Fall 2011

TESL Canada Bulletin

> "To teach is to learn twice."
>
> - Joseph Joubert

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If you are interested in advertising on the TESL Canada Journal website, please submit your design to admin@tesl.ca or call 800-393-9199.

3.1 President's Report

From Sandra Kouritzin

I am very honoured over the past few months to have had the opportunity to represent the hard working and dedicated ESL professionals in Canada in my position as President of TESL Canada. Mine has been a particularly difficult way to begin working in this office, but our wonderful Executive committee stepped up to help out and to be supportive to me in the times when I was dealing with losing my mom. I also owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Acting ED, Aliya, our office assistant Ritu, and our ever-wonderful, currently-background presence, Louise. Thanks are also due to our hardworking elected directors and our Board.

Reflecting on the Halifax conference, so many things come to mind. Thank you so much to the committee who worked so hard with so few members to make the conference memorable and enjoyable. Once again, the conference was able to operate at a profit, which ultimately benefits both organizations. Aliya, taking on her first roles in TESL Canada, worked nearly round the clock to keep things running on the TESL Canada end, and luckily, owing to the expertise and experience of Conference chair Ellen Pilon, there were few crises to deal with. Halifax was also the moment when we met with John Sivell for the last time as editor of the TESL Canada Journal. I have enjoyed watching John first take over the helm, then steer the journal through completely uncharted waters for us. We now truly have a flagship journal for our profession in Canada. John has turned over the journal to Marian Rossiter from the University of Alberta. We have been lucky to find such a capable and dedicated replacement, so I forecast years of continued success with the journal.

Looking forward to the spring, the Board will meet in Vancouver for our AGM. Trying to fit our meetings in and around the various May conferences and Louise's return after her maternity leave has proven to be a challenge, but we think we may be able to fit it in sometime in May. That weekend will come on the heels, for me, of a trip to Kamloops, site of the next TESL Canada conference. Until this summer when I traveled there to see the Western Canada Summer Games, I had not been to Kamloops since I was a child. I was struck by what a beautiful city Kamloops is now, and how spectacularly scenic Thompson Rivers University campus is. We are lucky to have such an amazing venue for our conference, and I wish to thank everyone at BC TEAL who stepped up to make sure the conference would be located there October 11-13, 2012. We hope to see you all there.

Treasurer's Report

From Scott Douglas

This year's annual general meeting saw the election of myself,

Scott Douglas, as the new Treasurer of TESL Canada. Other members of the finance committee include Marcia Spence, and Joy Lin Salzberg, with ex-officio member, TESL Canada President Sandra Kouritzin.

Signing officers for the current year include Joy Lin Salzberg, Liet Hellwig, Scott Douglas, Aliya Jiwa, and Louise Aerts.

Regular updates of the monthly financials have been received by myself and forwarded to the finance committee. This has been a good method for keeping the finance committee involved in examining TESL Canada's finances.

Standard's Advisory Committee Report

From Shannon Storey

New Accreditations

282 applications for certification were received between January 1 and October 21st, 2011 with the following outcomes:

- 208 have been granted certification;
- 23 of those referred for PLAR and have not yet completed the process
- 31 are waiting for additional documentation
- 17 are in adjudication now
- 2 were withdrawn
- 1 was denied.

Applications came from all provinces except Newfoundland, with the largest numbers coming from B.C. (117) and Ontario (88). None came from the Territories. Of accreditations granted so far this year, 132 are at Standard 1, 56 at Standard 2, and 24 at Standard 3.

PLAR

Laurie Anderson resigned as PLAR adjudicator in late August as a result of her appointment to head the new Newcomer Reception and Testing Centre for Saskatoon Public Schools. Liliana Dominguez is taking her place. The position requires a relevant Master's degree, extensive adult ESL teaching experience, and substantial ESL teacher training experience.

PLARs have been backlogged because Laurie's unexpectedly heavy new workload (more than double the intake anticipated this fall) limited her availability for training, but adjudication of all complete portfolios should be complete no later than Nov. 4th.

Content Requirements for Standards 2 and 3

Because Standards 2 and 3 do not add any particular requirements to Standard 1 aside from mere hours of study, the Committee has drafted a Request for Proposals for the Board's consideration which will enable more comprehensive expectations to be developed. The RFP is attached to this report and has been posted on the TESL Canada website.

K-12 Accreditation Challenge

The Committee also plans to develop initial proposals this year for addressing K-12 certification or accreditation requests. This is a politically sensitive area in terms of both provincial K-12 licensure/certification bodies and the Faculties of Education which are largely responsible for carrying out K-12 teacher training. We may be able to provide only strong recommendations and statements of who meets them, rather than actual "certification".

University of Regina - ACE TESOL Training

The Regina program seems to have gone off very well. According to the U of R coordinator and the first completer to apply for CERTESL credit transfer, the group did their practicum component in October, seems to have done well overall, and is full of praise for the ACE instructor. Everyone in the cohort had some ESL teaching experience already, in some cases a lot of it, and the instructor seems to have risen very well to the challenge despite expressing some nervousness at working with a much more experienced learner group than she has in previous ACE cohorts. Participants are teaching at the University of Regina and the Regina Open Door Society this fall, thus meeting both Languages Canada and LINC needs.

TESL Canada Journal Report

From Paula Kristmanson in consultation with Marian Rossiter, TCJ Editor

Editorial Transition

We are pleased to now have Marian Rossiter at the helm of the TCJ and are happy to report a smooth transition from John Sivell to Marian Rossiter.

Update from Marian: The transfer of mailboxes from Brock University to the University of Alberta took place at the end of July. A message was posted on the TESL Canada Brock website in early August with the new email address of the journal, and the manuscript submission process has flowed smoothly ever since.

The following are the new and continuing members of the JAC, the Editorial Advisory Board and the Review Board established by the incoming Editor:

Journal Advisory Committee (JAC)

Continuing JAC members include:

- Scott Douglas (University of British Columbia, Okanagan)
- Sandie Kouritzin (University of Manitoba)
- Paula Kristmanson, Chair (University of New Brunswick)
- Marian Rossiter (University of Alberta)
- John Sivell (Brock University)
- Ron Thomson (Brock University)

Editorial Advisory Board

Following piloting of the pre-screening committee in Spring 2011, a Journal Editorial Advisory Board was formed. The board is composed of the following members:

- Marilyn Abbott (University of Alberta)
- Tracey Derwing (University of Alberta)
- Paula Kristmanson (University of New Brunswick)
- Leila Ranta (University of Alberta)
- John Sivell (Brock University)
- Ron Thomson (Brock University)

Note of Thanks from Marian: Thanks very much to Scott Douglas for his service to the board this past spring and to the continuing board members. A pre-screening report form was developed and total of 32 manuscripts were pre-screened by the Editorial Advisory Board and/or the Editor in July, August, and September.

Review Board

The TESL Canada Journal Review Board was reduced from 54 members to 26. Letters of appreciation were sent on behalf of the Journal to 35 members for their past service. Nineteen continuing and 7 new members make up the revised board.

The TESL Canada Federation is represented on the Journal Review Board by the Journal Advisory Committee Chair; former TESL Canada Journal Editor; and current President and Vice-President.

Individuals who were invited and agreed to serve as Review Board members for the 2011-2014 term include:

- Patricia Balcom (Université de Moncton)
- Liying Cheng (Queen's University)
- Averil Coxhead (Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, NZ)
- Ellen Cray (Carleton University)
- Alister Cumming (OISE, University of Toronto)
- Tracey Derwing (University of Alberta)
- Patsy Duff (University of British Columbia)

- Nick Elson (York University)
- Ruth Epstein (University of Saskatchewan)
- Ling He (University of British Columbia)
- Jim King (University of Nottingham, UK)
- Sandie Kouritzin (University of Manitoba) (*TESL Canada President)
- Paula Kristmanson (University of New Brunswick) (*Chair, Journal Advisory Committee)
- Icy Lee (Chinese University of Hong Kong)
- Michael Lessard-Clouston (Biola University, CA)
- Hedy McGarrell (Brock University)
- Brian Morgan (York University)
- Murray Munro (Simon Fraser University)
- Hossein Nassaji (University of Victoria)
- Kim Noels (University of Alberta)
- Hetty Roessingh (University of Calgary)
- John Sivell (Brock University) (*former TESL Canada Journal Editor)
- Ron Thomson (Brock University) (*TESL Canada Vice-President)
- Kelleen Toohey (Simon Fraser University)
- Larry Vandergrift (University of Ottawa)
- Lynda Yates (Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia)

Special Issues

A Protocol for Special Issues *of the TESL Canada Journal* was ratified in July. This was forwarded to Joe Dobson and Karen Densky, Co-Chairs of the TESL Canada 2012 Conference, who had expressed an interest in producing a Special Issue based on conference presentations. The protocol was forwarded to their conference planning committee.

Special Issue 5, *Ethics in Cross-Cultural, Cross-Linguistic Research,* edited by Sandie Kouritzin, was published online in September.

Manuscripts submitted for two Special Issues are under review. Special Issue 6 (*Popular Culture in TESL: Identity, Performance, and Reflection*), co-edited by Ardiss Mackey and Awad Ibrahim, is the next Special Issue due to be published.

Special Issue 7 *(Generation 1.5 in Canada: Multiple Perspectives on a Shifting Demographic Landscape)*, co-edited by Hetty Roessingh and Scott Douglas, is due to be published in Fall 2012. Manuscripts are currently in review.

Winter 2011 issue

Articles are in hand for the Winter 2011 issue. Currently, an email with the Table of Contents, abstracts, and hotlinks to articles is sent to all TESL Canada members shortly following the posting of a Journal issue.

Books for review that were published within the past two years and housed at Brock University have been transferred to the University of Alberta; three are currently being reviewed for the Spring 2012 issue. The older books were disbursed by the former editor. All books for review are being posted on the Journal website.

Review Process- Editor's Update

In the past 12 months, the Journal has received a total of 75 manuscripts (in all categories) for review. Over the past 2 years, our acceptance rate has been 11.9%; however, a large number of manuscripts that are submitted come from abroad and have few or no implications for English as a second language contexts. This fall, letters are being sent to applied linguistics/TESL faculty members across Canada to provide updated information on the TESL Canada Journal (open access, indexing) and to invite them and their graduate students to submit quality manuscripts to the Journal, particularly manuscripts that have implications for TESL in Canada.

Two and preferably three individuals with expertise in the topic of the manuscript are being invited to review manuscripts. The traditional evaluation form for reviewers has been revised.

Reviewers are being requested to submit their evaluations of manuscripts within 4 to 5 weeks, and notice is sent to reviewers one week in advance of the review deadline to facilitate the process. Concerted efforts are being made to reduce the time between submission and publication.

Journal Website

Many updates and new additions have been made to the journal website in order to ensure its accuracy and readability. Marian has been working with Aliya and the web team to keep the site up to date and to reflect ongoing changes. .

DOAJ (Directory of On-line Access Journals)

The application by the former editor, John Sivell, for inclusion in the DOAJ directory was approved. We will be working with technical support to increase our visibility in this directory.

SSHRC proposal With the assistance of John Sivell and the TESL Canada office, a SSHRC proposal for journal funding was submitted in June. We are currently waiting for a decision on that application.

Note of Thanks from Marian Rossiter

Sincere thanks to John Sivell and Erika Lee for facilitating the transition of the Journal to my editorship; to Chair Paula Kristmanson, JAC members, the Editorial Advisory Board, and the Journal Review Board for their support; and to Aliya Jiwa for her assistance with the Journal website and administrative details.

CCLB Report

From Christina Stechishin

The annual audit carried out at the end of the 2010-2011 fiscal year last March showed that the CCLB had its busiest year ever. Highlights of interest to ESL professionals from the June, 2011 and September, 2011 copies of "Inside Language" – the CCLB quarterly newsletter – include:

VALIDATION – CLB/NCLC

The process of finalizing and validating revisions to the CLB and NCLC has been completed and the project has now been turned over to the funder, CIC. The projected dated for distribution of the new document is December, 2011. The CCLB is currently working on a companion project to develop and benchmark exemplars to be used with the revised CLB, as well as a modular Teaching Support Kit for the revised CLB/NCLC, which will include templates, sample tasks, lesson plans and evaluation materials.

CLB MILESTONES TEST

The CLB Milestones Test was also completed and delivered to CIC at the end of March. The next steps will be the operationalization and piloting of the test, in which the CCLB may involved in as well.

TUTELA.CA

The CCLB was also involved in the development of Tutela.ca, the National Online Repository of ESL/FSL materials. Over the summer months, 2 content experts (myself being one), were con-

tracted by CIC via Citadel Rock Online Communications and the CCLB to review and upload materials to the development site. The site now contains over 700 content items and is currently being field tested. If you are interested in being part of this field testing, contact Colette Pepin at the CCLB cpepin@language.ca and put BETAFIELDTESTING in the subject line.

PORTFOLIO-BASED LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT

CIC also contracted the CCLB to facilitate workshops in Ottawa to introduce PBLA (Portfolio Based Language Assessment) to ESL instructors. The pilot will continue until early next year.

INTERPRETATION OF CLB ASSESSMENT RESULTS AND PLACEMENT

A pan-Canadian consultation was held on March 1, 2011 to discuss and attempt to resolve issues relating to the interpretation of scores on the CLBA and CLBPT and subsequent placement into CLB-based language classes based on these scores. Any differences in the foregoing threaten the consistency of the CLB at a national level. The plan is for the CCLB to provide clarification on these assessment and placement issues when the revised CLB document is launched.

There are several other articles in the newsletter dealing with CCLB projects in the employment sector. For full details, go to http://www.language.ca.

However, probably the most important development at the CCLB with regard to its relationship with TESL Canada is the revision and implementation of new bylaws, with a resultant change in board structure. Previously, the CCLB had a representational board (much like TESL Canada), with board members being appointed by organizations, such as TESL Canada.

At a governance workshop presented by an excellent facilitator at the June 2010 CCLB AGM and Board meetings, it became obvious that this situation could not continue, especially in view of the CCLB's growing importance in the implementation of CLB activities. The new board, as outlined by the new bylaws adopted at the end of July, 2011, limits the board to 12 members, who serve in rotation, and all of whom are selected for what skills and experience they can bring to the CCLB board, not for the organization or government which they represent. In the transition phase, exactly 12 of the previous board members put their names forward to serve as the new board until the rotation schedule kicks in, and Jim Jones (previous TESL Canada President) and I are 2 of those 12.

Professional Development Report

From Sarah ter Keurs

Online media project

I've been in touch with IATEFL to find out more details about how they manage the online portion of their annual conferences. Eric Baber (president of IATEFL) was really helpful and has given me a few points to consider.

I'm also on the TESL 2012 Conference planning committee and have requested that they add a permissions checkbox onto the Call for Proposals which will go out in November. I'll work with that committee to try to arrange some recordings of sessions. In the meantime, Jennifer Loewen and I will continue to work on figuring out the best way to provide some online media for TESL Canada members.

Speakers' Directory update

Since its inception at the PD Committee meeting in Halifax on April 28, 2011, the Speakers Directory Subcommittee, tasked with the mandate to seek out sources and ways to collect names for a speakers directory, has met three times via Skype.

We contacted like-minded organizations such as the CLB. We recommend that TESL Canada request a website link to the CLB Speakers List and that further research into other possible site links continue.

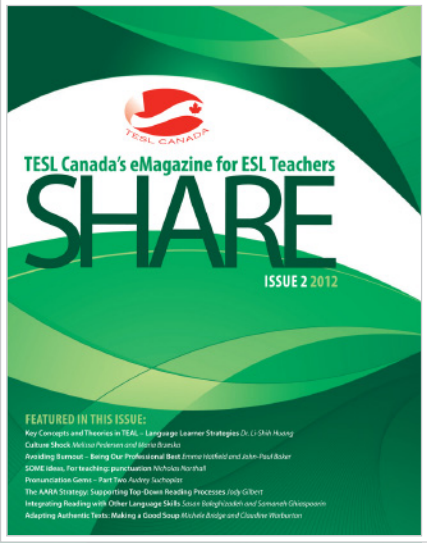
A template for directory information was designed, and we then contacted the provincial TESL affiliates, with responses from 4 provinces still outstanding. The majority of provinces had no list of speakers to provide while TESL ON is currently embarking on a similar directory project provincially. As this avenue yielded minimal results, and represented a duplication of effort with respect to Ontario, we recommend that we begin to generate our own list beginning with the next conference.

Specifically, we request that the Conference Planning Committee be asked to include a box on the presenter application form to tick if they want their name to be included in a Speakers Directory (similar to the box to tick if they agree to the videotaping of their session). If adopted, this request could be extended to include provincial conferences too.

Tutela.ca update

Sarah was in contact with Colette from Tutella.ca and informed her of TESL Canada's interest in becoming a member and participating in their project. We will give them access to the TRC online links to be included in their resource. Tutella will be in touch with us early December when they are ready to do more uploading.

The PD Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to become a member, but we would like to make an action that in one year from now TESL Canada review the relevance of the TESL Canada TRC to decide if it should be retired.



SHARE: TESL Canada's E Magazine update

The 2012 issue of Share is well underway. We have accepted eight articles to date. All of which are excellent in terms of content and reader accessibility. I think all eight articles will be well received by ESL classroom teacher across Canada.

We are expecting an additional 12 articles by December 1st, 2011. The plan for the timeline is to edit and fully prepare the copy by January 2012 in readiness for going to layout and posting on the TESL Canada website by February 2012

Nomination's Committee Report

From Ellen Pilon

The Nominations Committee will begin to meet in the New Year.

Meanwhile all the elected board members should think about whether they want to run again for their current position or for a different position.

All elected board members serve for one year, AGM to AGM. Executive board members may run for a second term; elected board members-at-large may run any number of times for the same position. Appointed board members serve on the TESL Canada board at the request of their provincial TESL organizations, and are not affected by the TESL Canada AGM. You can find the TESL Canada by-laws on the TESL Canada website.

Please send me an email if you have any questions about the nomination process. My email is: ellen.pilon@gmail.com

Governance Committee Report

From Ron Thomson

The Governance Committee has been identifying gaps in TESL Canada's policies and procedures that have arisen as a consequence of our new bylaws, and because our organization has continued to evolve and mature. In the coming months, we will work to identify ways to improve our policies and procedures in a way that promotes smoother functioning of the organization, while also promoting greater transparency and professionalism by both volunteer board members and salaried staff.

TCEF Report

From Joy Lin Salzberg

TESL Canada Travel Grants

At the Halifax Board Meeting, the board approved the awarding of 5 TESL Canada Travel Grants of $500.00 each and directed the travel grants to be transferred from the Professional Development Committee to TCEF since it fits more appropriately the mandate of TCEF. Upon receiving feedback from the PD Chair and the previous Travel Grant sub-committee chair, the TCEF committee members agreed to new criteria. The TESL Canada Travel Grant Application Form will be available online from the TESL Canada website when the conference Call for Proposals for TESL Canada 2012 Conference becomes available online in Fall, 2011 (currently noted on http://www.tru.ca/tc2012/call.html.) The TESL Canada office is now working with the 2012 Conference Committee members to mount our Travel Grant application online. Please consult the final online Travel Grants Application Form for the exact dates of grant deadline and notification when the 2012 TESL Canada Conference Call for Proposals deadline date is announced.

The committee members will be determining in the next few months:

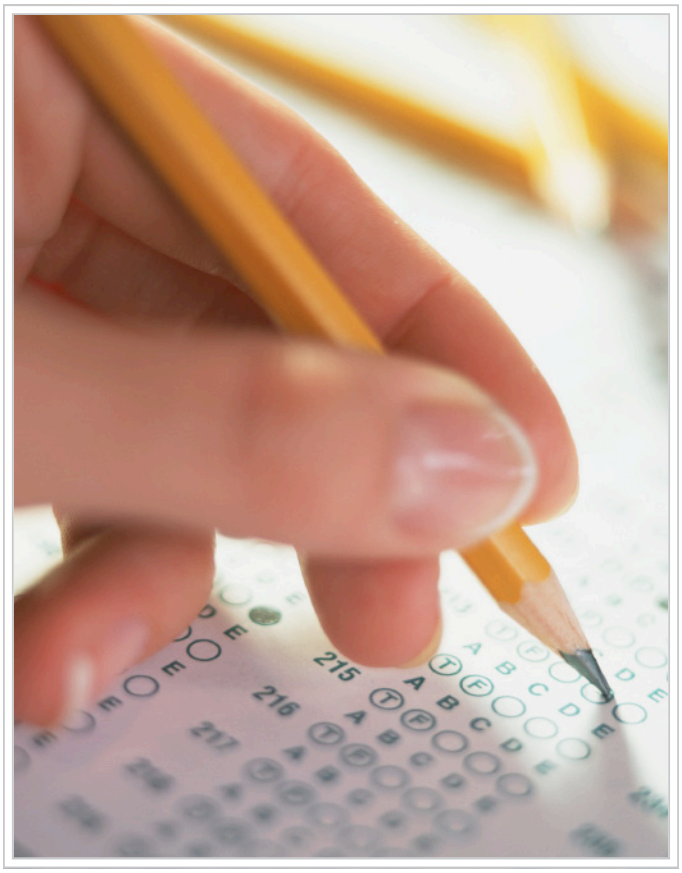
1) A fair criteria rubric for evaluating the applicants' qualifications for the travel grants.

2) After the application deadline, selecting 5 finalists, and in the case of more than 5 equally eligible candidates, conducting a lottery draw.

TCEF Fundraising

We are happy to announce that at the 2011 NS TESL Canada's Conference Banquet, TESL Canada raised in total $2435 ($1355 from the Mystery Boxes, $900 from the silent auction and $180.00 in donations). The TCEF Committee members and the TESL Canada board members thank deeply all the people who made this event and fundraising possible with generous donations in kind, cash and volunteer hours. With this fundraising, we are able to continue to support the TESL Canada Travel Grants.

The TCEF Committee will look into conducting a similar type of fundraising event at the 2012 Kamloops TESL Canada Conference.



TCEF Scholarships

The committee has been discussing the idea of creating possible scholarships for TESL learners or researchers to attend TESL Canada or other TESOL conferences. We hope to bring a concrete proposal to the board in 2012.

TESL Canada 2012 Conference

From the TESL Canada Conference Co-chairs

Dear Colleagues,

We are excited to let you know about the upcoming TESL Canada 2012 conference!

We invite you to submit a proposal to present at the TESL Canada 2012 conference, Oct. 11-13, 2012. The conference will be held at Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada.

The theme for the 2012 conference, TESL Interiors: Landscapes of Literacies and Language is one reflective of the multiple dimensions of communication and language education. Presentations can cover any of the diverse areas of inquiry related to TEAL and Teacher Education. The Call for Papers and online submission form are available at: http://www.tru.ca/tc2012/call.html

In addition to numerous concurrent sessions, confirmed keynote speakers include: Dr. Steven Pinker (http://www.stevenpinker.com), and for the Graduate Students Symposium, Penny Ur.

A range of conference information can be found at http://www.tru.ca/tc2012

If you are a student or supervising graduate students, the Graduate Students Symposium may be of particular interest as this one-day pre-conference event will bring together those studying in certificate, diploma, masters and doctoral programs from across the country and beyond.

Last, please pass on information about this email to colleagues at your institution and elsewhere. Our goals in hosting the conference are to organize a meaningful and memorable event and we look forward to seeing many colleagues from around the province, country and beyond at TESL Canada 2012.

Warm regards,

Joe Dobson and Karen Densky, TESL Canada Conference Co-chairs

Administration Report

From Aliya Jiwa

First congratulations to Louise Aerts, Executive Director, for giving birth to another beautiful baby boy, Aiden! Louise is now enjoying a well deserved maternity leave and I have been promoted to the position of Acting Executive Director while she is on leave. Filling the Executive Assistant position is Ritu Dabla who has settled in quite well and is processing an astonishing thirty to forty-five certification applications a month.

As the Acting Executive Director of TESL Canada, one of my first tasks in my new role was to attend the TESL Canada Conference in Halifax. I was very impressed by the Conference and it was great to meet so many TESL teachers who are passionate about what they do. I also really enjoyed meeting several TESL Canada members who I had worked via email only.

Since coming back from the TESL Canada Conference I have been busy in the office learning the ins and outs of my new role and preparing for our Fall Board Meeting which is happening in November. I am sure it will be a productive and inspiring session.

BC TEAL Report

From Liet Hellwig

BC TEAL website

BC TEAL is very excited to announce the unveiling of its brand new website. The old website was completely redesigned and launched in mid-October and has a new, attractive look. BC TEAL Board Member, Carmen Larsen, spent a great deal of time and energy in Chairing in the Website Review Committee. She helped construct the new website which has a wide variety of functions, e.g. the online payment feature, social networking component (whereby BC TEAL members can communicate with each other, similar to Facebook).

BC TEAL Annual Conference 2011

The 43rd Annual Conference of BC TEAL was hosted by Simon Fraser University on Friday, May 6th and Saturday, May 7th 2011. With its theme "The Teachable Teacher" it attracted over 450 participants. The plenary speakers were Steven Molinsky, Professor at Boston University; and Hesoon Bai and Kumari Beck, Professors at Simon Fraser University. The conference was carefully prepared and planned by the Conference Committee Co-Chairs Shawna Williams (Simon Fraser University) and Karen Densky (Thompson Rivers University), with a great number of student volunteers helping out. Many publishers presented their new resources. The two-day event offered exceptional value with: almost 60 workshops and presentations, a hot-topics breakfast, publishers' display and a wine-and-cheese reception and raffle hosted by the TEAL Charitable Foundation (which netted over $1200).

The Fall 2011 Interior Regional Conference

The BC TEAL Interior Regional Conference took place on Saturday October 15th, 2011, organized by BC TEAL Board Members (PD Co-Chairs) Rebecca Kullman and Susan Peake and Conference Co-Chair Leah Sanford (UBC Okanagan) and Karen Rauser (Okanagan College). This Conference was hosted by UBC Okanagan in Kelowna. Highlights included a Presidential Plenary Address by TEAL President Michael Galli. Attendance was high, with over 150 participants. The program offered as many as 30 presenters in 24 varied and interesting workshops. In addition, 40 TESL students from Okanagan College and TRU shared poster sessions. A host of student volunteers contributed to the smooth flow of the event, and the traditional wine and cheese celebration which capped off the conference was enjoyed by all.

Tri-TESOL 2011

BC TEAL, together with its sister associations WAESOL (Washington ESOL) and ORTESOL (Oregon TESOL), resurrected the Tri-TESOL conference, which last ran in 1996. This joint PD event took place on October 21st and 22nd, 2011 at the Highline Community College in Des Moines, Washington, just south of Seattle. The organizers were extremely pleased that attendance almost reached capacity of 900 for the 215 workshops; in total, over 850 participated, with approximately 90 BC TEAL Members making the trip south. BC TEAL covered the cost of a bus for its members to travel to the event.

BC TEAL Vancouver Island Regional Conference

Scheduled for February 2012, Vancouver Island University will be hosting our next event. Details will be forthcoming.

BC TEAL Annual Conference 2012

BC TEAL is most delighted that Capilano University will be hosting the BC TEAL 44th Annual Conference. The dates are May 4th and 5th, 2012. The Conference Committee Co-Chairs Nicholas Collins (Capilano University) and Shawna Williams (Simon Fraser University), with her previous experience of the 2011 Conference, are already busily underway with preliminary planning to make this yet another successful event.

TESL Canada 2012 Conference

BC TEAL and TESL Canada are already busy with the organization of the 2012 TESL Canada conference in Kamloops, British Columbia, at Thompson Rivers University (TRU). The dates are October 11th to 13th 2012. The theme is "TESL Interiors: Landscapes of Language and Literacy". The Conference Committee, co-chaired by Joe Dobson and Karen Densky, is highly motivated and very active. Keynote speakers are still being confirmed, but it seems that Steven Pinker and Penny Ur will be presenting. We are also working with Cambridge University Press to bring Michael McCarthy from England.

With plenary speakers like Steven Pinker and Penny Ur, we anticipate that this Conference will reach well beyond recent participation, and we hope to receive substantial buy-in from Canadian affiliate, as well as our neighbours to the south, and overseas.

Staffing and Board of Directors

BC TEAL will soon say goodbye to its Administrative Manager Trishna Naidu, who is moving on to the next stage in her career. She managed the BC TEAL office and affairs in a very efficient and effective manner. We thank Trishna for all the hard work that she has done to keep everything going in an increasingly busy organization. This month also, we are happy to welcome Sandra Boehm, who started with us earlier this month. She has already shown us her competence and flexibility in taking over a job with so many different tasks. We hope that Sandra in her new job as the Administrative Manager of BC TEAL will enjoy her role as the face of our professional organization.

Currently, the TEAL Board has 16 members (including members-at-large), who are active in different committees. Michael Galli as the President continues to energize and inspire the TEAL Board.

BC TEAL Membership

In October 2011, membership stands at 621 active members and 14 inactive members. Due to the very recent launch of our new website, the exact number of Honorary Lifetime members (about two dozen) and Institutional members (approximately 20) is not known.

ATESL Report

From Hana Imai

The ATESL Board has undergone a few changes since the AGM at the

ATESL Canada Conference on October 21. The Board is now composed of the following:

President	Patti Lefebvre
Past President	Diane Hardy
President Elect	Sheri Rhodes
Treasurer	Maroro Zinyemba
Secretary	Maureen Stewart
Edmonton Local reps	Murray Smith, Bonnie Nicholas
Central Alberta Local reps	Cindy Messaros, Cherie Plamping
Calgary Local reps	Maureen Stewart, Allison Dennis
Southern Alberta Local reps	Jane Brenner, Brenda MacKinnon
CCLB rep	position dissolvedfrom the board
TESL Canada rep	Hana Taleb Imai (final year)
Accreditation Committee	Martin Guardado, Iwa Dufrat, Justine Light
Business Manager	Ivan Sundal
Administrative Assistant	Irene Wood

Local events have been well attended in all regions of the province since the summer hiatus.

The annual ATESL Conference was held in Calgary on October 21 and 22. The theme, Igniting Language, Learning and Leadership allowed for rich presentations. ATESL has again offered four $250 travel grants for first time presenters. There were 63 presentations and 12 poster sessions in all. Keynotes were: Dr. Norbert Schmitt, Professor of Linguistics, second language vocabulary specialist, and author of eight books and numerous journal articles, and Steven Lewis who explored the ways in which education transforms lives throughout the world and how it can be the greatest instrument for social change. There were over 430 attendees.

Several of the board positions were lengthened by one year (Secretary and Treasurer are now two year terms and the TESL Canada rep is a three year term). These changes are in effect as of the AGM in 2012. The question of whether ATESL should retain its accreditation process in its current form was brought to membership again this year at the conference. In order to disseminate information, both a poster session during the conference and a formal presentation at the AGM were given. A task force will be assigned to further investigate the issues surrounding ATESL accreditation.

A tribute to Carolyn Dieleman, who retired from the Alberta Government in August, was given on the 21 to commemorate her vast contributions to the field. An Innovation award in her name was introduced to honour her. It will be awarded for the first in 2012. Marian Rossiter was awarded the ATESL Lifetime award which was presented at the AGM.

The 2012 conference will be in Edmonton on November 16/17.

ATESL has been funded by the province to undertake several projects. The Curriculum Framework for Adult ESL was presented at the conference and will be shared to stakeholders in the province in the coming months (through workshops, a printed document and the website). The Resource Database project, which houses publicly funded projects and reports, is accessible through the ATESL website at www.atesl.ca is wrapping up this year. ATESL has given Tutela permission to access to the database for their field test.

TESL Saskatchewan Report

From Lilliana Dominguez

Our Spring TESL/EAL conference on May 13-14, 2011 was a great

success. It was held at the University of Regina, and It was well attended --over 180 individuals attended each of the 2 day of the conference. As previous years, we hosted the parallel Learners' Conference. We received a grant from AEEI to sponsor learners from rural areas as well as pay the keynote and workshop presenters.

We currently have 231 general members in good standing, 20 associate, and 8 institutional members.

The planning of a future PD event (supporting multicultural parenting especially in rural areas) has progressed very well. There are currently a number of government departments who are quite interested (Immigration, Health, Education, etc.). Currently, the plan is to produce two e-casts, one before December, another in March. People will be able to access the programs through SCN broadcast locations in schools, hospitals, and regional colleges.

John Lingard was the recipient of the 2011 Volunteer Award. John was nominated for his years of putting in volunteer hours above and beyond the honorarium hours he received as Executive Assistant.

TEAM/TEAL Manitoba Report

From Jennifer Loewen

Each year, TEAM undertakes a fundraising effort in support of an organization that provides services/help for students that they teach. For their May conference TEAM brought in Lionel Laroche as keynote who spoke on the challenges of developing soft skills in a Canadian context. This year a fundraiser was held on June 4, 2011 for the N.E.E.D.S Centre, an organization that supports immigrant and refugee youth. TEAM has begun the new school year with a continuation of their mentorship program that matches new teachers with more experienced mentors in the field. This year's executive includes Jon Bailey as president and Kathy Kerr as vice-president.

TEAL Manitoba always begins the school year with an October conference. This year theme was 'EAL in the classroom: Enhancing Student Engagement and School Success'. The keynote was Dr. Persida Himmele who spoke on 'Total Participation Techniques: Making every student an active learner'. TEAL also gave a community award and donation to the NYESS (the Newcomer Youth Educational Support Services) The NYESS Coalition is comprised of four non-profit organizations, the Sierra Leone Refugee Resettlement Inc., the Congo-Canada Charity Foundation, the Eritrean Community in Winnipeg and the Helping Hands Resource Centre for Immigrants. This year's executive includes Kim Hewlett as president and Sandra Melo as vice-president.

TESL Ontario Report

From Marilyn Johnston

TESL Ontario is comprised of 4400 members in both the public and private sectors of the elementary, secondary and adult systems. We serve our members in a variety of ways, through professional development and research activities and through advocacy. In all we do, we strive to raise the profile of our profession and be a voice for our members through our representation on various government and advisory groups.

TESL Ontario has twelve affiliates throughout the province that host such events as workshops, conferences, swap shops, publishers' displays and expert panel discussions from September through June. In this way, the particular needs of a region can be addressed, but also shared with other TESL affiliates.

TESL members participate in professional development through their local affiliates as well as through attending the annual conference.

Conference

TESL Ontario's 39th Annual Conference
"Language Learning: A Focus on Success"

October 27th, 28th and 29th, 2011
Sheraton Centre Toronto

171+ sessions will be available over the 3 days. The array of papers, presentations, workshops, poster sessions and Tech fair sessions is impressive. There will be plenty of meaningful professional development including 3 great plenaries, research symposia, annual panel presentation, Thursday's welcome reception, Friday's dinner and entertainment, and special pricing on theatre tickets.

Next year's conference: November 8-10, 2012

Changes to ESL Week for 2011

We are excited to announce that **TESL Ontario has expanded our ESL Week activities to include writing, photo, and video contests** in an effort to make the activities more dynamic and allow individuals with various creative strengths to participate. There is a large selection of individual and group activities to choose from for learners, instructors and organizations.

Many communities in Ontario have declared the week of Oct. 23-29 ESL Week.ESL week is a significant part of our efforts to raise awareness of the importance of English language learning opportunities for new comers to Canada. All individuals involved with learning, teaching and organizing ESL in Ontario are invited to participate in our ESL week contests. Across Ontario member organizations sponsor Spelling Bees, talent shows, dinners, classroom activities and other commemorative activities for this special week.

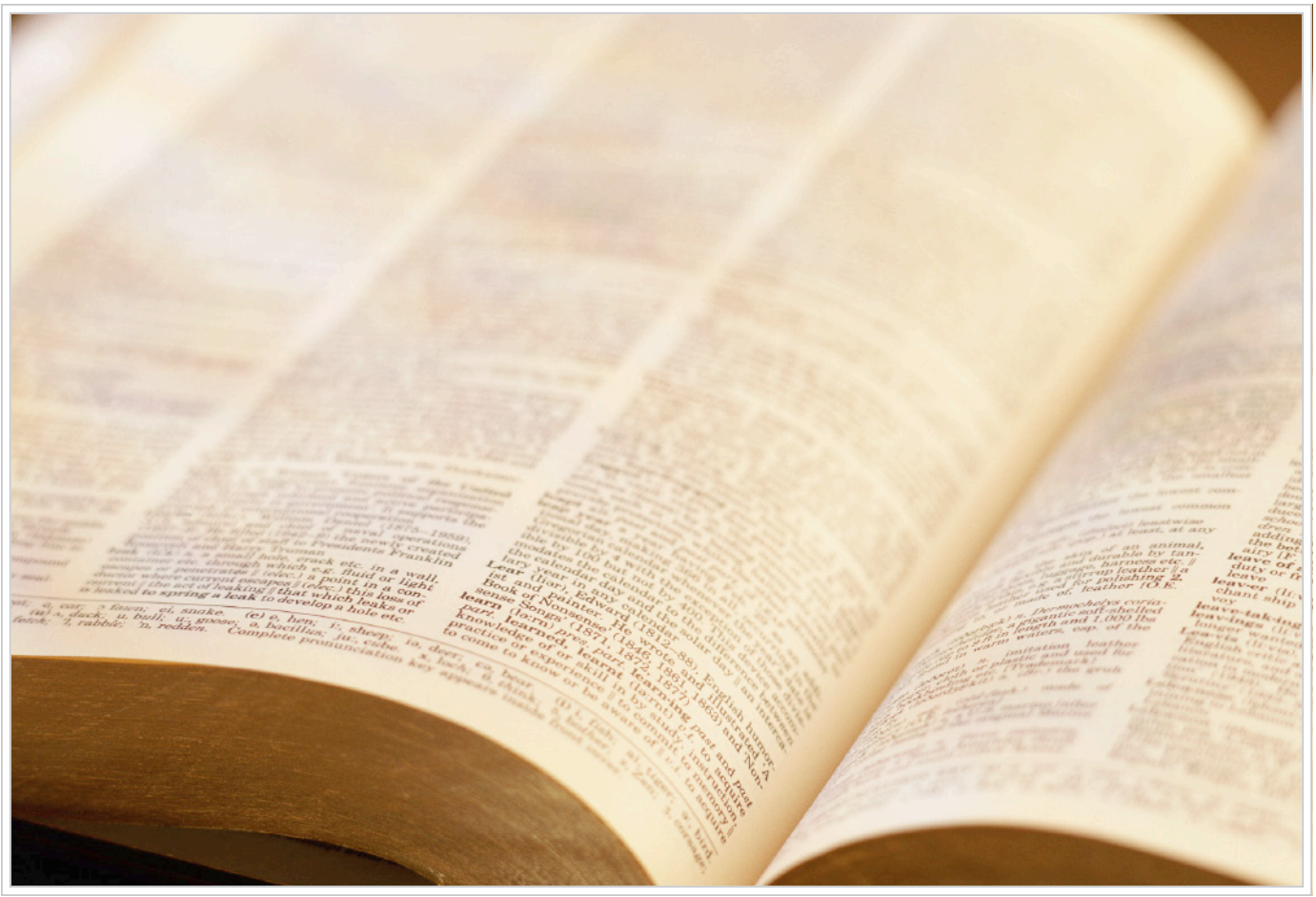
TESL NS Report

From Ellen Pilon

These six months from May to November have been much less busy

than the last two years of constant conference planning. TESL NS enjoyed a relaxing spring and a quiet summer while we tied up a few loose ends for the conference and returned our full attention to our families and workplaces.

We were happy that the TESL Canada 2011 Conference was so successful and that so many delegates enjoyed it. We were surprised and delighted that the conference raised such a profit, too. With all those costs, who would have thought we could see a profit of $75,577? The World Trade Convention Centre is the only site that can accommodate more than 400-500 people at one time in Halifax, and it worked out beautifully even though it was quite expensive. Everything was central and easy to find, and the staff were exceptionally cooperative. Our two speakers, Michael Swan and Roy Lyster, enjoyed presenting at this conference and attending other workshops and events. We think the biggest round of applause should go to all the enthusiastic workshop presenters: they are the ones who make the conference successful, but they don't get enough recognition for all their preparation, expertise and stress. Thank you presenters! Soon we'll be preparing the final report, including the financial statement, which will be available by the end of November from TESL Canada or from TESL NS.



In September we started planning our annual fall conference which will be November 5. We are delighted that Julia Williams of Renison University College, University of Waterloo, is coming back to Halifax to be our plenary speaker. She presented at the TESL Canada conference here in April. She is talking about Trends in EAP, and then about publishing. Julia is the author of *Learning English for Academic Purposes* (LEAP) and *Academic Connections* books 3 and 4. After lunch we are having roundtable discussions on teaching Arabic students and how to encourage them to do homework. Hong Wong will kick off the roundtables, and some TESL NS board members will facilitate the individual roundtables. Findings from the discussions will be published in our fall online newsletter.

This is the first time a TESL NS conference has focused solely on EAP, but 90% of our members teach EAP and we thought it was time to cater to their interests. We are using our previous conference profits to pay for the conference, which is for members only. All our memberships

expire October 31, so "members" are either renewing or new. We decided this was the best way of using the extra funds for the benefit of all members. Amazingly, within two weeks of sending out an email to our members and posting the conference information on our website, all our conference seats were booked! Never have we had such a quick response. About 80% of conference delegates were signed up by our four supporting schools: Acadia University English Language Centre, Saint Mary's University TESL Centre, ALCC Apex Language and Career College, and Dalhousie University Continuing Education ESL Programs.

Was it the low fee, of only $45 per member for membership fees? Or was it the EAP focus, relevant to so many members? Whatever the attraction, we're on a roll.

The TESL NS Board is looking at again offering what we call "Project Opportunities" which involves members applying for a specified amount of funding to complete an ESL-related project that will be available to TESL NS members. We have guidelines and an application process. We offered project opportunities in the past, using funds raised at the 2000 TESL Canada conference which was here in Halifax. On the other hand, we may revise this offering and make it a Professional Opportunity tied to the TESOL International convention in Toronto in March 2015.

This year we are trying to make membership in TESL NS more attractive to teachers and their TESL school. Almost all members' fees are paid for by their TESL school. Hosting the TESL Canada conference in Halifax didn't expand our membership much. We're working on a wine and cheese social for the winter, and we're preparing our application to become a TESOL International affiliate, with an eye on the TESOL 2015 Convention in Toronto.

Soon we'll start planning the spring mini-conference. In the past this has focused on one skill, such as writing, or on one topic, such as standardized tests. The mini-conference has always been free for members and attracts the real teaching keeners who devote a spring Saturday to the event.

TESL NB Report

From Paula Kristmanson and Colleen Meagher-Alkan

Our first face-to-face meeting of the 2011-12 academic year took place in Moncton, NB at MAGMA, home of the LINC program provider for the Moncton area. We had a productive meeting catching up on news from a variety of institutions from around the province. Our membership currently includes educators from around the province teaching for LINC providers, colleges, universities, and both the Francophone and Anglophone K-12 system. This diversity makes our organization dynamic, interesting and broad in perspective.

At this first meeting, one of our key objectives (in addition to catching up and networking with our colleagues) was to plan our spring conference. We came up with good ideas for feature speakers and workshop sessions and we will now move forward in planning this event. Because of the TESL Canada conference in Halifax last year, we did not do a TESL NB spring conference in 2011 and instead put all of our available resources into facilitating attendance at this event. Because we were able to get a good turnout of TESL NB members, we held our AGM in Halifax followed by a special meet and greet. Five TESL NB members received registration bursaries for the TESL Canada event and all TESL NBers who car-pooled were able to get some of their gas expenses covered. TESL NB is committed to facilitating professional development opportunities for our members, especially those who do not have access to much PD funding. We are hoping to provide a bursary for at least one member in order to attend the TESL Canada conference in Kamloops next year.

We are looking forward to a productive 2011-12 academic year in the world of TESL in New Brunswick. We have begun a new wikispace- http://tesl-nb.wikispaces.com/ that will allow us to share resources and keep in contact between meetings. With winter approaching all too quickly, we know that finding electronic means of keeping in touch is essential. That being said, we are planning a winter meeting in Fredericton in February at which time we will finalize some of our spring plans and take part in another idea sharing session. Although it is great to have guest speakers come from elsewhere from time to time, we are thankful for the wealth of expertise and experience in our own little province. Both at regular meetings and our spring conferences, we want to ensure that this local talent is featured and shared in some way.

TESL PEI

Christina Perry

TESL Prince Edward Island (PEI) is a small organization consisting of

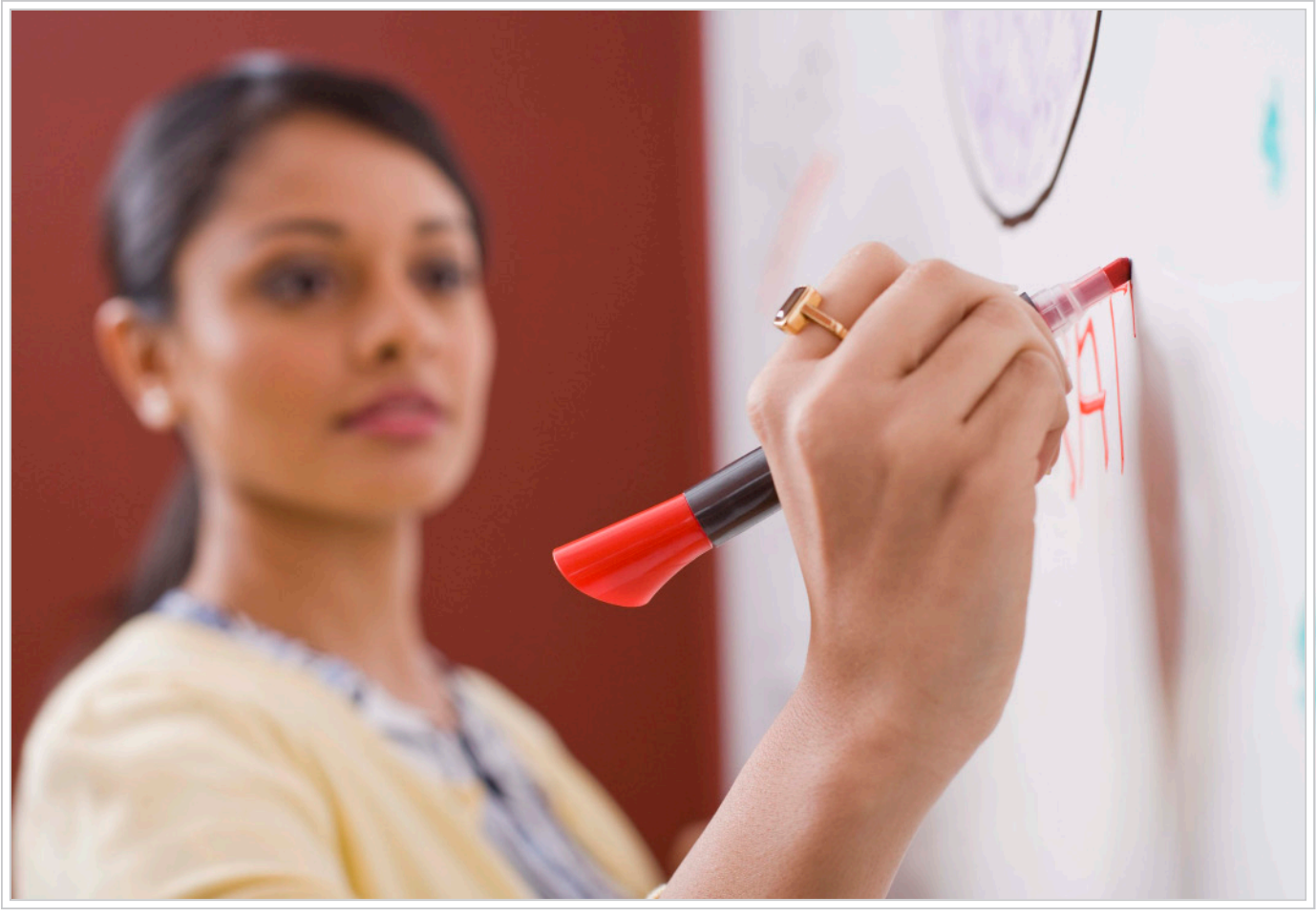
32 members and hasbeen in existence since the 1970s. It provides support to local schools and organizations who work with individuals learning English as an additional language (EAL). Since the late 1990s there has been a steady increase in the number of individuals living on PEI who have English as an additional language. To support EAL professionals and in turn help EAL learners, this past spring the executive committee decided that TESL PEI would begin to offer professional development sessions twice annually. A new interactive website was also developed as a means for TESL PEI members to share resources and discuss the issues that rise at work. In May, TESL PEI held its first professional development session in collaboration with Holland College, Study Abroad Canada, the University of Prince Edward Island, and the PEI Department of Education. The session was a scheduled professional development workshop for close to80 EAL professionals on PEI and an initiative by the TESL PEI executive to bring exposure to the organization and recruit new members. Zara Bakhtiar and Samuel K. Wang presented on the topic understanding the education systems of Iran, Malaysia, and China.

TESL PEI launched its new website (www.teslpei.ning.com) at the May session. The website is a step forward from the wiki site that had been used previously to promote TESL PEI. The new website offers information about TESL PEI and TESL Canada events and includes a forum for members to share ideas and resources. The website is still in its early stages and membership is small. However, it is the executive committee's goal that the site will be used by members to stay in contact throughout the year.

In June, the non-profit organization the PEI Association of Newcomers to Canada (ANC) expressed interest in becoming more involved in TESL PEI. This provides an opportunity for TESL PEI to better represent the voice for immigrant families on PEI. The PEI ANC representative attends committee meetings and volunteers with the organization of the professional development sessions.

Looking forward to November, TESL PEI will be hosting a professional development session in collaboration with the Community Education Department at Holland College. This session will include round-table discussions on topics such as conducting student needs assessments, strategies for assessing students' writing, vocabulary development, and culture shock. EAL professionals will have an opportunity to share their ideas and discuss issues relevant to their work.

For more information about TESL PEI, please visit www.teslpei.ning.com or contact Christina Perry, TESL PEI President, at cperry@upei.ca.



B.C. TEAL
The TESL Canada 2012 Conference
TESL CANADA
TESL Interiors
Landscapes of Language and Literacies
Thompson Rivers University
Kamloops, British Columbia
THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY
October 11th - 13th, 2012
www.tru.ca/tc2012.html

TESL CANADA'S ONLINE TEACHERS' RESOURCE CENTRE

The TESL Canada Teachers' Resource Centre [TRC] provides TESL Canada members across Canada with a wide range of online teaching resources. The TRC can be accessed by going to the TESL Canada website teslcanada.org

TESL Canada's TRC is a tribute to the vision, dedication and hard work of John Sivell, Past Editor of the TESL Canada Journal as well as the support given the project by Chris Stechishin and Jennifer Pearson Terell. On behalf of ESL teachers and ESL learners across Canada a heart felt thank you to John Sivell for making TESL Canada's TRC a reality.

The TESL Canada TRC provides an opportunity for TESL Canada members to access a wide range of online resources by simply going to the TESL Canada website www.tesl.ca and exploring the following wide range of online ESL teaching resources:

TESL CANADA TEACHERS' RESOURCE CENTRE

Free Online ESL Teaching Resources

Online Interactive Student Resources

Online LINC/ELSA and CLB Resources

Subscription-based Sites and Free Online Journals

Free Online Graphics for ESL Teachers

Grammar Worksheets

Listening Worksheets

Reading Worksheets

Vocabulary Worksheets

Writing Worksheets

New in the TESL Canada Journal

Upcoming TESL Conferences and Events

About TESL Canada

TESL Canada's Board of Directors has reviewed and revised TESL Canada's Mission and Values:

TESL Canada's mission is to promote excellence in the teaching and learning of English as a second or additional language in partnership with its constituent provincial and territorial associations, and like-minded national and international organizations.

TESL Canada values: Excellence in language, settlement, and refugee programs;
National standards for professional certification and teacher training program recognition;
Working together with provincial and territorial associations on common goals;
Promoting ongoing professional development;
Research and scholarship in the field of teaching and learning ESL;
Linguistic rights for individuals and communities;
Equality of employment opportunity for qualified non-native English-speaking and native English-speaking teachers;
Assisting with English language development while still protecting Ancestral languages for speakers of Indigenous first languages.