

## **Project Title:**

Towards a Number of Comprehensive Assessment Tools to Measure the Drop-In ESL Participants' Progress

## **Project Summary:**

Calgary Immigrant Educational Society is developing a minimum of 3 up to a maximum of 4 comprehensive assessment tools to measure the drop-in ESL students' progress in a more precise manner. As the only Drop-In ESL Program service provider in Calgary and one of the only two Drop-In ESL Program service providers in Alberta, we feel we have the responsibility and also the capacity to launch such a project to better serve the Drop-In ESL clients in the province of Alberta.

The assessment tools will measure the Drop-In ESL participants' progress in terms of their knowledge increase (e.g. life skills, social skills, employment aptitudes, information-based knowledge) as well as their English language growth. Currently, our testing assessment tool for the Drop-In ESL participants is focused only on measuring their progress in English language growth.

The project will include a) developing, applying/trying out, evaluating, modifying, and finalizing the assessment tools, b) summarizing the evaluation results/discoveries, c) writing up reports to the Project funder, c) recommending an enhanced Drop-In ESL Program model with reference to its curriculum development, volunteer tutors professional development, testing and assessment tools, and timeline for this Program. To evaluate this project, both quantitative and qualitative research tools will be employed. Questionnaire surveys and interviews will be the main tools to be used to collect the data.

At the outcome of this project, we expect to establish 3 or 4 comprehensive assessment tools to measure the Drop-In ESL Program learners' progress in terms of both their English language proficiency and their knowledge increase. Meanwhile, owing to the washback effect of testing, the findings will be an indispensable guide to evaluate and revise if necessary the current Drop-In ESL Program's curriculum, volunteer tutors professional development training plan, and timeline of this Program to better serve our clients, by introducing an enhanced Drop-In ESL Program model.

Our project target group will be the Drop-In ESL Program learners at the Calgary Immigrant Educational Society. However, to enhance and expand our services to the needed Drop-In ESL clients, we are willing to share the assessment tools and the enhanced Drop-In ESL program model we develop with other Drop-In ESL providers at provincial and national levels after it is approved by Alberta Employment and Immigration.