Spring 2010

TESL Canada Bulletin

> By learning you will teach,
> by teaching you will learn.
>
> — Latin Proverb

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President's Report

From Jennifer Pearson Terell

I am writing my final report to you and finding it is hard to believe that my term as President is nearing its end. It has been a wonderful experience for me. I have had the opportunity to work with a very dedicated and committed Executive and Board as well as a very skilled Executive Director. This has made it a life experience that I will always treasure – thank you all for making it a very rewarding and very positive experience.

It's just six short months since the very successful 2009 TESL Canada Conference which was hosted by ATESL. As everyone knows who attended the conference, the ATESL Conference Committee did an outstanding job of organizing an excellent conference featuring excellent keynote speakers, superb workshops, and very interesting poster sessions. The warmth of the welcome and the excellent organization made the conference a very special professional development event. On behalf of TESL Canada, I would like to thank ATESL for a truly excellent conference in a very spectacular setting.

This past year counts as one of the most productive years in the "history" of TESL Canada. As we all know TESL Canada is a volunteer driven organization and is fortunate to have a dedicated Board – strong in experience and expertise. The remainder of my report will be a summary of what has been achieved by TESL Canada in the past year.

TESL Canada's New By-Laws and Letters Patent

As reported in the last TESL Canada Bulletin, it was discovered last winter that TESL Canada's Letters Patent [1985] and TESL Canada's By-Laws [1995] were seriously out of date. As a result we sought legal advice in the spring of 2009 and as a result TESL Canada established a Governance Committee. The Governance Committee worked to revise and rewrite the outdated TESL Canada's By-Laws and Letters Patent to better reflect the current structure and intent of TESL Canada. The Governance Committee under the very able and skilled leadership of Chair, Ellen Pilon worked long hours preparing the new By-Laws and Letters Patent in time for presentation and approval at the TESL Canada AGM in Banff in October 2009. Our thanks to the Governance Committee for a job well done!

TESL Canada Launches NEW Teachers' Resource Centre [TRC]

The new TESL Canada Teachers' Resource Centre [TRC] was launched last fall. The Teachers' Resource Centre [TRC] provides TESL Canada members with the opportunity to access a wide range of online resources for ESL teachers and ESL learners. ESL teachers across Canada also have an opportunity to contribute their own teaching resources to the new Teachers' Resources Centre by email trc@tesl.ca

The TESL Canada Teachers' Resource Centre [TRC] includes the following online resources for ESL teachers and ESL learners

TESL Canada Teachers' Resource Centre [TRC]

1. Free On-line ESL Teaching Resources
2. Free On-line ESL Journal
3. Online LINC/ELSA and CLB Teaching Resources
4. Free Online Graphics for ESL Teachers
5. Free Online ESL Teaching Materials and Lesson Plans contributed by TESL Canada members under the following headings;
    a. Listening
    b. Vocabulary
    c. Reading
    d. Writing
    e. Grammar

6. On-line Interactive Sites for Student Resources
7. What's New in the TESL Canada Journal?
8. Upcoming TESL Events and Conferences

The new Teachers' Resource Centre [TRC] is a tribute to the vision, dedication and hard work of John Sivell, Editor of the TESL Canada Journal and the support given the project by Chris Stechishin, an Elected Director on the TESL Canada Board. On behalf of ESL teachers and ESL learners across Canada a heart felt thank you to John Sivell for making new Teachers' Resource Centre a reality.

Teacher Training Program Recognition and Professional Certification

This past year TESL Canada remains well respected across Canada for its administration of national standards for teacher training program recognition and professional certification. The TESL Canada Standards for teacher training program recognition and professional certification are currently used by Languages Canada and recognized by many of the provincial LINC and ELSA programs. This past year, there has been a record number of applications for TESL Canada Professional Certification and Teacher Training Program Recognition.

On the recommendation of the Standards Advisory Committee, all applicants professionally certified by TESL Canada are now posted with permission in the TESL Canada Professional Directory on the TESL Canada Website www.tesl.ca

TESL Canada Website

The TESL Canada Website has never looked so good. This is largely due to the efforts and dedication of our new Webmaster John Allan. John has been redesigning and updating the TESL Canada website since last fall with the support of our Executive Director Louise Aerts as well as the Website and Public Relations Committee 'point person' Ron Thomson. The new TESL Canada website is attractive, well designed, and user friendly.

This is important because a well functioning user friendly website enables TESL Canada to better serve its members. It's hoped that in the future the website will provide many new options including on-line registration for conferences, on-line application forms for both professional certification and teacher training program recognition as well as more online professional

development opportunities for TESL Canada members including online podcasts of national and provincial/territorial conference proceedings. And last but not least the TESL Canada website enables members to receive online editions of the TESL Canada Journal and TESL Canada Bulletin.

2011 TESL Canada Conference.

It's hard to believe that in twelve short months we will be meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia at the 2011 TESL Canada Conference. It promises to be an outstanding conference with delegates from across Canada and from around the world. There will be two outstanding internationally respected keynote speakers as well as a wide range of excellent workshops. It will be a time for us to not only develop professionally but also to renew friendships and reflect on our profession of teaching English as a second language.

In Closing

I want to express my gratitude to the members, the Board, the Executive and the Executive Director at TESL Canada – it's been my privilege to know and to work with each of you over so many years. I have always felt inspired by and very fortunate to have known the many wonderful people who 'inhabit' the world of ESL and are part of TESL Canada. In closing, thank you for your friendship, your support and your laughter it has meant a lot to me over the years. It's been a privilege and a joy to be part of TESL Canada.

Treasurer's Report

From Joy Lin Salzberg

After being elected to the position of Treasurer in September 2010,

I have had a sharp learning curve initially understanding and analyzing TESL Canada's 2009 year end financials and keeping abreast of board members reimbursements from the Banff face to face board meeting in addition to transitioning between the previous temporary Executive Director and with our returning and current Executive Director (ED), Louise Aerts. November 2009 was a busy month as the ED, our previous Treasurer, Ellen Pilon, the Finance Committee and I went over details of the 2010 budget in preparation for the November 27th board teleconference meeting. The board approved the 2010 budget on November 27th, 2009.
A notable issue regarding the 2010 budget was that TESL Canada had not to date received the remuneration from TESL Alberta for our share of the Banff conference profits thus causing a larger than anticipated deficit in the 2009 budget. Nonetheless, the 2009 Financial Actuals received from the ED in January 2010 reflected a net income of $-2,257 even without the 2009 conference income realized in 2009.

Detailed monthly financials which shed clearer and transparent understanding of the ins and outs of the TESL Canada office have been received to date from the Executive Director since her return to the office.

Lastly, the signing officers at the bank have been updated according to the approved motions from the Banff board meeting.

The appointed signing officers for TESL Canada as of November, 2009 are:

1. Joy Lin Salzberg, Treasurer
2. Jennifer Pearson Terell, President
3. Liet Hellwig, Finance Committee member
4. Louise Aerts, Executive Director

2009 Audited Financial Statements

TESL CANADA FEDERATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - DECEMBER 31, 2009
(with comparative figures at December 31, 2008)

ASSETS

	2009	2008
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and term deposits	$ 143,735	$ 142,700
Accrued interest receivable	926	3,518
Conference deposit receivable	-	7,000
Prepaid rent	644	644
	$ 145,305	$ 153,862

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 1,650	$ 1,650
Employee payroll deductions payable	3,429	3,807
Sales taxes payable	339	21
	5,418	5,478
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted funds	139,886	148,384
Approved by the Board	$ 145,304	$ 153,862

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

TESL CANADA FEDERATION

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009
(with comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2008)

	2009	2008
REVENUE		
Conference	$ -	$ 26,409
Teacher Training Program Recognition	23,915	21,680
Certification	29,430	20,201
Interest and other income	88	10,214
Provincial memberships	61,280	58,040
TESL Canada Journal - schedule	69,217	77,280
Learners conference	-	7,595
	183,929	221,419
EXPENSES		
Administration-office operation	4,810	-
Audit and legal fees	825	825
Bank charges	1,735	1,053
Certification expense	15,660	8,918
Insurance	669	1,712
Learners conference	-	7,595
Life members	286	577
Marketing and promotion	1,525	290
Miscellaneous	896	592
Website	2,321	719
Office equipment (note 2)	2,877	1,554
Postage and courier	3,568	306
Rent	5,710	4,240
Salaries and benefits	48,149	42,073
Stationery and supplies	2,041	3,433
Teacher training program recognition	5,969	3,171
Telephone and fax	3,284	2,258
TESL Canada Bulletin	880	478
TESL Canada Journal - schedule	74,008	108,199
Travel - Board	16,337	27,016
Travel - international	877	557
	192,427	215,566
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	$(8,498)	$ 5,853

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

The Finance Committee has been in active discussion concerning the status of TESL Canada membership fees since November 2009 and has looked into our membership fees agreement with all the provinces and territories. It has been determined that TESL Canada has maintained its individual membership fee at $16/00 annually since 1993. After much deliberation and given that our federation is currently operating with sufficient funds from our various revenues including membership fees, the Finance Committee brought the following 2 motions to the board meeting for board's approval.

The motions approved by the board are:

1. ***That the TESL Canada membership fees be reorganized into quarterly installments of $4.00 per quarter, beginning with the July 1, 2010 invoice.***
2. ***That the fees for each quarter be called "membership fees".***

Standards Advisory Committee Report

From Shannon Storey

The standards committee meets by email to discuss the standards for

professional certification and teacher training recognition. Thank you to the standards committee members for their continued support of this important aspect of TESL Canada. The current committee is: Chair, Shannon Storey; members: Ellen Pilon, Sheila Carson, Sheila Nicholas, and Liet Hellwig; ex-officio members, Reza Mazloom-Farzaghy, Shawn Brake, and Louise Aerts.

2009 saw another rise in certification application numbers. The following chart shows the certificates applied, granted, referred through PLAR, and the break-down by standard level applied/granted. These numbers are a significant increase from 2008 where TESL Canada received 181 applications for professional certification and granted 151.

	Applied in '09		Granted in '09	
Level 1 Interim	107	35%	85	38%
Level 1 Permanent	71	23%	43	19%
Level 2 Interim	66	22%	59	26%
Level 2 Permanent	23	8%	14	6%
Level 3 Interim	11	4%	6	3%
Level 3 Permanent	27	9%	17	8%
Total	**305**		**224**	
Granted Total	224			
PLAR granted	29			
Referred to PLAR	44			
Other	34			
incl. time out, denied, etc				

TESL Canada also continues to see new and renewing applications for Teacher Training Program recognition. 12 new programs applied for recognition in 2009 with 11 being recognized. We have already received 3 new program applications and 4 renewing applications to date in 2010.

Journal Advisory Committee Report

From John Sivell

Journal Editor's Report for TESL Canada Federation Board: 2010 AGM

Highlights of the past year include:

Indexing: With assistance from Louise, the Journal now has indexing agreements in place not only with CBCA Education (which we always had) but also with ERIC (which we already had, too, but now it is full-text) and with EBSCO, the Gale Group, and Wilson (the latter three being entirely new); these agreements are designed to increase the Journal's exposure at no cost to TESL Canada.

Visibility: As a result of increasing awareness of our presence online (associated in part with the above indexing agreements, which are beginning to take actual effect), monthly visits to the Journal site have increased from 1,304 (June 6-30, my earliest Google Analytics data) to 9,177 (the latest complete month, March, 2010); please see the attached Google Analytics Report, where you will also note the increase has been very steady (I anticipate it will continue rising); additionally, the March 7 to April 6 map (most recent one-month period) shows that the Journal is being accessed from almost every country in the world, which in fact has been the case since almost the beginning (Google Analytics map attached).

Rate of Submissions: On a slightly less positive note, although the flow of manuscripts remains reasonably numerous (up to about a dozen monthly), and although our reviewing turn-around time continues to creep down to faster and faster rates (still sometimes several months, but definitely getting better), the arrival of strong manuscripts seems to be slowing: manuscripts for the Spring 2010 (i.e. most recent) issue of the journal to be posted were approved and ready for copy editing well in advance, but at this point I have well less than half of what I need for the Winter issue… normally, I would copy-edit that material in June, but I very much doubt I will be able to do so that early this time. The increase in relatively weak manuscripts was noted by a number of editors at the Journal Editors' Meeting at TESOL (March), where I was present; the apparent explanation is a new demand by many (especially Asian) universities that their PhD students publish a segment of their thesis as a condition of attaining the degree (it seems that many such submissions are insufficiently thought out in terms of appropriately transforming a thesis chapter into a journal article).

Special Issue: Sandie Kouritzen has advised me that she has sufficient articles for the Special Issue (due out at the end of the summer), but that only half of them have actually reached her; so, meeting the deadline may be demanding. We need to make a decision soon (within the Journal Advisory Committee) regarding a potential editor or editors for the next Special Issue or Issues. I have some suggestions to make, and JAC members may well have other proposals as well; so, that should progress smoothly.

CCLB Report

From Christina Stechishin

To begin with, the National Consultation process has now been

completed, and the final report will be launched in Toronto and Ottawa during the week of March 29th. At the National Consultation Forum in mid-October, 2009, approximately 40 representatives from government (federal and provincial) and different stakeholder groups met in Ottawa to discuss the recommendations which arose from a detailed analysis of the results of the data-gathering process which took place in the first 6 months of the year. The information gathered from this event was also incorporated into the final report, which will soon be posted on the CCLB website at http://www.language.ca.

The CCLB board then prioritized the recommendations and developed a Strategic Plan to implement them over the next three years. The most important recommendation was an immediate revision of the CLB 2000 document, as well as an updating (if necessary) of the French version – the NCLC (Niveaux de compétences linguistiques canadiens). To this end, I was invited to sit on an Advisory Committee in late December to develop an action plan to begin this process as soon as possible, since it had become evident during the late autumn that funding cut-backs from governments at all levels were looming on the horizon. A call for letters of interest from practitioners interested in participating in the revision process went out in February, and work should begin very soon.

Concurrently, practitioner training continued on several CCLB products – namely the Exit 5-10 Assessment Tasks, Integrating CLB Assessment into Your ESL Classroom, and the SAM (Summative Assessment Manual). This spring, I will be conducting several training sessions

on the Exit 5-10 Tasks and SAM in British Columbia, along with several of my colleagues across Canada who are doing the same thing in other provinces.

With regard to my position on the CCLB board, Jennifer Pearson-Terell and I have both had long discussions with Jim Jones, who is also one of the 3 TESL Canada representatives on the CCLB Board. Jim, who lives in Hamilton, has been the Treasurer of the CCLB for many years and knows the organization inside out. He speaks with the CCLB Executive Director at least weekly and is keenly aware of current and future political and financial developments which could affect the CCLB. Furthermore, he plans to retire in the near future and would therefore have even more time available to spend working in this area. As a result, we agreed that it seems to make more sense for him to take on the role of CCLB Chair when Serge Boulé, the current chair steps down in June. If re-elected as a Director by TESL Canada members at the AGM in April, I will be honored to remain as Vice-Chair on the CCLB Board if asked, but I support this idea whole-heartedly. And best of all, one of our TESL Canada representatives - and a former TESL Canada President as well - will still be at the helm of the most important CLB organization in the country!

Before closing, I must also say a word about François Belisle, who has been the CCLB Executive Director since last June. Thrown directly into the fray of the National Consultation Process, François has landed on his feet and proven himself to be a real asset to the Centre. He has developed a sound business plan and has already acquired several substantial contracts to keep the Centre funded, such as the CIC-funded CLB Milestones Assessment, the Engineering Language Benchmarking Project, and the development of several additional OLAs (Occupational Language Analysis), among others.

Finally, by the time you read this, the Centre will have moved on March 22, 2010 to a new address – Suite 400, 294 Albert Street, Ottawa ON K1P 6E6. Telephone and fax numbers will remain the same.

Nominations Committee Report

From Joy Lin Salzberg

The nominations committee began its work at the beginning of 2010

in order to advertise and secure nominations for the upcoming 2010 AGM board elections. The committee, with the help of Jennifer Pearson Terell, created nomination forms and a Call for Nominations that was emailed to all 6,000+ members of TESL Canada mid February. The call and links to the forms were also placed on the homepage of the TESL Canada website. Nominees were required to submit a nomination consent form indicating their willingness to stand with two members as their nominators. We received nominations for each available position and nominations will be accepted up to the AGM and including from the floor during the meeting.

Governance Committee Report

From Ellen Pilon

The committee worked hard between the Banff AGM and the end of

November teleconference in preparing three Policies: Conflict of Interest, Communication, and Travel Policy. All three passed the Board teleconference meeting at the end of November.

We were delighted to learn of the speedy approval of our proposed by-laws which are now government approved and official as of December 4, 2009. Thank you to the committee: Maureen Sargent, Catherine Eddy, Shailja Verma, Christina Stechishin, and Sandie Kouritzin for their hard work on these by-laws, and to the lawyer for his diligence in ensuring that the document is correct, clear, concise and useful. The approved version is now on the TESL Canada website.

In the new year we started work on the Mission Statement, but agreed to postpone our discussions until after the spring Board meeting.

Thank you to the new committee that started October 1, 2009 and continued until April 2010: Sandie Kouritzin, Maureen Sargent, Christina Stechishin, Shannon Storey, and Angela Schinas.

TESL Canada 2011 Conference Report

Ellen Pilon and Kent Fraser

The TESL Nova Scotia Board has been busy with plans for the 2011 conference which will be in Halifax, Nova Scotia April 28-29-30, 2011. This is the weekend immediately following Easter that year. The Planning Committee consists of the full TESL NS Board: Fe Baculi, Andrea Purchase, Sandy Crocker, Kent Fraser, Christine Grimshire, Hong Wang, Haiyan Sun, Sharon Churchull, Olga Sarycheva, co-chairs Julian inglis and Andy de Champlain, and conference coordinator Ellen Pilon.

The conference events will be at the World Trade Convention Centre which is in the heart of downtown Halifax. The facility offers spacious conference rooms, all easily accessible and in one place. Coffee breaks, publishers, the Friday banquet and Saturday lunch will all be in the same area.

Hotels with two double- or queen-bed rooms set aside for delegates are the Delta Barrington ($169 plus taxes) and the four-star Prince George Hotel ($179 plus taxes). Both are connected by pedways to the Conference Centre, so if it rains or – heaven forbid – snows at that time, you can easily and dryly reach the conference rooms. Weather is a lengthy small talk topic here, and for good reason.

On Thursday April 28 we are planning to have a tour of famous Pier 21 in the morning and a trip to Peggy's Cove and Lunenburg in the afternoon. In the evening we will have the President's Reception 5:30 – 6:30, followed by a Keith's Brewery Tour. Downtown Halifax has the reputation of having the most pubs and bars per capita in Canada, most within walking distance of our conference hotels. The city also has lots of modestly priced restaurants.

On the Friday, workshops will begin and end with Michael Swan. Lunch will be outside the convention area, and we will supply a list of the best most reasonably priced establishments nearby. The TESL Canada AGM will be during the lunch break. The TESL Canada banquet will take place at the WTCC in the evening. Saturday will again feature workshops all day, with Dr Lyster speaking immediately following the lunch at the conference centre. Lunch will be an extra fee, however.

Saturday night there will be a Lobster Dinner in a local restaurant in the old part of the city (still within easy walking distance). Afterwards join together to lift a glass or three and listen to some East Coast music after dinner.

There are regular flights into Halifax International Airport, and the Airporter runs regularly from the airport to most of the hotels in the city, including the Delta Barrington and the Prince George.

The theme is reflected in the title: *Standing Corrected: Accuracy, Fluency and Reality*. Should we be teaching accuracy when fluency is enough for success in the workplace and in the university? Are we expecting too much of our students?

We are excited to report that our Friday keynote speaker is Michael Swan, famous grammarian from the UK, well-known for his *Practical English Usage* and *Learner English*. He will give the kick-off keynote speech at 8:30 am and another workshop to the whole group in the late afternoon. Outlines of his two sessions are as follows:

Keynote speech: The Baby And The Bathwater: Accuracy, Fluency And Realism

Language and language learning are complex. There are an enormous number of linguistic elements and learning activities which can be considered for inclusion in a language course. Unfortunately we can't do everything: we haven't got nearly enough time. Prioritization is vital if instruction is to be cost-effective. What are the core elements which our language courses MUST include? What can learners be left to access for themselves? And what can we simply leave out?

Friday afternoon workshop: What Exactly is Grammar?

We all know what grammar is - until somebody asks us. The session will look beyond the rather unhelpful dictionary definition ('rules for changing the form of words and combining them into sentences'), to consider the following questions: What exactly is 'grammar'? Why do languages need it? Why do different languages use grammar in such different ways? What grammar do learners really need - and do they all need the same? What

grammar do teachers really need?

Dr Roy Lyster of McGill University is our second keynote speaker, scheduled for Saturday right after lunch. Dr Lyster is Professor of Second Language Education in the Department of Integrated Studies Education at McGill University in Canada. He has a PhD in Applied Linguistics as well as a B.Ed. and M.Ed. from the University of Toronto, and an MA from the Université de Paris VII. His research focuses primarily on immersion and content-based classrooms, including both observational and experimental studies of teacher-student interaction, form-focused instruction, and corrective feedback. He is author of Learning and Teaching Languages Through Content: A Counterbalanced Approach (Benjamins 2007).

Dr Lyster's talk is entitled "Integrating focus on Form and Meaning Through a Counterbalanced Approach. The outline is as follows:

> For years now, there have been calls for second language instructional practices that include a dual focus on both form and meaning without compromising one at the expense of the other. Yet, such a dual focus in second language teaching continues to be challenging, for many reasons. This talk will address some of the pedagogical challenges and propose solutions by exploring a counterbalanced approach that integrates both form-focused and meaning-oriented instruction as complementary ways of promoting continued second language growth. The talk will illustrate, through reference to classroom-based research, how counterbalanced instruction encourages frequent shifts in learners' attention between form and meaning as they process the target language through noticing and awareness activities in conjunction with opportunities for production and interaction.

The Call for Presentations and the Call for Symposia are on the TESL Canada website and the TESL NS website. We are looking for 70 workshops and 6 symposia. Presentations are either 60 or 75 minutes. Symposia are thee hours long, one group of three in the morning, another group of three in the afternoon. So far we have received three workshop proposals.. A chart with the expected conference schedule and the conference fees is on the website: www.teslns.ca/conference.html .

Be prepared for a 13% HST to be added to prices in Halifax. HST is a harmonized tax which includes 5% GST and 8% provincial tax. There is no HST on the conference fees.

Links:

World Trade Convention Centre: http://www.wtcchalifax.com/

Prince George Hotel: http://www.princegeorgehotel.com/

Delta Barrington:
http://www.deltahotels.com/en/hotels/nova-scotia/delta-barrington/

Conference information:
www.teslns.ca/conference.html OR www.tesl.ca

Airporter: http://www.airporter.biz/

About Halifax
http://www.halifaxinfo.com/
http://www.destinationhalifax.com/
http://where.ca/halifax/ [Where Halifax magazine]

Travel Nova Scotia:
http://novascotia.com/en/home/default.aspx
http://www.novascotiatourism.com/
http://www.explorenovascotia.com/

Pier 21: http://www.pier21.ca/

Peggy's Cove: http://www.peggyscovearea.com/
Lunenburg: http://www.explorelunenburg.ca/

Keith's Brewery Tour: http://www.keiths.ca/

Administration Report

From Louise Aerts

The TESL Canada office is busy preparing for the face-to-face board meeting – reports are flying, the photocopier is whirling, and the handbooks are being updated. I am looking forward to meeting the few new members on the board and introducing our administrative assistant, Aliya Jiwa, to everyone. The meetings will fly by and there will be some great memories from our social events to tide us through the year of email and teleconference meetings. Since our last face-to-face meeting in Banff, we have a few new board members. We have a new rep from Manitoba – Jennifer Loewen; a new rep from Nova Scotia – Kent Fraser ; and a new rep from TESL Ontario – Sheila Carson – thanks to Jennifer, Kent and Sheila for joining the board and we look forward to working with you over the next year.

In March I attended the Languages Canada conference in St. John's, NL. This was my first trip to St. John's and I loved the experience. Some people complained about the long flight, but as a new mom, I loved the downtime and managed to watch three movies on the journey. The conference was an excellent opportunity to liaise with the program directors of many of TESL Canada's recognized programs and to provide a face for TESL Canada for those applying for certification. I also had a chance to enjoy the hospitality that NL is famous for – thanks to our rep from NL, Marcia Spence, for her kindness.

The office has been very busy with certification applications and inquires. Certification applications increased 36% in 2009 over 2008 and the trend seems to be continuing in 2010. The number of inquiries means that the word about standards and certification is spreading and we're getting fewer and fewer calls from students who took unrecognized program and more inquires from students looking for the list of recognized program. Speaking of recognized programs, we have also seen this list grow over the recent year and are dealing with our first round of renewals as programs are coming to the end of their 5 year recognition cycle. The office has handled a few complaints about programs violating the TESL Canada Standards and is working with the adjudication team as well as the Standards Committee to ensure the programs are meeting standards or are placed on probation.

BC TEAL Report

The previous report to TESL Canada was dated September 2009. This report is an update of what has happened in BC TEAL and what has been planned since then with regard to:

- upcoming Annual Conferences 2010 and 2011,
- additional professional development,
- the Board of Directors,
- the TEAL Charitable Foundation,
- TEAL membership.

1) The BC TEAL 42nd Annual Conference, TEAL's major professional development event, will be held on Friday April 30th and Saturday May 1st , 2010 at BCIT (British Columbia Institute of Technology). Plenary speakers will be Alister Cumming from OISE, University of Toronto, and Judy Gilbert, author and consultant, formerly University of California in Berkeley. Because of this year's theme "Taking Stock: Teaching and Assessing in a Global Context", various major testing institutions, such as IELTS, ETS, CAEL and Cambridge, have shown special interest and will participate with representatives. In addition, through their sponsorship significant funding was raised for this conference (compared with previous ones in 2009 and 2008). A great number of publishers will be present as well. Pre-registration is already as high as 300 participants, so that it is expected that total registration for this year will be better than for last year's conference, which attracted over 400 pofessionals.

2) Next year the TEAL 43rd Annual Conference will be held at Simon Fraser University.

3) BC TEAL continues to provide a number of professional development events, some outside the Lower Mainland:

   (a) In October 2009 a PD session with 16 workshops was organized in Kamloops at Thompson Rivers University, with about 100 participants.

   (b) In November 2009 VanWest College

hosted a one-day PD session for the ESL practitioners.

(c) Coming June a PD session will be held in Victoria at Global Village.

(d) For the fall of 2010 another PD event is planned to take place at Okanagan College.

4) The BC TEAL Board of Directors will undergo a few changes and additions after the next AGM, which is planned for Friday 30th April, 2010, during the Annual Conference. By then some Board members will have completed their terms. Nominations have come in for the functions of the Treasurer, Editor TEAL Newsletter, Chair of Professional Development Committee, ELSA Net Liaison, and Members-At-Large.

5) The TCF (TEAL Charitable Foundation) will hold some fund-raising events during the upcoming TEAL Conference (30th April / 1st May, 2010).

6) BC TEAL membership of is on the rise as a result of additional initiatives from the Membership Committee, chaired by Nick Collins.

Submitted by Liet Hellwig

ATESL Report

The previous report to TESL Canada was dated September 2009. This report is an update on what has happened since then with regard to changes on the ATESL Board, professional development opportunities, and projects.

1) The ATESL Board has undergone a few changes since the AGM at the TESL Canada Conference. The Board is now composed of the following:

President	Audrey Olson
Past President	Judy Sillito
President Elect	Diane Hardy
Treasurer	Bonnie Holtby
Secretary	Jenine Hawryluk
Edmonton Local reps	Rita Altrogge, Kent Lee
Central Alberta Local reps	Carol Smythe, Skipp Symes
Calgary Local reps	Veena Zarour-Murthy, Maureen Stewart
Southern Alberta Local reps	Jenine Hawryluk, Jane Brenner
CCLB rep	Anna De Luca
TESL Canada rep	Hana Imai
Accreditation Committee	Martin Guardado, Iwa Dufrat
Business Manager	Ivan Sundal
Administrative Assistant	Irene Wood

2) All of the locals have planned and executed monthly professional development activities to celebrate ATESL's 30th Anniversary and events to recap session from the TESL Canada Conference. Local events have been well attended in all regions of the province. The Southern Alberta local is the newest local and is now able to serve members residing south of Calgary.

3) The ATESL Best Practices for Adult ESL and LINC Programming in Alberta project funded by Alberta Employment and Immigration has now been completed and is being rolled out through the provincial locals. There are separate sessions for instructors and administrators. Several other projects that are currently underway focus on resources management and a curriculum framework.

Submitted by Hana Imai

SCENES Report

- Since October 2009, SCENES Board Members have embarked in an Organizational Review. The Board of Directors met in late October, January and early March to discuss the steps to follow in order to involve the membership in the discussion and seek feedback.

- SCENES secured a grant from AEE (Advanced, Education and Employment in the Provincial government) to pay the consulting Company that is helping the Association achieve its goals and change in a timely basis. The Consulting company developed a survey that was posted on line, and meet with the Board of Directors.

- Weststar Management Consultants Inc. conducted an on-line survey to all our membership. Their findings and future direction was presented at a follow up retreat in March.

- Among the motions to be presented to our membership at the AGM on April 17th, we could mention the following: the change of name, hiring of an Executive Director (if funding is available), a new mission statement, a new code of ethics, new accreditation process, as well as re-accreditation.

- SK-TEAL and SCENES are joining efforts to deliver a 2 day conference between March 16th to 17. The conference and AGM will held at Bethlehem High School, in Saskatoon. Once again,

we have secured funding from the Provincial Government to hold a parallel Learners' Conference. Our theme conference this year is "Nurturing our students, nurturing ourselves".

- Friday sessions are catered to K-12 practitioners with Dr. Hetty Rossingh as guest speaker; while Saturday sessions have an emphasis on ESL/EAL teachers. The Keynotes are Ms. Mei-Chi Chan and Sasha Simscisin, who will talk about trauma and culture shock. These keynote speakers are also scheduled to speak at the Learners' Conference.

- As a reminder, refer to the attach motion that was approved at our last TESL Canada meeting on September 2009. It is SCENES understanding that it will be ratified at the AGM in April.

September 6, 2009

To: TESL CANADA EXECUTIVE

FROM: SCENES

Re: Motion to Support the The Provision Of ESL/EAL For Children and Youth Who Speak An Aboriginal First Language

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During the course of an ongoing six-year ethnographic study of the acquisition of English by Dene speaking youth in three northern Saskatchewan communities, Harlan Weidenhammer—SCENES Northern Representative-- has experienced the consequences of inappropriate English instruction on the school achievement of these youth. Their introduction to English is conducted by methods that are appropriate for first language speakers of English learning to read. The resulting English competencies of these students are generally inadequate for successful academic learning and lead to estrangement from school, marginal literacy and dropout.

Harlan Weidenhammer is presenting his convictions on this issue at this conference on Friday, at 1:30.

A motion from the Executive of TESL Canada endorsing the provision of ESL/EAL methods for the instruction of children and youth who speak an aboriginal first language

would be helpful in resolving this injustice of opportunity.

Following are motions passed at SCENES and STEAL Executive meetings at the 2008/09 Fall Retreat in September 2008 and ratified at the Special Board Meeting on June 6, 2009.

"... a motion was put forward (moved by Michele S and seconded by Shirleen M): that Harlan has SKTEAL's backing as he explores the lack of provision of ESL/EAL programming for aboriginal children and youth who speak an aboriginal first language. Carried.

Submitted by Liliana Dominguez

TEAM/TEAL Manitoba Report

EAL in Manitoba is represented by two organizations.

TEAL Manitoba is an organization for teachers in schools and adult settings who are interested in English as an Additional Language (EAL). The goals of this organization are:

- to represent and express the concerns of those professionally committed to
- EAL in Manitoba.
- to provide for the Association of all those interested and involved in the
- teaching of EAL in order to:
- share information related to methods, teaching materials and theories relevant to their field so as to improve effective instruction.
- determine needs in the field (of EAL) so as to influence the policies of all agencies responsible for the administration of EAL programmes in Manitoba in such a way that the principals of accessibility, flexibility, sufficiency and appropriateness are accepted and acted upon.
- to encourage professional development of teachers of EAL through workshops
- and other teaching activities.
- to maintain liaison with other professional organizations serving in related fields.
- to issue a regular informative newsletter and journal.

Kim Hewlett is president. www.tealmanitoba.ca

TEAM (Teaching English as an Additional Language to Adults in Manitoba) has a mandate to represent and express the concerns and professional needs of adult EAL educators. As well as to promote and improve programs and services for adult EAL learners through community input, advocacy, and professional development. Today, T.E.A.M. has approximately 200 regular members, and 15 permanent honorary members. The T.E.A.M. executive consists of 17 regular members. We estimate that our members work with at least 1500 EAL students on a regular basis. Jonathan Bailey is president. www.manitobateam.com

Conferences

The two organizations host one full day conference each a year. In November of 2009 TEAL Manitoba hosted an event for 550 members from both organizations. The theme was Establishing Roots and included keynote workshops from Antoinette Gagne and Jeremy Harmer.

Team will host May 7, 2010. They have asked Diane McCoy to speak as a keynote on 'Igniting the Spark - A story of leading, culture and change'. TEAM also plans to hold a fund raiser to continue support for the Millennium Library EAL section. TEAM has for several years provided funds to the library to purchase EAL books for learners and

Bursaries

TEAL Manitoba has set up two funds to assist learners and EAL professionals. Students can apply to the EAL Learners' Fund for a bursary and EAL Professionals working within the Manitoba EAL community can also apply for funding.

TEAM awarded three bursaries this year for learners who are either finishing their language programs and planning to further their academic/professional pursuits or aspiring to start new educational programs.

Mentorship

TEAM has continued its pilot project in partnership with Labour and Immigration to promote co-operative learning between teachers. As of March 2010, thirty-two new teachers (within their first two years of work) have been matched with mentors. The Spring term of the program will see another six pairs matched. In addition to the Winnipeg section the mentorship program has expanded to Winkler and in September hopes to include teachers in Brandon.

Submitted by Jennifer Loewen

TESL Ontario Report

TESL Ontario Conference

The 2009 conference, held December 10-12, was a resounding success. Our 38th annual conference will be held from October 28–30, 2010 at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto. The theme for the conference is "Research and Teaching: A Collaborative Process"

Highlights of the conference are: the Research Symposium, the Technology Fair and the Panel Discussion. A new feature for 2010 is the introduction of Poster Sessions. The call for 2010 Conference Presentations can be found at: http://www.teslontario.org/uploads/conference/conf2010/CallForPresentation2010.pdf

Registry of TESL Ontario Certified Instructors of Adult ESL/LINC

TESL Ontario has established a Registry, listing instructors currently certified by the association. While not mandatory, most qualified members have opted to join the Registry. Employers are encouraged to search the Registry for potential employees. Certified members have constant access to their up-to-date certification records through the Registry, and can receive and print their certificates using the Registry and their email accounts at any time during each certification year.

Development of Post Certification Training

TESL Ontario has recently been contracted by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Ontario Region to conduct an important research and reporting initiative that will provide standards and recognition of Post TESL Certification Training for LINC and ESL instructors in Ontario. The current project began on December 1, 2009 and is scheduled to be completed by March 31, 2011. For more information, see http://www.teslontario.org/uploads/news/FPTCTAnnouncement.pdf

Submitted by Sheila Carson

TESL NB Report

Although TESL NB's membership is down slightly from the last couple of years, our current members have been active both in our organization and in their respective communities. Currently our both our membership and our Executive is representative of a variety of TESL contexts and geographic regions of the province. Paula Kristmanson from UNB-Fredericton is serving a second term as President and Barbara Clayden from UNB-Saint John is our Past-President. Penny Carruthers, a LINC instructor in Moncton, has recently taken up the post of secretary and our Treasurer is Gail Graham, an ESL instructor from the Saint John College. TESL NB's members-at-large are Sandra Foreman, International Student Coordinator for School District#2, Colleen Meagher Alkan, Senior Administrator of the English Language Programme at UNB and Nicole Poirier former co-President of TESL NB and language instructor at New Brunswick Community College in Bathurst. Patricia Strong has agreed to take on the role of Newsletter Editor and has recently published her first issue on our website- http://www.nald.ca/teslnb/index.htm

Our website is continually updated with news and events from the field and useful information for our members.

We have held two full-day meetings so far this year, one in Saint John in the fall and one in Fredericton in the winter. During each meeting we deal with TESL NB business and feature some form of professional development. In the fall, we discussed the Common European Framework of References as a tool for self- assessment and at the February session we subscribed to a TESOL virtual seminar on the topic of teaching language through content hosted by Yvonne and David Freeman. At the winter meeting we also made a decision to offer travel bursaries to those attending the upcoming TESOL conference and will probably be able to do the same for the next TESL Canada conference in Halifax. We are very pleased to be able to support the professional development of our members.

Recently TESL NB became an affiliate of TESOL which has afforded us a few interesting opportunities in the past year. First of all, one of our members won an affiliate travel bursary to attend TESOL in Denver last year and this year we have been awarded a TESOL speaker for our spring conference. This year's conference will be held at the University of New Brunswick and will feature a keynote and workshop by Lynne Diaz-Rico, TESOL California President, as well as workshops offered by our membership. It will be held in conjunction with our AGM on June 5th, 2010.

Submitted by Paula Kristmanson

TESL NL Report

The Rooms café overlooking the historic downtown and harbor continues as the venue for our monthly meetings, the last Wednesday of every month. Here the ESL teachers in St. John's gather after a day's work at our respective institutions – Memorial University, the LINC School and the public elementary and high schools – to network and share. Thanks to provincial funding for TESL professional development, which is channeled through TESL NL, members who receive funding return from conferences to share their experience and resources with the membership. In addition, those members who are pursuing further studies have presented aspects of their research to our membership and a wider audience has been invited to join us. Recent presentations have included Echo Pittman presenting on the *Use of L1 in ESL Writing* and M. Spence's presentation on *Overcoming Workplace Language Barriers*. Most recently, many of us had the privilege of hearing Dr. John De Jong's presentation on *Language Testing and the Common European Framework* as part of the Languages Canada Conference hosted in St. John's. Our members also had the pleasure of meeting Louise Aerts, our national Executive Director, who was attending the conference.

From Marcia Spence

TESL NS Report

The last 6 months with TESL Nova Scotia have been going very well.
Current board members are

- President: Julian Inglis
- Vice President: Andy de Champlain
- Recording Secretary: Andrea Purchase
- Treasurer: Sandy Crocker
- Membership Secretary: Ellen Pilon
- Newsletter Editor: Fe Baculi
- TESL Canada Rep: Kent Fraser
- Members at Large:
    - Christine Grimshire
    - Haiyan Sun
    - Hong Wang
    - Olga Sarycheva
    - Sharon Churchill

All current members of the board have also agreed to be part of the board until after the 2011 TESL Canada Conference. This will create continuity to the organizing process and with such a great group of people the conference is sure to be a success.

Planning for the conference has begun and things are looking promising, more details can be found in Ellen Pillon's conference report.

Our annual TESL NS conference was held this past fall on November 7th, 2009 at the Citadel Hotel in Halifax. Our theme was *Testing the limits and the limits of testing*. Our keynote speaker Dr. Janna Fox gave a wonderful talk entitled *Pitfalls and Potentials: Assessment and evaluation in language teaching and learning*. Many of our members were in attendance and all the great workshops were well received. There were also some roundtable discussions which were well attended. Many great ideas were shared.

We are planning to host this year's conference at the the Halifax Citadel again on November 6th. This year we have invited Joan Rubin to be our keynote speaker.

Instead of its usual spring mini-conference, this year TESL Nova Scotia is offering

intercultural training workshops facilitated by Denise DeLong. The workshops are free for TESL Nova Scotia members only. In this way we are trying to encourage our members to realize that their membership is worthwhile and at the same time increase membership. The workshops are March 6 at Saint Mary's TESL Centre, April 17th at Acadia University and June 5th at Canadian Language Learning College. These schools, who are top supporters of TESL NS, kindly provided facilities for the workshops.

Participants complete an intercultural development inventory assessment before attending a full-day workshop. The workshop helps teachers strengthen their understanding of how they are currently engaging in intercultural practices in their institutions. Having a better understanding of their own intercultural competence greatly improves teachers' planning and ways that they can help students navigate communication challenges in and out of the classroom. The first workshop on March 6th was well appreciated by the 16 participants.

I'd like to give a big thank you to Ellen for her help in preparing this report and all her assistance since I've joined the board. I'm looking forward to building an even stronger relationship between TESLNS and TESL Canada in the years to come.

Submitted by Kent Fraser

TESL Yukon Report

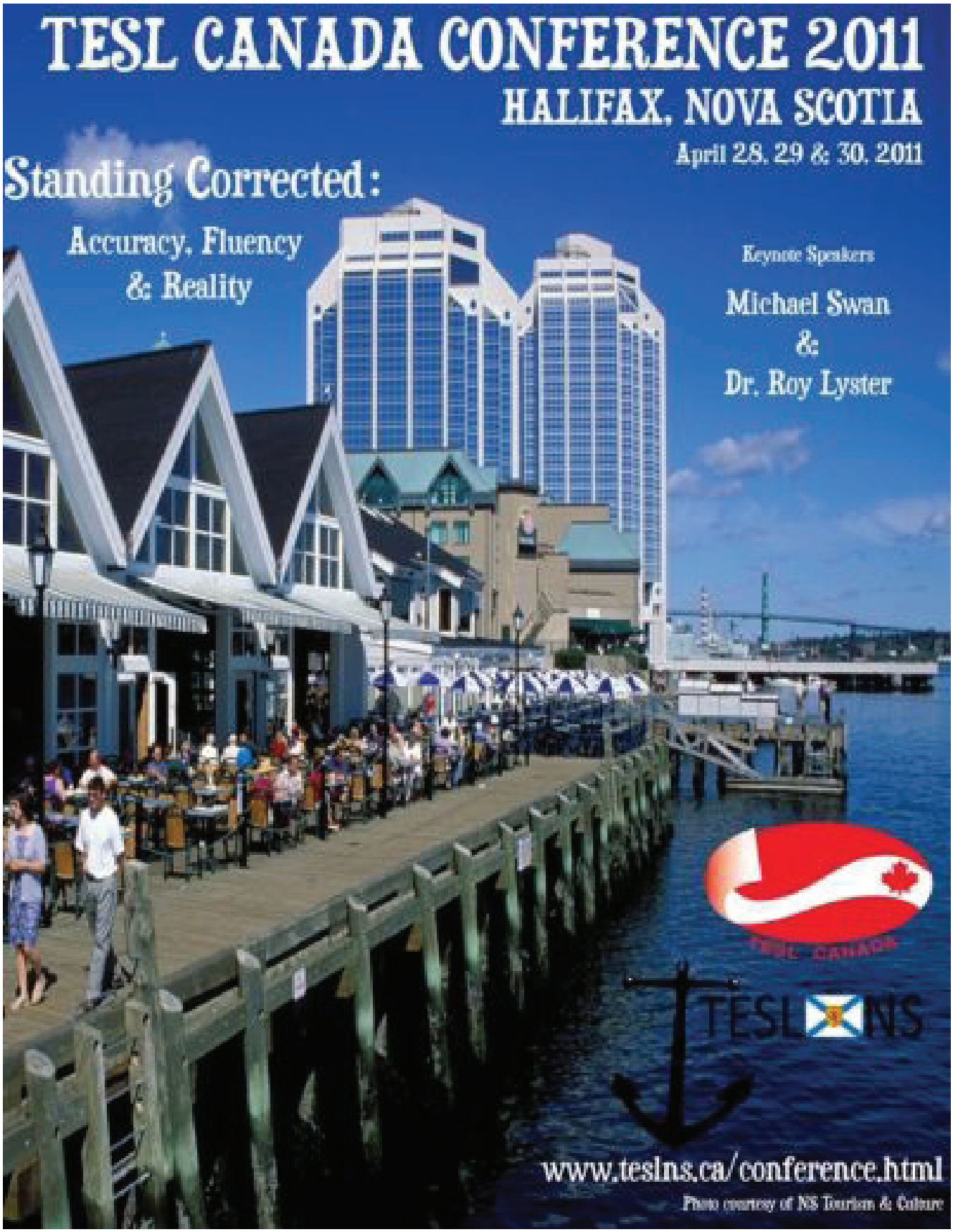
For the past year, TESL-Yukon has been participating in a territorial government process to develop an *Immigration Strategy Action Plan*. This plan is a component of the labour market strategy – the government's ideas on meeting the demands for workers in the future. As in most of Canada, immigration is seen as a primary solution for finding new workers. Immigration on this scale will be new for the Yukon. Consequently, English as a Second Language and settlement services are being considered by employers, service providers and bureaucrats with greater interest than ever before. Members of TESL Yukon are contributing their knowledge to this process.

The first temporary foreign workers came to the Yukon over two years ago. They now qualify to apply under the nominee program to become permanent residents and bring their families to the territory. There is now a record number of ESL students in our public schools and that number is growing. The Department of Education is beginning to address the need for more ESL services in the public schools. TESL-Yukon is pushing for trained and certified ESL teachers.

There is no question that the demographics of the Yukon are changing significantly and quickly. The cultural mix isn't like a big city yet, but we are moving in that direction. In many ways, it is easier for immigrants to become part of a small community; the retention rate here is very high. But ensuring adequate ESL and settlement services is difficult when the numbers are low compared to larger centres. It is essential that TESL-Yukon continues to advocate for these services.

The other big challenge for our group is meaningful professional development. In the Yukon, there is only one workplace language trainer, one beginner LINC teacher, one intermediate, one advanced instructor, etc. It is difficult to build a collegial community when we are all doing distinctly different jobs, even if they are in the same field. TESL-Yukon would like to hear how other TESL professionals in small communities have addressed this issue. Please send your suggestions to spence@northwestel.net Thank you.

From Spence Hill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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
April 28, 29 & 30, 2011
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