



Alberta Teachers of English  
as a Second Language

Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language  
Annual General Meeting  
Edmonton, AB  
Friday, October 14, 2016  
4:30 – 6:00 PM

Location: Fantasyland Hotel, Chianti Room

**Minutes – Unapproved**

1. **Call to order: 4:43 PM – Wendy Chambers, ATESL President**
  
2. **Establishment of quorum** (require 76 members – as per Sept.30.16)  
Members: 86  
Non-members: 9
  
3. **Approval of agenda**  
**Motion to approve the 2016 AGM Agenda as distributed.**  
Moved –Leila Ranta  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Brock Wojtalewicz  
In favour - 86  
Opposed - none  
Carried
  
4. **Approval of 2015 AGM minutes**  
**Motion to approve the 2015 AGM Minutes as circulated.**  
Moved –Dorte Weber  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Maureen Stewart  
In favour: 83  
Opposed -0  
Abstention: 3  
Carried
  
5. **Approval of the December 31, 2015 Audited Financial Statement –Yuji Abe**  
**Yuji Abe reviews Audited Report**  
  
**Motion to approve the 2015 Audited Financial Statement as circulated.**  
Moved –Joann Abram  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Nadia Khan  
All in favour  
Carried
  
6. **Appointment of the Auditor**  
**MOTION: Move that ATESL contract Halpert Monsma Chartered Accountants to audit the financial statements of the Association of Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language for the year ending December 31, 2016.**  
Moved – Wendy Ilott  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Sally Scholefield

All in favour  
Carried

## 7. Reports of Officers

### Presidents' Report October 2016

Welcome to the ATESL 2016 Conference at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton! Thank you for supporting ATESL throughout the year and for attending the annual general meeting today. With your on-going commitment, the ATESL membership continues to grow, and we are recognized nationally as a strong, vibrant professional association that is currently 764 members strong.

#### **ATESL Board and Local Chapter Activities: An Overview**

ATESL board meetings were held each month, except during the month of July, including two face-to-face meetings held in Red Deer. During the face-to-face meeting in June, a facilitator from the Government of Alberta's Culture, Community and Voluntary Services was invited to provide board development training. The focus of the productive session was to help the board to better understand how to attract qualified board members and how to attract and retain ATESL members. Many of the strategies we learned are currently being put into practice and are included in ATESL's strategic plan.

Local chapters in Edmonton, Central Alberta, Calgary, and Southern Alberta provided exceptional professional development opportunities for the membership throughout the year. Calgary also hosted a one-day mini conference on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> focusing on the theme, "Supporting Wellness in the Language Classroom". In March, Wendy visited each of the ATESL local chapters and was honoured to have an opportunity to meet and chat with members. In Central Alberta and Southern Alberta, she also contributed presentations focused on integrating computer-assisted language learning into task design. ATESL has received interest from members in Fort McMurray wishing to begin a local Northern Alberta chapter, and we are working to facilitate this opportunity.

<b>ATESL 2015-2016 Board</b>	
President	Dr. Wendy Chambers
Past President	Maureen Stewart
President Elect	Dr. Lisa Rochman
Treasurer	Yuji Abe
Secretary	Cindy Messaros
Southern Alberta Chair	Shawna Vervloet
Calgary Co-Chairs	Silvia Rossi, Nadia Khan

Central Alberta Chair	Nancy Bain
Edmonton Co-Chairs	Sabine Ricioppo, Janet Kwong
TESL Canada Representative	Sally Scholefield
Rural Routes Member-at-Large	Nadia Khan
Members-at-Large	Dr. Tracey Derwing, Theresa Wall
Business Manager	Irene Wood

### ATESL 2016 Conference

With over 80 presentations and workshops, two keynote speakers, and four invited speakers, the ATESL 2016 conference program is jam-packed. The annual conference is a huge event to organize, and we would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Phil Zirkwitz and Jeff Hendrick for their work as the conference co-chairs. We would also like to sincerely thank the many hardworking members of the conference planning committee for their time and commitment. Irene Wood has also made valuable contributions to the event, and we are very grateful for her commitment to ATESL. Each president has contributed to the conference as a member of the conference planning committee, including Maureen as the Registration chair and member of the Program and Social Media committees, Wendy as the Sponsorship chair and member of the Program committee, and Lisa as a member of the Sponsorship committee. Wendy has also co-organized the *Syrian Refugees in Alberta* panel together with board members, Sabine Ricioppo and Janet Kwong. The presidents have also organized an ATESL presentation titled, *Inspiring the Profession: Behind the Scenes with the ATESL Board*. The purpose of the session is to let the membership know about the issues, projects, as well as the planning that the Board has been involved in throughout the past year. Yuji Abe, Cindy Messaros, and Nadia Khan have also contributed to the board presentation. Wendy has spearheaded the inclusion of the Ed Tech Jam, a new session to the conference this year has been co-organized by valued ATESL members, Glen Cochrane and Bonnie Nicholas. We gratefully thank all of the volunteers who have contributed to the planning and organization of the conference!

ATESL has included a student conference rate this year as requested and voted on by the membership at the 2015 AGM. The cost of registration for students was \$150. We had 16 people register as students this year out of over 520 registrations. Policy requires those who register as students to provide documentation showing their full time student status for the 2016-2017 academic year. This policy was stated on the registration webpage and documents could be directly uploaded to the site. This year, only one of the 16 student registrants provided adequate documentation at the time of registration. The Registration chair, Maureen Stewart, was responsible for ensuring the documentation was appropriate and followed up with the registrants who did not submit required documentation. We are happy to accommodate those students who are in financial need with a discounted conference rate. We would like to encourage those who register as students next year to ensure they include proper documentation during the registration process.

Each September, each local ATESL chapter compiles the names of all members who have attended local meetings over the past year. One name is drawn and the member is awarded a free conference registration. The following members received complimentary registration: Evelyn Neame (Edmonton), Gloria Palacios (Calgary), and Anna Morgan Wold (Central Alberta). Congratulations to the winners of the complimentary ATESL 2016 conference registrations representing each local that hosts professional development workshops.

### **ATESL Awards**

ATESL is very proud to offer First-Time Presenter Bursaries, the Carolyn Dieleman Award, and the ATESL Lifetime Member Award. ATESL is also the administrator of the Alberta Workforce Essential Skills Society (AWES) sponsored Dawn Seabrook de Vargas Fellowship.

First-Time Presenter Bursaries are given to ATESL members who are presenting at the conference for the first time. A random draw from the pool of all eligible candidates drew the following four winners: Subrata Bhowmik, Renuka Jantz, Roger Moore, and Souroush Sabbaghan. Each received a cheque for \$250. We wish to thank all first time presenters who are contributing to the conference as well as the winners of the First-Time Presenter Bursaries.

The Carolyn Dieleman Award celebrates individuals who have made an impact on the delivery of and access to innovative and quality language and ESL literacy programs in Alberta. The recipients of the 2016 Carolyn Dieleman Award are Eye on Literacy's Karen Bradley, Doreen Dean, and Elsie Johnson. Each recipient will receive complimentary registration for the ATESL 2017 Conference in Calgary.

ATESL Lifetime Member Award winner, Silvia Rossi, is recognized for her exemplary contributions and dedication to the profession. Silvia will receive a ATESL membership for life.

The Dawn Seabrook de Vargas Fellowship was reinstated in the amount of \$500 for each of the next 5 years thanks to the generous contribution of Alberta Workplace and Essential Skills (AWES). The 2016 Dawn Seabrook de Vargas Fellowship winner is Sue Oguchi.

Please join us in congratulating each bursary and award winner.

### **ATESL 2017 Conference**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend! We are very pleased to announce the ATESL 2017 Conference will be taking place October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at the Westin Hotel located in downtown Calgary. With ATESL's growing membership, it is becoming increasingly challenging to identify a large venue that is easy to access and that offers affordable pricing on hotel rooms, food, and beverage prices. The Westin met our criteria, and we are thrilled with the quality of service and facilities offered. We are seeking co-chairs and planning committee members for the conference, so please contact Irene Wood ([atesl.admin@atesl.ca](mailto:atesl.admin@atesl.ca)) if you are interested and/or you would like additional information.

We are also pleased to announce that ATESL and BC TEAL are teaming up to organize the Educational Technology 2017 Conference that will be held concurrently with the ATESL conference next year. Watch the ATESL website for additional information.

### **Intercultural Communicative Competence Project**

In the summer/fall 2015, ATESL's successfully submitted a proposal to the Government of Alberta Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour Language Training Programs' call for proposals for a project to develop an intercultural

communicative resource for ELL instructors. A contract was signed between ATESL and the Government of Alberta in November of 2015 and development work on the project started in December 2015/January 2016. The aim of the project is to develop a resource that is based on the *ATESL Adult ESL Curriculum Framework* (Chambers, Gnida, Messaros, Ilott, & Dawson, 2011) as well as the research completed in the LTP project completed by NorQuest College and ATESL in 2014. This project is a collaboration between ATESL, Bow Valley College, and NorQuest College. The resource will be hosted on the ATESL website as an online resource. In addition, to launch and introduce the resource and its contents, three face-to-face workshops are planned for Calgary and three face-to-face workshops in Edmonton. The first workshop in Calgary will be held November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and the first Edmonton workshop will be held November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The workshop also includes a pre-reading component that all workshop attendees will be required to complete. We are very excited and proud to be launching this important resource to the ATESL community. ATESL is grateful to those who have participated in the project in resource development and to the Government of Alberta for the funding. Thank you to the following people who have contributed to this project: Silvia Wencel (Government of Alberta), Cheryl Whitelaw (NorQuest College), Yuji Abe (NorQuest College), Hana Taleb-Imai (Bow Valley College), and Veena Zarour-Murthy (Bow Valley College). Thank you also to the Calgary and Edmonton locals for hosting and organizing the workshops and to Irene Wood for administrative support. The resource is an excellent tool that will enable practitioners to develop intercultural communicative competence in their classrooms. We look forward to hearing your feedback on the resource. All materials will be available on the ATESL website in the spring of 2017.

### **Raising ATESL's Profile: Contributing Locally, Provincially, and Nationally**

Over the past year, ATESL has been actively engaging with immigrant serving agencies and organizations at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels to raise our presence and influence as well as to provide support. At the municipal level, ATESL is positioned to inform Local Immigration Partnerships in Edmonton with the recent appointment of Lisa Rochman to the Council and ATESL is also a member of the ELIP Working Group. In addition, each ATESL president regularly attends and contributes to quarterly meetings at LARCC and ILVARC.

ATESL has also contributed to provincial events and has continued to strengthen ties with a strategic partner. In August, both Wendy and Lisa participated in discussions held at the Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies' (AASIA) Alberta Settlement and Integration Consultation held in Calgary. With the valuable contributions of Nadia Khan, Rural Routes Member-at-Large, ATESL signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with Rural Routes (NorQuest College) for the purpose of strengthening professional development opportunities for rural instructors in the province. ATESL's affiliate, TESL Canada, and strategic partner, Rural Routes are featured on a new webpage titled, ATESL Affiliate/Partner (see <http://www.atesl.ca/affiliate-partners>).

At the national level, Wendy Chambers was honoured to represent ATESL and contribute to the IRCC Immigration Roundtable Consultations with Minister John McCallum held in Edmonton on August 18. Lisa Rochman and Cindy Messaros (ATESL Secretary) also contributed to the consultation in their respective roles with NorQuest College and AWES. ATESL was recently invited by MP Linda Duncan's office to submit in-person or in-writing to the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities. Wendy is currently in consultation with Dr. Tracey Derwing (ATESL Advocacy Chair) to generate a response to submit to the Standing Committee addressing the English as a second language realities facing Alberta learners, instructors, programs, and institutions. Also at the national level, ATESL presidents continue to maintain open communications with representatives from BC TEAL, TESL Ontario, and TESL Canada. In April, Wendy attended the BC TEAL conference held in Surrey as an invited guest and met with both the outgoing president Shawna Williams and in-coming president, Joe Dobson to further our plans to hold the Ed Tech 2017 Conference in Calgary. Representatives from BC TEAL, TESL Ontario, and TESL Canada were invited to

attend the ATESL 2016 Conference. Building and maintaining relationships with provincial and national TESL associations gives ATESL an opportunity to share and improve on our best practices.

ATESL also sponsored the Teaching Tips and Strategies session of the Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching (PSLLT) conference held at the University of Calgary on August 13<sup>th</sup>. This international event was another great opportunity for ATESL to be seen as a leader by promoting quality professional development.

### **Advocacy Committee**

While the Advocacy committee is a core element of ATESL, for a number of years, it has not been active. This year, the Advocacy committee was reactivated. Dr. Tracey Derwing chaired the committee whose members included Wendy Chambers, Maureen Stewart, Lisa Rochman, Cindy Messaros, and member-at-large, Theresa Wall. For additional information on the activities of the committee, please see the Advocacy committee report.

### **Strategic Plan**

The ad hoc Strategic Planning committee was conceived in 2014 under the leadership of ATESL president, Dorte Weber, for the purpose of developing a strategic plan to guide future ATESL boards. Over the past two years, Wendy has chaired the committee and the 2015-2016 committee includes Maureen Stewart, Lisa Rochman, Janet Kwong, and Sally Scholefield. ATESL's Strategic Plan, Envisioning the Future is presented in the Strategic Planning committee report prepared for the AGM. This document will guide and focus ATESL activities over the next few years.

### **ATESL Website**

In March, ATESL signed a contract with Blue Hut to begin updating and improving the website. Unfortunately, the website platform the ATESL website was built on several years ago (Drupal 6) no longer provides updates and without updates, the website is fragile. The [ATESL website](#) is currently under construction and we are looking forward to the launch of the new site early next year. It will include updated, user-friendly features, including an improved search engine for the Resource Library, improved pages for each of the local chapters, and much, much more!

### **Proposed By-Law Amendment**

In response to an issue that was first raised at the 2013 AGM in Calgary, the ATESL membership requested that a by-law change be conducted regarding e-voting. At that time, the question of keeping or eliminating the ATESL accreditation program was up for discussion and a membership vote. Members wanted to be able to cast their vote via proxy or via e-voting in the future if they were unable to attend the AGM in person. After reviewing ATESL by-laws and policies, there is nothing that allows ATESL to conduct votes via proxy, but we can investigate the opportunity for members to vote electronically. While the initial discussion by the membership during the 2013 AGM revolved around e-voting for by-law changes, it is not recommended ATESL do so. Wendy and ATESL Business Manager, Irene Wood connected with TESL Ontario and TESL Canada for advice and neither association conducts by-law changes via e-voting. The reason for not holding by-law changes via e-vote is because this approach does not allow for the membership to voice their thoughts about the by-law amendment, allow for discussion, or have input about the wording. Open discussion ensures any by-law change is worded correctly and ensures it also accurately represents the wishes of the membership. At this time, it seems like a reasonable course of action for ATESL to pursue e-voting for the purpose of electing the Executive Board of Directors only. With this in mind, please see the current by-law and the proposed amendment.

**ATESL's by-law currently states: IV. 2 .**The Executive of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the members of the Association at the Annual General Meeting.

**Proposed Bylaw amendment: IV. 2** The Executive of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the members of the Association either at the Annual General Meeting or by electronic votes, not both.

During the ATESL Annual General Meeting, the proposed bylaw amendment will be presented to the membership for consideration, review, and voting.

**With many, many thanks...**

ATESL is a growing and thriving professional association thanks to its dedicated membership, hardworking board members, enthusiastic volunteers, and steadfast business manager.

ATESL membership continues to grow, and as previously mentioned, we are now 764 members strong - a new ATESL record! As of January 1st, 2016, 147 new members joined ATESL, including 55 in Calgary, 86 in Edmonton, 2 in Central Alberta, and 4 in Southern Alberta. For those members who renew each year, thank you very much for your commitment. For those members who are new to ATESL, welcome!

The 2015-2016 ATESL Board was an extraordinary group of professionals dedicated many to providing and advancing professional development opportunities in Alberta. We wish to thank each member for their time and expertise.

We sincerely wish to thank retiring board members, Yuji Abe (Treasurer), Cindy Messaros (Secretary), Silvia Rossi (Calgary local co-chair), Sabine Ricioppo (Edmonton local co-chair), Nancy Bain (Central Alberta local co-chair), and Sally Scholefield (TESL Canada Representative) for their many valuable contributions to ATESL. Your tremendous spirit of volunteerism is greatly appreciated!

On behalf of the entire ATESL board, Wendy and Lisa would also like to thank Maureen Stewart for her tremendous commitment to and enthusiasm for ATESL over the past eight years, seven of those serving on the Board. Maureen has taken on multiple roles, including two terms as Calgary local co-chair, ATESL 2011 conference co-chair, secretary, as well as three years in the presidential chain. Your keen insights, experience, and humour will be greatly missed. Your work with ATESL has greatly contributed to its growth and professionalization. Thank you, Maureen, and we wish you continued success with your professional pursuits.

We also wish to thank Dr. Marian Rossiter and Dr. Marilyn Abbott for your exceptional work on the ATESL Newsletter throughout the year.

Irene Wood, your work as the ATESL Business Manager is tremendously appreciated. We thank you for your unwavering support, your managerial initiatives, and your commitment to ATESL members and to the board.

We are looking forward to another productive year ahead in 2017!

**Respectfully submitted by:**  
**Wendy Chambers (President)**  
**Maureen Stewart (Past President)**  
**and Lisa Rochman (President-Elect)**

## 8. Reports of Committees

### Calgary Local Annual Report 2015/2016

**Co-Chairs: Silvia Rossi and Nadia Khan**

**Treasurer: Kim MacDonald through February 2016, and Peggy Jubien from that point forward**

**Secretary: Chris Wharton**

The Calgary Local hosted five PD sessions plus a one-day mini-conference between November 2015 and September 2016. The TESL Canada Conference took place in Lake Louise in October, so we did not host a meeting that month. Instead, we brought Jane Willis - one of the TESL Canada Conference keynote speakers - to Calgary for a special 3-hour session on the Monday evening immediately after the conference. Themes for our PD sessions as well as the June mini-conference were selected in response to a survey sent out to our membership in January 2016.

November	<i>From Meaning to Form in Task-based Language Teaching</i>	Jane Willis (Keynote speaker for TESL Canada Conference)
December	Holiday Social	Midtown Kitchen & Bar
January	Double workshop on reading:  <i>Assisting ESL Students Become Better Readers through Schema Theory Applications</i>  <i>The Anatomy of Expository Text Summarization</i>	Abir Aboutaha  Lena Bishop
March	Panel discussion on maximizing employability	Managers, Coordinators and Directors from 12 different Calgary English language programs participated as panelists
May	<i>Creating and Integrating Visuals into Language Lessons</i>  <i>Teaching Listening Skills through Generative Dialogue</i>	Corrie Davidson  Kim MacDonald
June	Mini-conference (one full day)	Two sets of concurrent



	Theme: <i>“Supporting Wellness in the Language Classroom”</i>	sessions plus lightning talks
September	Back 2 School Idea Share	Various presenters

The Calgary Local would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank all of the facilitators and panelists who contributed to professional development in our community over the past year! For the upcoming year, the Calgary Local particularly looks forward to a series of special ICC workshops. The first of these will be held at Bow Valley College on November 5. We would also like to welcome Jyoti Grewal onto the local committee to replace outgoing co-chair Silvia Rossi.

Peggy, Chris and Nadia would like to thank Silvia for her dedication and commitment to the ATESL Calgary local chapter.

**Respectfully submitted by Nadia Khan and Silvia Rossi**

**Central Alberta ATESL Local 2015/2016**

**Co-Chair: Nancy Bain**

**Treasurer: Lois Prostebby**

**Secretary: Nancy Walters**

All meetings were held at Central Alberta Refugee Effort on the third Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted. In September 6 members met to try and put together a new executive for this school year.

October is conference month so we do not hold a meeting but most members travelled to Lake Louise for the TESL Canada conference hosted by ATESL. It was a wonderful weekend for professional insights and connecting.

At the November meeting we heard reports and sharing from sessions by a half dozen members. A draw was held to reward one of the speakers.

January meeting was hosted by Lois Prostebby at the Dawe branch of the public library. Two CARE LINC staff poke about their travels of the previous summer. One had been to Lesbos, Greece where refugees were arriving daily in the hundreds. The other had been hosted by a family in Lebanon that is connected to the humanitarian organization she is involved with on-line work for. Wonderful photos and personal anecdotes always help make those news events stories seem more real.

By February the Syrian refugees were arriving in Red Deer so we asked Avery Acheson, head of Settlement Services for CARE to update us on their roles with helping those families. It was an extremely busy time for those colleagues.

Starting in March we hosted a series of speakers from Edmonton. ATESL President Wendy Chambers came to meet the local members and speak to us about CALL or Computer-Assisted Language Learning. In April, Dr. Leila Ranta make the trip to share ideas on teaching grammar in task based learning, and in May, Sabine Ricioppo spoke to us on “30 Minute Module Planning”.

No meeting was held in June. On September 21, 2016 a 3-person executive was put in place for this upcoming year.

**Respectfully submitted by Nancy Bain**

## Edmonton Local Annual Report 2015/2016

**Co-Chairs: Janet Kwong, Sabine Ricioppo**

**Secretary: Lynn Sawyer**

**Treasurer: Nick Williams**

**Communications Officer: Rosemary McMahon**

**Hospitality: Sydney Suess, Astrid Luethe**

The Edmonton chapter met seven times this past year, averaging between 30-40 members attending.

In September, Denise Lo presented on Using the Longman Dictionary Online in an English for Academic Purposes Classroom. Laura George discussed the numerous programs and services offered through the Edmonton Public Library for English Language Learners in November. Early November, the University of Alberta's English School and ATESL co-sponsored a Jane Willis Workshop on How to Teach Grammar Effectively. It was quite a busy month. In January, we organized a Syrian Refugee Panel Discussion which consisted of Annette Kreider (CSS/LARCC), Suzanne Gross (EMCN), Diana Kim (City of Edmonton), and Susan Coughlan (IRCC). In February, ESL directors and practitioners from Edmonton Catholic School District LINC Programs, NAIT, NorQuest College, Metro Continuing Education, ASSIST Community Services, Changing Together, PALS, Solomon College, and the University of Alberta presented at the ESL Directors' Forum. In April, the Edmonton Local Chapter hosted two meetings: a Mental Health Sensitivity Training Seminar presented by Dr. Fatima Al Sayah, Dr. Mohammad Alghamdi and Dr. Samer Aldandashi and three capping project summaries presented by Elina Stop (Analysis of Vocabulary Frequency in ESL Textbooks), Moncef Abbassi (Canadian Short Stories to Teach Language and Culture to Advanced ESL Learners), and Oksana Oleksyn (Using Web Resources to Enhance L2 Listening Comprehension). In May, we concluded the year with three additional University of Alberta TESL Master's capping project presentations by Sami Ghariani (Enhancing Vocabulary Use in ESL Speaking Activities), Yitao Wang (Developing Language Support Materials for LING 101: Using the Adjunct Model), and Tabitha Gillman (An Analysis of Present Perfect Timelines in ESL Textbooks). All meetings were highly informative and well attended. The Edmonton Local would like to sincerely thank all the speakers who presented at local meetings and enriched our minds over the past year!

We also piloted a new position in the Edmonton chapter - Communications Officer. The overall goal of the Communications Officer is to increase ATESL's visibility, increase membership and engagement, and improve connections with ESL program directors across Edmonton, which is in line with ATESL's Strategic Plan. Rosemary McMahon has done a superb job of doing all of the above and more. She assisted the Co-Chairs in organizing the ESL Directors' Forum. This was the first time that smaller ESL institutions were included in the forum thanks to Rosemary locating them and acting as our liaison. In addition to diligently emailing ESL directors to remind their staff members and contacts about upcoming local ATESL meetings, she has also been keeping records of attendees who are not yet ATESL members. These attendees still receive email notifications from Rosemary of upcoming meetings. After a while, we can make the suggestion for them to join ATESL in order to reap the benefits our current members have. This year, we have seen growth in the number of attendees at our meetings, which is partly due to our increased connections across the city. The Communications Officer position

has been a highly beneficial addition to the Edmonton local team!

As our Annual General Meeting will be held on September 30, 2016, after the submission of this report, I will announce the new slate of volunteers for the Edmonton Board and this year's winner of the free conference registration at the 2016 ATESL AGM.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of the outgoing volunteers for their dedication and commitment. Sabine Ricioppo, Lynn Sawyer, and Sydney Suess have done impeccable jobs as Co-Chair, Secretary, and Hospitality.

Stay tuned for many more interesting meetings and events in the upcoming year with the Edmonton Local!

**Respectfully submitted by Janet Kwong**

### **2016 Annual Bursary Committee Report**

Members: Yuji Abe, Cindy Messaros, Maureen Stewart

ATESL accepts bursary applications twice a year, in March and September. The Bursary committee carefully reviews eligible applications submitted by members seeking funding to participate in professional development activities. As per the requirements of the bursary application, each approved applicant is expected to submit all receipts for tuition/registration expenses. In addition, each applicant must submit a 250-word summary/evaluation of the event or course they have attended, which is published in the ATESL Newsletter (available online at [atesl.ca](http://atesl.ca)).

In the 2016 budget, the ATESL Board allotted \$4,000 to the bursary fund, the same amount as was allotted in 2015. During the spring intake of applications, there were no bursary applications, so ATESL was not able to award any funding. During the fall intake of applications, a total of \$1500.00 was awarded. In total, ATESL awarded bursaries totaling \$1500 for the 2016 financial year, a little under half of what was awarded in 2015.

In September 2016, ATESL received five bursary applications. One of the applicants withdrew, another did not demonstrate financial need, and the three remaining applicants were each funded the full amount of \$500. Two of the applicants are presenting at the Hawaii International Conference on Education, and the other applicant requested funding to offset tuition fees for an Applied Linguistics on-line course.

The committee was pleased with the breadth and quality of the professional development opportunities undertaken by the bursary applicants and wishes each applicant continued success in their professional pursuits.

**Respectfully submitted by the Bursary Committee: Cindy Messaros, Yuji Abe, Maureen Stewart**

## **TESL Canada Representative Report 2015/2016**

TESL Canada has seen many changes over the last year. Last fall both TESL Ontario and BC TEAL decided to discontinue joint memberships with TESL Canada. In spite of this, many efforts have been made to continue relationships with ESL practitioners in BC and Ontario. The TESL Canada Executive Board has been in communication with members in Ontario and BC, inviting individuals to join TESL Canada as independent members at a cost of \$30 per year.

To encourage communication with the Provincial Boards, a sub-committee was formed for all of the Provincial Representatives. Provincial Reps from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland make up the members of this committee. The chair of this committee also sits in on the Executive Board meetings. As a group, we have been tasked to discuss our current Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) between the provinces and TESL Canada. TESL Canada is seeking feedback regarding each province's MOA, and ATESL compiled a list and sent to the Executive Board. The Executive Board is expected to draft a response to the provincial feedback, which will be discussed at the next board meeting.

After extensive searching, TESL Canada is proud to announce the hiring of Claude Lloyd for the position of Executive Director. The recent 2015 Strategic Plan had identified the need to hire an ED based out of Ottawa. Having Claude living and working in the Ottawa area will greatly support TESL Canada's goals to cultivate stronger relationships with federal government partners and other stakeholders. Claude comes to TESL Canada with experience in public, private, academic, and NGO sectors.

TESL Canada will be holding its upcoming conference at Niagara Falls the weekend of June 8-10, 2017. More details on registration to come.

This will be my last report as the TESL Canada Representative. I have greatly enjoyed collaborating with the ATESL Board in moving many important items forward. I especially want to thank Wendy Chambers, whose support and hard work has been greatly appreciated.

**Respectfully submitted by Sally Scholefield**

## **Rural Routes Annual Report 2015/2016**

Partnership between ATESL and Rural Routes grew and strengthened over the past year. ATESL and Rural Routes have signed a three year MOU effective until the end of June 2019. In 2015/2016 ATESL and Rural Routes engaged in various collaborative measures which included the following:

- website exchange information.
- exchange of informational materials and brochures at conferences.
- RR shared ATESL chapters' events through its regional and provincial communications.

Other possible collaborative measures are as follows:

- RR provides ATESL with the web-link to the automated SATIE self assessment tool for ESL professionals.

- RR invites ATESL members who are knowledgeable on an identified topic of focus to share their expertise and experience through the Rural Routes Online platform:  
<https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/services/online.aspx>

**Respectfully submitted by Nadia Khan**

### **Advocacy Committee Report**

Members: Dr. Tracey Derwing (Chair), Dr. Wendy Chambers, Maureen Stewart, Dr. Lisa Rochman, Cindy Messaros, and Theresa Wall

The Advocacy Committee is a standing committee of ATESL, but has not been active for a number of years. The activities of the committee commenced with the first meeting held on January 6<sup>th</sup> and subsequently, the committee met numerous times over the months ahead. The ultimate goal of the Advocacy committee is to take an active role in the successful integration of immigrants into Alberta's education system, communities, and workplaces. In order for the committee to proceed in a responsible manner, stakeholders were consulted for the purpose of aligning the committee's activities and initiatives. One avenue we pursued to heighten the profile of the Advocacy committee in Alberta and to develop relationships with stakeholders was by attending LARCC and ILVARC stakeholders' meetings - Wendy, Maureen, and Lisa attended the quarterly meetings and reported back to the Advocacy committee.

Each of the five main activities of the Advocacy committee is listed below together with a brief overview of each.

- 1. Connecting employers with service providers.** In the spring, Wendy, Lisa, and Cindy met with a representative of the Government of Alberta who was receptive to the possibility of a funded ATESL project to address the opportunity to connect employers with service providers. Unfortunately, the 2016-2017 funding stream did not allow ATESL to pursue this funding avenue via the Alberta Government; however, ATESL will continue to investigate alternate funding sources to launch the initiative.
- 2. Syrian refugee crisis.** Committee members attended meetings around the province including those held at LARCC and ILVARC, the University of Alberta's Kule Institute's Syrian refugee session, ATESL Edmonton's local January meeting focusing on Syrian refugee integration, as well as meeting with stakeholders. In addition, Wendy and Lisa also attended the August AAISA consultations held in Calgary to learn more about initiatives to provide support for Syrian refugees in Alberta. A panel session titled, *Syrian Refugees in Alberta: A Snapshot of Current and Future Priorities*, was organized by Wendy Chambers, Sabine Ricioppo, and Janet Kwong for the ATESL 2016 Conference to provide updates to address the Syrian refugee situation in Alberta.
- 3. Transportation repayment policy for refugees.** In March, the Advocacy committee launched an e-mail campaign to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. While the government waived transportation loans for Syrian refugees who arrived after November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015, refugees from other origins were still required to pay back the transportation loan. The membership was asked to consider writing to their MP and Minister John McCallum requesting to rescind the transportation loans for all refugees. An information letter providing details of the transportation loan situation together with a letter template were

sent out to the ATESL membership asking them to write a letter to Minister McCallum and their local MP's requesting transportation loans repayments for all refugees be waived.

4. **Advocacy webpage.** The Advocacy committee also has been working to develop a webpage of credible, reliable resources and materials. While work on the webpage continues, please watch for it with the launch of the new ATESL.ca website later this year.
5. **Immigration consultation.** On behalf of the ATESL Board, Wendy Chambers submitted a brief to the federal government, responding to the questions posed on the consultation website. Dr. Derwing also submitted a brief, as an individual.

The commitment, contributions, and support of members-at-large, Dr. Tracey Derwing and Theresa Wall, are greatly appreciated.

**Respectfully submitted by Dr. Tracey Derwing and Dr. Wendy Chambers**

### **Strategic Planning Committee Report**

Members: Dr. Wendy Chambers (Chair), Maureen Stewart, Dr. Lisa Rochman, Janet Kwong, and Sally Scholefield

The *ad hoc* Strategic Planning committee was formed in 2014 under the leadership of ATESL president Dorte Weber, with the goal of developing a strategic plan to guide the activities of future ATESL boards. In June 2015, during a face-to-face meeting held in Red Deer, Liz Karra (1988-1999), Marian Rossiter (2007-2008), and Sheri Rhodes (2012-2013) together with the board spent the afternoon engaged in a focused examination of crucial issues, opportunities, and challenges that impact English language teaching and learning in Alberta and what ATESL can do to support and promote the “highest standards of teaching and provision of English language programs for learners” (ATESL Mission Statement). Following from the June session, an invitation to complete an e-survey was sent out to all past presidents and board members for the purpose of eliciting additional feedback. The survey was open from July 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. Data collected from the survey was used to inform the development of the strategic plan.

Over the past year, the 2015-2016 Strategic Planning committee has continued to develop the ATESL strategic plan. In May 2016, an e-survey was administered to the ATESL membership seeking feedback on a number of issues including ATESL services, and 103 members completed the survey. The committee has met regularly to develop the elements of the plan and to ensure the strategic directions and key implementation strategies represent the ideas provided by past and current ATESL Board members (2014-2015, 2015-2016), by ATESL members who completed the survey in Spring 2016, and by past presidents. Also, the committee has taken care to ensure alignment of each component of the plan with ATESL's vision and mission. We are proud to present the *ATESL Strategic Plan 2017-2019: Envisioning the Future*, below.

The 2015-2016 Strategic Planning Committee wishes to thank the ATESL membership for your helpful responses to the e-survey as well as Dr. Marian Rossiter, Liz Karra, and Sheri Rhodes for your insights and suggestions. Thank you to ATESL Board members (2014-2016) and all members of the Strategic Planning committee (2014-2016) who have enthusiastically contributed ideas, provided feedback, and shaped the strategic plan. Also, a

huge thank you to Irene Wood for your on-going support and commitment to the work the committee and ATESL. All have contributed to the Strategic Planning committee's work in a significant way.

**Respectfully submitted by: Dr. Wendy Chambers**

## **ATESL Strategic Plan 2017-2019: Envisioning the Future**

### **ATESL's Belief statement**

The Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL) believes that it is vital to assist learners whose first language is other than English by providing them with the necessary language training skills and achieve their goals in an English speaking society. Furthermore, we believe that ESL practitioners act in a manner that maintains the honour and dignity of the profession.

### **ATESL's Vision**

Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language will be regarded as essential and credible professionally respected and supported by the society at large.

Strategic Directions	Key Implementation Strategies
<b>1. Broaden the variety and reach of professional development opportunities</b>	a) Identify and determine the viability of interactive Web-based tools to deliver PD opportunities across the province.
	b) Build an online repository of PD resources and explore options for including presentations delivered at local chapter meetings and at the provincial conference.
	c) Offer a biennial spring mini-conference in Edmonton and Calgary, during non-conference years in those cities.
<b>2. Support the professionalization of English language instructors in Alberta</b>	Advocate for quality education and training opportunities in the field of English language learning and/or TESL.
<b>3. Promote ATESL's presence across the province and nation as a vital professional</b>	a) Develop and implement a Board-level Communications Officer role.
	b) Continue to build social media presence.

association.	c) Connect with English language programs in Alberta to promote ATESL.
	d) Maintain a presence at all levels of relevant government stakeholder meetings.
4. Expand relationships with provincial, national, and international organizations.	a) Pursue strategic partnerships with community serving agencies.
	b) Maintain an open and collaborative relationship with leaders of provincial, national, and international associations.
	c) Where relevant, have a voice with immigrant serving provincial and federal branches of government.

#### 9. Presentation of Awards

Dawn Seabrook de Vargas Fellowship – Sue Oguchi  
Presented by Brad Bent – AWES Chair

ATESL Lifetime Membership - Silvia Rossi – Presented by Wendy Chambers

#### MOTIONS BEFORE THE MEMBERSHIP

#### 10. Bylaw Amendment:

Need 75 % of members in attendance to be in favour – 65

**MOTION: Proposed Bylaw Amendment: IV:2. The Executive of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the members of the Association either at the Annual General Meeting or by electronic votes, not both.**

**Moved – Dorte Weber**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Sheri Rhodes**

**Discussion:**

-voting would happen electronically prior to AGM

**In favour -81**

**Opposed -2**

**Abstention -3**

**Motion Carried**

#### 11. Appointment of Local Co-chairs

**Calgary – Jyoti Grewal**

**Central Alberta – Elise Kruithof, Anna Robertson**

**Edmonton – Elina Stop**

**Southern Alberta – Greg Ogilvie**



**12. Appointment of TESL Canada Representative**

**Kim Dudas**

**13. Appointment of Rural Routes Member at Large**

**Martha Urquhart**

**14. Ratification of 2015-16 President-Elect**

IV: board of Directors: 4: Any temporary vacancy in the Board of Directors may be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors with such appointee to hold office until the next General Meeting.

**Motion to accept Lisa Rochman as the 2015 President Elect, as appointed by the board on November 26, 2015.**

**Moved -Maureen Stewart**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Cindy Messaros**

**In favour 86**

**Opposed -0**

**Absentions -0**

**Carried**

**15. Election of Officers for 2016-2017**

**President-Elect**

Nominations from Floor

3 calls for nominations from the Floor

Written Ballot – Chris Wharton, nominated by Jyoti Grewal

**Motion to approve Chris Wharton as ATESL President Elect**

**Moved –Jyoti Grewal**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Nadia Khan**

**In favour- 86**

**Opposed-0**

**Abstention-0**

**Carried**

**Treasurer**

Nominations from the Floor

3 calls for nominations from the floor

Written Ballot: Seppy Masoodi, nominated by Ewa Dufurat

**Motion to approve Seppy Masoodi as the ATESL Treasurer.**

**Moved –Brock Wojtalewicz**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Dorte Weber**

**In Favour-86**

**Opposed-0**

**Abstention-0**

**Carried**

**Secretary**

Nominations from the Floor

3 calls for nominations from the floor

Written Ballot: Wendy Ilott, nominated by Irene Wilson

**Motion to approve Wendy Ilott as the ATESL Secretary.**

**Moved –Sue Oguchi**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: -Joanne Abram**

**In Favour -86**

**Opposed-0**

**Abstention-0**

**Carried**

**16. Acknowledgements of Retiring Board Members**

**Silvia Rossi – Calgary Local Co-chair**

**Nancy Bain – Central Alberta Local Co-chair**

**Sabine Ricioppo – Edmonton Local Co-chair**

**Nadia Khan –Rural Routes member-at-large**

**Sally Scholefield – TESL Canada Representative**

**Yuji Abe - Treasurer**

**Cindy Messaros -Secretary**

**Maureen Stewart – Past President**

**17. Passing of the gavel- to Lisa Rochman**

**18. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn – 6:12 PM**

**Lisa Rochman**