mandarin, the official language of the People's Republic of China, Yue is distinct enough from Mandarin to be considered a separate language. It was not long after the arrival of Cantonese speakers in Canada that it started to make its linguistic mark. Additions such as *bok choy*, *dim sum*, *chop suey*, and *har gow* are testament to the culinary impact of southern Chinese culture on the Canadian landscape. Chop suey?!? Wait a minute...we all know that's not *real* Chinese food. You're right, it's not. The name, however, does come from Cantonese *zaap sei* (雜碎) meaning 'mixed bits'. Cantonese continues to be one of the dominant East Asian languages spoken in Canada, with large representations in many metropolitan centres, either in the traditional historic Chinatowns found in most large cities, or in the suburbs with the more affluent members of the Cantonese speaking diaspora. With six distinct tones (compared to four in Mandarin), Cantonese presents a formidable challenge to the second-language learner—however one that many rich (and tasty!) rewards. So head on down to your favourite eatery in Chinatown, order some *zuk* (粥 'congee', a rice porridge) or some hearty *ngau laam meen* (牛腩麵 'beef brisket with noodles'), and don't forget to thank your server with *m goi* (唔該, a special phrase particular to Cantonese for expressing thanks to service people). And, of course, keep an ear out for those six distinct tones.

[To hear the six tones of Cantonese, click on the following link:
<http://phonetics.ucla.edu/vowels/chapter2/cantonese/recording2.2.htm>]

Language diversity on the rise in Canada:

Statistics Canada has released the results of its 2011 census. A report entitled *Linguistic Characteristics of Canadians* lists a whopping 200 languages spoken either at home or as a mother tongue. The biggest increase is Tagalog, which 64% more speakers than 5 years ago (in the 2006 census). Canadians themselves are becoming more linguistically diverse, with an increase in the use of multiple languages in the home. Aboriginal languages also reported a modest rise with over 200,000 speakers of 60 distinct languages. British Columbia continues to lead the nation in diversity of aboriginal languages, but also suffers from the highest incidence of language endangerment. [<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/as-sa/98-314-x/98-314-x2011001-eng.cfm>]