TESL Canada Bulletin

Spring 2007

TESL CANADA FEDERATION
Spring 2007

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President's Message
From Shailja Verma

Thank you again to the chairs of the Conference Committee – Christine Bertram and June Shumko for the amazing TESL Canada Conference 2006, which was held in Winnipeg in October. For those of you who were able to attend, you know it was a very well organized, well received, and well-attended conference – overall a great success! Likewise the Learners' Conference co-chairs, Sandie Kouritzin and Diana Turner, put on a Learners' Conference that won't be forgotten by all participants. The learners were a lively and visible component of the conference and even made an impromptu thank you speech during our banquet dinner.

Board Members Joyce Vandall, Jennifer Person Terell, Paula Kristmanson, and Jennifer St. John wrapping up the Silent Auction.

Chris Bertram, June Shumko, Diana Turner, Sandie Kouritzin

The 2008 Conference Committee is well underway and Louise and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the co-chairs of the conference – Ellen Pilon, Sandra Foreman, and Barbara Clayden for stepping up and taking this on. We are also pleased to report that the co-chairs for the Learners' Conference 2008 are Carolyn Gupta and Yasmin Ojah. Please see the conference reports for more details about the exciting developments for these conferences.

The board has been hard at work through their committees since the face-to-face board meeting in October and on behalf of TESL Canada, Louise and I are grateful for all the volunteer work that the board puts into this organization. It simply would not be possible to run an organization of this size and scope without the dedication of these individuals. A special thanks is issued to the Standards Committee for their, daily, support and expertise.

(Continued on page 3)

Notice Board

In this issue:

Page/Article	
1	President's Report
2	Notice Board
3	President's Report Continued / Treasurer's Report
4-8	From Coast to Coast to Coast
9-10	CCLB Report
11	Testing Committee Report
12-13	TESL Canada Conference Report
14	Policy and Action Committee Report
15	Journal Advisory Committee Report
16	Nominations Report
17	Nominations Report Continued
18	TESL Canada 2008 Flyer

TESL CANADA 2008

MONCTON
NEW BRUNSWICK

MAY 29-31
2008

DELTA BEAUSEJOUR HOTEL

TESL NB Teachers of English as a Second Language of New Brunswick

TESL NS

TESL CANADA

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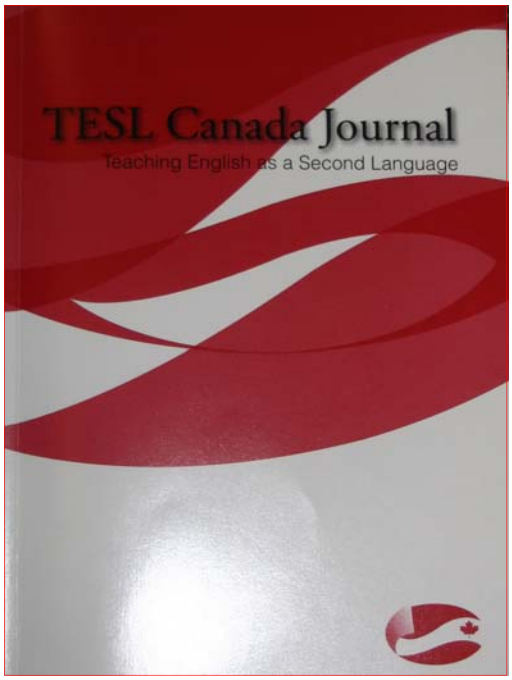

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President's Message (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

For those of you who may not know, TESL Canada has been successful in securing an additional two years of funding from Canadian Heritage in support of the TESL Canada Journal. Our thanks to Louise, Sandie and John for their hard work and continued persistence in ensuring that this would be accomplished.

On another note Debby Yeager-Woodhouse, Treasurer resigned effective January 1, 2007. We welcome the appointment of Nova Scotia representative, Ellen Pilon as our new treasurer. Thank you Ellen for taking this on in addition to your other duties.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank Louise, who has not only managed to keep all the aspects of this organization running so smoothly, but has done so with grace and sensitivity. She has proven to be just the right choice and TESL Canada could not have been luckier. As we move forward, I know that Louise will continue to provide the support needed for TESL Canada, its members and Board. We are indeed in good hands.

Treasurer's Report

The TESL Canada 2006 books are currently being reviewed by TESL Canada's accountant and will be available to the board for review in April. The final numbers are expected to report slightly ahead of the predictions at the previous Board Meeting.

The 2007 fiscal year is underway and for the first two months, TESL Canada is on track with both income and expenditure forecasts, with no significant deviations to date.

TESL CANADIAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
is a registered Charity since 1992
The TCEF promotes, funds and facilitates for
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Visit the TESL Canada website at
http://tesl.ca/ed_foundation.html

FROM COAST TO COAST ... TO COAST...

Teachers of English as a Second Language of New Brunswick

TESL NB Report Rep: Paula Kristmanson

The major focus for TESL NB for the last few months (and this will continue to be the case until May 2008!) will be the TESL Canada 2008 conference which we are co-hosting with TESL NS (and TESL Canada, of course!). TESL NB's member-at-large, Sandra Foreman and past-president, Barbara Clayden, are co-chairing TESL NB's team of conference planners. In January, they met with Ellen Pilon, TESL NS's representative, to iron out a few of the priority logistical items. (Please note that Ellen Pilon will submit the full report on behalf of the conference organizers.) In sum, the TESL NB group are looking forward to having such a high visibility conference in their home province, and we hope to be able to put out a well-orchestrated welcome mat in May of 2008!

In addition to preoccupations with the conference, we have elected new co-presidents in the last month. The organization was without a president for a short period of time, and Barbara Clayden kindly held the reigns in the interim. Nicole Poirier, ESL instructor and program coordinator for New Brunswick Community College in Bathurst NB, has graciously agreed to share the responsibility with me, thus Paula Kristmanson and Nicole Poirier are now the new co-presidents of TESL NB. We hope our backgrounds in teaching, administration and research background combined with our dedication and commitment to our provincial organization will help us to serve the organization effectively. We are fortunate to have a great executive team on whom we rely for support and guidance as we take on this task together.

In addition, TESL NB remains committed to growing our TESL library collection, and we will soon choose more materials for the use of ESL educators across the province. Also, we continue to support and sponsor the ESL public speaking competition held each spring in a Franophone school district in the northern part of the province. TESL NB is dedicated to reaching out to ESL educators in a variety of teaching contexts, from LINC classes, to EAP programs, to ESL in both Anglophone and Francophone public school settings. Our membership, including our executive committee, also represent this same diversity of environments, with participation from the University setting, public schools, community colleges, multicultural associations, and private language schools

Did you know?

That you can post employment positions on the TESL Canada website? Provided that the qualifications for the posting are equivalent to our minimum standards - an undergraduate degree and approved TESL/TEFL training, TESL Canada will post any position for up to three months on our site - free of charge. This is a service we provide to ensure you are able to find a qualified candidate for your openings. Please email your job posting, including the relevant qualifications, to admin@tesl.ca. The positions will be posted as sent within one week for a maximum of three months. The positions are sorted by their location. Positions within Canada are separated from international postings to highlight local and foreign opportunities.

Likewise, if you are searching for a job, please check our website **www.tesl.ca** under *Jobs Search* to find positions that will fit your qualifications.

FROM COAST TO COAST ... TO COAST...

TESL Ontario Report — Rep: Barb Krukowski

TESL Ontario enjoyed another landmark year in many respects. Membership reached an all time high of 3825, as did the number of individuals who have attained TESL Ontario certification, 3520. The decision was made to streamline our membership and certification renewal process whereby fees will be annualized.

Our annual conference, held in Toronto in November 2006, attracted 1236 registrants. The subsidy for 600 LINC instructors was once again in place and will be in effect for the 2007 Conference. As well as stimulating plenaries, provocative research symposia, and informative workshops, we presented our first ever panel with representatives of key stakeholder groups from ESL in Ontario sharing their perspectives. It was well received and will become an annual feature of our conference. Our efforts to have ESL week declared in communities across Ontario yielded several declarations and we will continue to encourage this.

In an effort to raise the profile of ESL in Ontario, we engaged the services of a public relations professional who provided excellent advice on 'getting the word out'. The results were rewarding: three interviews with CBC, interviews with local cable and ethnic media and subsequent interviews seeking TESL Ontario's views on ESL related issues.

Funding for provincially funded ESL programs moved from Ministry of Education to Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) in late 2005. An early MCI initiative was to contract TESL Ontario to develop a resource called "All About Ontario". The English version is complete, and is in translation, and will be available for distribution in September. As well, the federal government has passed responsibility for Ontario's portion of CIC funding to the province through a formal agreement called Canada Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA), and TESL Ontario, along with other stakeholders is represented on the COIA advisory committee. We are anxious to see what changes will be forthcoming with these developments. We continue to have representation at the Ontario Region LINC Advisory Committee (ORLAC) which represents various stakeholders in the delivery of LINC in Ontario.

ATESL Report — Rep: Phyllis Regier

The ATESL Conference, "Current Under Currents," was attended by 298 ATESL members, students and volunteers for two full days on October 13 and 14, 2006 in Edmonton, Alberta. Attendees had the benefit of over 40 break-out sessions in which colleagues shared expertise and innovations. The keynote speakers set a professional tone to each day. Anna Maria Tremonti's international journalistic experiences with the CBC provided a view of global events that prompt waves of immigration. Dr. Ilona Leki provided practical recommendations regarding feedback on students' writing. Summaries of some of the conference presentations are available on the ATESL website in the November – December 2006 ATESL Newsletter. The next ATESL Conference is being planned for October 19 & 20, 2007 in Calgary.

A survey of ESL professionals in the province was conducted during the fall as part of Connecting ESL Communities and Professionals, a joint project of ATESL and Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry. The rationale for conducting the survey was gather information needed to develop strategies to support the current and future ESL environment in light of the significant number of ESL professionals nearing retirement age. The results of this survey will be published in a future ATESL Newsletter.

(Continued on page 6)

FROM COAST TO COAST ... TO COAST...

(Continued from page 5)

Several professional development workshops funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry (AEII) will be offered during the next year for Enhanced Language Training (ELT) instructors. ELT is designed to enable immigrant professionals to bridge the communication, cultural, and technical gaps needed for them to work as full-fledged professionals in the work for which they have been trained. In the past two years, programs have started in Alberta for pharmacists, engineers, and engineering technologists. It has been challenging for organizations to find teachers skilled in teaching at this level and in this very specific context. It is for this reason that CIC and AEII have decided to support a program of professional development for current and prospective ELT teachers. The following workshops have been planned: 1) Teaching Pronunciation to ELT Professionals; 2) Understanding and Managing Cultural Diversity in Professional and Technical Workplaces; and 3) Understanding and Developing an ELT Curriculum.

SCENES Report

Rep: J.B. Vandall

SCENES had their annual weekend retreat in October engaging in strategic planning for future events and endeavors. New initiatives that have been or are in the process of being developed include the following:
1. Looking at setting up a PD fund for its members.
2. Completing an ESL checklist for teachers for inclusion in our spring newsletter.
3. Establishing a speakers list also for inclusion in our spring newsletter.
4. Inviting Sask.'s chief commissioner of literacy to our conference in May as a dinner speaker.

SCENES will be hosting its 2007 annual conference in Prince Albert on May 26. The conference is entitled, Language Creates Community.

On January 31st, I made a presentation at the University of Regina under the auspices of SIDRU(Saskatchewan Instructional Development and Research Unit) entitled, THE FUTURE OF ESL IN CANADA. In this presentation, I addressed K-12 ESL delivery. The audience was mostly university professors and the presentation was the highest attended EVER in the history of SIDRU which meets every week during the university calendar year. This shows that there is great interest out there! It is interesting to note however that NO ONE attended from the K-12 system. I have booked an appointment with my superintendent of instruction to discuss K-12 ESL delivery and TESL Canada. My motivation in making the the presentation, was manifold a fulfillment of volunteering for the AD HOC Committee K-12 and the the PR committee and next year June 2008, is my last year of teaching(after 32 years)of ESL teaching and I feel a great need to leave a legacy of something in place for our ESL students. Also, I am teaching an ELNG 326 course dealing with ESL methodology at the university and felt a need to inform the academic community about TESL Canada. We are in a tough place because K-12 education is provincial and immigration is federal...OUCH!!!!!!! BUT...I believe the time is right to stand up and do something!!!!!!
I am willing to present at our next TESL Canada conference. I will be making a presentation at SCENES's May conference.

FROM COAST TO COAST ... TO COAST...

TEAL
THE ASSOCIATION OF B.C. TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

BC TEAL Report ***Co-Chairs: Catherine Evashuk and Liet Hellwig***

Spring is just around the corner and BC TEAL is busy planning for the 39th Annual Conference, which will take place at the VCC downtown campus on May 3-5, 2007. This year's theme is "ESL in a Global and Changing World". Our plenary speakers are Dr. Bonny Norton from the University of British Columbia and Dr. MaryAnn Christison from the University of Utah.

We continue to have our bi-annual TEAL Sessions COMMA which take place in October and February each year. These sessions continue to be very successful with more and more teachers participating and it's a day filled with workshops for practicing teachers.

Louise Aerts from TESL Canada and Michael Galli from the BC TEAL Board went to Victoria last month to meet with Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education, to discuss the re-regularization of the ESL industry in British Columbia. We're very excited about this meeting because it's one more step toward making ESL a more professionally recognized industry.

Liet Hellwig and Catherine Evashuk have enjoyed working as Co-Presidents and recommend this collaborative sharing of the President's function to other TESL Canada Provincial Organizations. We both agree that the ESL industry could benefit greatly from learning what is happening in other parts of Canada on a regular basis. We're sure all TESL Canada Provincial Organizations could share their expertise, knowledge and solutions to common problems we all face. This could be done by setting up a Newsletter article exchange or informing each other of upcoming conferences so we can support each other. One way of starting this is by creating an up-to-date contact list of Board Members across Canada. We'll start by sending out the invitation to email Gwen Attard, our Administrative Manager, with your contact details.

Last November, the TEAL office moved to a new location, in the same building. Our phone number remained the same (604) 736-6330 and our address is now:

#206 -640 W Broadway
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 1G4

Our email and web addresses remain the same: admin@bcteal.org and www.bcteal.org

We hereby extend an invitation to all TESL Canada Provincial Organizations and hope that we can welcome you to Vancouver for our annual Conference in May.

PEI Report ***Rep: Paula Clark***

TESL PEI continues to welcome a small number of members to its provincial organization. With the recent influx of new Canadians settling in this province, we anticipate that the ESL industry will continue to grow in the coming months. New members are welcome to join TESL PEI at any time.

New members are welcome to join TESL PEI at any time!

FROM COAST TO COAST ... TO COAST...

TESL Nova Scotia Report
Rep: Ellen Pilon

Activity in TESL Nova Scotia is minimal during the Christmas season and the early winter months. The new Board voted in at the AGM in October consists of a number of new people, bringing fresh ideas to the organization and new interest in learning about TESL NS and TESL Canada.

Some planning meetings for the spring Mini-Conference and the Fall Annual Conference have been held. The Mini-Conference, which is free for members and $5.00 for non-members, will be on April 21st and is entitled: Tricks of the Trade - Adding to the Language Teacher's Tool Belt. Usually between 15 and 35 people attend the mini-conference. It is an opportunity to reach volunteer teachers and others who are not interested in the commitment of membership.

In anticipation of the TESL Canada 2008 Conference in Moncton, over a two-hour drive from Halifax, it was decided to hold a Saturday-only fall conference this year in the interests of saving money both for TESL NS and members' organizations. The conference will be held Saturday November 24th at the Westin Hotel in Halifax. By omitting the costs of the Friday night banquet and guest speaker, it is expected that some TESL NS funds can be used to assist long-time members in paying for the national conference. A competition of some sort will be devised.

Membership remains at 95. TESL NS members continue to be interested in applying for TESL CANADA certification which is a factor in the large number of members again this year. Over half of the membership has been part of TESL NS for more than 4 years.

TESL Yukon
Rep: Esther Chassé, President

Greetings to all members of TESL Canada. Yukon language students are being thoroughly immersed in the Northern culture this month. February 2007 brings three exciting events instead of two this year.

The first is the annual Yukon Quest, a dogsled race between Whitehorse and Fairbanks (about 1000 miles) that takes place every year before the second event, the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous. This is our annual festival, designed to chase away winter blues and encourage spring. At this writing, we have enough snow for a couple of winters.

The third event has even more cultural significance for newcomers. We are hosting the Canada Winter Games this year, welcoming participants and fans from every province and territory. Although the event is here, all three territories have been involved in the planning.

Because the College is being utilized as an Athlete's Village and L'Association Franco Yukonnaise is providing all services for Canada's French language visitors, daytime classes have been cancelled for two weeks, adjusting normal spring break. We at TESL Yukon hope this hiatus will be as much of a learning experience for newcomers as the classes they work at so diligently. By the way, many new Canadians are volunteering their time to make the games special.

CCLB Report

Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks | Centre des niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens
200 rue Elgin Street, Suite/Pièce 803, Ottawa, ON K2P 1L5
Tel/Tél.: (613)230-7729 Fax/Téléc.:(613)230-9305
E-mail/Courriel: info@language.ca Web: www.language.ca

Rep: Christina Stechishin with the assistance of Pauline McNaughton

The CCLB is nearing completion on a number of projects for 2006-2007, in support of teachers, assessors and other ESL and FLS professionals.

NEW – Institutional version of CELBAN: The CCLB received funding from the Government of Ontario to develop a ***non-official*** version of CELBAN for use in postsecondary and training institutions offering programming for internationally-educated nurses. The institutional version of CELBAN, to be completed by August 2007, can be used for intake, readiness assessment for clinical placements or exit assessment, as an indicator of readiness for the workplace. The ***official*** version of CELBAN is administered by licensed CELBAN sites in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario, and is recognized by nurse licensing bodies across Canada as a measure of language proficiency necessary to work as a Registered Nurse, Registered Practical Nurse/Licensed Practical Nurse.

NEW – Expanded training in the Workplace Language Assessment screening tool for employment counselors: The CCLB received funding from the Government of Ontario to expand its training for employment counselors in the use of the WLA screening tool. The WLA screening tool will help employment counselors determine appropriate referrals of internationally-educated clients, to language assessment centres for full assessment and placement into employment-related programs. The extended training programs will include additional information about the CLB, as well as about language training and assessment programs and services available and how to locate them.

CLB Online Self-Assessment: The CCLB is working in partnership with the Centre for Education and Training, with funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Government of Ontario, to develop an online self-assessment tool (in English and French) referenced to the CLB 2000 document. Visitors to this website will be able to access an online assessment to determine their Canadian Language Benchmarks or Niveaux de compétence linguistique canadiens levels in two skill areas - reading and listening.

Development of Exit Assessment Tools for CLB 7-10: The CCLB received funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada to develop exit assessment tools for use by teachers of Enhanced Language Training and other higher level programs. These tools are being designed to assess achievement in speaking, listening, reading and writing upon exit from programs that address benchmark levels 7-10. To provide greater versatility, parallel versions of sets of tasks are being developed to reflect community, workplace and academic language use and themes. Since the tools will be parallel to one another in levels of difficulty, they can be used interchangeably to allow greater flexibility for the ESL teachers.

(Continued on page 10)

Development of Exit Assessment Tools for CLB 5-6: The CCLB has received funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Governments of Ontario is developing exit assessment tools or tasks for use with learners in the CLB 5-6 range. The standardized tasks will support the use of consistent, reliable reports of learning outcomes based on the competencies for levels 5 and 6. Tasks will be developed to allow for assessments of all skills using content that reflects both employment and community language use. Results may be used to report on learner proficiencies at the end of a training program or to ensure readiness for higher-levels programs such as Enhanced Language Training (ELT). Funding provided by Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the provincial governments of

Employer's Kit: The CCLB has received funding from the Government of Ontario to develop an online and print-based resource kit to support employment counselors and human resource professionals who are required to make judgements about the language proficiency of adult immigrants with little to no professional training in this area.
The kit will be designed to offer a range of resource materials including guidelines, tools and supports that will facilitate important outcomes for employment counselors and human resource professionals as well as for adult immigrants seeking employment relevant to their skills and abilities. The online/offline kit will include a wide variety of resources and tools including: A set of innovative case studies from various providers in various provinces to highlight ways of offering language training interventions, mentoring, and cross-cultural training; audio files from immigrant participants who were interviewed on their experiences with in topics like job interviews, language issues, working in Canada, and cultural differences have been uploaded to the site.

CLBPT Regional Training: The CCLB has received funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada to provide CLBPT assessor training and support for Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) Assessment Centres. Training sessions will be organized based upon regional needs. Other outcomes from this project include: updated and expanded web-based supports for CLBPT assessors that will enhance inter-rater reliability by providing sample interviews and writing tasks to sharpen their assessment skills and a proposed plan for CLBPT assessor re-certification

Online Professional Development Modules
The CCLB has received funding from Governments of British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Ontario to provide a two introductory online professional development modules about the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) to support teachers in adult ESL and Bridging programs who have been newly hired and are not familiar with the CLB or wish to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the CLB.

Learner Outreach Resources: With funding from the Government of Alberta, the CCLB developed an online Learner Gateway for language learners at www.language.ca. This new area of the website provides information about the CLB accessible to learners at a basic level of language proficiency (CLB level 3-4) and at an intermediate level (CLB 6-7). Launched at TESL Canada Conference in 2006, the Learner Gateway includes: information about the Canadian Language Benchmark levels necessary for specific goals related to living, working and studying in Canada authentic samples of reading, writing, speaking and listening at representative CLB levels

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TESL Canada Testing Committee Report

Members: Joy Lin Salzberg (Chair), Ellen Pilon

As new Chair to the dormant testing committee, Joy has been in email discussions with Virginia Christopher, Audrey Olson, Ellen Pilon and Shaila Verma in regards to articulating the role and purpose of TESL Canada Testing Committee.
Questions were brought up concerning whether the Testing Committee should be a sub-committee of the Standards Committee. However, after clarification from Audrey Olson, it is established that the testing committee's focus is on issues concerning, for example, prospective students to universities while the Standards Committee is on teachers and professionals. The long term goal of the committee is "to develop a TESL Canada policy on the high-stakes testing issue" for prospective students entering university credit programs.

Having identified various pertinent issues concerning the types of proficiency tests administered and proficiency scores required for entrance to major Canadian post-secondary institutions, the Committee, with Louise Aerts's assistance is currently seeking to apply for a grant for hiring a researcher to gather and collate the data for the committee's use.

In the meantime, Joy has invited Joyce White of UBC's English Language Institute and Professor Bonny Norton of UBC's Language and Literacy Department, both experts in academic and proficiency testing, to join the committee.

TESL Canada Conference 2008 Committee Report

Uncovering Discourse: May 29-31, 2008 Delta Beausejour Hotel

TESL Canada 2008 Conference Co-chairs: Barbara Clayden (TESL NB), Sandra Foreman (TESL NB), Ellen Pilon (TESL NS)

Theme:
Because our choices Scott Thornbury and Jeremy Harmer were willing to come to Moncton to speak, we worked the theme around their current specialty, the popular topic of discourse. Thornbury's *Beyond the Sentence* is delightful, entertaining, informative reading that will get delegates in a conference mood.

Committee Structure:
Both TESL NB and TESL NS are trying to find funding for the conference and promoting interest in giving presentations and are helping each other with all aspects of the conference as much as possible. TESL NB is focusing on on-site planning: facility coordination, hospitality, visits, AV requirements, publishers and exhibits, and on-site registration. The treasurer, Bev Tupper, is a TESL NB member. The Learners Conference will be chaired by Carolyn Gupta and Yasmin Ojah of TESL NB. TESL NS is looking after publicity and correspondence through the www.teslns.ca website, pre-registration through PayPal and the database of delegates, organization of and correspondence with presenters, the Conference Program, and the Registration Brochure.

The Planning Committee has met face-to-face several times in Moncton, through innumerable emails, and telephone conversations. With participants in the conference committees spread over NB and in Halifax, a central meeting place and time for all is difficult to arrange.

Facilities:
The Delta Beausejour in Moncton is a beautiful hotel located in the heart of downtown. The main street is minutes away. The conference will occupy the entire second floor, with publishers, food, workshop rooms, the Learners Conference, registration and information all on the same floor. We will be the only conference during Friday and Saturday. We will occupy the main space on Thursday for the symposia, publisher set up and opening, and the President's Wine and Cheese. The hotel has 310 guest rooms and they have guaranteed the price of $149.00 plus HST (14%) per night. Parking is free. Information will be posted on the website about deadlines for room reservations at that price. Tourist season is well underway by the end of May, so this is the lowest rate we could secure. Information about the hotel are available here: http://www.deltahotels.com/hotels/hotels.php?hotelId=27

Program:
The Call for Symposia is already posted on the www.teslns.ca website, and through TESL Canada and TESL NB websites. We are inviting expressions of interest first with final detailed proposals due September 1st. This gives enough time to prepare the Registration Brochure which will go out with the Fall TESL Canada Journal. Already we have heard from four people who want to organize symposia.

We are anticipating approximately 50 - 60 to attend the Symposia sessions, and expect to offer between 3 and 5 sessions morning and/or afternoon. We anticipate that about 300 will attend the conference as a whole, and will call for 90 workshops.
within the EAL/ ESL community.

TESL Canada 2008 Conference Committee Report continued

We were hoping to attract the interest of the NB Board of Education and that they would declareMay 30th a PD day. There is considerable interest in workshops for non-ESL teachers who teach to ESL in the public school classroom. Unfortunately the support wasn't available.
The Call for Presentations is ready but discussion continues about when it should be made available and how. It will be on the websites in the spring, however.
Jeremy Harmer will kick off the conference early Friday morning. Scott Thornbury will speak immediately after lunch on Saturday. We are planning to include lunch in the Saturday conference fee so that delegates can socialize or participate in Themed Tables before enjoying Thornbury.
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Food:
We really liked the continental breakfast that was available in Winnipeg and will be offering that to delegates, and Learners, at the Beausejour. The banquet will be Friday night. Saturday lunch will be included in the conference fee. Lunch on Thursday and Friday will be wherever delegates wish. The hotel has two delightful restaurants: the famous Windjammer Dining Room and the informal L'Auberge Restaurant. Both serve delicious meals.

Registration:
Registration will be available online through PayPal or by mail. There will be an Early Bird deadline. Registration will also be available on site. All communication about registration will go to conference@teslns.ca Details about the program will be available at www.teslns.ca and on the websites of TESL NB and TESL Canada.

Fees and Finances:
In the Maritimes we have HST which means that 14% tax must be charged on everything. Therefore although we have tried to keep all prices the same as Winnipeg, in fact they look higher because we have included HST. Our hands are tied. We have prepared an estimate of income but have yet to balance a budget with estimated expenses.

Funding:
We have approached a number of organizations who are interested in sponsoring part of the conference or in helping out. These include Pearson Longman who publishes almost all of Thornbury's books and many of Harmer's. The English Centre of Toronto (http://www.knowingbooks.ca/) has also offered to do something. The British Council has been approached to help with some of the keynote speaker costs. Other funding sources are being approached.

Maritime Hospitality:
We are excited to offer delegates our Maritime hospitality at this conference. On Thursday there will be scheduled visits to popular tourist sites and we are hoping to arrange for a Lobster Dinner for those who wish to remain Saturday night. Educational visits are yet to be decided. We are hoping to provide delightful locally-crafted tote bags with some local NB and NS surprises. The conference organizers are enjoying this wonderful opportunity to prepare an exciting event for fellow TESL professionals from across Canada. Don't forget! May 29-31, 2008 in Moncton!

Policy and Action Advisory Committee Report

TESL Canada is the national ESL teachers' organization for Canada. The TESL Canada Board has 20 members from across Canada. It came to the attention of the Board in Winnipeg that not all Board members have equal access to the funding required to travel and attend the TESL Canada Board Meetings.

This is of concern to the TESL Canada Board for the following reasons:

i) If only those Board members who can obtain funding run for the TESL Canada Board is the TESL Canada Board truly representative of our profession? This especially impacts on TESL Canada members who teach for NGO's, in LINC Programs or in refugee programs or in part-time ESL programs. These TESL Canada members often have **no** access to funding.

ii) If only those Board members who can obtain funding attend Board meetings, is the TESL Canada Board truly representative of the geographic and diverse reality of the ESL Community in Canada? Is it truly a national ESL teachers' association?

As a result of these concerns a motion was made at the Board meeting in Winnipeg requesting that the Policy and Action Committee explore/research the question of how to better fund Board members to attend TESL Canada Meetings.

Motions were submitted for the TESL Canada Board's Consideration that address the concerns above.

Please consider a tax deductible donation to the TESL Canadian Educational Foundation.

Did you pay too much tax? You may want to look at ways to minimize your taxes payable next year—such as charitable giving.

When making charitable donations you receive a tax credit from both the provincial and federal governments. The rates vary depending on the amount given, but generally a donation of $500 results in a tax credit of $119. Your charity benefits from the donation and you pay less tax. It's a win/win situation. The TCEF is an active charity seeking to support research, training, culture, and learners in the ESL arena. The TCEF will benefit from a donation from $10—$100!

Donors will be recognized in the bulletin and also at the upcoming Conference. In addition to a tax receive for the full value of your donation, donors will be spotlighted at the conference. Many thanks for your generous donation.

Please call Louise Aerts, Executive Director, at 1-800-393-9199 to make a donation via telephone. Email donation and payment information to admin@tesl.ca. Or mail donation and payment information/cheque to:
408—4370 Dominion Street. Burnaby. BC. V5G 4L7.

You will receive a tax-receipt for the full amount of your donation.

Journal Advisory Committee Report

Submitted by: Virginia Christopher

1. Online Journal

At the end of 2006, the decision was made to publish the Journal on-line. The committee is discussing the various on-line options available in regard to cost, capabilities, access control, time required for maintenance, portability and integration with larger databases etc. Open Journal Systems, or a commercial provider are two systems being considered.

2. Checking Sources

Since instigation late in 2006, the new practice of checking all sources in articles is working very well. Aspects being checked include:

a) APA form of all references

b) Page, volume, and accuracy of details in sources

c) Verifying that references on reference lists are mentioned in the article and vice versa

3. The Future of the Journal

The committee is also discussing the following:

- Publishing three issues per year
- Considering options to facilitate the reviewing process perhaps by establishing an Editorial Board to pre-screen manuscripts
- Having the Journal listed on the Social Sciences Citation Index
- Developing Theme issues or Theme sections of issues
- Having Special Issue editors and Theme editors

Adopting a policy for Ethics in Research whereby authors of studies involving human participants would be encouraged to include a brief appendix discussing any research-ethics issues that arose during the process of securing Research Ethics Board approval

4. Reader Satisfaction Survey

The results of the survey are in the process of being summarized, evaluated and reported on. Evaluation of the results is one of the performance indicators for the Canadian Heritage funding. (see Item 5 below)

5. Funding

Canadian Heritage has confirmed that our two-year grant for the TESL Canada Journal has been awarded at the amount requested: $30K per year for a total of $60K. Thanks to John, Sandie and Louise for the work that went into this process.

Since the last TESL Canada Journal Advisory Committee report to the Board, two things have preoccupied me and the other members of the Committee: preparing the up-coming issue of TCJ, and exploring options for bringing TCJ online.

The upcoming issue has recently gone for page layout (as of a March 1 deadline agreed with Ms Stinson). The preparation process was eased this time by employing a conscientious and highly motivated graduate student to check all but the most recalcitrant reference sources; I then rechecked as appropriate and also chased down the remaining problems, which seemed to be a very efficient system. I am very glad that, having seen the strategy in action, the Journal Advisory Committee has endorsed it as an ongoing practice. When TCJ moves to three issues per year, that approach will become even more important.

With respect to assessing options for moving the journal online, the Advisory Committee's exploratory plan is moving ahead generally as anticipated. We have received and reviewed a proposal from a well-established commercial provider of hosting and maintenance services, and have also looked in some depth at the best-known open-source option (Open Journal Systems, funded by the Canadian Government and widely used in Canada and abroad), examining the WWW site and communicating with journal editors already using OJS. At this point, we are in the process of identifying a consultant to review the OJS option in more technical detail, at which point we expect to be in a position to make a recommendation to the Board.

Thus, I believe we are on track to reach a well-informed decision and to begin online production of TCJ in the autumn. Likewise, with that step taken, we would be in a position to be able to afford three issues per year.

Nominations Report

Members: Virginia Christopher (Chair), Ruth Epstein

Since it is between elections, the Nominations Committee has been in hibernation for the past few months. The Committee will publish a notice in the Spring 2007 TESL Canada Bulletin announcing that nominations will be sought for the 5 elected Board positions. The notice will include descriptions of the positions available, instructions on how nominations must be submitted, and deadline dates. Provinces should add this announcement to their meeting agendas to ensure that we receive the widest range of nominations possible across the country. For reference, descriptions of positions are available on the TESL Canada website. Anyone interested in submitting a nomination for themselves or others, please contact Louise Aerts, Executive Director at amind@tesl.ca

The Fall, 2007 Bulletin will remind members of the nominations process, including descriptions and deadlines, state the AGM dates and include biographies of nominees submitted as of that date.

The Spring 2008 Bulletin will publish a complete list of nominees' biographies for each position as well as a reminder of the AGM.

Master's Program in TESL

Mount Saint Vincent University, in co-operation with Saint Mary's University, offers the **Master of Education in Curriculum Studies: TESL** program. Students can complete the full-time degree in eight months, or on a part-time basis.

Program information and admission requirements are available online at **www.msvu.ca/education** under **Curriculum Studies**.

Applications are available online at **www.msvu.ca/apply_online**.

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POSITION	COMMITTEE	COMMITTEE MEMBER-SHIP	MANDATE
President	All Committees	President is ex-officio to all committees.	Overall stewardship of the Federation.
Vice-President	Policy and Action	a) Vice-President b) TESL Canada Members	
Treasurer	Finance	a) Treasurer b) TESL Canada Members	To review ongoing financial situation. To advise on budgeting. To report Federation's financial situation.
Secretary	TESL Canada Educational Foundation	a) Secretary b) TESL Canada members	To provide a link to the Board for information. To ensure that the needs of the Foundation are met and addressed within the confines of its mandate.
Director	CCLB	a) Elected Director b) 2 TESL Canada-appointed representatives	TESL Canada has three representatives on the Board of Directors of the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB), a national, not-for-profit organization, primarily serving the adult English as a Second Language community in Canada. Through their participation on the CCLB Board of Directors, TESL Canada representatives act as resource people and liaisons between TESL Canadians and both provincial and federal levels of government.
Director	Public Relations Sub-Committees: TESL Canada Bulletin Website	a) Elected Director b) Chairs of Sub-Committees (appointed Provincial Representatives) c) 1 representative each from 3 Committees: Linkages; National Networking; Policy and Action	To ensure that information regarding TESL Canada activities is available to the membership and the public in a timely manner. To ensure that all public relations activities are in accordance with the mandate of TESL Canada.
Director	Awards	a) Elected Director b) 2 Provincial Representatives	To seek out potential nominations for TESL Canada Awards. To communicate with the Board final selection. To communicate with Award recipients in a timely manner. To work with the Conference organizers to ensure that appropriate time is allotted for recognition of those receiving Life Member Awards
Director	Linkages Testing	a) Elected Director b) Vice-President c) 1 Provincial Representative	To maintain a relationship with organizations such as TESOL, IATEFL and SPEAQ for the purpose of sharing information and representation as well as investigating the possibility of expanding links with like organizations. To advise the Board on relevant issues in testing and work on projects as they arise
Director	National Networking	a) Elected Director b) 3 Provincial Representatives	To work with ELSA and LINC providers across the country To identify issues and share information.

About TESL Canada

Mission Statement

TESL Canada is a national organization dedicated to advancing communication and coordinating awareness of issues for those concerned with English as a second language and English skills development. The organization promotes advocacy for ESL learners, unifies teachers and learners by providing a forum and network capabilities, supports the sharing of knowledge and experiences across Canada, and represents diverse needs and interests in TESL nationally and internationally.

Objectives

1. To promote communication among the various jurisdictions across Canada in which language training takes place.
2. To encourage and promote TESL and English language skills development policies compatible with the Mission Statement of the Federation.
3. To encourage the establishment of associations in jurisdictions where none exist.
4. To support the inclusion in the Federation of those involved with language and settlement issues.
5. To advocate on behalf of those who require assistance regarding language and settlement issues.
6. To foster scholarship, research and the regular exchange of ideas amongst those involved in additional language teaching and learning.
7. To foster organizational, technological and pedagogical support for language training programs.
8. To work cooperatively with like-minded organizations.
9. To represent national interests and concerns in the international arena.

Six Principles Towards a National ESL Policy
TESL Canada Newsletter—Spring 1982

1. The Principle of Accessibility to ESL for All Newcomers
2. The Principles of Flexibility and Sufficiency
3. The Principles of National, Provincial, and Local Coordination
4. The Principle of Support for Community Agencies
5. The Principle of Functional Canadian Orientation and Citizenship Content in ESL Material
6. Recognition of Key Roles of the ESL Professional and the ESL Profession

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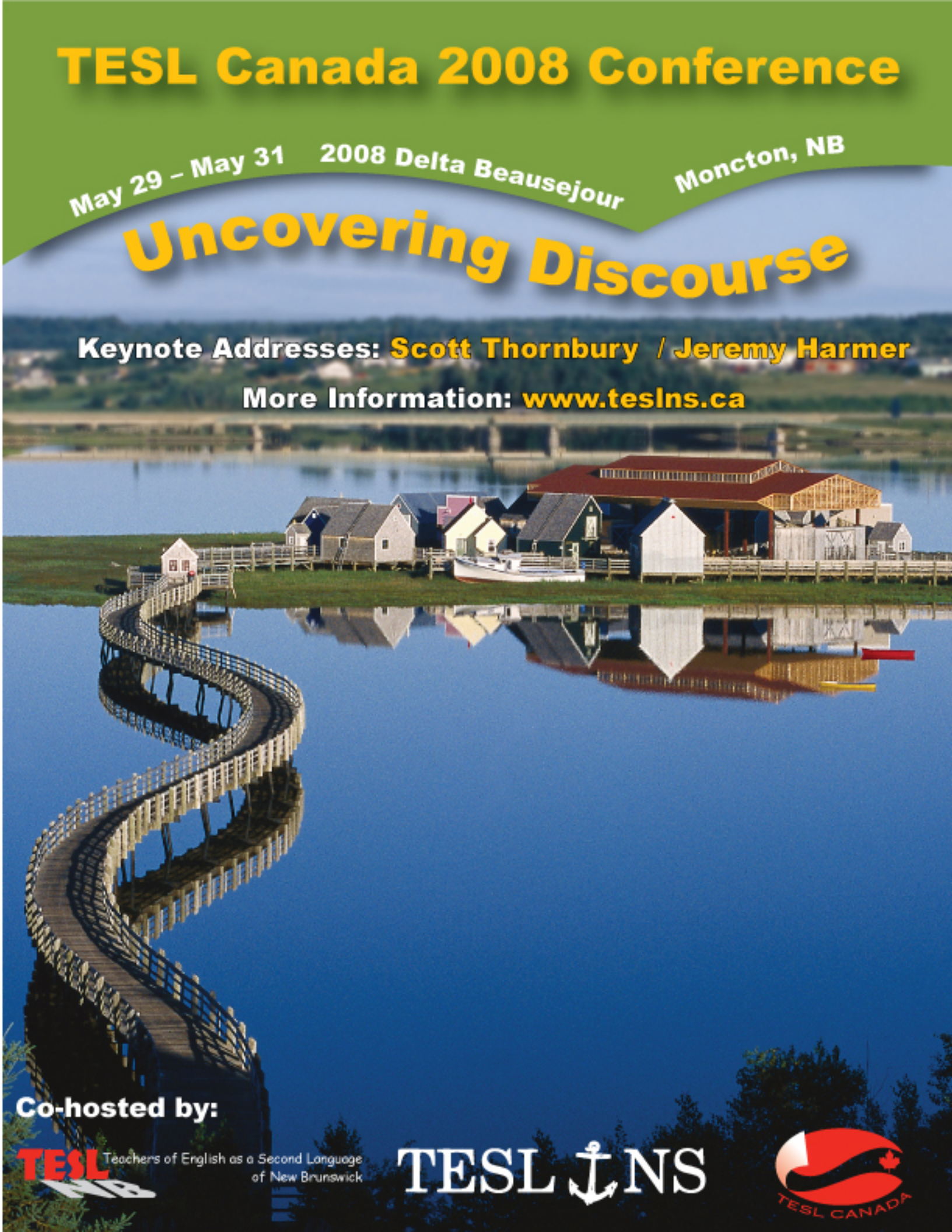

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