

Volume 1 | Issue 1  
October 2018

# TESL Canada Connects

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*“Education is  
not the filling of  
a bucket but the  
lighting of a  
fire” William  
Yeats*

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*Welcome to the first issue of our TESL Canada Connects newsletter. We hope that these newsletters will be a chance for us to share news from our provinces, from our language programs, from our teacher training programs as well as professional learning ideas. Please consider submitting an item for next time to [admin@tesl.ca](mailto:admin@tesl.ca)*

## **News from our provincial partners- TESL NL (submitted by Xuemei Li)**

TESL-NL has made big strides in its rejuvenation since June 2018. Other than being involved in different TESL Canada sub committees, the **new President, Dr. Xuemei Li, and Vice-President, Ms. Susanne Drover**, organized the first general meeting on July 9 with great success. Members were briefed on the business of TESL Canada and the provincial ESL programs and Multicultural Education initiatives. Dr. Li encouraged members to write articles for a special issue of *Morning Watch*, an academic journal housed in Memorial University’s Faculty of Education. The special issue, featuring ESL teaching and newcomer integration and guest-edited by Dr. Li, is scheduled to be published in December 2018. The current TESL-NL leadership is composed of an Executive Board and a Board of Directors, engaging members from four sectors: the LINC program, the EAP program, the K-12 ESL/LEARN programs, and the graduate/academic programs. Due to unique challenges faced by K-12 ESL students and families, ESL and academic bridging program (LEARN) teachers joined the Association for a stronger voice and better representation of the profession. The first Board meeting on October 23 discussed, among others, attendance in TESL Ontario Conference in early November, involvement in TESL Atlantic Canada Conference in 2019, roles of Board members, and plans for the future. A date was set for TESL-NL AGM in early December.



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*A must read for  
ESL educators-  
recommended  
by TESL NB  
Rep, Kathy*

*Whynot: [The Newcomers](#) by  
[Helen Thorpe](#)*

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### **News from our Recognized Teacher Training Programs (submitted by Scott Poole)**

The University of Winnipeg's EAL Teacher Certificate Program (EAL TCP) addresses the fundamentals of teaching English as an additional language. It includes linguistic and pedagogical theory, methodology, and practice to prepare teachers to teach English effectively in a variety of settings. Throughout the program, we like to have our EALTCP classrooms mirror an L2 classroom as much as possible. The idea is to bring in the best practices of L2 teaching in the theory classroom to show those best practices in action. It is for this reason, that we include not only the observation of experienced teachers in the classroom, but also encourage our instructors to continually make connections between what is being presented in the classroom and what is being done in actual their EAL/ESL classrooms. We have always tried to employ working teachers to be our instructors. During the coursework, students continually work on the idea of developing skill-based lesson plans that work on not just the productive skills, but also the receptive. We stress that although content has its place in the classroom, we are, as ESL instructors, language instructors first. Our program has done its best to react to the changing needs of the ESL/EAL field. We do more work on PBLA, have re-evaluated the idea of learning styles, and are constantly encouraging our teachers to be reflective in their practice. We hope to continue and grow in order to keep up with the continually changing world of ESL/EAL instruction.

### **Ideas and recommendations from our members- READING WEBSITES:**

- [ENGLISH PROFILE](#) - A site with tools to determine text level difficulty and grammar level difficulty, supported by the Council of Europe, describes what aspects of English are typically learned at each CEFR level. Teachers can use this site to help determine what is suitable for learning at each level.
- [REWORDIFY](#) - Allows you to paste any text and simplifies the academic language. Register for free to access various free articles and the ability to create vocabulary exercises. Students are able to keep track of the vocabulary they're learning and reading level.
- [FREE ESL MATERIALS \(compiled by Sean Banville\)](#)- A resource hub with links to a large variety of reading and viewing activities featuring sites such as [Breaking News English](#) and [Lessons on Movies](#)

### **Upcoming conferences:**

#### **Fall 2018**

[TESL Ontario Fall Conference-Toronto- Nov. 1-2, 2018](#)

[TESL NS Fall Conference - Halifax - November 16-17, 2018](#)

#### **Spring 2019**

[TESL Saskatchewan and SK TEAL- Spring Conference- Saskatoon- April 12-13](#)

[BC TEAL Spring Conference \(and other PL events\)- Langara College- April 11, 2019](#)

[Languages without Borders- Fredericton- May2-4, 2019](#)

[TESOL International Convention- Atlanta Georgia- March 12-15](#)

#### **Fall 2019**

Atlantic TESL Conference (TESL NS, NB and NL)- Halifax- November 14-16, 2019