Spring 2009

TESLCanada Bulletin

> "Language is a city to the building of which every human being brought a stone"
>
> — Ralph Waldo Emerson

In this issue...

3 President's Report
6 Acting Executive Directors Report
8 The Finance Committee
9 Provincial Reports
9 BC TEAL
10 ATESL
11 SCENES
13 Manitoba
14 TESL Ontario
15 TESL NB
16 TESL Nova Scotia
17 TESL PEI
18 TESL NL
18 TESL Yukon
20 TESL Canada Educational Foundation
21 Committee Reports
21 TESL Canada Awards
23 TESL Canada CCLB Committee
26 Conference 2009
29 2011 Conference Committee
30 Governance Committee
31 TESL Canada Journal Committeet
31 Canada Testing Committee
32 Public Relations Committee
33 TESL Canada PD Committee

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Journal Editor:

John Sivell, Brock University

TESL CANADA FEDERATION
408 - 4370 Dominion Street
BURNABY, B.C. V5G 4L7
TEL 604.298.0312
FAX 604.298.0372
admin@tesl.ca www.tesl.ca

TESL Canada Journal/Bulletin Advertising Rates

As you may know, the TESL Canada Journal will no longer be available in the traditional paper format. Our next issue, Volume 26 Number 2, will be released exclusively online.

TESL Canada is taking steps to ensure that our advertisers will still be able to reach the TESL Canada Journal community as directly as before. We are pleased to announce that the publication of our next issue will coincide with the launch of advertisements on our Open Journal System, which hosts the TESL Canada Journal. Advertisers are invited to submit 486x60 banner images in any of the following formats: .jpg, .jpeg, .gif and png. The ads can link directly to your site.

The TESL Canada Journal has 6,200 unique subscribers that have access to our more recent journal. However, the journal archives are open access, which means that your ad will be able to reach an even broader readership.

For the next issue, the banner advertisement fee will be fixed at $250 for three months, and $400 for half a year. To maintain a clean site design, we will be accepting a maximum of eight ads to be distributed throughout the site. These will be selected on a first come first serve basis. The ad fees will be adjusted according to demand in the future.

If you are interested in advertising on the TESL Canada please submit your design to admin@tesl.ca

President's Report

From Jennifer Pearson Terell

I want to begin the President's Report with news of our next TESL

Canada Conference. It's hard to believe that in five short months on October 1st, the twentieth TESL Canada Conference will open in Banff Alberta. It promises to be an excellent conference which will give us all not only the opportunity to grow professionally but also to renew friendships and re-energize our passion for teaching English as a Second Language. The twentieth TESL Canada Conference is being hosted by ATESL in Banff on October 1, 2 and 3rd 2009. Conference participants will be able to take part in a conference program that features two outstanding and internationally recognized plenary speakers, Bonnie Norton and Lionel Leroche, a day of informative pre-conference symposia as well as an excellent and extensive selection of workshops. Please take time to check the TESL Canada website www.tesl.ca for more information about how to register and travel to the next TESL Canada Conference – see you in Banff Alberta in October 2009!

Denise Smith Begins Her Term as TESL Canada's New Acting Executive Director

Our new Acting Director Denise Smith began her work at TESL Canada in January 2009. Many of you have been in contact with Denise and have personally experienced her very professional and friendly manner. It has been a pleasure for the Executive to work with Denise since January. We have all grown to appreciate her support and her commitment to TESL Canada in these early months and look forward to working together in the future and especially as the next TESL Canada Conference gets closer and closer – welcome and thank you Denise!

New Governance Committee Moves Forward in Revising TESL Canada's Bylaws

As I reported last fall, it was discovered in 2008 that TESL Canada's Bylaws [1995] and Letter of Patent [1985] were sadly out of date. As a result, a decision was made by the Executive to establish a Governance Committee. This new and dedicated committee has been working since the spring reviewing and updating TESL Canada's Letter of Patent and the Bylaws. As of this writing - the intention is to present the revised Letter of Patent and revised Bylaws to the membership for approval at the AGM at the TESL Canada Conference in Banff in October 2009. On behalf of the membership I want to thank the Governance Committee for their dedication and hard work. Governance Committee members, Sandie Kouritzin, Maureen Sargent, Shailja Verma, and Catherine Eddy and especially the Committee Chair Ellen Pilon have committed endless hours of their personal time to revising and updating TESL Canada's Letter of Patent and Bylaws – our thanks to the Governance Committee!

The New TESL Canada Website Successfully Serves Members

As promised in the fall issue of the TESL Canada Bulletin, the new TESL Canada Website has proved to be attractive and user friendly. The website provides an opportunity for TESL Canada members to receive the TESL Canada Bulletin and the TESL Canada Journal online. The website also provides information about TESL Canada in general including information about the upcoming TESL Canada Conference, the TESL Educational Foundation, the Provincial/Territorial Associations, the Standards for TESL Canada Recognized Teacher Training Programs and TESL Canada Professional Certification. In future months, it is hoped that the new Professional Development Committee will begin to utilize the TESL Canada Website to begin to provide members with an online Professional Development Resource Centre.

Mary Ashworth – A Canadian ESL Educator and Leader

The Canadian ESL community was sadden by the death in January of Mary Ashworth, a Canadian ESL educator and leader. Mary Ashworth, Professor Emerita at the University of British Columbia was not only an internationally recognized ESL educator but also a strong supporter of TESL Canada. She was as a plenary speaker at TESL Canada Conferences and served as a Vice President of TESL Canada during her long and distinguished career as an ESL educator.

Her lifetime of achievement was extraordinary. She was a leading ESL educator provincially, nationally and internationally in areas of research, development, instruction, teacher training, and multicultural education. She spent a large part of her career championing the

acceptance of diversity in Canada's social and educational systems by helping to shape the attitudes of ESL teachers across Canada. She was also an outspoken advocate for the language rights of immigrants, Canadian language policy and pedagogy.

As Sylvia Helmer wrote in her tribute to Mary that appears on the TESL Canada website, " Perhaps no other ESL educator has had as profound an influence in the field – locally, nationally and internationally" as Mary Ashworth.

A Selected List of Awards Presented to Mary Ashworth

- L.L.D. [honoris causa] University of British Columbia
- L.L.D. [honoris causa] St Mary's University, Halifax
- L.L.D. [honoris causa] York University, Toronto
- Fellow of Ontario Studies in Education
- Honorary Lifetime Member of TESL Canada
- Honorary Lifetime Member – ATESL
- Honorary Lifetime Member – BC TEAL
- TESOL World Award- For Outstanding Service to the Profession

Acting Executive Directors Report

Greetings to all members from the new Acting Executive Director!

Louise Aerts is now on maternity leave until January 2010. And yes she has had her baby boy Mitchell. Congratulations go out to her and hubby Bill!

It has been a very busy time in the TESL Canada Office, starting with a trip to Banff in February for a site visit at the Banff Centre where the TESL Canada Conference is being held October 1-3, 2009. The day I arrived was sunny and dry and by evening it was a blizzard and stayed that way until the day I left, which was a glorious sunny day. All in all it was very successful and informative visit. The Banff Centre is a very beautiful site as is the town of Banff and I can guarantee all the conference delegates will be thrilled to be there. Hopefully they will be as lucky as I with the wildlife sightings. The Mule Deer actually wander peacefully among the buildings at the Banff Centre. It is truly a sight to behold!

In other news Ozren Jungic, Executive Assistant/OJS manager/Guy Friday is leaving TESL Canada (leaving me); he has been such a great helpmate/teacher to me in my time here. I will truly miss his delightful personality and all of his interesting stories as well as all of the great work he produces on a daily basis. The work on the OJS alone is such a massive job. But alas he

is off to Gay Paris on an exchange program with Simon Fraser University. We wish him all the best.

Lena Siik is replacing Oz and has extensive background in non profit offices and many years as an administrative assistant. Lena will be working for TESL Canada on a full time basis and I am confident in her skills and that she will be up to speed with the job in no time. Welcome Lena!

In other news, the TESL Canada Journal is fully online for Volume 26.2 and will continue to be provided in the online format exclusively. Advertising will no longer be available within the journal itself, but on the main pages of the journal website and they will be banner ads that are a direct link to the website of the advertiser. To date this has been well received and we will be posting ads shortly. The next issue of the journal will be out the first part of May.

Certification has been very busy in the first four months of 2009 issuing over 40% more certificates than during the same period last year. I have also received numerous calls from all over Canada in regards to the Teacher Training Program Recognition. We have recognized two new Teacher Training Programs since January, Acadia University in Nova Scotia and Centre for Education and Training in Ontario. International House in Calgary is just finishing up the process.

So far 2009 has been a very productive year for TESL Canada; I am looking forward to the Banff conference and encourage all members to visit the online journal to view 26.2 which will be launched end of May.

Denise Smith/Acting Executive Director

The Finance Committee

Beginning in January, we have been receiving monthly statements from Denise. This helps us keep more up-to-date on financial affairs than just receiving quarterly statements.

The 2009 Budget was prepared and passed by the Board at the end of 2008.

The Finance Committee is working on preparing a proposal for Board expenses for the Banff meeting and AGM that we will be attending. This will be presented to the Executive when it is ready.

Submitted by Ellen Pilon

BC TEAL Report

Mary Ashworth, an important icon in the TESL profession of Canada, passed away in January. TEAL has reacted by sending a card and flowers to Mary's sister on Saltspring Island. TEAL and TESL Canada are planning to do something jointly as a tribute to Mary Ashworth's role and honour her life and legacy. Though the details are not yet in place, one preliminary plan is to include this at the wine-and-cheese of the BC TEAL Annual Conference in May 2009. In the meantime, Catherine Eddy, Sylvia Helmer and Pat Wakefield, who have all known Mary Ashworth quite closely, are preparing a write-up about her that can be published in the TEAL Newsletter and on the website – Brian has already posted it on our website. Virginia Christopher, Christine Stechisin and Jennifer Pearson Terell are likely to get involved somehow as well. Updates on the development of various proposals are still pending.

Louise Aerts, the Executive Director of TESL Canada, and her husband Bill Cunningham had their first baby on Wednesday, January 28th. Their son, Mitchell John James Cunningham, arrived at 9:31am and weighed 8 lbs and 5 oz. According to a message received via Denise Smith, Acting Executive Director of TESL Canada, "Mom, Dad, and baby are doing great and thrilled all round."

TESL Canada has a new committee which focuses on resources for Professional Development. It is busy putting together on-line resources that can be used by ESL professionals.

The TESL Canada Conference of 2011 will most probably be held in Nova Scotia. The Board of TESL Nova Scotia has offered to host that conference in the Maritimes.

Submitted by Liet Hellwig

Reminder

The next TESL Canada Conference will be held this year in Banff, Alberta. The dates are 1 – 3 October, so mark your calendars.

ATESL Spring Report

ATESL had a busy time since the last conference which on some days feels like it was last week. This is partly because we are in full conference mode again for 2009. Preparations for the upcoming TESL Canada conference: Weaving Pathways: Interculturalism and Language, are moving ahead smoothly under the guidance of the conference planners and committees. The publicity committee developed a brochure that was available at the TESL Canada booth at the TESOL convention in Denver. The keynote speakers, the location and the incredible amount of work going into the planning will ensure that it is a great event.

Other than conference planning, the board has been working on a letter under the guidance of past president Marion Rossiter, to distribute a sample letter advocating for the elimination of transportation loans for refugees. This letter will be sent to ATESL members through email and posted on the ATESL website.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of ATESL. We are currently discussion how to mark the occasion and are planning to do this at the conference in October.

On a sombre note, the ATESL community in Alberta lost one of its founding members. Our president, Judy Sillito reported this following to our board earlier this year.

On February 20, 2009 we lost a very special colleague. Many members of the ATESL board and the membership attended a memorial service for Dawn Seabrook de Vargas on Feb 28, 2009. Dawn was an important pillar of success in the ESL community and will be sadly missed not only for her excellent contributions to the field but for her infectiously positive embrace of life. As Dawn was one of the original founders of ATESL, we are researching the possibility of formally honouring her memory in ATESL.

Submitted by Hana Imai

SCENES Report

In Saskatchewan, we are experiencing a significant increase in the demand for English Language Training. In response to this demand, SCENES is taking a leadership role in providing support to its members, service providers and funders. SCENES distributed a press release in January, 2009, and CBC broadcast the press release and interviewed one of our esteemed board members, Shannon Storey.

Saskatchewan Government's Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour (AEE&L) invited SCENES to have discussions with the Government on English language training matters that are related to settlement, education, training, and the workplace. SCENES has formed a Government Liaison Committee comprised of its board members with varied experience to take part in the discussion with our provincial government in Saskatchewan. The first meeting will take place in May of this year.

We are in the midst of preparing for our Annual Conference and Annual General

Meeting on May 2 in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Our conference theme is "Shaping Our Future: Learning Today for a Better Tomorrow." This year the keynote speaker is Ms. Antonella Valeo and the topic of her presentation is "The Role of Content Knowledge in Language Classrooms."

There will be a pre-conference on May 1 to mark the formation of an English as an Additional Language subject council under Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. This subject council is referred to as SK TEAL and has seventy signed up members. Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation has provided a small grant to assist with some costs involved in running the pre-conference. The keynote speaker for the pre-conference is Ms. Merelle Rodrigo and her presentation will be on "Celebrating Cultural Diversity in Education." We are expecting around 100 registrants for both days of the conference.

With a grant from Saskatchewan Immigration Branch, Ministry of AEE&L, we have been able to offer a Learner Conference on May 2. Around fifty learners from different parts of the province and from different organizations are expected to attend the Learner Conference.

There is great interest in SCENES "Wayne Eger Scholarship" program for learners. We have received several applications and are going through the selection process. SCENES offers "Jake Kutarna Professional Development Fund" for $500.00 to a member annually. This was started last year to recognize the contribution of Jake Kutarna, who was the Executive Assistant for SCENES for many years.

SCENES has 183 paid members and 31 associate members. This is the largest number of members that SCENES has ever had. "The past year has seen a transition for SCENES: from being a group of ESL/EAL teachers, getting together for professional development and advocating for our learners, into a more active role as an affiliate. We remain true to our grassroots as a provincial community while connecting with the wider professional community and the Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Ministry of the provincial government. " – Lilliana Dominguez, President, SCENES.

This year has started with great momentum and we are excited about the potential it holds for us in Saskatchewan.

Submitted by Bula Ghosh

Manitoba Spring Report: 2009

TEAM Manitoba steered by President Rita Prokopetz will be hosting a Spring PD conference on May 8th, 2009 at St. Boniface Collage. The keynote speaker at the TEAM conference is Dr. Karen Margo- Navigating the Social and Emotional Literacies of the 21st century. The TEAM newsletter has been well received by it's members as being both informative and helpful. The TEAM conference comes on the heels of the ALT branch launching the Manitoba Adult English as an Additional Language Curriculum Framework Foundations: 2009 at the University of Winnipeg. The Adult Language Training Branch in a coordinated effort with the Settlement and Labour Market Services Branch, Manitoba Labour and Immigration Multicultural Division, contributors and reviewers, and editor and web coordinator and writer Joanne Pettis presented a well received curriculum framework document for teachers in the province.

TEAM Manitoba is hosting Spring PD conference on May 8th, 2009 at St. Boniface Collage

TEAL Manitoba will be holding the annual AGM on May 14th, 2009 at St John's Ravenscourt School. The speaker at the TEAL AGM is Kamey Munsamy- Profiles of Successful Immigrant Integration. TEAL has created a TEAL Manitoba Fund and applications for funding will be invited in due course after selection criteria has been decided. An EAL cafe' that brings teacher's together to share resources and stories meets once a month in an informal restaurant setting. TEAL journal contributions are encouraged and can be submitted to Richard Iwabuchi at the University of Manitoba. TEAL recently updated it's web site and continues to make progressive changes to make access easier for members.

Submitted by Kamey Munsamy

TESL Ontario Report

The new TESL Ontario structure is working its way into place. The Committees are working hard, the Board is meeting and making decisions, and the office staff are keeping very busy and the Affiliates are, as usual, carrying out affiliate business.

TESL Ontario Conference

Our last conference, held in November 2008, received many accolades. The 2008 Overall Conference Report, the Technology Fair Report and the Research Symposium Report are available at http://www.teslontario.org/conference/ .

Our 37th annual conference will be during December 10th -12th , 2009 at Sheraton Centre in Toronto. The theme this year is "Language for a Changing World"

Highlights of the conference are: the Research Symposium, the Technology Fair and the Panel Discussion. The call for 2009 Conference Presentations can be found at.

http://www.teslontario.org/conference/call-for-presentation/

ESL Week

ESL Week plans are commencing for the week of December 6-12 in recognition of both those who have contributed and those who have benefited from ESL learning in Ontario. Mayors from many cities have announced the week. For more information, check out: http://www.teslontario.org/esl-week/

Annual Poster Contest

There is now a flyer available to remind members to involve their learners in our great ESL Week Poster Contest at http://www.teslontario.org/esl-week/poster-contest-2009/ . Winners will be honoured at the President's Reception during Conference 2009 and have a chance to see all of the great posters produced. This was a great social event at the last conference. We'll all want to be there in 2009.

Submitted by Sharon Rajabi

TESL NB Report

TESL NB has held a fall and a winter meeting in Hampton and Fredericton (video-conference link in Bathurst) respectively. Our most recent meeting, held on Feb. 21st, involved planning and idea-sharing for spring meeting and a discussion of institutional memberships, which we subsequently decided to eliminate. Also, there was a TESL Canada representative report, a discussion of our continued affiliation with TESOL, and a decision on new resources for the TESL NB library collection. Minutes from this meeting are available on our newly "renovated" TESL NB website- http://www.nald.ca/teslnb/ This site contains useful links for TESL NB members, information on upcoming conferences and meetings, TESL NB library resource collection listings, and other pertinent information on members and membership.

During the fall meeting, Barbara Clayden and Sandra Foreman, TESL NB co-chairs, presented the final report of TESL NB and TESL NS to TESL Canada regarding the TESL Canada 2008 Conference including the final financial report. We were pleased that the Conference resulted in a surplus budget, thus giving the organization, for the first time, some cash in its bank account! Because of these monies, we were able to invite a keynote speaker, Tim Westhead, to our SUPER Meeting (formerly spring mini-conference), which will be held in Tracadie, NB on June 6th. Mr. Westhead will share his humour and wisdom with us in both an opening presentation and a closing workshop. In addition, some members of TESL NB will be presenting concurrent sessions during the Saturday on topics ranging from the integration of pop music in the ESL classroom to pronunciation teaching techniques. We all look forward to sharing in a Friday night lobster dinner followed by a great slate of presentations on Saturday the 6th on the Acadian Peninsula.

Submitted by Paula Kristmanson and
Nicole Poirier— Co-Presidents
April 3, 2009

TESL Nova Scotia Spring Report

After a little bit of a Winter lull, TESL NS is getting ready for a busy Spring. We are gearing up for our annual Spring Mini-Conference and are very excited to be hosting it at a new venue. For the first time, this conference will in Wolfville, Nova Scotia and will include a fun wine tour at Domaine Grand Pre! Using funds raised from TESL Canada 2008, we pleased to be able to offer the Spring mini Conference free of charge to TESL NS members (the conference is open only to TESL NS members).

To help sort out the conference details, TESL NS has set up a TESL NS Google group. We have seen modest success as board members begin to communication through the discussion boards.

TESL NS has also started preparation for our annual Fall conference where assessment will be the theme.

We are once again offering Conference Fee Support to encourage our members to present at the TESL Canada 2009 conference in Banff. It's a small contribution to significant costs, but we hope it will be a bit of an incentive.

Finally, we are delighted to be hosting the 2011 TESL Canada conference and can't wait to see you all in Halifax!

Submitted by Alicia Daley

TESL PEI Report

TESL PEI members got together for the first meeting in many years during the (excellent) TESL Canada Conference in Moncton in May. It was a great opportunity to meet one another and talk about what we hope TESL PEI will do.

Priorities identified for this year were to get out some good news stories about TEAL in PEI and to raise awareness among ESL/EAL professionals on the Island about TESL Canada. To this end, TESL PEI executive members set up an information table and worked with provincial Department of Education colleagues who put together a fabulous multicultural display and entertainment that was a star attraction at the annual PEI Teachers' Federation Annual Convention. Press coverage was excellent and we were very grateful to both the Minister of Education and the Minister of Innovation and Higher Education for joining us for a photo recognizing TEAL Week on PEI.

Several of our executive members presented papers at the TESL Ontario conference during Ontario ESL Week (Nov 9-15). Others provided professional development workshops for faculty and education students at UPEI. Future plans include the creation of an on-line chat room where Island members can meet, raise questions, share resources and advice.

The dramatic increase in the number of newcomers to the Island in the last couple of years has meant that the number of EAL professionals is growing, making TESL PEI more viable.

Regards from PEI!
Catherine Gillan

TESL NL REPORT

The issue of literacy has been the theme taken up at our meetings in 2009. Thanks to the initiative and support of a small research project grant spearheaded by Barbara Burnaby, TESL NL and Literacy NL have been getting together for a series of exchange sessions. Since this is an issue that concerns many of our teachers , both those in the K-12 system and those in the LINC program, this opportunity to share with teachers at the Rabbittown Learners Program has been welcomed.

With March 2009 marking the second anniversary of the launching of our provincial immigration strategy, many of our members continue to devote their time and energy to projects involving the integration and settlement of immigrants, and the celebration and promotion of multiculturalism in the province.

As well, a quarter of our members are currently pursuing either graduate or doctoral degrees. We wish them well in their studies and look forward to them sharing their research and learning experience with us.

REP: Marcia Spence

TESL Yukon

TESL Yukon started the year with a community celebration to mark its first decade of service. It was well attended and raised the profile of our group within the territory. During the event, the new executive publicly recognized and thanked our outgoing president Esther Chasse for her many years of leadership.

The Yukon government is reviewing its *Labour Market Strategy* which includes examining its immigration programs and policies. Four TESL-Yukon members are participating in various capacities in that review so the needs of ESL learners will be well represented. It is significant that TESL-Yukon has been asked to provide input.

Our members have begun talking to students about the Learners' Conference in the hope of soliciting applications to attend. Given that the conference in Banff is relatively close geographically, we hope to be able to send a couple of learners. We are also encouraging TESL Yukon members to plan their professional development so they can attend the conference. It would be great to share the Yukon perspective on ESL with the rest of the country!

submitted by Spence Hill

TESL Canada Educational Foundation

There is nothing much to report on the TCEF front. At the present time, we are in a good financial position, thanks to the very successful balloon burst and silent auction at the last TESL Canada conference. Plans are underway for further fundraising efforts in Banff, and for a conference call AGM. Please see the next newsletter for revised information on available funding through the TCEF.

Submitted by Sandra Kouritzin

TCEF

TESL CANADA

TESL CANADIAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

A registered Charity since 1992, the TCEF promotes, funds and facilitates for Research, Teaching and Culture

Visit the TESL Canada website at www.tesl.ca

Committee Reports

TESL Canada Awards Report

The TESL Canada Awards Committee has been active since the beginning of this year discussing issues related to the nomination process and guidelines for the Life Member Awards to be presented at the TESL Canada Banquet in Banff. Communication took place via email although discussions came to a halt in February 2009. At the present, the Committee members are: Shailja Verma, TESL Canada Past President, and Ellen Pilon, TESL Canada Board, Treasurer. The Committee's goal was to have recommendations for new guidelines in place by March 1, 2009. However, since proposed changes to the current system were not ready for voting by the Board as of March 2009, Jennifer Pearson Terell, President, TESL Canada Board, asked Denise Smith, Acting TESL Canada ED, to continue with the present guidelines for the upcoming TESL Canada Awards in Banff. As a result, Denise notified by email all provincial and territorial associations of the deadline (May 1, 2009) for nominations for the TESL Canada Banquet Awards Presentation in Banff.

Briefly, in 1998 the **TESL Canada Honorary Life Member Award** was established to honour TESL Canada members who have made exemplary contributions to TESL in Canada. These individuals have provided outstanding service over a period of not less than 20 years. They have shown leadership in both the workplace and the community in

such areas of involvement as academic, vocational, sociocultural and linguistic instruction, cross cultural counselling, labour market access training, citizenship training and multicultural liaison.

Throughout our Committee discussion, the following themes emerged regarding proposed recommendations and suggestions for revising current practises in selecting recipients of the TESL Canada Honorary Life Member Award:

- That the years of service total no less than 15.
- That the **Nominating Provinces** demonstrate through detailed description as well as 1-2 letters of support from other organizations related to the work that the nominated individual has done to warrant receipt of the **TESL Canada Honorary Life Member Award**.
- That the **TESL Canada Honorary Life Member Awards** be limited to no more than **3 or 4 per TESL Canada Conference.**
- That there should be a tool such a **checklist** developed for use by the **Reviewing Committee** allowing for a **transparent process**. That the development and design of such a **checklist** should be undertaken by the Board as a whole to ensure transparency.

I would like to convey my sincere Thanks and Appreciation to the Awards Committee, Denise Smith, and to Jennifer Pearson Terell for their participation in our email discussion, contribution of ideas and expertise, and for their support throughout.

Thank You All!!

By Angelique A. Schinas
Chair, TESL Canada Awards Committee

TESL Canada CCLB Committee – April 2009

The TESL Canada CCLB Committee, consisting of Liet Hellwig, Angela Schinas and Alicia Daley, Virginia Christopher and Jim Jones has been rather quiet over the last 6 months, mainly due to the ongoing National Consultation Process taking place at the CCLB in Ottawa. On the CCLB Board, Virginia Christopher continues to represent the TESL Canada Learners' Event/Symposium/Conference, Jim Jones continues to act as the Treasurer of the CCLB, and Christina Stechishin fills the role of TESL Canada/CCLB Liaison.

As directed by the TESL Canada Board, Christina presented the final draft of the CCLB/TESL Canada partnership agreement at the CCLB Executive Council meeting on December 1, 2008. It was pointed out that the CCLB/CNCLC is not a funding organization and does not have funds to support the Learners' Conference at this time. In addition, they are also trying to find ways to obtain input from learners as part of the previously-mentioned National Consultation Process. Unfortunately, the TESL Canada Learners Conference schedule, scheduled for May, 2009 is too late to be included in the process, since the consultations for data gathering were completed at the end of March.

However, the CCLB/CNCLC considers the maintenance of its relationship with TESL Canada to be a priority, even though they can't realistically devote any further time or action to this issue until the fall of 2010, when the entire National Consultation Process is completed. The CCLB/CNCLC Board also felt that such a partnership must involve the active participation of the CCLB/CNCLC staff, and they are currently tied up with the National Consultation. The staff of the Centre stated that they would respond directly to the TESL Canada Board.

In other matters, the TESL Canada CCLB Committee has not received any response to its plea for suggestions/proposals for teacher education and professional development to enable practitioners to become knowledgeable about the CLB through teacher training programs and professional development activities. If anyone has ideas, please forward them to any member of the committee.

Listed below are some of the major activities of the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks over the last few months.

NATIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

Information-gathering consultations with practitioners and multi-stakeholders began in Vancouver and Victoria at during the 3rd week of January, and finished with the last meetings

for Maritime Provinces at the end of March. Videoconferencing consultations will also take place in the Territories and Quebec before the end of June, along with interviews with key informants. An on-line survey will shortly be available for all those who attended the consultations for further feedback, if necessary. In addition, all CCLB/CNCLC Board and staff members participated in sessions at the December 2008 meetings, and will have another opportunity for input at the Board meeting in June 2009. Following this data collection, a literature review is planned, and after the Preliminary Analysis, there will be a National Forum to identify directions and outcomes. The final report is scheduled for March 2010. Christina Stechishin participates on the National Consultations Advisory Team for the project.

The response to the process has been very exciting. Attendees at the sessions, facilitated very efficiently across the country by Pamela Smit and Paul Turcot of Veradus Consulting, were pleased with the opportunity to voice their praise and complaints with the current framework, and make suggestions for the revision of the CLB 2000 document. One attendee in Vancouver remarked that it was the best PD event he had attended in over 25 years of teaching ESL!

For further information about the National Consultation Process, go to www.language.ca and click on "National Consultation on CLB 2000 and NCLC 2006" on the left side bar. You can also sign up for e-mail list to receive updates on the latest developments.

PROJECTS

Essential Skills project - The 3 guidebooks in English and French for this HRSDC/ES initiative are now ready and can be ordered from the CCLB website:

1. one for job analysts (how to better incorporate benchmark info on worksites)
2. one for corporate trainers (no ESL/EFL training but they have ESL/EFL people to train)
3. one for ESL/EFL practitioners (how to incorporate Essential Skills into classroom materials, etc.; lesson plans with generic skills).

Workshopping will begin across Canada in English and French, probably in September 2009. Christina Stechishin has represented TESL Canada as member representing the ESL community on the National Advisory Committee for the project.

TOOLS

CLB 5-10 Exit Assessment Tasks Training – This resource, completed last fall, has been presented at various meetings and workshops across Canada to familiarize practitioners with this useful tool. While not a "test" as such, the

exit assessment tasks have been rigorously piloted to ensure that they identify language skill proficiencies at the end of a program as accurately as possible within the CLB framework. For further information, go to www.language.ca and click on "Assessments" on the top bar, then "New Assessment Resources" on the left sidebar.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

Gay Hamilton, who has been the Executive Director at the CCLB for the last two years, resigned in mid-March, and the position is now being temporarily filled by Anne Senior. A posting has gone out, and can be viewed on the website as well. It would be wonderful if one of our stellar TESL Canada Board members would apply

Submitted by Christina Stechishin,
Chair, TESL Canada CCLB Committee

Conference 2009

TESL Canada Conference 2009
Planning Committee Meeting Summary
Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 22nd

Despite the end of term crunch, a snow storm and play-off hockey the meeting was well attended with all but the Publicity committee represented.

Audio Visual

The AV committee continues to wait for the presentation proposals to trickle in before they can act further.

Facilities

Sue instructed the committee members to book their room at The Banff Centre asap. The rooms are block booked and they are to make their reservations from that booking. She will forward the booking instructions email to all members.

Hospitality/Special Events

The Hospitality & Sp Events committee has been continuing with plans for the extracurricular activities. They are still planning a movie night, but haven't selected a movie and welcome suggestions. A copy of the committee report is attached for reference.

Program Committee

The program committee reported that the site visit was quite helpful to them in visualizing how the conference will run and planning a tentative schedule. As well as developing the tentative schedule they have sent out invitations to the possible presenters recommended to them. 18 proposals have been received to date. A copy of the committee report and the tentative schedule are attached for reference.

Andrea Ferron (BVC) has volunteered to organize and promote a poster session(s). She is created standards and working on options for providing the display stands needed. A report from Andrea is attached for further information.

Symposia

Terri has been in touch with individuals interested in presenting at the symposia, but none have yet submitted proposals. She is going to send them a reminder email.

Publicity

Brochures were available at the TESL Canada table at the TESOL conference in Denver last month. Only a minimal number of brochures were picked up and the committee members felt this may be been because the table was not well situated. Scott volunteered to take the remaining brochures to BC TEAL and another conference he is attending in May.

The conference information including registration, accommodation, transportation, program and special events is now up on the ATESL website. An email was distributed to TESL Canada members to announce the start of registration. Intermittent TESL CANADA CONFERENCE UPDATE email will be sent out to remind members of important dates, promote events and provide other information as needed. The webpage address is http://www.atesl.ca/cmsms/news/45/39/

Publishers

The publishers have 10 confirmed publishers. Another 10 tables are unconfirmed but expected to go to specific publishers who have expressed interest but not yet done the paperwork. They are collecting names for others (non-publishers) interested in having a table

such as recruiters, grad programs etc. If there is sufficient interest additional tables will be made available in the Max Bell building.

Registrar

The on-line registration is up & running and five people have registered to date. The committee members were asked to get the word out at their institutions that the Early Bird date – is truly early, June 30th.

Tracey and Marcy from SAIT are soliciting swag for the bags and will arrange the bag stuffing. They clarified with the sponsorship committee who was contacting who to avoid asking the same place twice for support.

The committee's report is attached for reference.

Sponsorship

Lilli and Nel, the sponsorship chairs, continue to solicit support for local businesses and have coordinated with Calgary volunteers to clarify who will contact who. Sponsorship reports are attached for further information.

Treasurer

Shelley has stepped down as treasurer and Pearl (from BVC) has taken over these responsibilities. The cheque book and other materials were handed over at the meeting. Pearl will proceed with putting a petty cash in place and creating the reporting requested by ATESL.

Volunteers

The question "are you willing to volunteer?" (yes/no) appears on the registration form and this is a required field. A report will be generated of all delegates who selected 'yes' and then Alex will contact them via email. Cari-Ann encouraged the committees to try to recruit volunteers for their area of responsibility from their pool of friends/ colleagues as we will have limited outside volunteers available at the conference due to the conference location.

2011 Conference Committee Report

The TESL Nova Scotia Board was unanimous in voting to host the spring 2011 TESL Canada Conference. Conference co-chairs are the current President Ellen Pilon and the in-coming President Julian Inglis. Liaising with TESL Canada are Ellen Pilon and Alicia Daley. The Treasurer is Sandy Crocker.

Plans are already underway. The 2011 TESL Canada conference will be April 28-29-30, 2011. This is the weekend immediately after Easter weekend, but there was absolutely no other choice at such short notice. We have booked the Halifax World Trade & Convention Centre (http://www.wtcchalifax.com/en/home/default.aspx) which has ample space for registration, workshops, plenary speakers, the banquet and the exhibitors.

Guest rooms have been set aside at the Prince George Hotel (http://www.princegeorgehotel.com/) which is where the Executive Director and the Board will stay and will have their Wednesday board meeting. Rooms for Thursday and Friday nights have also been set aside at the Delta Barrington (http://www.deltahotels.com/hotels/hotels.php?hotelId=3). Both hotels work together with the World Trade & Convention Centre, and everything is connected by indoor passageway should it rain. The area is filled with restaurants and pubs, and the waterfront isn't far away.

Conference email address is: conference2011@gmail.com

Our theme is accuracy vs fluency, but we have yet to come up with a title or hear back from possible speakers. Suggestions welcome! We'll keep you posted.

Submitted by Ellen Pilon

Committee Opportunity

TESL Canada is looking for members for the new Website Committee. If you have experience with web design or programming this would be a great way to contribute to the TESL Canada community on a volunteer basis.

Interested members should contact admin@tesl.ca and include a brief description of relevant past experience.

Governance Committee Report

The Governance Committee was formed late in 2008 to prepare revisions to the Letters Patent and the By-Laws. The committee, chaired by Ellen Pilon, includes: Sandie Kouritzin, Shailja Verma, Maureen Sargent, Christina Stechishin, and Jennifer Pearson Terell (ex-officio).

Through innumerable emails we have decided on revisions to update the Letters Patent and the By-Laws. The lawyer has revised the language to reflect current government requirements, and he has adapted the committee recommendations concerning the current practices of TESL Canada.

In mid April we expect to submit the revised documents to the Board for review and comment. The Board will have until Wednesday May 13th to make comments and suggestions. Following further possible revision, they will go to the membership as a whole for comment during June. After reviewing the feedback and incorporating what we can, the revised by-laws will be put to the membership for vote at the October AGM. We will carefully follow the rules for sending the by-laws to all members, etc.

An important point which is not part of the By-Laws, either current or revised, but which does affect correct procedure according to our status as a non-profit organization is the necessity of holding an annual AGM. Currently the AGM is held with each conference, and thus takes place every 18 months. Every third year there is no AGM in a fiscal year. This is in violation of the rules for a federal non-profit organization.

The Executive and the committee recommend that, to meet the requirements for a Canadian non-profit organization, we hold an annual AGM in the spring of every year. The conference will continue to be held every 18 months. Every third year an AGM and conference will be the same time, in the spring, beginning in 2011.

To facilitate this change, we ask that all elected Board members run for their current positions at the October 2, 2009 AGM and continue in office until the spring 2010 AGM, at which point they may run again or not. Those of you who are appointed by your province/territory are not affected since you are appointed to the Board, not elected at an AGM.

Submitted by Ellen Pilon

TESL Canada Journal Committee Report

Over the last few weeks the Journal Committee has been discussing several issues that came to light with the resignation of OZ. While the committee spent several weeks deliberating it soon became obvious that the issues really were bigger than the committee and required a fuller Board involvement as some of the areas could impact the financial picture. It was decided to defer the motions until the Board meeting in Banff. This would allow for a broader perspective and participation in order to resolve the issues

Submitted by Shailja Verma - Chair.

Canada Testing Committee

With the launch of the TESL Canada website in January 2009, the Testing Committee proudly invites all members and non-members to check out and use the "English Language Proficiency Testing" site on our website with links to:

> **Overview of English Language Proficiency Tests**

> **English Language Proficiency Suggested Reference Scores Guide**

> **Language Proficiency Test Websites**

> **Language Test Score Requirements for Canadian Universities**

> **Ethical Guidelines for the Use of Language Proficiency Tests**

Already we have received numerous comments and praises from colleagues in the TESL field who have found our testing related web pages informative and useful. If any of our board members or members should receive or wish to give any feedback concerning our testing web pages, please kindly send them to our committee.

Furthermore, the committee has continued to discuss the issue of advocating for a "Made in Canada" test for use by the Canadian immigration to replace the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) Test. We have been invited to join a discussion session with language testing colleagues during the CSSE conference in Ottawa in May 2009. However, due to other commitments,

non of our members are able to attend and Ruth Gaskovski has agreed to relay our concerns and support for "Made in Canada" test to the group through Dr. Janna Fox. Christina Stechishin also reported that there is a desire for a higher-level CLB placement test for academic purposes, however, CIC would not be interested in developing it. It is unclear as to which entity may be interested in developing these tests at this point in time. As our committee members enter into more discussion with other language testing colleagues and gather more information, we will report back to the board.

Submitted by Joy Lin Salzberg

Public Relations Committee:

Since the last report, the Public Relations Committee has been relatively quiet. We spent a good deal of energy providing feedback on the new website and are very happy now that it has gone live. Beyond this, we have begun the process of identifying issues for which we feel TESL Canada needs to develop better articulated positions. Once these issues are clearly identified, we hope TESL Canada can seek expert guidance to develop position papers and/or 'talking points' that can be shared with the public and with media outlets. Over the coming months, we plan to prepare short briefs on some issues and submit these to the full board for discussion and further refinement.

Submitted by Ron Thomson

TESL Canada PD Committee Report

The TESL Canada PD Committee sprang into action in January of this year. An initial meeting of the co-chairs, Virginia Christopher and Christina Stechishin, with President, Jennifer Pearson-Terell, set out the parameters for this committee:

1. To establish and develop an online Resource Centre for TESL Canada members, which would potentially include materials for general ESL as well as LINC/ELSA (e.g. ESL websites, journals, professional associations and links to publishers)
2. To develop a structure/procedure to make podcasts of future conference plenary speeches and other events of interest available to TESL Canada members, and
3. To develop and maintain a list of guest speakers for TESL Canada affiliates to help them with event planning
4. Other PD initiatives as they arise, as directed by the Board.

With these objectives in mind, other members were recruited; the committee now consists of Virginia Christopher, Christina Stechishin (Co-chairs), John Sivell, Liet Hellwig, Sharon Rajabi, Colleen Rogan, Ellen Pilon, Sandie Kouritzin and Jennifer Pearson-Terell (President; ex-officio member).

Resource Centre

Virginia started the ball rolling on the initiative of developing the Resource Centre, and it wasn't long before all committee members had agreed to accept John Sivell's generous offer to make the content from his in-house resource website from Brock University – "EFL and ESL Internet Filing Cabinet" – available for TESL Canada's use. The plan is to move the contents of the entire Brock University site over to a separate web page linked to the TESL Canada home page in stages, with a completion date of June, 2009. John has also offered to oversee the initial development of the new page with the intention of asking the contractor who recently redesigned the TESL Canada website to reformat the Resource Centre page according to the main site templates at a later date, if it is deemed advisable. During the transfer period, committee members will access the site to try it out and give feedback. Maintenance for the new TESL Canada Resource Centre site will be shared by TESL Canada volunteers as well as John's graduate students.

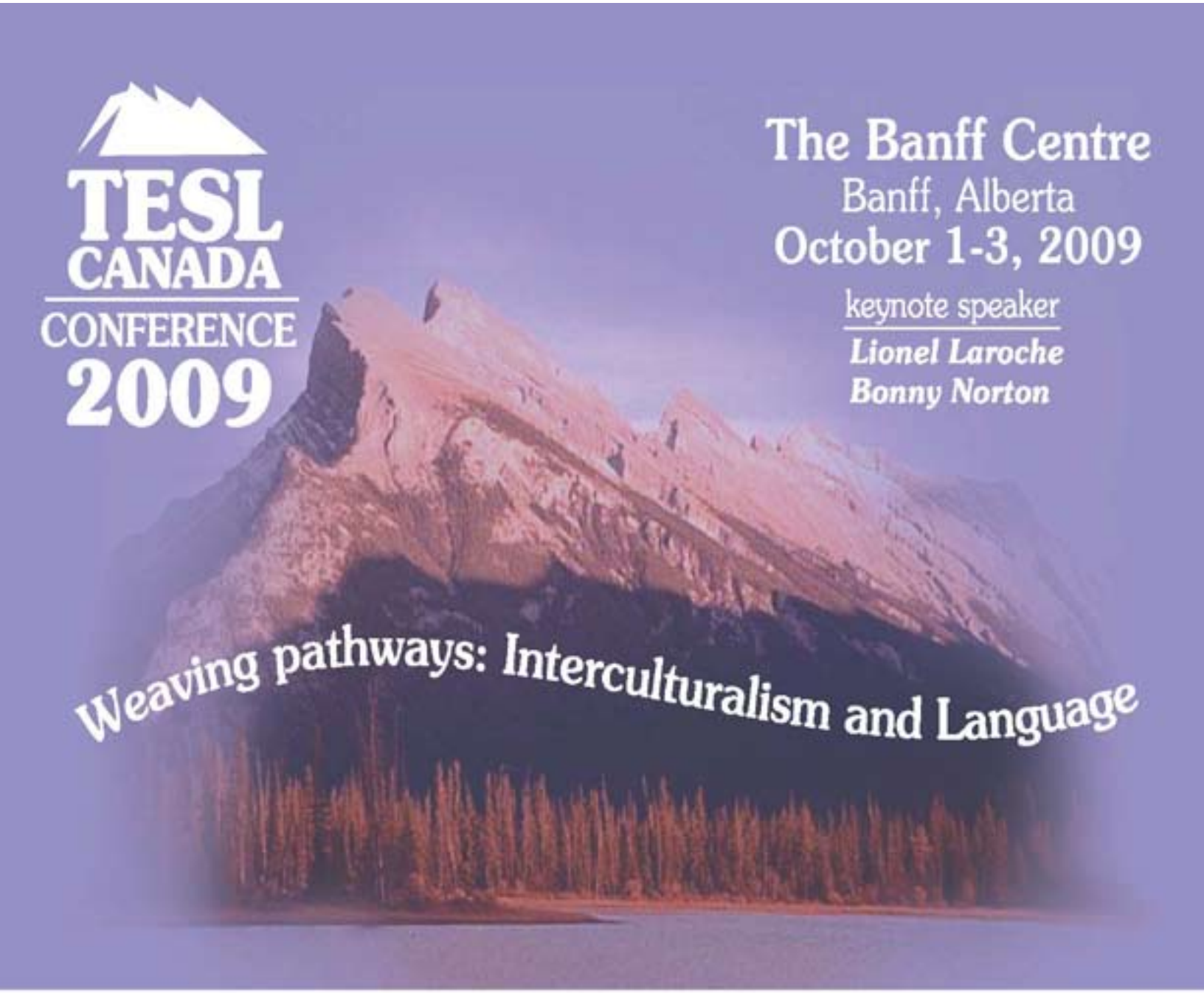
Guest Speakers List

Jennifer has offered to take the initiative with the Guest Speakers List . With her extensive professional network and input from other committee members, we're sure to have a list of inspiring speakers that will prove useful to all TESL Canada members.

Podcasting

The Podcasting initiative will be the next focus of our attention after the TESL Canada Conference in Banff in October. (Podcasting arrangements for this conference are currently in the process of being contracted to professionals by the ATESL planners.) Christina will be guiding that process, and at that time, we'll be drawing on the extensive experience and expertise of Sharon Rajabi, our expert in this area.

Virginia Christopher
Christina Stechishin
Co-chairs, TESL Canada PD Committee



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