Spring 2015

TESL Canada Bulletin

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TESL CANADA FEDERATION

President's and Vice President's Report

By Ron Thomson and Judy Sillito

Revisiting TESL Canada's Foundations

It has been four months since the new TESL Canada board of directors was established, and we are working diligently as we move ahead with renewed energy and vigor. We are pleased with the caliber of the representatives who have volunteered to lead TESL Canada during this transition period, and this has enabled us to make significant headway in a short time. Collectively, we are ready to think outside tradition and reimagine a TESL Canada that is relevant and responsive to its stakeholders in the current national context. We believe that a strong national voice for English language teaching in Canada is good for the profession, good for all the regions, and good for the country as a whole.

Members of professional associations frequently ask association boards and staff, "What do you do for me?" The same question is sometimes asked of TESL Canada, as it is also asked of our provincial associations.

The TESL Canada board believes this is an important question. It keeps us on our toes, holding us accountable to our diverse membership, whom we have a solemn duty to represent.

Why a national professional association?

One overarching function of any professional association is to provide a strong united face to the public and to government. By definition, professions are groups of individuals with similar jobs. A profession cannot be comprised of a workforce of one. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine a healthy, vibrant profession having a membership numbering less than hundreds. Thus, joining a professional association has at its root the benefit of promoting the workforce of which its members are a part. The very existence of a professional association communicates to the wider society that we are professionals. This breeds confidence and respect for what we do.

At the same time, the existence of a professional association provides a mechanism for providing accountability to those within the profession by defining what is required for

Board of Directors

President - Ron Thomson

Vice President - Judy Sillto

Treasurer - Dianne Tyers

Secretary - Desirae Mercer

Chair, TESL Canada Journal - Hedy M. McGarrell

Chair, Standards Advisory Committee - Dmitri Priven

Chair, Professional Development Committee - Liliana Dominguez

Chair, Settlement Language National Network - Brenda Lohrenz

Chair, Research & Outreach - Sheri Rhodes

Mark your calendars:

Oct 29—Nov 1, 2015 TESL Canada 2015 Conference at Lake Louise, AB.

Ron Thomson in conversation with Dorte Weber, Past President, ATESL at the Languages Canada Conference, 2015.

membership. It helps to provide a gatekeeping mechanism by defining what it means to be a professional. Without this, anyone could claim membership in the profession, which could in turn harm the population a profession has been established to serve.

Why TESL Canada?

To understand TESL Canada's role as a professional association, it is first important to understand its origins. In presenting a brief history, we borrow heavily from Parks (1987).

TESL Canada came into existence in 1978 as a national federation of the then existing provincial associations. This initiative was directly supported by the federal government, who saw the need for a national voice for a profession whose members are clearly vital to the success of new Canadians. The original aim of the federation was to bring together the provinces and to represent professional concerns across the country, rather than only jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction. The sense was that as professionals, we could do more together than apart.

TESL Canada's original objectives were to 1) provide a communication link between various jurisdictions, 2) to support federal policies that were compatible with the aims of the federation, 3) to support the creation of provincial associations where there were none, 4) to promote TESL scholarship and research, 5) to help disseminate knowledge in TESL and 6) to provide representation for TESL Canada members internationally.

While the way we accomplish these objectives has changed over the years to accommodate differences in governmental policies related to language programming and an increasingly specialized workforce, the objectives themselves remain the same.

A guiding principle behind TESL Canada's current activities is that it does not replicate or compete with the important activities that are done by our affiliated provincial and territorial associations. At the same time, by bringing together expertise from across Canada, TESL Canada can offer high quality services in some provinces and territories

BC TEAL

Jennifer Pearson Terell

Alberta - ATESL

Celia Logan

TESL Saskatchewan

Deborah Hulston

TEAL Manitoba / TEAM

Kevin Carter

TESL Ontario

Bernice Klassen

TESL New Brunswick

Paula Kristmanson

TESL Nova Scotia

Christina Klatecki

TESL Newfoundland/ Labrador

Echo Pittman

continues...

where support is most needed, while other provinces and territories may be well-equipped to provide similar services themselves. This sharing of resources and information allows us to provide a strong united profession, and encourages consistently high standards across the country. This is very much the Canadian way.

Our profession has come a long way since the creation of TESL Canada in 1978. While some may lament receiving less than the respect we deserve (and rightfully so in some cases), we are far better off as a profession than we were before we had professional associations at the provincial and national levels. By working together collectively we have been able to share information nationally, which has allowed us to more effectively pursue our aspirations for ourselves and for our learners.

This sharing happens at the board level, where committed volunteers engage in spirited debate about how best to represent our members nationally, providing a forum for an exchange of ideas between jurisdictions. Sharing happens at our national conference, which has continued to increase in stature. We also support the TESL Canada Journal, which has grown in reputation both nationally and internationally. As importantly, simply being owners of such a highly respected journal brings substantial credibility to our profession.

This vibrant collaboration within our profession has also enabled our profession to help shape important national policies and advancements in English language teaching. We look forward to enhancing this collaboration by better connecting the voices of the regions and provinces, by reaching out more determinedly to share national resources and expertise with smaller centres, and by redesigning the way provincial/territorial representation and leadership is expressed on the TESL Canada board.

In October we will gather in beautiful Lake Louise, Alberta, for our next TESL Canada Conference. We look forward to connecting with many of you there and celebrating the new face of TESL Canada.

In the next section, our Executive Director, Sumana Barua, expands on myriad other ways in which we are currently meeting TESL Canada's founding objectives.

Reference:

Parks, S. (1987). Contribution proposal. Submitted by TESL Canada to Mark Goldenberg, Official Languages in Education, Secretary of state.

Executive Director's Report

Sumana Barua

From the TESL Canada office

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.

In an article in the *Association,* Leon A. Millis, CAE wrote, "In today's fast changing world of association governance and management, the most important and ongoing challenge for association leaders is to ensure relevancy for and manage the expectations of its membership." Under the leadership of a new Board of Directors, TESL Canada has revisited its founding objectives and has started establishing the tools to meet the expectations of its membership.

In September 2014, TESL Canada launched its electronic voting platform. This has served as an enabling tool for TESL Canada members to have a voice in the governance of TESL Canada. The Governance Policy of TESL Canada has been posted on the website so that members can have a greater understanding of the management of the organization.

TESL Canada is committed to revitalizing its communication channels with its stakeholders including members, provincial/territorial affiliates and teacher training providers. The Research and Outreach Committee of TESL Canada is presently working on the implementation of social media to enhance communication. An online system is under construction to allow affiliate provinces to have access to update the membership information in real time.

Preparations for the TESL Canada Conference 2015, hosted by ATESL (Alberta), are well under way. TESL Canada has provided sponsorship contacts to the Sponsorship Committee and has posted the conference date and the links to the Call for Proposals and the Graduate Student Symposium on the TESL Canada website.

TESL Canada is also working closely with like-minded associations. The TESL Canada booth at the Languages Canada conference in Ottawa (March 1-4, 2015) had numerous visitors with questions about our accreditation programs. The presentation by TESL Canada at the same conference was well attended and it engaged participants. A formal meeting with members of Languages Canada's leadership resulted in a commitment to draft an official memorandum of understanding between our organizations, which we hope to complete in the near future.

The President of TESL Canada, Ron Thomson also attended the TESOL Convention in Toronto (March 25-28, 2015) along with the other members of the TESL Canada Executive team and had great interactions with and feedback from many of our members. TESL Canada had a booth in the exhibition hall at TESOL Convention promoting TESL Canada and the TESL Canada 2015 Conference at Lake Louise, Alberta.

TESL Canada has concluded the process of obtaining proposals from strategic planning consultants. A strategic planning consultant has been engaged. We welcome input and feedback from our members. We are happy to respond to questions via email or telephone.

Reference

Mills, Leon A. "Accreditation Can Help Improve Products and Services for Association Members." *Association Journal,* (December 2014/January 2015): p.10. Print

Spring 2015

BC TEAL Report

Jennifer Pearson Terell

It 's been a busy spring and winter for members of BC TEAL. November began with BC TEAL's annual *Volunteer Appreciation Event* on November 16th. Members who had volunteered their time over the past year were honoured with brunch and presented with a certificate acknowledging their contributions to the profession. This event marked the beginning of this years highly successful *EAL Week* which extended from Thursday November 16th to Saturday November 22nd. The highlight for many was the '*Celebrating Learner Success Contest*' which garnered many moving and inspiring stories from English language learners across BC. The final event was a very successful day-long *Lower Mainland Regional Conference* held at the Vancouver English Centre on Saturday November 22nd.

In December, BC TEAL hosted two regional conferences*. The Thompson Region Conference titled 'Winter Warm-ups: Pedagogy and Politics' in early December* followed by *the Northern BC Region Conference, "Winter-Warm-up For ESL Teachers'*. Both regional conferences were well attended and received excellent conference evaluations.

January and February have been just a busy for BC TEAL members as the fall months. *The BC TEAL Vancouver Island Regional Conference* was held on **Saturday, February 21st at Global Village in Victoria, BC.** Following on the theme of this regional conference '***Engaging with our Profession'*** and working from the premise that engaged teachers will be more likely to engage their learners, plenary speaker Karen Densky addressed the question, 'What leads us to become engaged in our profession?' and 'How can we maintain engagement throughout our careers?' These questions were explored through personal narratives, current literature on teacher engagement, research on identity and teacher development as well as group participation. The conference was well attended and proved to be an outstanding professional development event!

The BC TEAL Board continues to meet monthly under the skilled leadership of President Shawna Williams. A day-long board retreat focusing on completing development of a communication strategy and revising the policy manual [handbook] is planned for February 28th.

BC TEAL Report continues...

Mark your calendars:

May 22 - May 23rd, 2015 BC TEAL Conference at University of British Columbia English Language Institute (ELI).

On Friday, May 22nd and Saturday, May 23rd, the 2015 BC TEAL Conference titled ***'Reflect, Reconnect, and Renew'*** will be held at the University of British Columbia English Language Institute (ELI). Conference Co-Chairs Fiona Shaw and Tami Moffat have planned an outstanding conference. The Friday keynote speaker will be Dr. Yilin Sun, President of TESOL International. Dr. Sun, who currently resides in Seattle, Washington did her PhD in Applied Linguistics at OISE, University of Toronto. She is a distinguished EAL instructor, TESOL trainer, and former Fullbright Senior Scholar. On Saturday, Phan Thi Kim Phúc will speak about her journey as a refugee out of war ravaged Vietnam and the importance of language in the refugee experience in Canada.

There will be a number of exciting new and innovative additions to this year's conference. There will be the first ever BC TEAL Gala Dinner celebrating our diverse and talented professional community. There will also be a dedicated research stream bringing together local researchers and classroom teachers to explore opportunities and share knowledge. And the second annual and ever entertaining Pecha Kucha will be coupled with the annual Wine and Cheese reception on Friday evening. in addition as always there will be a wide range of high quality presentations, panel discussions, and an exhibitors' area featuring a wide range of teaching and learning English language resources .

ATESL Report

Celia Logan

ATESL has been busily planning the TESL Canada Conference this October 2015 at beautiful Lake Louise. The theme, "Elevating Language Learning to New Heights", reflects the gorgeous mountain setting of the conference. The keynote and featured speakers have been booked. They include Diane Larsen-Freeman from the University of Michigan, Jane Willis from Aston University in the UK and Randi Reppen from Northern Arizona University. Hetty Roessingh from the University of Calgary has been booked to speak at the Graduate Students Symposium taking place on the day before the main conference. The Call for Proposals for both the symposium and the main conference are online. Please check the conference page here: TESL Canada 2015 and consider submitting your proposal for a presentation or workshop. We are presently organizing activities outside the conference to show off the scenic views around the

ATESL Report continues...

Chateau Lake Louise and keeping our fingers crossed that the weather is good. Registration for the conference will be open in April. If you have any questions, please contact the conference committee at lakelouise2015@atesl.ca

The ATESL locals have all been active since the New Year. Calgary has had two workshops: one in January by Nancy Sheppard on *Literature Circles* in the classroom, and the other in March by Heidi Beyer on *Financial Literacy*. Central Alberta has also hosted two workshops. The first was a discussion by teachers Paul and Ruth Furseth, and Hannah Dissen who have extensive experience in China and North Korea. The second featured a counsellor, Mounir Rahwan, who discussed the effects the political situation in the Middle East might have on the classroom. Finally Edmonton hosted a panel discussion in January about Edmonton's diverse linguistic landscape with Dr. Leila Ranta, Justine Light, Monica MacFadzean and two of Justine's former students. Their February meeting featured Dr. Wendy Chambers presenting *Building Community with Online Discussion Boards.* The Edmonton local is planning a mini-conference in early May to talk about PBLA with Lisa Herrera from Immigrant Services Society BC.

Mark your calendars:

May 29, 2015 MB TEAM Conference at the University of Winnipeg

MB TEAM Report

Kevin Carter

As winter recedes to the advances of spring, a sense of renewal and hope embraces us. Manitoba, as with TESL Canada, has seen many changes recently. We believe that these changes are an opportunity to come together as an even stronger organization. TEAL and TEAM Manitoba are solidly committed to addressing the needs of ESL educators and those of our immigrant families. We also believe that a strong national body in TESL Canada helps us to achieve our vision for the future.

Team Manitoba has been active on numerous fronts in 2014-2015. We have provided several TEAM Talks on topics of relevance to our members, such as *EdCamp*, *The Flipped Classroom*, *Song in Language Learning and Teaching, Bringing Your ESL Classroom to Life* and the upcoming *The Self-Directed Learner*. This spring, TEAM Manitoba is very excited to bring TEAM Talks to Brandon, Manitoba for the first time. On May 29th, 2015, TEAM is holding its annual conference, entitled *Directions 2015*, with much anticipation building for Thomas S.C. Farrell's keynote address on *Reflective Practice.* TEAM hopes to build on the success of last year's conference, which saw attendance reach more than 350 participants. Apart from professional development, TEAM organized a vision retreat in recent months to articulate its strategic plan and has worked closely with TEAL to elect Kevin Carter as the new Manitoba TESL representative. TEAM's efforts have also been directed to fundraising for the provision of funds for TEAM Awards, given to deserving individuals in the local ESL community, and to that end it held a spirited and successful Quiz Night. TEAL Manitoba has made great efforts this year to provide additional professional development opportunities for K-12 educators interested in the field of ESL. These PD opportunities include *Bridging the Linguistic and Cultural Divide: Strategies for Successful Interactions during Parent-Teacher Interviews* and *Connecting Communities: Bridging Worlds, Building Community.* We believe that educating ESL students require specialized skills and that those who seek to nurture these skills should be recognized. We look forward to consulting with TESL Canada to foster high standards in the training and hiring of ESL educators in the K-12 system.

MB TEAM Report continues…

Mark your calendars:

Nov. 12-13, 2015
TESL Ontario
Conference at
Sheraton Centre
Toronto

Manitoba has sowed the seeds of progress, but we will not be able to reap the rewards unless we work together. Our unified voice will ensure a bright future for all those in the ESL field. Together, we look forward to what tomorrow will bring.

TESL Ontario Report

Bernice Klassen

TESL Ontario is planning for our 2015 TESL Ontario Annual Conference Nov. 12-13 is in the works. We are looking forward to introducing a two rather than three day format this year. For the details click here. TESL Ontario's 43rd Annual Conference

A monthly BLOG is growing in popularity amongst the members. Please follow TESL Ontario Blog

TESL Ontario Newsletter

TESL NB Report

Paula Kristmanson

This winter has been a busy and snowy one in the province of New Brunswick. Although we have not met face-to-face since the snow began to fall, TESL NB members have been in regular contact. Two of our members, Kathy Whynot and Mary Reid, recently won the TESL NB spring professional development bursary in order to attend the TESOL conference in Toronto in March. Also, in partnership with our provincial department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), talks have begun to strengthen EAL programming in the K-12 school system. Many TESL NB members are part of this advisory group and are contributing to the conversation in a meaningful way. We have also just recently partnered with CASLT to put on our TESL NB AGM and feature speaker day on June 6th. Stephane Lacroix, an experienced ESL educator from Quebec and member of the CASLT executive board, will be joining us in NB for a half-day of professional development and networking for our members. Hopefully, by the time that event rolls around, we will be enjoying finer and warmer weather here in our fair province!

Mark your calendars:
April 25, 2015 TESL NS conference at ISANS in Halifax

TESL Nova Scotia

Chris Klatecki

Hi from the cold and very snowy East Coast! TESL NS is very busy signing up new members. We are having a Swap shop for our members to socialize and share ideas on Thursday March 12th at the Dalhousie University Club. We are also working diligently for our big Spring conference for Saturday, April 25th. We hope to see everyone there!

TESL Newfoundland and Labrador

Echo Pittman

There are 32 members in TESL NL. The first member meeting in 2015 was held on February 27. One of the members gave a presentation on academic vocabulary and provided the participants with some useful resources and websites. The next meeting will take place on April 24, 2015. As several of our members are going to attend the 2015 TESOL conference in Toronto at the end of March, they will share their conference experiences in our meeting in April.

Standards Committee Report

Chair:	Dmitri Priven
Members:	Jonathan Hanna
	Deborah Hulston
	Bernice Klassen
	Hedy M. McGarrell
	Judy Sillito
	Kevin Carter
	Jennifer Pearson Terell
	Ron Thomson (ex-officio)
	Sumana Barua (ex-officio)

The new Standards Committee had its first meeting on Tutela on February 12. During this meeting, a new Terms of Reference was ratified. It included guidelines for member selection, the mandate, and the objectives of the Committee. Since its formation, the Committee has been tasked with the following:

1. Advising the PLAR adjudicator on an appeal from a client – a decision on the appeal has been made and new recommendations conveyed to the client through the adjudicator;
2. Revising the English Language Proficiency (ELP) requirements for teacher certification – a comparator chart of various ELP requirements from teacher regulating bodies in Canada, the U.S., and Australia has been compiled, several new tests considered for inclusion in the ELP requirements (PTE-A, CELPIP); recommendations are forthcoming;
3. Revising and streamlining the guidelines for PLAR, teacher certification, and teacher training program accreditation processes – a plan of action will be discussed at the upcoming meeting the week of March 30th.
4. Strengthening connection with Languages Canada – the Committee chair attended a meeting between the Languages Canada and TESL Canada boards and will approach a Languages Canada member to sit on the Standards Committee once a seat becomes available. Language Canada could provide important input into TESL Canada standards.

Journal Advisory Committee Report

Hedy M. McGarrell

An important event in relation to the TESL Canada Journal (TCJ) was the successful application for a new 3-year SSHRC grant to support the cost of publishing the journal. Many thanks especially to Marian Rossiter and Sumana Barua for the countless hours of diligent work they put into the grant application process.

Planning for the TCJ includes the continuation of a Special Issue, in addition to two regular issues, annually. A call for contributions to the next Special Issue on Language Assessment has been issued and is available at http://www.tesl.ca/publications/tesl-canada-journal/journal-announcements/. Readers of the TESL C Bulletin are invited to submit suitable proposals or to draw the call to the attention of researchers working on questions related to this topic. Any suggestions for future Special Issues topics are welcome.

The continued success of the TCJ depends largely on the availability of high quality manuscripts. Support your journal by submitting your own work or encouraging the submission of relevant work to the TCJ.

TESL Canada Finance Committee Report

Dianne Tyers

The TESL Canada Finance Committee has been hard at work on our initiatives for the year. Our first initiative was to create a budget framework that would allow any TESL Canada member to easily understand how TESL Canada is performing financially. It shows in a clear and simple way where the money is coming in and where it is going. This budget framework and the 2015 budget were approved in January 2015. Our second initiative is underway to build a clear financial model for the TESL Canada Journal with which to track all allowable expenses for our funder, SSHRC. Our third initiative is also underway--to build a financial model for the TESL Canada Conference, so that the provincial affiliates that host the conference have an accurate, efficient and reliable tool for budgeting and financial reporting. With a smaller, fourth initiative, we are looking at ways in which to better track the association's financial performance using online accounting software. And finally, we are fine tuning the 2015 budget as TESL Canada's other committees flesh out their plans for the year. We hope to continue to make good headway in the coming months towards understanding and clarifying TESL Canada's finances and financial needs.

Professional Development Committee Report

Liliana Dominguez

This committee has been recently formed and a meeting will be held soon. Therefore, there are no activities to report. Our aim is upload/podcast previous conference presentations on the TESL Canada website. Keep tuned for more news and a report after our first meeting.

TESL Canada Settlement Language National Network Report

Brenda Lohrenz

The TESL Canada Settlement Language National Network Committee has finalized its terms of reference and membership. Our committee of 10 is a mix of TESL Canada board members and settlement language experts extending across the country. Our goals are:

To empower settlement language providers provincially and nationally by:

1. Providing timely access to information, initiatives and resources relevant to the needs of settlement language providers across Canada through the TESL Canada website.
2. Identifying and prioritizing issues of importance for settlement language providers in order to better inform policy and decisions makers concerned with better meeting the need of settlement language programs.
3. Providing opportunities for settlement language providers to share information and make recommendations relating to nationally comparable services, resources, research and best practices.
4. Providing opportunities for discussion and networking for settlement language providers at relevant national and provincial conferences for purposes of identifying and discussing issues unique to settlement language programs.

This TESL Canada Committee will be consulting with an 'advisory group' of individuals who have indicated interest in settlement language issues. The SLNN Advisory group will support the SLNN Committee in identification of needs, concerns and best practices related to settlement language provision. You can become a member of this group by emailing slnn@tesl.ca. In the near future, the SLNN committee is also looking to institute a Settlement Language National Network Advisory group on Tutela, so stay tuned for that!

Currently available on the TESL Canada website is the SLNN Committee Chair report on December 2014 meetings of the National Settlement Council and the Newcomer Language Advisory Body; access at http://www.tesl.ca/media/7341/NSC-NLAB-Report.pdf. Also posted is a document that showcases some of the settlement language related priorities that arose at CIC (Citizenship and Immigration Canada) Integration Summits held across the country in fall of 2014 http://www.tesl.ca/media/7335/2014-Summit-Roll-Up-for-Language-FOR-DISCUSSION-PURPOSES-1-.pdf. This document is an important capturing of current areas of interest echoing across the country around settlement language programming, and is sure to have some influence on where our next CIC Call for Proposals (CFP) priorities take us.

Plans are now underway for the TESL Canada Conference being held in Lake Louise, AB, Oct 29-31. Remember to get your settlement language related workshop proposals in by May 1, 2015 – it would be great to have a sizeable settlement language thread going throughout the conference, so we definitely encourage your participation!

http://teslcanadapresentations.com/

Research and Outreach Committee Report

Sheri Rhodes

The Committee for Research and Outreach has been struck with a combination of both Board and external members. The membership includes the director, Sheri Rhodes, Board members_Dianne Tyers, Kevin Carter and Liliana Dominguez, and external members Bonnie Nicholas Briar Jamieson, Nathan Hall, and Tyson Seburn. Our president, Ron Thomson, and Executive Director, Sumana Barua, both sit on the committee as ex-officio members. The committee has had one formal virtual meeting to review the proposed Terms of Reference and discuss initiatives, and one informal meet-up at the TESOL conference. There is a lot of enthusiasm to move forward with initiatives to improve communication with the membership and develop policy for managing access and messaging to the membership to support a unified national voice. Watch your twitter feeds and other social media for us soon!

TESL Canada Federation

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www.tesl.ca

Greetings from Lake Louise!
The Rocky Mountains are the setting for the TESL Canada 2015 Conference.
Elevate your professional practice to new heights in an inspiring setting. Exchange ideas and network with colleagues
Thurs: Symposia & Graduate Symposium
Fri & Sat: Presentations, Featured & Keynote Speakers
See you in October!

CANADA POSTAGE PAID PORT PAYÉ

TESL CANADA

TESL Canada 2015 Conference
Lake Louise, AB
OCT 29-31

ATESL.ca/conferenceWelcome for more details

photo by Dominik92 - Wikipedia Commons