TESL Canada Bulletin
Spring 2008

TESL CANADA FEDERATION
Spring 2008

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President's Report
Submitted by Shailja Verma

Well, Spring is around the corner somewhere in this country, but certainly not in Ottawa, although I am told that grass and flowers are blooming in Vancouver. While this winter has been most trying TESL Canada has been busy. As a result of not having quorum for a Board meeting in November, a meeting of the TESL Canada Executive was held in January. We had an opportunity to see the new office and meet Oz, a delightful young man who is very capable and provides Louise with great administrative support.

During the two days of meetings much ground was covered and a healthy discussion took place. Issues were raised regarding the current website and as a result, Louise has been working on getting quotes and information so that TESL Canada can get more effectively in step with advancing technology. After a detailed analysis of finances, the executive also agreed on a plan that would be affordable for the organization to bring the Board together for a meeting in Moncton.

It was also decided that Louise would try to involve the Provinces in a more pro-active manner. The Provincial representatives and their organizations have received communiqué to this effect. For TESL Canada to be more active, it is important that information about the provincial organizations flows more regularly. I know that Louise asked the provincial representatives to let her know when their Board meetings are so that we can also send information to be shared in a timely manner.

Louise has also been busy with the TESL Canada 2008 conference organizers as well as looking ahead to the 2009 conference in Alberta and trying to confirm facilities and dates. She also has connected with the new Citizenship and Immigration Officer in Ottawa and now that we have this contact we are hoping to be able to secure additional funds

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Notice Board

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TESL CANADA 2008

MONCTON
NEW BRUNSWICK
MAY 29-31
2008
REGISTRATION & INFORMATION
WWW.TESLNS.CA/CONFERENCE

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

TESL Canada Journal/Bulletin Advertising Rates

Submission Deadlines are March 1 & October 1

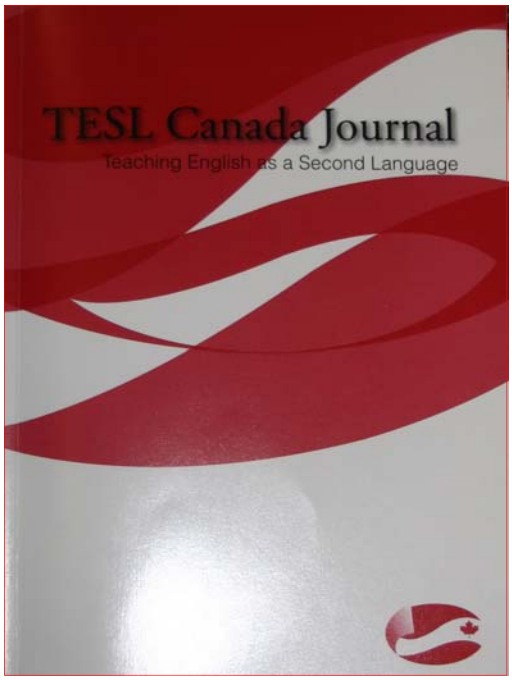
Advertising Rates—2008/2009

Journal

Full Page 5" x 8"	$300
Half Page 3.5" x 4.5"	$200
Inside Front Cover	$400
Inside Back Cover	$350
Outside Back Cover	$450

Bulletin:

Full Page	7.5" x 10"	$250
Half Page	3.5" x 7.5"	$150
Quarter Page	3.5" x 3.5"	$100
Business Card Size		$ 50
Inserts (1 page)		$1,000



Catalogue Prices to be determined according to size/weight. A maximum of two catalogues will be sent per mailing; 5% GST will be added to all Canadian orders. All orders outside of Canada will be billed in U.S. dollars.

For additional information:
TESL Canada Advertising,
408—4370 Dominion Street.
Burnaby, BC V5G 4L7
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President and Executive Director's Message (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

for the 2009 conference.
The Certification and Standards committee is busy and actively plugging away. Things seem to be falling into place and I would like to thank them all for their continued dedication.

The call for nominations for the TESL Canada Life Member Award was sent out and we have received the names of individuals who will receive this award in Moncton. TESL Canada will also be revisiting the process of selecting Life Members at the next Board meeting.

The Nominations committee has been very busy and has also been able to secure some very appropriate candidates to stand for office in TESL Canada.

So all in all while the winter raged outside, TESL Canada kept warm and sometimes even hot meeting all the deadlines needed. As the winter comes to an end, so does my time as President. It has been an exciting couple of terms. I have learned a lot and have had the pleasure of working with some exceptional individuals. I would like to thank the presidents that went before me who paved the road and were always willing to answer my questions. Carol May and now Louise Aerts the Executive Directors, who kept the day- to- day workings of the office intact, provided history, research and support. I know that future Presidents will also benefit from such efficiency. TESL Canada is not an easy organization; it faces many challenges, as do most national organizations. Provincial needs differ, government jurisdictions conflict, distance creates havoc, yet despite this there is a common thread that binds. I urge you to always speak to the common need, for in doing so the individual differences will not only be addressed, but we will grow as a national voice taking the best from each.

Louise and I would like to thank you all for your continued hard work and look forward to seeing many of you at the conference in Moncton.

Treasurer's Report

TESL CANADA FEDERATION

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007
(with comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2006)

	2007	2006
REVENUE		
Conference	$ 12,885	$ 1,800
Teacher Training Program Recognition	22,187	26,074
Certification	18,106	20,649
Interest and other income	3,956	3,744
Provincial memberships	54,770	52,915
National network	-	8,537
TESL Canada Journal - schedule	82,314	79,660
Learners conference	10,734	5,000
	204,952	198,379
EXPENSES		
Administration fees	-	30
Audit and legal fees	2,000	1,500
Bank charges	973	963
Certification expense	10,763	11,634
Conference	-	601
Insurance	1,993	1,831
Learners conference	4,884	10,616
Life members	-	384
Marketing and promotion	468	-
Miscellaneous	348	306
National network	113	55
Office equipment (note 2)	819	5,372
Postage and courier	186	128
Rent	3,532	3,663
Salaries and benefits	34,341	32,654
Stationery and supplies	2,195	2,473
Teacher training program recognition	7,141	5,667
Telephone and fax	1,553	2,268
TESL Canada Bulletin	113	382
TESL Canada Journal - schedule	101,797	95,306
Travel - Board	3,889	6,348
Travel - international	1,503	2,591
	178,611	184,772
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	$ 26,341	$ 13,607

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Treasurer's Report continued

TESL CANADA FEDERATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - DECEMBER 31, 2007
(with comparative figures at December 31, 2006)

ASSETS

	2007	2006
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and term deposits	$ 137,241	$ 117,012
Accrued interest receivable	2,840	1,719
GST recoverable	688	813
Conference deposit receivable	5,000	-
Prepaid rent	644	644
Prepaid expense	45	45
	$ 146,458	$ 120,233

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 1,650	$ 1,500
Employee payroll deductions payable	2,277	2,543
	3,927	4,043
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted funds	142,531	116,190
Approved by the Board	$ 146,458	$ 120,233

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

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

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

BC TEAL Report
Rep: Catherine Evashuk (rep till Jan. 2008) and Liet Hellwig (rep from Feb.2008)

BC TEAL organized a successful 2-day Annual Conference in May 2007, with plenary speakers MaryAnn Christison (from Utah University) and Bonny Norton (from UBC). It was well-attended and a wide range of presentations and workshops were offered. A great number of publishers contributed to the conference.

Later in May BC TEAL arranged a one-day "Retreat" for all its Board members and some of its ex-Board members to reflect on possible ways to take the professional organization into the future. Ideas and suggestions were written up and recorded in 5 categories: Advocacy, Communication, Finance, Membership and Professional Development.

BC TEAL organized a successful Professional Development day in October. Around 50 teachers from the Lower Mainland attended the TEAL Sessions (mini-conference).

BC TEAL has also started reaching out to ESL institutions outside Vancouver in recognition that the industry is picking up all over the province. TEAL contributed for the first time to the University of Victoria's Applied Linguistics Information & Resource Fair last January by offering 3 PD workshops to TESOL students and practising teachers. In addition, in February BC TEAL organized a TEAL

Session (mini-conference) at Global Village in Victoria, which was well attended. TEAL is now looking into branching out to the other parts of B.C. and offering Professional Development in Victoria on a more regular basis.

Currently, preparations are under way for the 40th BC TEAL Conference in April 2008. The province of B.C. has agreed to designate April 20-27, 2008 as ESL Week in recognition of both teachers and learners of English as an Additional Language in B. C., coinciding with the TEAL Conference. Dr. Diane Larsen-Freeman and Dr. Nina Spada will be the plenary speakers. There will also be a plenary panel to discuss ESL and Professionalism.

Did you know?

That we now have over 80 Recognized Teacher Training Programs across the country? Check out our website at http://tesl.ca/approvedTTInst05.html#programs for a complete list.

That we now have over 900 ESL/EFL teachers who have been granted TESL Canada Professional Certification. Congratulations to our recent recipients.

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

TESL Ontario Report

Rep: Sharon Rajabi

Governance
The Implementation Team met for the second time on Feb 19th. The team's focus was: what the future board would look like; how future members are nominated and voted in. The team also engaged in an exercise to answer why TESL Ontario exists and who its beneficiaries are. Other topics discussed included:

- o Communication to and from the membership
- o Expertise and responsibilities of board members
- o Role of the Executive Director

This year, we will be celebrating ESL Week from November 9-15, 2008. So far, ESL Week 2008 has been declared by the following communities: Town of Ajax, Municipality of Clarington, City of Burlington, Town of Milton, Norfolk County, City of North Bay, City of Oshawa, Township of Scugog, and City of Toronto.

Poster Contest
Great news! All posters submitted this year will be displayed at the City Hall during ESL Week 2008. The guidelines for this year's poster contest are posted.

Check out the web site: http://teslontario.org/new/conference/2008/eslweek/postercontest2008.html

TESL Ontario FORUM
Don't forget to sign up free for the TESL Ontario FORUM. We have new members who are seeking information about ESL and seasoned experts who are willing to answer questions or share their experiences. Join up to help the new teachers or to discover interesting information on teaching pronunciation. You must register first then you can post in any of the discussions. If you have any questions please email webmaster@teslontario.org

Here is the link to the TESL Ontario Forums http://teslon.org/forum/

Conference
We are pleased to announce that TESL Ontario's 36th Annual Conference: "Celebrating the International Year of Languages" has been officially recognized by UNESCO on their website as an International Year of Languages' project.

The call for presentations can be downloaded or submitted online at: http://teslontario.org/new/conference/conf_callpres.htm

Please consider submitting a proposal to present!

Contact - TESL Ontario Magazine
The latest issue of Contact is now available for download from our website at www.teslontario.ca/new/publ/publ_about.htm

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

TESL PEI Report ***Rep: Catherine Gillan***

Paula Clark, though a young thing, is the TESL matriarch on PEI! Having initiated TESL PEI and diligently kept the flame burning, she recently became Past President and turned things over to a new executive comprised of: President Catherine Gillan UPEI; Vice-President Christina Perry, UPEI; Secretary Janet Perry-Payne, PEI Department of Education; Treasurer Elizabeth Tumblin, Dept of Education.

At a lively first meeting on Friday, Mar 28, plans were made: to contact all TESLers on the Island; to encourage attendance at TESL Canada Conference and organize group travel to Moncton; to get a TESL PEI webpage live; to get together again in early May to set priorities and plans for the coming year; and to organize an Islander meeting/happy hour during the Moncton Conference.

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

TESL NB Report ***Rep. Paula Kristmanson and Nicole Poirier***

This has been a very busy winter for TESL NB. With the national conference fast approaching, we have had several meetings, both with individual committees and as a full membership, to gear up for the spring event. Collaborating with Ellen Pilon and the TESL NS team has proven to be a very productive experience, and we look forward to an excellent conference in Moncton in May. We hope that many TESL Canada members from across the country will come enjoy the delights of our province in springtime while taking part in a stimulating professional development experience.

In addition to the conference preparation, we are also continuing to grow our TESL NB library collection, and most recently have added resources related to assessment to our shelves. This collection is available to TESL NB members across the province through a cooperative agreement with our provincial library system. Through a contribution of prizes and judges, we will also be supporting a second ESL public speaking competition in a school district in the northern part of our province. This contest showcases both the oral competencies of these middle school learners and their confidence in presenting in a public setting. We are proud to, once again, be part of this event.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the end of May.

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

TESL NS

TESL Nova Scotia Report ***Rep: Alicia Daley***

TESL Nova Scotia has had a busy winter season. In November we held our annual conference, this time following a different format than usual. Problems arose with our original plan of holding the conference at a local hotel, so we relocated to a school and modified the program. This reduced the fee to only $15.00 per person, but the only food provided was coffee break sustenance. The conference was for TESL members only (but welcoming new members to join on site), thus serving to boost our membership. Lunch was BYOBB (bring your own brown bag) and roundtable discussions followed lunch. The conference was very successful and well attended. We've been canvassing member opinion to see why it was so successful: was it the new speakers in the workshops? Was it the low price? Is the huge expense of a guest speaker not important? Is the huge expense of food in a hotel not important? Opinions vary.

Our AGM was held at the conference and we welcomed many new board members. The list of officers can be found on our website: www.teslns.ca At the AGM we also launched our conference fee support program whereby members who have supported TESL NS over a period of time and continued their membership into the 07/08 year, who submit a presentation proposal by the January 31 deadline, who register by the Early Bird deadline for the full conference, and who write about the conference for our newsletter will be refunded their conference fee after the conference. We were prepared to support up to 8 members but only 2 are eligible. The TESL Canada conference is occupying much of our time and energy and we are looking forward to the end of May.

One of our goals this year is to try to promote TESL NS to our own members and to teachers throughout the province and to convince teachers that TESL NS is a worthwhile organization for professional development. We are interested in Manitoba's EAL Cafes and are intending to add more fun to inexpensive professional development days. Plans are on hold, however, until after the TESL Canada conference.

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

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

SCENES Report ***Rep: Bula Ghosh***

The year 2007-2008 started under the leadership of our new president, Liliana Dominguez. Lilliana brings with her many years of experience in English as a Second Language Training at the secondary and post-secondary level. For the last year, the focus of SCENES has been on providing support to its membership and increasing the profile of the organization at the provincial level. Currently SCENES has 160 members, which include individual, associate and institutional members. The following are some of SCENES current activities from the past year:

March 21, 2007 – Several of the events to celebrate and recognize the **International Day for the Elimination of Racism** were put on by SCENES members and supported by SCENES. For example, Koreen Geres, an ESL teacher and SCENES member, invited two guest speakers to Walter Murray Collegiate in Saskatoon. Her guests were Jide Oyetuga and Christine from RBC Saskatoon. Jide spoke about his own experiences as an immigrant and about his work. He was invited to speak again at the Annual Learner Conference in Prince Albert. Another example involves another longtime member Joyce Vandall and a very special quilt project. The quilt will be displayed in Regina to raise awareness about the elimination of racism.

May 25-26, 2007 – Annual conference and AGM in Prince Albert. Conference theme: Language Creates Opportunities. The keynote speaker was Fatima Pirbhai-Illich, from the College of Education, University of Regina. She spoke about her own cultural background, her experiences before and after she immigrated to Canada and her educational experiences. She also spoke in detail about her research on academic achievement among English Language Learners.
Two special guests who spoke at the conference were Rose Bird from Montreal Lake Cree Nation and Lon Borgerson, NDP MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Workshops included topics on teaching ideas and methods such using electronic journal writing, using music and rhyme to teach language and pronunciation, using Canadian Literature to encourage storytelling and using "Social Conscious" literature to open discussions. Other topics included explanations of theories about language learning such as basic interpersonal communication skills (BICS) and cognitive academic language proficiency (CALP).

May 2007 – The Wayne Eger Learner scholarship ($1000.00) was presented to Shakiba Shakouri of Regina, a new Canadian from Afghanistan. In her senior year of high school, Shakiba helped to care for her parents and siblings while working part-time, volunteering and getting good grades.

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

October 19, 2007 – Saskatoon Learning Event: Chinese Student beliefs about Language Learning. David Catterick, who is Assistant Professor of Global Studies at Briercrest College, spoke about the perceptions Chinese students have about learning and how those perceptions can often differ from their teachers. David also spoke about how these cross-cultural differences can obviously significantly impact the classroom dynamic and the developmental success of students.

PROGRAM PLAN FOR UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR (2008) -

- Continued professional development for ESL/D teachers. For example, a learning event will be held in Saskatoon to connect new ESL professionals with their local counterparts. The number of ESL teachers has recently expanded in Saskatoon in the school board, the Open Door Society, and the University.
- Multicultural training and awareness. Learning events, workshops and informal session are offered and supported throughout the year on various multicultural and ESL topics.
- Workshops and consultations for rural teachers and volunteers. SCENES is hoping to engage in a muti-media learning event that can be accessed by members in more remote areas.
- Annual Provincial Conference and AGM to be held in Caronport and hosted by Briercrest College in April 2008.
- Annual Learner Conference held with the Annual Conference. SCENES is recognized as a leader in hosting and promoting Learner Conferences as part of their annual member conferences. SCENES also sponsors Learner Events during the year. For example, SCENES sponsored 2 learners to the National Conference in October, 2006 in Winnipeg where the themes were family, action, caring, equality, tapestry and safety**.** SCENES regularly sponsors learners to attend the TESL Canada National Conferences. The next Learner Conference will be May 29-31, 2008 in Moncton, NB.

TESL NL Report ***Rep: Marcia Spence***

TESL NL has tried a new format for our monthly meetings this year, thanks to Manitoba's idea of an EAL Café. We've chosen the café in The Rooms as our location, The Rooms being our quite new, architecturally stunning provincial art gallery, museum and archives. We have the best view in town, great ambience, and everyone loves the venue. We meet on the last Wednesday of every month, and for those who want to visit the exhibits after the meeting, they can do so free of charge.

Topics of discussion this year have included a member's doctoral research data on immigrant students and their teachers in the K-12 system, and participation in a focus group for alternative delivery models for immigrants living in rural communities. Our time together can also just be an informal social occasion. For a small organization such as ours, this seems to work well and is a refreshing way to network with one another on a regular basis.

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

Teaching English as an Additional Language to Adults in Manitoba

TEAL MANITOBA
TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE IN MANITOBA

TEAL Manitoba and TEAM Report ***Rep: Warren Hingley***

TEAL Manitoba continues to thrive as a professional organization actively involved with its members. What follows is a summary of a wide range of professional development activities designed and delivered to support EAL teachers in their work with a rapidly expanding group of English language learners.

TEAL Manitoba is celebrating its second anniversary under its new name. Since its inception over 35 years ago, the organization had been known as TESL Manitoba. TEAL stands for teaching English as an additional language. It reflects the multicultural nature of the immigrants coming to the province, and the fact that many of them are multiple language speakers before arriving.

TEAL Manitoba offered their fall conference for K-12 teachers at Shaftsbury High School in Winnipeg on November 23rd. This is a provincial professional development day and many mainstream classroom teachers with EAL students, as well as EAL teachers, attended. The keynote speaker for the conference was Dr. Hetty Roessingh from the University of Calgary. She gave an excellent presentation around the conference theme of "Hands Together: Collaboration in the Classroom". Dr. Roessingh also presented an excellent workshop on "Learning by Design". Our special thanks went out to Roberta Mitchell and Dr. Kim Hewett, the conference co-chairs.

TEAL Manitoba also worked to produce a wonderful conference for the complete range of EAL professionals at the University of Winnipeg in February. The theme of the conference was Preparing for Tomorrow Today. They keynote speaker was Kathy Block, who is the director of English language programs at the University of Winnipeg; programs designed for international students and newcomers. Forty presentations and workshops were offered at the conference. Co-Chairs Katie Cherniack and Desa Kalem ran an excellent conference at a great new location.

TEAL Manitoba and TEAM held their annual joint meeting in March. They discussed the new TESL Canada delegate, and both the groups agreed to appoint Kamy Munsamy.

TEAM will have its spring conference on May 9th at St. Boniface College. The keynote speaker is Doug Sadler who will be speaking on Gender Differences in Language Learning. TEAL Manitoba will have its annual general meeting on Thursday, May 22 at St. John's-Ravenscourt School. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Jan Stuart from the University of Winnipeg. She will speak about her recent research on Children Affected by War; Psychological and Educational Needs.

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

ATESL Report ***Rep: Christine Land***

Alberta is very happy to welcome another local into our association. Central Alberta Local, which includes the city of Red Deer and surrounding area has joined ATESL. The chapter is up and running and has already offered several successful workshops. Edmonton and Calgary Locals have also held several well attended workshops and meetings over the winter months.

Winter has been busy in Alberta. In October of 2007, Calgary hosted a very successful conference, "Enriching Our Environment", highlights of which can be seen on our website (www.atesl.ca). Included is the summary of plenary speaker, Tom Ricento's discussion of the Environment of English in the classroom. The ATESL AGM was also held at the conference, where we welcomed Marian Rossiter, as president.

Speaking of the website, we invite everyone to explore our newly launched website upgrade. Thanks to past president Justine Light for overseeing that project.

A new year means a new conference, and plans are well under way for the 2008 Conference (October 17, 18) in Edmonton, the theme of which is "Bridging the Gap". Keynote speakers are confirmed as Jian Ghomeshi, broadcaster & writer on CBC radio and Murray Munro, Professor of Linguistics & Director of TESL at Simon Fraser University

And of course we are all looking forward to 2009, and the TESL Canada Conference in the midst of the scenic Rocky Mountains in Banff.

Kudos to president-elect, Judy Sillito, and her team for organizing and delivering an ELT (Enhanced Language Training) Working Conference, for Western & Northern regions. The keynote speaker and presenters were well received. Roundtable discussions involving employers & learners, and working groups set up to discuss key questions contributed to valuable insights and contributions shared by both delegates and stakeholders.

TESL Canada Conference 2008 Committee Report

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

Submitted by: Ellen Pilon, liaison with the TESL Canada Board
Co-chairs: Ellen Pilon (TESL NS), Barbara Clayden (TESL NB), Sandra Foreman (TESL NB)

It's less than two months until the conference! It's hard to believe after two years of planning. The Early Bird registration deadline is April 25th and delegates are urged to take advantage of the excellent savings the Early Bird fees offer. At midnight April 25th the Early Bird rate will be replaced with the regular rate on PayPal and on the website form. Mailed registrations postmarked after April 25th will need to include the regular conference fee rate.

As of March 15th there are 98 presentations/workshops plus two keynote speakers and 53 paid delegates. All the presenters have been personally emailed with information about their presentation time, and all presenters have confirmed their AV requirements and their commitment to presenting. We were lucky to receive more than enough presentation proposals before the deadline of January 31 and have been keeping a waiting list in case someone needs to cancel.

Registrations are trickling in. PayPal has been used by more than ¾ of the registrants to date, and the process seems to be running smoothly. So far we've been able to reply to emailed questions within 24 hours (conference@teslns.ca) and we hope to be able to continue with this service until the conference. We've been tracking whether printed registration forms were used from the fall journal mailout or from the website so that we can collect useful statistics in this respect for future conferences. An email confirmation has been sent to everyone mailing in a registration. PayPal automatically generates a receipt.

All committees have been working hard to prepare for the conference, which is shaping up nicely. We constantly peruse our checklists to be sure we haven't overlooked something and it's looking good. This is promising to be an exciting and professionally stimulating conference. Now what we need is YOU and your colleagues to register and support your national conference.

The registration brochure and the up-to-date information and changes are posted on the website: www.teslns.ca/conference.html

Public Relations Committee Report

Submitted by: Ron Thomson
Members: Ron Thomson (Chair), Ellen Pilon, Angela Schinas, Warren Hingley, Shailja Verma.

The Public Relations Committee has not been active since our last Board meeting. Part of this has been the result of our continuing uncertainty as to what specific role the committee has within the organization. In particular, it remains unclear to what extent we should be proactive in seeking out contexts in which to publicize TESL Canada and to make policy-related position statements. There has been previous concern that such activity is the purview of the President and Executive Director. The action items that resulted from the Winnipeg meeting stressed a need for the Board to provide explicit direction to the Public Relations Committee. That being said, I must take responsibility for failing to better lead in seeking that direction.

On Wednesday, March 12, 2008, I had a very positive meeting with the Executive Director, Louise Aerts, in which we discussed some possible directions for moving forward. It is my hope that we can continue this discussion at the Moncton Board meeting and establish a coherent framework for the Public Relations Committee to better serve the organization. In the meeting with Louse Aerts the following items came up for discussion:

- A need to revise the Committee Mandate in the TESL Canada Handbook.
- A need to revisit our international linkages with sister organizations to insure we are taking advantage of the opportunities these linkages provide and strengthening them where necessary.
- A need for the Public Relations Committee to be actively involved in a restructuring of the TESL Canada Website, which has not been updated in many years.
- A need to examine TESL Canada's publicity material (e.g. the *TESL Canada Bulletin* and promotional materials) and determine ways to make such material more effective.
- A need to establish a number of policy issues that directly affect our stakeholders and being writing policy papers that can be disseminated or posted on our site.

We encourage all members of the Board to provide the Public Relations Committee with further input as to our mandate and to suggest specific actions we should be taking to benefit TESL Canada. Members with feedback, please e-mail info@tesl.ca

Standards Committee Report

Submitted by: Audrey Olson
Members: Audrey Olson (Co-Chair), Shannon Storey (Co-Chair), Jennifer Walsh Marr, Sheila Nicholas, Jennifer Pearson Terell, Sandie Kouritzin

The members of the TESL Canada Standards Committee have continued their email discussions surrounding a number of standards issues and have prepared a number of motions to go before the Board. Topics that have been discussed are:

- Language Proficiency Requirements for certification. A sub-committee has been developed to explore this issue in more depth.
- Concerns regarding practicum requirements and acceptable variations.
- Re-certification and the necessity for professional development
- Recognition of types of undergraduate degrees

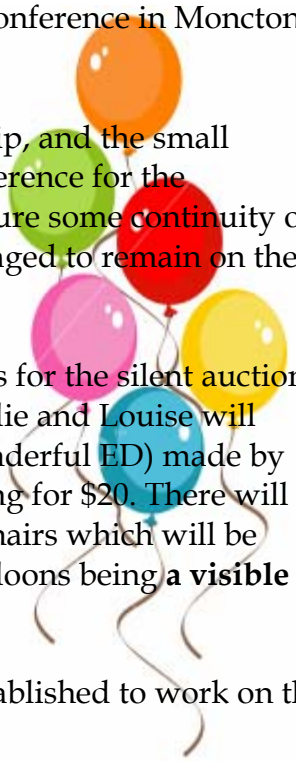
TESL Canada has now approved a total of 89 teacher training programs across the country, including both online and face-to-face delivery. There are also a total of 936 teachers in Canada who have received accreditation under TESL Canada standards.

TESL Canada Educational Foundation

Submitted by: Sandra Kouritzin
Members: Sandra Kouritzin (chair), Ellen Pilon, Angela Schinas, Louise Aerts (ex-officio)

At this year's telephone AGM, we learned that the TESL Canada Educational Foundation is in good financial shape, due in part to the profit generated by the Winnipeg conference, and in part to the United Way campaign led by Bill McMichael and Joyce Vandall. It was therefore moved and carried that a sum of $2500 be directed to the TESL Canada learner's conference in Moncton, and that $5000 be directed to an interest-bearing GIC.

We had a number of important discussion items. One regarded membership, and the small number of people on the Board and committee. Given that the terms of reference for the Foundation are separate from those of TESL Canada, we would like to ensure some continuity on the Board. Members rotating off the Board of TESL Canada will be encouraged to remain on the Board for the TESL Canada Educational Foundation.



Louise has begun the task of recruiting items from provincial organizations for the silent auction. TESOL has agreed to donate a few books for the silent auction, which Sandie and Louise will choose and bring back from New York. One suggestion (thanks to our wonderful ED) made by Louise was to have a balloon burst during the banquet, with balloons selling for $20. There will be one grand prize and many smaller prizes in the balloons tied to people's chairs which will be punctured at an appointed time. We hope to sell 100 balloons, with the balloons being **a visible representation of people's support for the Foundation.**

Finally, during the meeting times in Moncton, a working group will be established to work on the application form and guidelines for the TCEF funding.

Journal Advisory Committee Report

Submitted by: Virginia Christopher
Members:Virginia Christopher (Chair), Angela Schinas, Ron Thompson, Ellen Pilon, John Sivell, Sandie Kouritzin (ex-officio), Louise Aerts (ex-officio).

The TESL Canada Journal Advisory Committee is working well with John Sivell as Editor. The following accounts for the committee's current activities.

1. Editorial Assistant
The Journal Editorial Assistant, Erika Lee, has now just finished working with her first issue of the Journal, and her performance has been excellent. She is well-organized, prompt and very insightful re: assisting to keep the information flow moving effectively. I think we're really fortunate to have found such a worthy successor to Joan.

2. Guidelines Proposal
The Committee is considering a proposal to have separate guidelines for each journal section: full-length article, *In the Classroom*, and *Perspectives*. More will be reported on this as it develops.

3. More Reviewers Required
There are manuscripts that have been in the queue for over 18 months and are waiting for one or two reviews. Since this delay could start to create ill will toward the journal, we are sending an urgent appeal for more reviewers. The committee requests that provincial reps put this issue on their agendas and into their newsletters.

Past Editor as Voting Member
The committee requests that the past editor position become a full voting member of the committee rather than an ex-officio member, due to the valuable input this position can offer to the committee.

Guest Reviewers Required for TESL Canada Journal

There are manuscripts for the TESL Canada Journal that have been in the queue for over 18 months and are waiting for one or two reviews. Since this delay could start to create ill will toward the journal, we would be very interested in receiving expressions of interest from potential guest reviewers. The committee requests that members put this invitation on their agendas and into their newsletters, warmly inviting members interested in serving as guest reviewers to contact the TCJ Editorial Assistant at teslcan@brocku.ca, requesting the Reviewer Information Form, which they could complete and return to her with their expression of interest.

Executive Director's Message

So much has happened since the last report, I am struggling to know where to begin! I'll start with our new board members. Although our AGM is coming up in May, there is board turn-over throughout the year with the Provincial Reps to the TESL Canada Board. Briefly, from BC TEAL we have Liet Hellwig; ATESL Christine Land; TEAL Manitoba Warren Hingley; SCENES Bula Gosh; TESL Ontario Sharon Rajabi; TESL Nova Scotia Alicia Dale, and TESL PEI Catherine Gillan. The rest of the board and the administration are looking forward to a great term with this new board, including those elected in May. (Please see the nominations report for information on the elected positions and candidates on page 20.)

The Spring is always a busy time for myself because it is conference season. This year, before the conferences started, I also fit in a quick trip to Banff to advance the site of the TESL Canada 2009 Conference, which will be co-hosted with ATESL in Banff, AB at the Banff Centre for the Arts.

This will be ten years from the last conference that was held in Banff in 1999. Although that was before my time at TESL Canada, I have heard many great reports about what a wonderful conference and location it was, and I hope the 2009 conference will meet or exceed our memories. I've included a few pictures above—the left is the residences at the Banff Centre; Centre– my self-portrait at "MY" lake, Lake Louise; Right-the new Vistas Dining room at the Banff Center with panoramic views of Banff from every seat! I met with the co-chairs for the 2009 Conference are Sue Taylor and Cari-Ann Roberts and I look forward to working with them over the next two years to make the 2009 conference a great success.

After Banff, it was off to snowy Ottawa for the inaugural Languages Canada Conference. It was great to be a part of the first conference of this organization which is an amalgamation of the previous Canada Language Council (CLC) and Canadian Association of Private Language Schools (CAPLS). TESL Canada works closely with Languages Canada and I presented at the conference on TESL Canada and our Certification and Teacher Training Program Standards. Despite the snow storm, it was a fantastic conference and a great time to be in Ottawa. I was able to attend a Question Period on Parliament Hill and loved to hear the crazy debate amongst our elected officials. The best part was that I flew out just before the big storm hit and so was not trapped in Ottawa for three extra days like some of the delegates!

Languages Canada
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Executive Director's Message

Just when you think that I must be tripped-out, there's another—TESOL 2008 in New York, New York. Having never been to New York I was very excited about attending and also feeling a little daunted by a conference that was set to attract over 10,000 delegates! You know when you have to wait 15 minutes for an elevator, in a hotel with 16 elevators, that you are at a massive conference. I presented at TESOL as well with a session entitled, TESL Canada Today. I spoke to our past accomplishments as well as our recent developments and fielded questions on how we've dealt with standards, membership, and changes in the industry. The presentation was well received and the TESL Canada booth experienced high traffic as we were in a great location at the top of the escalators. I have included a few more pictures, which really only indicate what a geeky tourist I am!! Left—the TESOL 2008 logo; and Right—on the Top of the Rock pointing at the Empire State Building.

So, you might be wondering what was happening at the office during all this time. There was no shortage of activity on this front as well.

Executive Assistant Oz Jungic has been working with the Journal Advisory Committee towards the move of the journal online. Progress is being made and all members will soon be able to try out the system to view past editions of the journal online. Stay tuned for more information on this front. The Spring 2008 Journal is currently at the printers as I write this and will be in your mailboxes soon. I trust the journal is reaching you and is touching on relevant areas of the industry and I welcome your feedback any time. The other committees are also hard at work and their reports can be found in this bulletin.

Most importantly, all of TESL Canada is gearing up for our 20th National Conference in Moncton, NB May 29-31. If you have not already registered, please go to www.teslns.ca/conference.html for online registration and all the details. I will see you in Moncton!

Testing Report

Submitted by: Joy Lin Salzberg

Members: Joy Lin Salzberg (Chair), Ellen Pilon, Ruth Hungerland Gaskovski, Catherine Evashuk, Virginia Christopher

The Testing Committee members have been very busy in the past few months researching and compiling material for a TESL Canada Testing Web Link from the TESL Canada website. The committee has had two telephone conferences and our work has reached the final stages in the drafts for the proposed web link and testing web pages.

The aim of the TESL Canada Testing web link and web pages is to provide our members and website users with practical and "user-friendly" access to pertinent information related to internationally accepted English language proficiency tests. The proposed web pages to the TESL Canada Testing Web Link will include practical information such as the purpose, the descriptions and the scoring of the English proficiency tests. Furthermore the web links will include the "TESL Canada Ethical Guidelines for Test Users of Language Proficiency Tests," a document approved and passed by the Board in May, 2005.

The committee will be submitting our final drafts for board approval at the May 2008 TESL Canada meeting in Moncton.

Lastly, it is with regret for our committee that Catherine Evashuk has stepped off the TESL Canada Board and our Testing Committee. We thank her for her contributions to our current project and wish her all the best in her new endeavours. We are also very pleased to welcome Virginia Christopher to our committee and would like to invite other members to join.

Nominations Report

Submitted by: Virginia Christopher

Members: Virginia Christopher (Chair), Ruth Epstein, Sandie Kouritzin

The Nominations Committee will be presenting the attached slate for election at the TESL Canada 2008 AGM in Moncton.

Duties of board members include:

- Active participation on the TESL Canada Board at meetings and throughout the year
- Attendance at two(2) face-to-face Board meetings per eighteen-month term
- Participation in e-mail meetings, teleconference calls as required
- Chairing of a Board Committee as per the following table
- Active leadership of the Board Committee including three (3) written reports for Board

Board Nominees

Position	Commission	Responsibility	Nominees	Province
President		Overall stewardship of the association. Ex-officio member of all committees	1. Jennifer Pearson-Terell	BC
Vice–President	Policy and Action Committee	To assist the President as required. Chair of Policy and Action Committee	1. Peggy Frederikse	Ontario
Secretary	TESL Canada Educational Foundation	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. (The secretary is not required to take minutes at meetings: this is done by the Executive Director.)	1. Sandie Kouritzan	Manitoba
Treasurer	Finance Committee	To manage the financial affairs of the association	1. Ellen Pilon	Nova Scotia
Director (This position is elected from amongst the TESL Canada CCLB reps)	CCLB Liasion	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	1. Christina Stechishin	BC
Director	Public Relations Sub-Committees: TESL Canada Bulletin Website Linkages	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.	1. Ron Thomson	Alberta

Board Nominees

Position	Commission	Responsibility	Nominees	Province
Director	Awards	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	1. Angela Shinas	Ontario
Director	Testing	To advise the Board on relevant issues in testing and work on projects as they arise	1. Joy-Lynne Salzberg	BC
Director	National Networking (LINC/ ELSA)	To work with ELSA and LINC providers across the country To identify issues and share information.	1. Lesley Brown	Ontario

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**.

For more information, please contact Jocelyne Lavoie at jocelyne.lavoie@msvu.ca or toll-free at 1-877-433-2889.

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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

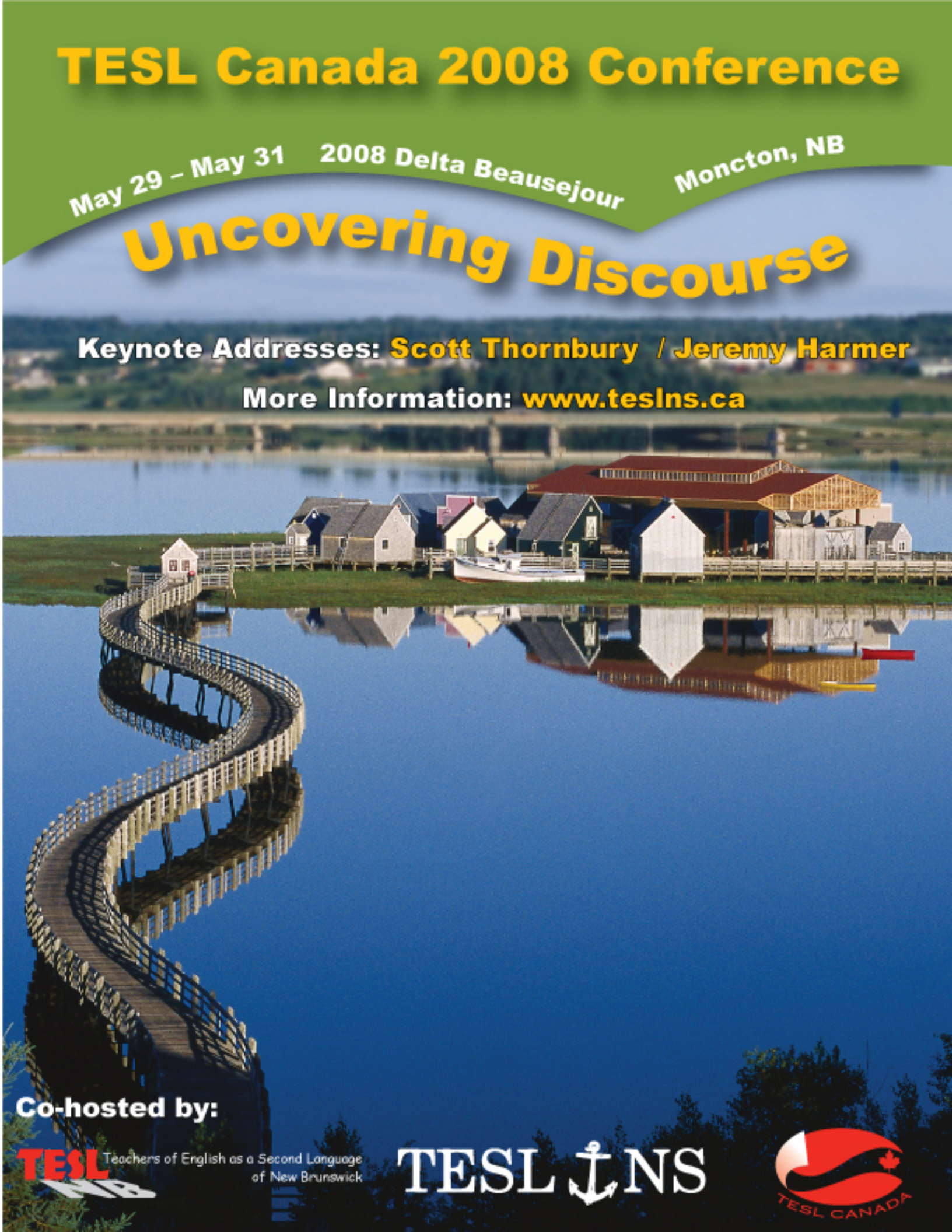
TESL Canada 2008 Conference

May 29 – May 31 2008 Delta Beausejour Moncton, NB

Uncovering Discourse

Keynote Addresses: Scott Thornbury / Jeremy Harmer

More Information: www.teslns.ca



Co-hosted by:

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

TESL NS

TESL CANADA