TESL New Brunswick
May 2021
Spring Newsletter

What's Happening?

Dear TESL NB Members,

I attended the TESL Atlantic Conference, like many of you, on April 30—May 1. The conference was very well attended with many excellent presentations including those by your TESL NB co-workers and acquaintances. I hope you were able to attend the conference too. Please see the article on pages 4-5, HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE INAUGURAL TESL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE written by Kathy Whynot.

During the conference we had a general meeting which also had an excellent participation rate. Thank you to those who were able to attend. We'd like to build on your interest by holding a general meeting later this month at 6 PM on Thursday, May 27 via Zoom. The agenda and link will be sent out to the membership a week before the meeting. This will be our last general meeting until late this summer so I hope you'll join us.

One item to think about is the fall networking/social event. Please send me your thoughts on the following:

- Do we want a guest speaker?
- What location should we choose?
- Do we want a full day or half day event?
- Should we include lunch?

Donna Hoffman

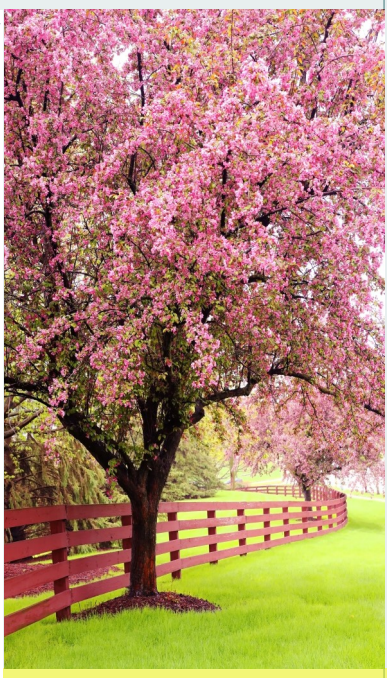
A strong TESL NB organization has many advantages. One advantage is our connection to TESL Canada with the benefits outlined on page 6. As a member of TESL NB, you are automatically a member of TESL Canada. Also, having the network with provincial organizations benefits us all. We have opportunities for professional development, sharing of resources, and networking.

Finally, I'm happy to report that I've had my first vaccine shot! I hope you are able to get vaccinated soon against Covid 19, if you haven't already.

I wish you all a wonderful spring. Take Care.

Donna

Donna Hoffman, President of TESL NB



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SPOTLIGHT ON THE MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

~ by Joan Majchrowski, Executive Director

The Multicultural Association of Charlotte County (CCMA) has experienced some key and amazing changes in its programming this year. We started the pandemic, like everyone else, with apprehension. We quickly embraced the opportunity for online instruction, and within a week were back up and running. We had already been moving towards online teaching with our Citizenship modules and this created a unique opportunity to quickly pivot all of our core classes and workshops online, as well.

Our classes range from formal language, academic and employment related classes, to informal conversation classes, workshops and cooking classes. Our instructors, Dr. Steven Noble and Rodney Munn, have worked diligently on providing diverse workshops from *Making Your Own Puzzles*, to keep the children at home entertained while still learning, to Story Telling workshops for newcomers to tell their stories of how their families came to Canada.

CCMA clients thriving despite pandemic challenges

With the changes in programming, newcomers were given the added challenge of learning technology along with their language skills. A challenge for many, especially for those that only use cell phones and tablets. Currently one of our instructors teaches almost exclusively online while the other instructor does a combination of online and in-person classes.

Our cooking workshops were missed the most. We were able to begin online videos starting with *Making Mug Cakes* where newcomers shared variations of their creations. Most recently, we've hosted an *Italian Noodle Cooking* workshop. These workshops continue to thrive. In recent days, newcomers have followed suit by making videos of their own including Finnish Pasta and Pot Roast with Caribbean Flavours.

CCMA also took the opportunity to create a burgeoning YouTube video series called "*We Are All Charlotte County*" with a focus on newcomers and other community members. By interviewing dozens of people across Charlotte County, short video threads were created that showed the similarities of thought we all hold in common.

This next year we have even more exciting workshops planned. Our organization has grown exponentially over the past couple of years and the newcomer families are not only our clients, but our friends. Our organization has been tremendously successful and we have to thank our funders, employers, community members, volunteers, staff and most importantly, the newcomer families themselves.

GET TO KNOW A TESL NB MEMBER!

Name: Ismail Fayed

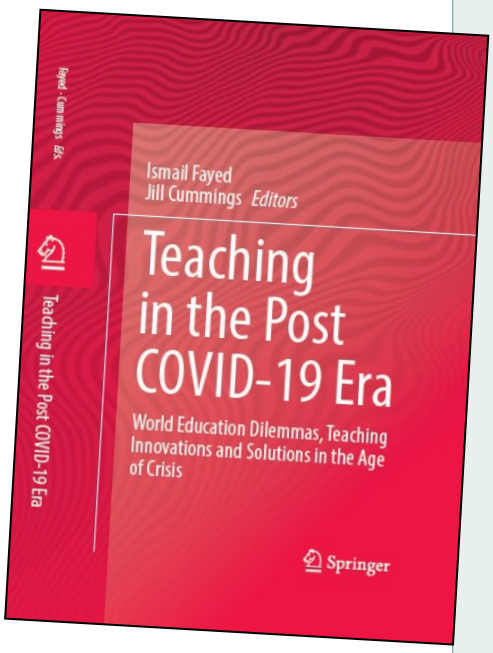
Position: Project Director, Educational Technology and Assessments, Yorkville University

My favourite thing about my position is having the opportunity to contribute to the lives of many educators and students. In my current capacity, I help faculty and other colleagues link research to practice, develop course materials and assessment plans, develop technology guides and improve the EdTech on campus.

Ismail Fayed, Yorkville University

Something I recently learned is to be more patient and flexible! With COVID crises, I was among a team trying to identify solutions, develop procedures and learning/assessment guidelines that faculty and programs can make use of. That required a tremendous amount of time, efforts, research and collaboration to communicate those changes to even colleagues who are remote and in completely different provinces, too!

A book I recommend is my own! I recommend my new co-edited handbook, "Teaching in the Post COVID-19 Era: World Education Dilemmas, Teaching Innovations, and Solutions in the Age of Crisis."



A goal I have over the next few months is to completely develop the handbook website and complete another two major university projects I'm currently involved in.

Something that inspires me is when I see a successful teacher continue to share their passion about teaching and seeing the fruits of their success in their students.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Ismail recommends his own new co-edited handbook, "Teaching in the Post COVID-19 Era: World Education Dilemmas, Teaching Innovations, and Solutions in the Age of Crisis." **Congrats, Ismail!**

He explains that, in 75 chapters, this Springer publication offers global solutions developed to handle disruptions in education. Some of the timely topics included are remote synchronous delivery, collaborative online projects, online assessment, accessibility.

This handbook showcases extraordinary educational responses in exceptional times. It examines effective teaching models and methods, technology innovations and enhancements, strategies for engagement of learners, unique approaches to teacher education and leadership, and important mental health and counseling models and supports.

This will be released before June 2021. The Handbook website, also soon to be released, will be an innovative, collaborative resource that hosts additional teaching and learning activities, videos, podcasts, and other exemplary digital resources.

NEWS FROM OUR FRIENDS AT TESL NOVA SCOTIA AND TESL NEW-FOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

TESL Nova Scotia and TESL Newfoundland and Labrador are close sister organizations to TESL New Brunswick. There is much to be learned and gained from working closely together with our Atlantic colleagues, and, indeed, with all TESL provincial associations across the country. The successful TESL Atlantic Conference, held April 30—May 1, 2021, is a great testament to what can happen when we all work together.

Have you checked out TESL Nova Scotia's latest newsletter, and other information available on their website? Please take a look here: **https://teslns.com/2021/04/07/the-spring-2021-newsletter-is-out/**

Did you know that TESL NL's website contains webinars, videos and other resources? Check it out here: **http://teslnl.ca/**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE INAUGURAL TESL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

by Kathy Whynot, TESL NB Member

This year's inaugural TESL Atlantic Conference, a collaboration between **TESL Nova Scotia**, TESL **New Brunswick**, and TESL **Newfoundland and Labrador**, delivered strong content and meaningful networking opportunities for #EAL #ESL #EAP communities of professionals in Atlantic Canada, and beyond. With four keynote addresses focused on English for academic purposes, self care, and the K-12 school system, as well as 30+ other sessions, there was surely something for each of the close to 300 professionals that attended.

Lisa Herrera
lherrera@shaw.ca

Commencing on a rainy Friday in the midst of COVID-19 number surges in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, (and a subsequent province-wide lockdown in Nova Scotia), spirits of attendees may have been a little low when first logging on to the conference platform (Pheedloop). I think it is safe to say that by Friday afternoon, with two inspiring keynotes behind us, as well as other strong sessions and a fun platform experience, we were all feeling rejuvenated and ready to re-commit once again to the extraordinary opportunities inherent in being part of the #ESL #EAP #EAL community of professionals in Atlantic Canada.

One of my personal highlights on Friday was Lisa Herrera's keynote address, titled, "How to Love What You Do." Lisa's engaging presentation style, coupled with her caring and inspiring words, were a welcome balm during these tumultuous times. Lisa reminded us that, "There's never enough time. All classrooms are multi-level. We all have administrative work. There are always frustrations that seem to take us away from our work. But, teaching is acritical profession. What we do makes a difference. We owe it to ourselves to stay in it and stay committed to our passion." As Parker J. Palmer says in, "The Courage to Teach," let's (re-)commit to teaching from a place of 'deep gladness.'"

Another highlight on Friday were the Pecha Kucha sessions that ended the evening's sessions. A PechaKucha (Japanese for *chitchat*) is a structure for storytelling where a presenter shows 20 slides for 20 seconds of commentary each. At a PechaKucha Night, individuals share personal presentations about their work, usually on a

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE INAUGURAL TESL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE, *CONTINUED*

by Kathy Whynot, TESL NB Member

common theme, so that presentations can build on each other. The theme for the TESL Atlantic PechaKucha was, "Surviving the Pandemic as a TESL Professional." Six inspiring presenters all shared personal commentaries on this theme. It was a wonderful night of storytelling… made even better with door prizes and great conversation.

78 people learning & having fun together at the PechaKucha on Friday

Just like at any conference, face-to-face or virtual, it was tremendously useful to hear from presenters from other jurisdictions. Presenters like Dr. Martha Trahey and Dr. Xuemei Li provided important insights on EAL in the K-12 sector in Newfoundland and Labrador; Erin McDonald and Maxine Roberts spoke about the *Pathways to the Future* program at Learn English Nova Scotia; and Kathy Hughes and Lisa Herrera from CCLB on How to Ensure Validity in Distance Learning. There were so many more. TESL NB was well represented with wonderful presentations from our colleagues. **Geoff North** from the English Language Programme at UNB presented on Editing in the Academic English Writing Classroom; **Geraldine Green** on her CTESL Online Practicum Experience; and **Yao Bian** on the value of repetition for new language learners; and Personally, I was delighted to be able to co-present two sessions with my colleagues, **Hilary Ferguson** (Anglophone East School District), **Mallory Cunningham** (Anglophone School District South), **Paula Kristmanson** (UNB and L2RIC) and **Samantha Thompson** (Multicultural Association of Fredericton. We were proud to be able to share information about our collaborations to support educators and students in EAL K-12 in New Brunswick.

Alex and his mom, Leceta, as pictured in the news article linked above

The conference came to a close on a sunny Saturday night with a special presentation by Alexander Chisholm Guilbault and his mom, Leceta Chisholm Guilbault. If you have not heard of Alex and don't know his story, please look him up; you can find information here: https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/longform/alexander-the-great

Alex and his mom presented a master class in both personal and visual storytelling, sharing Alex's incredibly inspirational tale of resilience. This story of love, joy, and the power found in raising your voice was a great way to end this conference for hardworking #EAP #ESL #EAL professionals during these tumultuous COVID times. I am already looking forward to the next opportunity to get together! I have noticed that our friends at TESL Nova Scotia are making plans for a fall 2021 conference on Pheedloop… let's stay tuned, TESL NB!

TESL NB

TESL NB is a professional organization affiliated with TESL Canada that aims to support ESL and EAL teachers and instructors working in a variety of institutions in the province of New Brunswick.

TESL NB provides ESL/EAL educators with a venue for professional networking and professional development opportunities.

We welcome new members. Visit www.teslnb.ca/join-us/ to find out more.

LET'S CONNECT!

- www.teslnb.ca
- Facebook at TESLNB
- Twitter @TESL_NB
- teslnewbrunswick@gmail.com

Please reach out if you want to get involved or know more. We believe in the power and importance of professional connections.

TESL NB

JOIN US AT THE NEXT TESL NB MEETING!

Please join us at our next (virtual) meeting. Our small but mighty organization is currently about 60 members strong, but we usually only have 15-20 people at each meeting. We would love to see new faces, even if you just want to listen in and learn! **Hope to see you on May 27th at 6 pm.** Contact Donna at teslnewbrunswick@gmail.com for any other details, including the meeting link!

Riddles for your classes

If a brother, his sister and their dog weren't under an umbrella, why didn't they get wet?

If a red house is made of red bricks, and a yellow house is made of yellow bricks, what is a greenhouse made of?

Connect with TESL NB for the answers!

YOUR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

TESL CANADA
Teachers of English as a Second Language - Canada

As a member of TESL NB, you are automatically a member of TESL Canada. Remember to check www.tesl.ca and @TESLCanada for updates on **Professional Learning sessions** for members, **bursary** opportunities, events, updated standards for certification, and more.

AMSSA
Strengthening Diversity In BC

Both TESL NB and TESL Canada also send out updates via email, so please check that you are receiving these important messages. For example, TESL Canada recently alerted members via email of a new, **free** e-learning course called, Onboarding LINC Learners Remotely (2-3 hours) from the *Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC*.

Currently, **TESL Canada's Educational Foundation (TCEF) is offering one scholarship of $500** to a member who is interested in pursuing professional learning.

All TESL NB/TESL Canada members are welcome to apply by June 1st, 2021.

Full details can be found on the TESL Canada Educational Foundation site here: https://www.tesl.ca/about-us/tesl-canadian-educational-foundation.html