



December 2014

TESL Canada Federation

President's Report – Ron Thomson



Season's Greetings!

Whatever one's religious or cultural values may be, signs of Christmas in Canada are inescapable. ESL instructors are at the forefront in helping learners navigate what for many is a very different cultural landscape. Having participated in Eid-al-Adha festivities in Pakistan, and Diwali in India, I know first-hand how exciting (and bewildering) such new experiences can be. Of course, we are fortunate to live in a country where we can share in such rich multicultural experiences in our very own backyards. Helping our learners become full participants in the larger national community requires a special skill set, making the provision of ESL instruction an essential service, during this season and throughout all seasons. As President of the TESL Canada Federation, I applaud the important work you do, and look forward to collectively growing the national voice of our profession in 2015.

As we enter a new year, I want to highlight some of TESL Canada's recent activities:

Strategic plan development

The TESL Canada Board is currently soliciting proposals for a professional consultant to help us develop a strategic plan for the future. Developing the strategic plan will include consulting with all members throughout the country. More information will follow shortly.

Teacher training

TESL Canada continues to support teacher training, with 112 training programs now recognized nationwide. We also provide assessment of prior learning for those who have taken comparable ESL instructor training from a program that is not directly recognized by TESL Canada.

Teacher certification

TESL Canada is committed to working towards increasingly rigorous standards in order to promote our profession in the eyes of the public and the provincial and federal governments. We do this by providing three standards of instructor certification, allowing teachers to achieve certification through multiple pathways, be it an intensive teacher-training course, an alternative professional certification process such as TESL Ontario's, or a Master's degree. We are also working to support Languages

Canada, which requires its member schools to be staffed by qualified teachers. To date, over 3000 ESL instructors have been certified by TESL Canada, with 372 successful applications this year alone.

Professional development

TESL Canada looks forward to partnering with ATESL in October 2015 to provide a high-quality exchange of ideas at the TESL Canada Conference in beautiful Lake Louise, Alberta. We've booked the entire Lake Louise Chateau for the conference! A call for presentation proposals will be sent out soon.

TESL Canada Journal

The high quality of TESL Canada's flagship publication continues under the strong leadership of editor Marian Rossiter. This quality has been recognized by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), which has recently provided funding to support the journal for the next three years. We can expect a call for submissions for a special issue on language assessment in the near future.

TESL Canada Board

The TESL Canada Board has had two very productive Board meetings since the November election. In addition, Board Committees have also been active in fulfilling their mandates. As I'm sure all members appreciate, it can be a challenge for a volunteer board, whose directors are spread across many time zones, to find convenient times to meet. I am very grateful for the commitment of this Board to supporting the Federation and its members through regular meetings.

Finally, let me again invite any members who wish to share ideas and/or concerns to contact me directly at president@tesl.ca or 905-688-5550 ext 5842.

Best wishes for 2015!

Ron Thomson, PhD
President, TESL Canada





December 2014

TESL Canada Federation

2014 At a Glance

2014 was a year of change at TESL Canada. The office staff and Board of Directors had a year of growth. The office moved upstairs in the building and, we had an extremely successful conference in Regina.

2015 is coming and we are looking forward to new beginnings, excellent partnerships, and nation wide growth.

The TESL Canada Conference will be held in beautiful Lake Louise Alberta. Lake Louise boasts beautiful scenery and many outdoor sporting activities. If you have never experienced the Rocky Mountains in all their glory, this is THE conference not to miss! You will not be disappointed.

For more information visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wETgdf9FM-4>

Or got to:

www.travelalberta.com and search—Lake Louise, Banff, Sulphur Mountain, Calgary, Canmore.

Mark your calendars:

- Oct. 29—Nov. 1, 2015 TESL Canada 2015 Conference Lake Louise, AB.
- Nov. 12-13, 2015 TESL Ontario's 43rd Annual Conference will be held in Toronto

Inside this issue: Provincial updates

Ontario	3
Nova Scotia	3
Alberta	3
Alberta cont..	4
New Brunswick	4
NFLD & Labrador	3
Upcoming conference	4

Did you know.....

Post- TESL Certificate Training has grown significantly since its 2012 start. It now offers members seventeen courses in a variety of formats including face to face, correspondence, hybrid, and some offer continuous intake.

TESL Ontario is introducing more Professional Development Opportunities. Thanks to the excellent

Contributed by Bernice Klassen, TESL Ontario

feedback from our members and partnership with Tutela.ca online community for language training professionals, we offer webinars and blogs twice monthly.

The focus of the TESL Ontario webinar series include:

- practical teaching
- strategies in all skill areas of language training
- technology in the classroom



- technology for beginners
- new teaching methods such as blended learning
- instructional strategies
- curriculum and material development
- research and theory Assessment.

“ One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way. ”
 –Frank Smith

TESL Ontario Update – Bernice Klassen

TESL Ontario's membership has grown to more than 4600 members and includes both public and private sectors of elementary, secondary and adult ESL learning systems in Ontario. TESL Ontario members help build community through their 12 regional affiliates across the province. TESL Ontario strives to raise the profile of the ESL profession and continues to be a voice for our members through our representation on various government and advisory groups. Members are provided a number of valuable services, benefits and resources including access to free webcasts of sessions from previous conferences and new

professional development opportunities.

Our current TESL Ontario Board Members:

Chair: Sheila Nicholas
Vice-Chair: James Papple
Treasurer: Dan Cornish
Secretary: Irene Kosmas

Members-at-large:
 Cheryl Fretz, Bhupinder Gill, Bernice Klassen, Jennifer McKay, Melita Vrakela

TESL Nova Scotia Update – Chris Klatecki

Hi from Nova Scotia

Our fall conference in October was a great success!! It was well attended and the workshops presented were well-received. The keynote speakers– Dr. Scott Roy Douglas from the faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia and Dr. Li-Shih Huang from the University of Victoria were informative and

educational. The chair of our board, Fe Leonor Baculi, is leaving after serving on the board in many capacities, and we thank her for all her years of work for TESL NS. Our new chair is Rory Leitch. We are now planning for a new year including a spring and fall conference.

ATESL Update—Celia Logan

ATESL has been very active this fall with the annual conference taking place in Edmonton in October and the locals hosting a variety of events. The conference took place in the Fantasyland Hotel in West Edmonton Mall which proved to be an excellent location. All the events were easily accessible in the hotel and mall, featuring “themed” accommodation and shopping close at hand. The keynote speakers included

Linda Grant, who presented on pronunciation, and Dr. Niobe Thompson. The ATESL AGM was held during the conference and some new members joined the board. Maureen Stewart, a long time board participant in various roles, is president this year. Dr. Wendy Chambers, well known to TESL Canada as our interim ED, is president elect. Treasurer is Yuji Abe from Edmonton and secretary

is Cindy Messaros, also from Edmonton.

Like TESL Saskatchewan, the Alberta board is working actively on strategic planning right now.

ATESL Update continued....

Our goal is to smooth the transition of new boards and increase the effectiveness of the ATESL organization as a leader for ESL practitioners in Alberta. The board will be gathering in Red Deer for a day long face to face retreat to examine our practice. This Autumn ATESL Calgary introduced Silvia Rossi as the new Calgary co-chair, replacing Chris who is taking on the role of chapter secretary. On Nov 18th at Mount Royal University Silvia ran a workshop on Teaching Stress and Pronunciation. As well, Kathleen Webster gave a brief introduction to a program called Pronunciation Power that has been successful for her in the

past. In December, approximately 15 ATESL members met in Kensington to connect and celebrate the holidays. It was a great turn-out and a great time talking and chatting about all things Language Learning.

The Edmonton local has Sabine Ricioppo for Co-Chair and Patricia Watson for Treasurer. Lynn Sawyer will continue as secretary and Evelyn Neame has another year as Co-Chair. A draw was made for free registration to the conference, and it went to Patricia Watson. Their average attendance was 33 dedicated members, including a successful holiday get together. Organization has started on the

TESL Canada 2015 Lake Louise Conference. Chris Wharton and Glen Cochrane are co-chairs with experience in organizing conferences. With the help of TESL Canada we're looking forward to a great national conference in this spectacular setting.

Membership in ATESL as of November 30 is 497.

TESL NB – Paula Kristmanson

TESL NB continues to be an active provincial affiliate. We had our first meeting of the 2014-15 academic year in Saint John in October. We discussed our spring conference and we are currently in the process of finalizing the date and location for this event. We are also thrilled to be able to offer professional development bursaries to our members to attend other TESL related

conferences in Canada and have already had several of our members take advantage of this opportunity in the last two years. We not only promote big conventions like TESL Canada and TESOL international, but also provincial conferences as well. Members who receive the bursary include a report about their experience in our newsletter, which is published in the spring and the fall.

Speaking of our newsletter, our latest edition is available on our website- <http://tesl-nb.wikispaces.com/home> and it includes some great articles on interesting and exciting news and events that are happening around our province. We encourage our colleagues in other provinces to read our newsletter and find out what is going on in the world of ESL/EAL in our little province.

“ Language is
the blood of
the soul into
which
thoughts run
and out of
which they
grow. ”
—Oliver
Wendell
Holmes

TESL Newfoundland and Labrador—Echo Pitman

In 2014, TESL NL hosted two meetings for its members. On June 19, a social event (cooking class) was organized. This casual event enabled members to network with each other while enjoying a 3-course meal. The event was well received and the participants also received a copy of the recipes for the 3-course meal. On December 5, a professional

development session was organized. The speaker presented issues related to and best practices on written feedback. In February, 2016, a professional development session on teaching academic vocabulary will be hosted.

TESL Canada Federation

2731 21 Street NE
Calgary , Alberta
T2E-6T5

Phone: 1 800 393 9199
email: info@tesl.ca or admin@tesl.ca



TESL Canada's Mission

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.

Canadian Writing Centres Association (CWCA)

Call for Papers

Proposals are invited from tutors, instructors, administrators and others interested in the teaching of writing for the CWCA 2015 Conference, which will be held at the University of Ottawa on Friday, May 29th, 2015 in Ottawa, Ontario.

Click [here](#) for more details.

TESOL Conference 2015

2015 is going to be another exciting year for ESL professionals as we welcome the TESOL International Convention to Toronto from March 25-28, 2015. Please join us and make this a highlight of your PD plans in 2015.



<http://tesol.org/convention/2015> for more information