



**Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language  
Annual General Meeting  
Calgary, AB  
Friday, October 16, 2020  
4:15 – 5:30 PM  
Location: Online - Wild Rose Room**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Establishment of quorum** (require 66 members – as of Oct.2.20)
- 3. Approval of 2020 AGM Agenda**
- 4. Approval of 2019 AGM Minutes**
- 5. Approval of the 2019 Audited Financial Statement**
- 6. Reports of Officers**
  - Treasurer Report
  - Presidents' Report
- 7. Reports of Committees**
  - Calgary Local
  - Central Alberta Local
  - Edmonton Local
  - Southern Alberta Local
  - Bursary Committee
  - TESL Canada
  - Rural Routes
  - Advocacy Committee
  - Communications Committee

**MOTION: To approve the Annual Reports as presented at the 2020 Annual General Meeting as distributed.**

- 8. Presentation of Awards**
  - Carolyn Dieleman Award – Learning English with CBC - Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson

**Motions before the membership**

- 9. Approval of 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, 2020.**

**10. Appointment of Local Co-chairs & Appointed Board Members**

Calgary  
Central Alberta  
Edmonton  
Southern Alberta  
Rural Routes Representative

**11. Election of Officers**

Secretary  
Treasurer  
President-Elect

**12. Acknowledgements of Retiring Board Members**

**13. Passing of the gavel**

**14. Adjournment**

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**ATESL Presidents' Annual Report 2019-2020**

While 2020 was a year of great change, it was also a testament of the commitment to curiosity, drive and innovation of both ATESL as an association and the teachers we serve. Despite a worldwide pandemic, ATESL has managed to coordinate one of our most successful conferences to date and continued professional development activities, not only in the province but Canada-wide. This reflects our members' collective commitment to our field. We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our keynotes, featured speakers, guest speakers, presenters, planners, and volunteers who have taken part in the conference planning, regional activities, and committee meetings throughout the year.

ATESL would also like to thank the generous sponsors of our 2020 virtual conference:

- NorQuest College - Platinum Sponsorship
- CCIS - Platinum Sponsorship
- Columbia College - Gold Sponsorship
- Trinity Western College - Gold Sponsorship
- British Council - IELTS - Silver Sponsorship
- Catholic Social Services - Bronze Sponsorship
- REMAX - Bronze in-kind Sponsorship
- TESL Canada - \$250 contribution

**Response to COVID-19**

It has been an amazing experience to watch as our organization shifted and molded to overcome COVID challenges. We moved meetings and PD online, created new sessions for online teaching, teaching literacy online and are the first completely virtual TESL conference to be held in Canada.

We'd like to thank our conference managers Maryna Siek, Gabriela Jessome and Indira Cevallos for their incredible leadership, vision and innovation for planning this online event. We would also like to thank

the Conference Planning Committee who have put in countless hours to make this event a success. The Conference Planning Committee worked exceptionally hard to get more than \$1000 in gift cards from businesses across Alberta and all will be given away at the conference.

### **Early Career Rate for Conferences**

Last year, the board approved an early career rate at 40% off the regular conference rate for eligible ATESL membership holders in honour of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. We are pleased to have been able to continue this initiative at this year's conference and had several individuals take part. The board also voted to extend the definition of 'student' this year to make it more accessible to teachers entering the field.

### **Awards**

On behalf of the ATESL Board, I would like to congratulate both Justine Light and Barbara Edmondson for receiving the 2020 Carolyn Dieleman Award for their exemplary contributions to the field with the resource *Learning English with CBC*.

Carolyn Dieleman has been instrumental in shaping the field of ESL in Alberta. Her work has helped to create a professional environment founded on the implementation and sharing of new ideas, new approaches and innovative programs.

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.

Justine and Barbara were nominated by their colleagues because, among other things, they have dedicated more than ten years to this valuable and innovative resource. The project shifted from being a radio accessed program with PDF documents, to becoming an open educational resource focusing on e-learning, evolving with technology. Its reach is global, and its need is universal.

In appreciation of their hard work and in recognition of their contributions to the field of ESL, ATESL would like to present both Justine and Barbara with a complimentary registration for the ATESL 2021 Conference.

Congratulations and thank you both again for all you do!

### **SILP Proposal**

ATESL received approval for a \$145,000 provincial grant in January to update the Best Practice Guidelines for Adult ESL/LINC Programming in Alberta. It is a 22-month project which kicked off in April with the hiring of Herly Cervera as the project consultant and Sara Gnida as the project manager. We've also since hired 3 advisors to help guide the project. Stacy Norrbom was hired as our LGBTQ2S+ Advisor, Theresa Wall as our Disabilities Advisor and Suzanne Clavelle as our Indigenous Advisor. We are currently in phase 2 of the project.

### **Agreement with TESL Canada**

There have been some changes to our 2020 agreement with TESL Canada. Previously, ATESL paid a per member annual fee to TESL Canada which typically amounted to roughly \$11,000. This year, TESL Canada put forth a suggestion to cap our annual payments to the organization at \$8,000 which ATESL gratefully accepted. Despite reducing our annual fees, this agreement will continue our professional relationship and will continue to provide ATESL members with access to TESL Canada certification and all other benefits as part of your ATESL membership fees.

### **Inter-Provincial Partnerships**

This year, the ATESL board continued to meet with interprovincial associations to discuss changes to provincial ministries, upcoming priorities in the new IRCC budget, and advocacy for issues affecting classrooms such as waitlists, remote area programming, special needs, accreditation, the implementation of PBLA and of course, the evolving COVID-19 situation. It was during this time that the board also investigated the creation of a charitable branch that we will pursue next year.

### **ATESL Advocacy Committee**

When face-to-face classes were suspended in March, the ATESL Committee worked quickly to organize professional development sessions to begin supporting teachers during a very challenging time. The ATESL Advocacy Committee was able to host 11 webinars on Tutela from March 18-April 1, 2020. The warm reception showed the need for such support for teachers during this time. The participants at all 11 seminars totaled 1116 attendees from across Canada. Thank you to everyone who presented and participated.

While hosting the various webinars, it became clear that low literacy teachers need additional support during this time. In response, the Advocacy Committee created a special interest group which has become very active on Tutela. The group is chaired by Jessica Legacy, the current Central Alberta ATESL chair. Jessica has since hosted well-attended PD sessions on Tutela to help support literacy teachers.

### **Response to ATESL's Financial Situation**

Before COVID-19, the ATESL board had made several changes to operations to reduce costs. One of the most significant changes was in our face-to-face meetings. The board typically held 2 face-to-face meetings, one in February and one in June, in Red Deer each year. However, we had decided to move all in-person meetings online. This change saved on travel, food, AV and board room rental costs. We also explored changes to our annual conference, how our accounting is done and the creation of a charitable branch in an effort to cut costs. ATESL will continue to explore options to cut costs and find additional sources of revenue next year.

### **Charitable Branch Committee Creation**

In response to our discussions with our interprovincial affiliates, ATESL has been working to create a new committee to help find additional sources of revenue for the organization. The Board has passed a motion to create an AdHoc Charitable Investigation Committee and there will be a call to the membership to fill the Board Member at Large position Charitable Branch Investigator in the coming months. This committee will present its findings at the 2021 AGM, with a proposed course of action.

### **Strategic Plan**

Under the leadership of Colyn deGraaff, ATESL updated its strategic plan last year. We are pleased to announce that this year, we have achieved many of our strategic directions by 'Envisioning the Future,' but we aren't done yet. ATESL's strategic directions include but are not limited to:

Broadening the variety and reach of professional development opportunities

- Foster the accessibility of professional development opportunities through digital tools
  - Moving the conference online, continuation of local PD sessions and increased PD sessions hosted on Tutela
- Stay informed, promote awareness, & provide support for emergent needs in the field
  - The advocacy committee responded swiftly to the emergent need to move online and quickly developed numerous sessions that we attended by teachers Canada-wide
  - The creation of a support group for literacy teachers to facilitate their move online

- Maintain Social Media presence
  - ❑ Significantly increased our reach this year by using Canva
- Connect with English language programs in Alberta to promote ATESL.
  - ❑ Because the conference is online, we have more attendees from outside the province than ever before

Although COVID-19 has been an extremely challenging time both personally and professionally, it has also been a time of innovation. ATESL planned to pursue our strategic directions over the next several years, but COVID reignited our commitment to curiosity, drive and innovation and pushed us to achieve these goals earlier than anticipated.

### **Social Media**

This has also been a year of great change for ATESL's social media accounts. Some changes include:

- Using Canva.com to create image-based posts for ATESL's social media accounts which include Instagram, which was created this year, LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook
- Since changing to Canva, there has been a significant uptick in social media engagement
- Please connect with ATESL on LinkedIn and update your profile to include work and/or volunteer experience with ATESL
- Also new this year, Tech Tuesdays and Sunday Reads on all social media accounts
- We will continue to use social media to bring awareness to ATESL, its mandate, our work and the work of our partners

### **Condolences**

Christine Land, Manager of the Settlement and Language Programs with the Alberta Government, passed away after a prolonged illness on September 29.

Christine dedicated her career to helping newcomers. She was well respected for her expertise by the language and settlement sector and made important contributions at the federal/provincial/territorial table that were recognized by her federal and provincial colleagues.

Christine was instrumental in working with our team earlier this year on our SILP proposal. Christine was part of the ATESL community for many years, and she will be sorely missed by many for her leadership and the support she provided to her colleagues. Her [memorial](#) service will be held virtually tomorrow, October 17 at 3:00pm. The link to the service was emailed to members last week, and you can email Irene Wood if you require it again.

### **Outgoing ATESL Board Members**

I would like to personally thank our outgoing ATESL board members for their contributions throughout the last year. ATESL and my time as president wouldn't have been the same without you. I thank you all for your leadership, mentorship and commitment to our great field.

- Colyn deGraaff - Past President
- Celeste Bickley - Secretary
- Jake Scheffer - Treasurer
- Maryna Siek - Edmonton Co-Chair
- Maria Dumistrescu - Calgary Co-Chair (stepped down in May)
- Jessica Legacy - Central Albert Co-Chair
- Jenny Bourne - Southern Alberta Co-Chair

- Debbie Severinsen - Rural Routes Member at Large
- Maureen Souply - Social Media Coordinator (completed term in April 2020)

Respectfully submitted by:

Lori Kennedy, President

Colyn DeGraaff, Past President

Dora DiLullo Patten, President Elect

### **ATESL Treasurer Annual Report 2019-2020**

ATESL remains in fair financial shape. We continue to lose money, but there is enough in reserve to cover losses for a few years. For 2020, we have made some progress in securing additional funding (a grant) and in reducing costs (board expenses, conference costs), but the board will continue to look into how we can sustain our association into the future.

The rising cost of conferences is our most significant financial challenge. Almost all our increased year to year loss is explained by comparing the 2019 and 2018 conference expenses. Fortunately, because we are online for 2020, our costs will be much lower. Next year, if we return a “normal” conference, the board will need to address the issue by finding less expensive conference alternatives.

Additionally, we have been pursuing creation of an ATESL charity that will support aspects of our association. Other provinces have a charity arm that is used to support specific association costs. We have done some investigation into this, but it is complicated and requires significant effort. This year, the board will be adding an ex-officio member in order to investigate this avenue.

I thank the board for their support during this term. We have an excellent board, and I wish them all the best in the future.

Respectfully submitted by Jake Scheffer, Treasurer

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

#### **ATESL Calgary Local Annual Report Submission for 2019-2020**

The Calgary Local began the 2019/20 year with the Winter social. It was held on November 22 at the State and Main Restaurant and Bar and 21 members joined us for the evening. It was an opportunity for members to network and reacquaint.

Two PD sessions were held at the beginning of the year. On January 21, Olivia Chen and Christine Do of TIES (The Immigrant Education Society) presented *An Open Source Digital Literacy Curriculum for Low Literacy Newcomers* where they introduced a free online digital literacy resource for participants and organizations. On February, Val Baggaley and Emily Albertsen of Bow Valley College presented *Literacy in the Classroom, Literacy in the Community: Integrating Four Strands in the Winter Shopping Project*. In this session, they demonstrated a collaborative unit built for CLB 2-3L learners and shared materials they had developed for the unit. Both sessions were well attended with 20+ local members participating.

PD sessions had been planned and confirmed for the following months but were suspended due to Covid19. At this time, the local committee paused all plans due to the uncertainty. Also, during this time, two members of the local committee resigned for personal reasons. This led to further delay as the

remaining committee members tried to determine the best way forward to serve the members in light of the restrictions of the pandemic.

Fortunately, in August, two members stepped forward to fill the vacancies and will resume the positions in the 2020/21 year. Priscilla Lee and Peggy Jubien will take on the roles of co-chair and secretary/treasurer respectively. Elaine Mew will continue her role as treasurer until the end of this year and Nancy Robertson will continue in the role of co-chair for the upcoming year.

With the new committee in place, an online session focusing on *Learning Disabilities and Learning Difficulties* was held on September 26 via Google Meets. John Wang of TIES presented on various aspects of the subject. The session was open to all ATESL members and approximately 34 participated in the presentation and discussion. A live draw for the free ATESL 2020 Conference registration was held using an online random-picker. One lucky winner received a free two-day registration.

We would like to thank Kim MacDonald, Elaine Mew and Maria Dumitrescu for all their work and commitment to the Calgary Local in the past year. We also want to thank the membership for their patience and support as we navigate through this unique time.

The local committee for 2020/21 will be meeting after the ATESL conference to plan an online social and PD sessions for the next year. Communication will be sent out in due time for all events.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Robertson, Calgary Local Co-chair

#### **ATESL Central Alberta Local Annual Report 2019-2020**

The year got off to a great start with best intentions. We had great plans to partner with the Red Deer Public Library in order to deliver quarterly PD sessions to library volunteers and ATESL members.

Unfortunately, COVID caused us to cancel these gatherings before they launched.

ATESL members instead took to Rural Routes and Tutela in order to attend the numerous online sessions offered as an impressive and enthusiastic response to the sudden isolation in our workplaces.

On behalf of the Central Alberta members, I would like to thank everyone who hosted or attended a workshop during that drastic shift to the new normal.

In September, CARE moved to a blended delivery, with 1-2 days in person and the remainder of the week online. We are grateful to IRCC for their support and helping us to acquire Google Classroom in order to further support our students.

This year, the board is seeking all new members, and I would like to extend a personal request to anyone who might be interested in holding a position to please contact me at [central@atesl.ca](mailto:central@atesl.ca).

Respectfully submitted by Jess Legacy, Central Alberta Local Chair

#### **ATESL Edmonton Local Annual Report 2019-2020**

Following COVID-19 guidelines, the Edmonton local chapter will be following AHS guidelines and restricting social gatherings. Until further notice, the chapter will be hosting networking and PD events online via Tutela.ca.

##### **Edmonton Local Roles:**

Maryna Siek's two year term has now ended. She has taken on the role of Communications Officer for the 2020/2021 year.

The following members are continuing their roles:

**Local Co-Chair (second year)** - Daniel Green

**Secretary** - Marie Fontaine

**Hospitality** - James Hawrylenko

**Treasurer** - Rosemary McMahon will remain as treasurer until March 2021, at which point Sarah Baskerville will take over the position.

Newly Appointed membership roles:

**Local Co Chair (first year):** Fiza Abedin

**Communications Officer:** Maryna Siek

---

The Edmonton chapter met 9 times this past year, averaging between 20-30 members attending for in person events. Our online events averaged between 50-60 participants.

<b>DATES</b>	<b>SESSION INFORMATION</b>	<b>PD LOCATION</b>
<b>September 27, 2019</b>	Local PD and AGM - Career Transition Programs in Edmonton by ATESL advocacy committee	ECSD - Sacred Heart
<b>October 2019</b>	<b>No PD (ATESL Conference in Calgary)</b>	--
<b>November 29, 2019</b>	Using Accommodations to Reduce Barriers in Language Teaching and Assessment by Laurie Osbaldeston	EMCN - at Eastwood School
<b>December 13, 2019</b>	ATESL Edmonton Chapter Winter Social	State and Main
<b>January 31, 2020</b>	Introducing Diversity and Inclusion in the ESL classroom: Having Brave Conversations by Alexandra Marshall	Sacred Heart

<b>February 28, 2020</b>	Using High and Low Tech Feedback to Enhance Learning by Evelyn Neame and Priscila Magaldi Netto	NorQuest College
<b>March 27, 2020</b>	<b>NO PD (COVID-19 restrictions)</b>	--
<b>April 24, 2020</b>	<b>NO PD (COVID-19 restrictions)</b>	--
<b>May 15, 2020</b>	Classroom Culture Shock: strategies for acclimatizing students to a learner-centred mode by Anne Merritt	Online Tutela/ BigBlueButton
<b>May 29, 2020</b>	Introducing Blended Learning in Settlement Language Programs by Martha Urquhart and Bonnie Nicholas	Online Tutela/ BigBlueButton
<b>June 26, 2020</b>	Teaching Culture Online by Heejung Kim	Online Tutela/ BigBlueButton



## Highlights and New Initiatives

- Encouraged local meetings to be held online during COVID-19 restrictions and at different locations across the city after restrictions have been lifted
- Opened up ATESL Edmonton Online PDs to all ATESL members
- Continuation of certificates (PDFs) and free conference registration
- Instagram/Twitter/Facebook Social media initiatives

Members have expressed interest in continuing this presentation format on another country or culture. Interest has also been shown in continuing the PDs online.

Surveying members, some of the PD request for the 2020/2021 year includes:

- Distance learning, online learning and e-portfolios with low level literacy learners
- Intercultural communication
- PBLA Online
- Phonics and technology related topics

Respectfully by Maryna Siek and Daniel Green, Edmonton ATESL Local Co-chairs

## **ATESL Southern Alberta Local Annual Report 2019-2020**

The Southern Alberta Chapter was eager to hold a number of professional development events during the 2019/2020 year, but with initial plans in place, the COVID-19 virus arrived and these events were impacted.

Early in 2020 plans were put in place to host events in both Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, to allow for more Southern Alberta ATESL members to gather for community building and professional development.

Plans were in place to offer a professional development event at the Lethbridge Public library on March 26<sup>th</sup>, on the theme of *Motivating the Unmotivated – Motivating and Engaging EAL Learners*. With organizations shutting their doors as a result of the pandemic, we were unable to host this event.

A survey was sent out to Southern Alberta ATESL members in March to gauge the interest of moving this event to an online platform. The hope was for members to meet virtually to share best practices, activities, resources, or approaches to promote discussion and contemplation about motivating our learners. The response to this survey was low, so a decision was made to hold off hosting this event.

Members of the local chapter of ATESL would like to thank Jenny Bourne for her service as a co-chair for the past two years! Jenny was an invaluable resource in organizing events and sharing her expertise and her contributions will be sorely missed!

The chapter is hopeful that we will have a great year that offers opportunities for community building through social and professional development events. We encourage members to look out for upcoming events and to become actively involved in the chapter.

Respectfully submitted by Alana Johnson and Jenny Bourne, Southern Alberta Local Co-chairs

### **ATESL Bursary Committee Annual Report 2019-2020**

Members: Celeste Bickley (Chair), Colyn DeGraaff, Jake Scheffer

ATESL is very pleased to support the professional development of six members. In the spring, the Bursary Committee received four applications, of which three were awarded their requested amount. In the fall, the Bursary Committee received three applications and all were awarded their requested amount.

Bursary recipients are attending a variety of PD activities such as the ATESL conference, a Teaching EAL Literacy Learners course by ISANS, a Grammar for Teachers of ESL course at the University of Alberta, an online Technical Writing Introduction through Humber College and an ACE Advanced Grammar Course.

We are pleased to support all ATESL members across Alberta. If you are considering applying for a bursary, please remember the following:

- Your initial application must mention both the financial need as well as the professional development opportunity.
- The maximum amount available is \$500.
- You must be an ATESL member at the time of application.
- We receive applications bi-annually: September 15 and March 15 each year.
- Each approved applicant is expected to submit all receipts for tuition/registration expenses.
- Each applicant must submit a 250-word summary/evaluation of the event or course they have attended, which may be selected for publication in the ATESL Newsletter (available online at [atesl.ca](http://atesl.ca)).

Respectfully submitted by Celeste Bickley, Chair Bursary Committee

### **TESL Canada Representative Annual Report 2019-2020**

TESL Canada has continued to build on the momentum it gained over the previous year with new initiatives as well as further strengthening established activities. TESL Canada is also reestablishing its financial stability. Financial audits have been conducted for 2017 and 2018, and 2019 is expected to be complete by the next annual AGM.

In the spring, ATESL signed an updated Memorandum of Agreement with the caveat that the membership fee is capped at \$8,000 per year. This cap is expected to benefit ATESL. For each membership, ATESL pays \$16 to TESL Canada, and while the total amount varies from year to year, on average, a savings is expected moving forward.

Also in the spring, in response to the Black Lives Matter movement, TESL Canada released a public statement: "TESL Canada is comprised of, and supports the active expression of, different voices, identities, cultures and worldviews. This is part of our identity as an organization. The TESL Canada National Board knows that Black Lives Matter and Indigenous Lives Matter. We stand against racism, discrimination and injustice in all their forms, and commit to reviewing our policies and practices with an anti-racist lens and to promoting anti-racist pedagogies. We ask that our members continue to hold us accountable in this commitment."

The Standards Committee met numerous times over the year to review and update the practica guidelines in response to COVID-19 restrictions that prompted institutions to move from face-to-face English language teaching and learning classes to online offerings. With no face-to-face opportunities across the country, the Standards Committee revisited the guidelines in light of a new teacher training reality. On April 14<sup>th</sup> and again on July 31<sup>st</sup>, requirements for the practicum portion of TESL Canada accredited programs were updated, stating that 100% of practicum hours may be online, including both synchronous and asynchronous modalities. **TESL Canada is also offering a "[provisional certificate](#)" if candidates are not able to obtain a practicum. The provisional certificate can be upgraded to a full certificate once practicum hours are completed.** Further updates in response to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic are expected. Please consult the website for the current [guidelines](#).

[TESL Canadian Educational Foundation \(TCEF\)](#), the charitable arm of TESL Canada, distributed four \$250 learning bursaries in the spring and has two more available in the fall. The bursaries are meant to provide support for members pursuing PD opportunities, including short online courses. Each successful recipient provides a summary of the event upon its conclusion, and this is included in the TESL Canada Connects newsletter.

TESL Canada also organizes complimentary PD opportunities. The Professional Development Committee has organized a variety of webinars over the year, including two offered by [Cambridge Assessment English](#). If you have a webinar topic idea, please be sure to let us know! Also, be sure to check out the TESL Canada website to see [upcoming professional development opportunities](#) offered by accredited teacher training programs.

Earlier this year, ATESL members received a message from the Settlement Language National Network (SLNN) committee inviting teachers to submit stories written by their ESL learners on the topic of learning in the time of COVID. The project is the "[Stories of Us](#)". Over 20 stories were submitted and three teachers representing three contexts, literacy, CLB 1-4, and CLB 5+, were awarded a small cash prize. The stories will be published in an upcoming newsletter. This wonderful initiative supports and celebrates the stories of language learners and the hard work of TESL Canada members.

Another recent initiative of TESL Canada is offering health and dental coverage and RBC home and auto insurance for members and their families. For details, see <https://www.tesl.ca/membership/membership-benefits.html>

The TESL Canada Board is dedicated to keeping its membership informed about its activities and new initiatives. Paula Kristmanson, TESL Canada President, emails monthly messages. [TESL Canada Connects](#) is a bi-monthly publication also sent out to members, and it is available on the website. Celia Logan is the editor, and I wish to sincerely thank her for her on-going support of both ATESL and TESL Canada.

TESL Canada will hold an AGM online in late 2020. Details, including the date, time, and online link, are forthcoming. In early 2021, another an online AGM will be held, and among the agenda items will be voting in board members. Nominations for board positions will be sent via email soon. Please consider taking on a board position and contributing to TESL Canada and its national membership of professionals.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Chambers, TESL Canada Representative

### **Rural Routes Representative Annual Report 2019-2020**

2019-2020 – Rural Routes continued to serve the Community Adult Learning Programs and granting councils in various ways this year. Here are some highlights:

### **Needs Assessment Pilot**

Rural Routes secured funding from Advanced Education to fund a needs assessment pilot program. This was carried out by the Research Department at NorQuest College. Starting with four participating communities, we were reduced to two communities as Covid made it difficult for communities to commit to the work. The needs assessment included a statistical scan of the communities, as well as surveys and focus groups with CALP staff, employers, learners and other community members. As well as the reports on communities, the project produced an up-to-date, user-friendly guide to needs assessment, including the text of surveys and focus groups and advice on how to reach participants and how to interpret results. This guide will be made available on the CLN portal when it has been reviewed and approved by Advanced Education.

### **Online Shift**

Like everyone else, Rural Routes went online in March. We were fortunate in that we already had a strong online presence, so it was not very difficult for us to transition to offering all our services online. We immediately developed new workshops to support CALP staff transitioning to online delivery. These were extremely well received, with more than two hundred participants during March and April. We are confident that we made a significant contribution to the support of the CALPs during this difficult time.

### **New Resources**

Two significant new resources were developed in 2019-2020. **The ESL Tutor Handbook** is based on 9 scenarios, taking a brand new ESL tutor with no prior experience through needs assessment, learner plan, lessons plans and assessment. The guide is complete with the necessary lessons and handouts and presents a model of good TESL lesson planning. Please join us to view this resource at ATESL conference in the exhibitor room.

**The ESL Resource guide** is a searchable pdf with links to a curated list of free online resources, most of them funded through government support at various levels of government. The resources are selected to be suitable for CALP teaching and tutoring, fairly recent, easy to use, and free. We will demonstrate this resource in the exhibitor room at the conference. All resources are available on the Rural Routes website at <https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/resources.aspx>

As the CALPs shut down in the spring, the staff were encouraged to spend their downtime taking PD workshops. Rural Routes benefitted from this initiative and we delivered more than 260 instances of training this year. This included three sets of study groups, a format that is becoming more popular.

### **What is new for fall?**

What the Events page on the website for three exciting new webinars on learning disabilities and ESL, starting November 5. Watch also for a group presentation on October 29 on assessment services for newcomers in Alberta. Who assesses which clients and where? Join us and find out.

We will be joined by presenters from Volunteer Alberta in November or December for a session recruiting and retaining volunteers. In winter, we will offer a webinar on immigration, paths to permanent residency, temporary foreign workers, and the categories of application. Everyone is welcome to join us for any and all of our webinars. There is no cost for these sessions.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Severinsen, Rural Routes Representative

### **ATESL Advocacy Committee Annual Report 2019- 2020**

This year ATESL Advocacy demonstrated that it is above all, responsive. We began our year in October with our key priorities: 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion, access to citizenship, teacher working conditions, supporting learners as they transition to work and overcoming barriers to learning. Throughout the year

we have provided workshops on these topics; collected banks of teaching materials and research articles; started a regular advice column and wrote government officials advocating for our students.

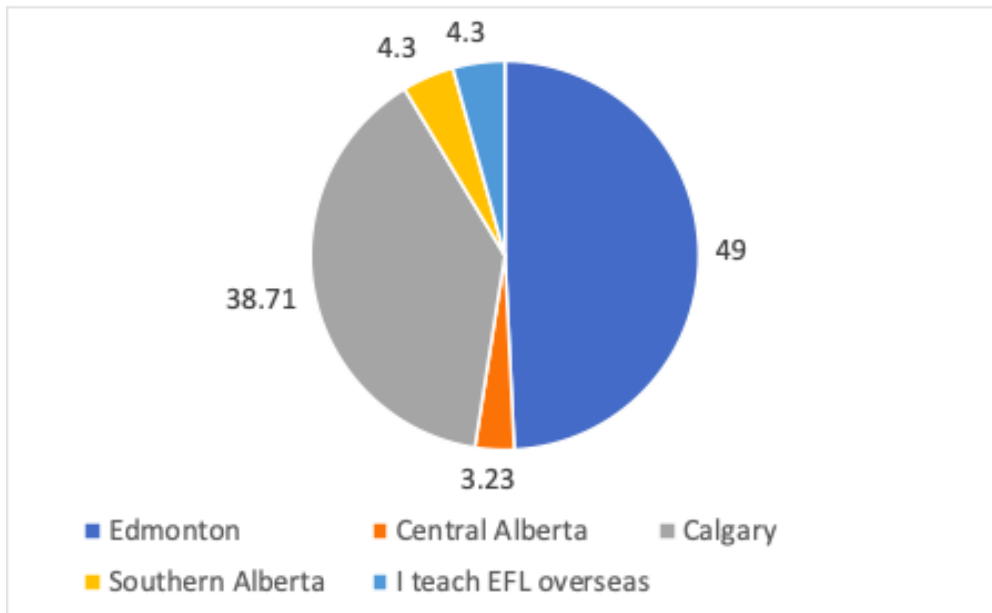
We met on March 16, 2020 the day before schools closed, and came up with a plan to support our teachers during the pandemic. Within the week we had daily Tutela workshops running with a variety of excellent volunteer presenters to help support teachers shift to online learning. During the first weeks of the CoVid lockdown, we had over 1000 attendees from across Canada learn with us as we moved forward as a profession to online teaching and learning.

We found that one of the biggest challenges was for literacy teachers. At this point, Jessica Legacy joined our crew and created information sharing opportunities on Tutela and is organizing regular networking for literacy teachers both to share ideas and mutual support.

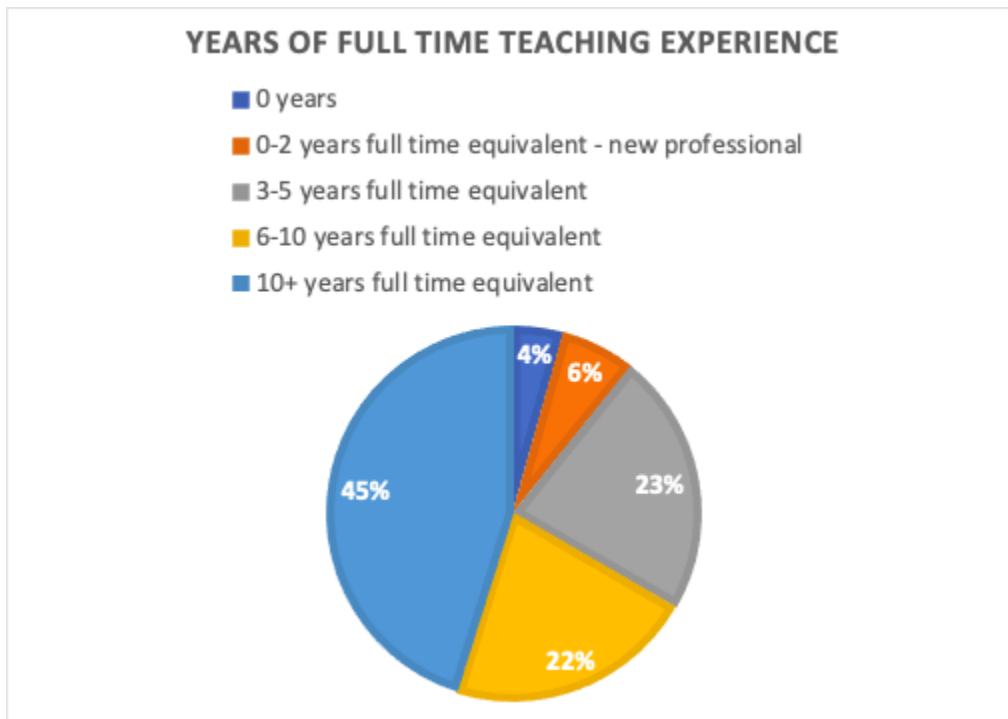
In June we sent out a survey to find more about our ATESL membership and the key issues that are impacting them. We had an impressive 93 responses!

Below are our findings (the results are in **percentages**, not raw numbers)

Question 1: I work in...

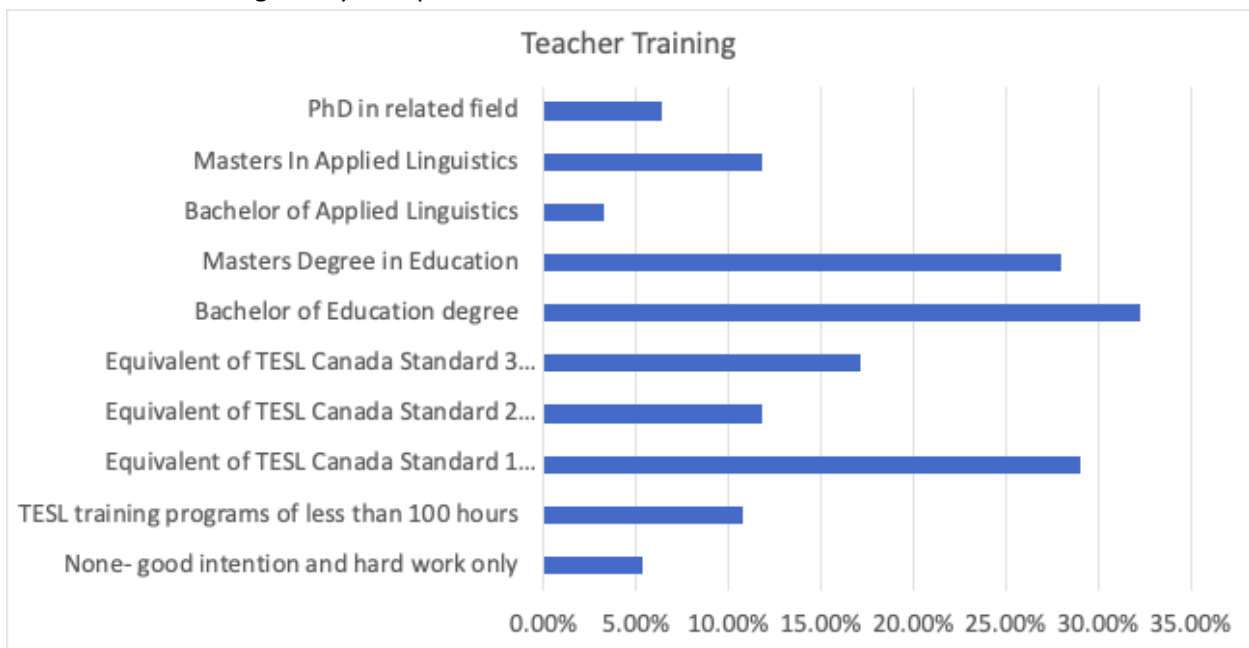


Question 2: How long have you been teaching ESL?



Question 3

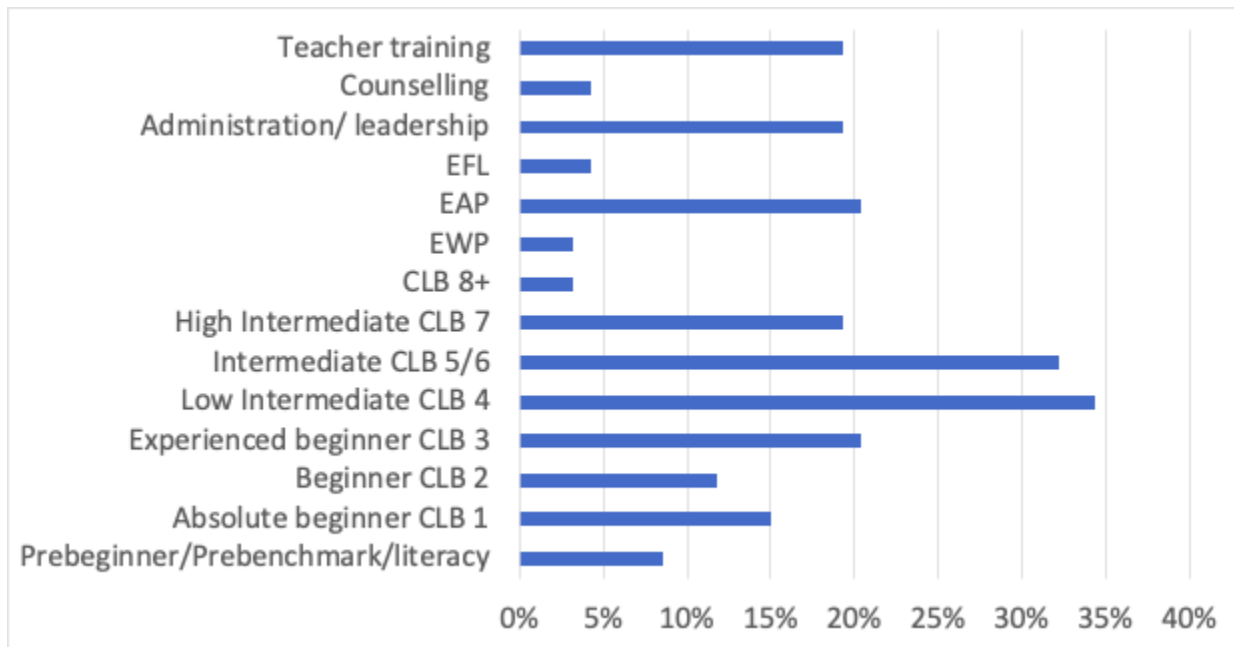
What teacher training have you experienced?



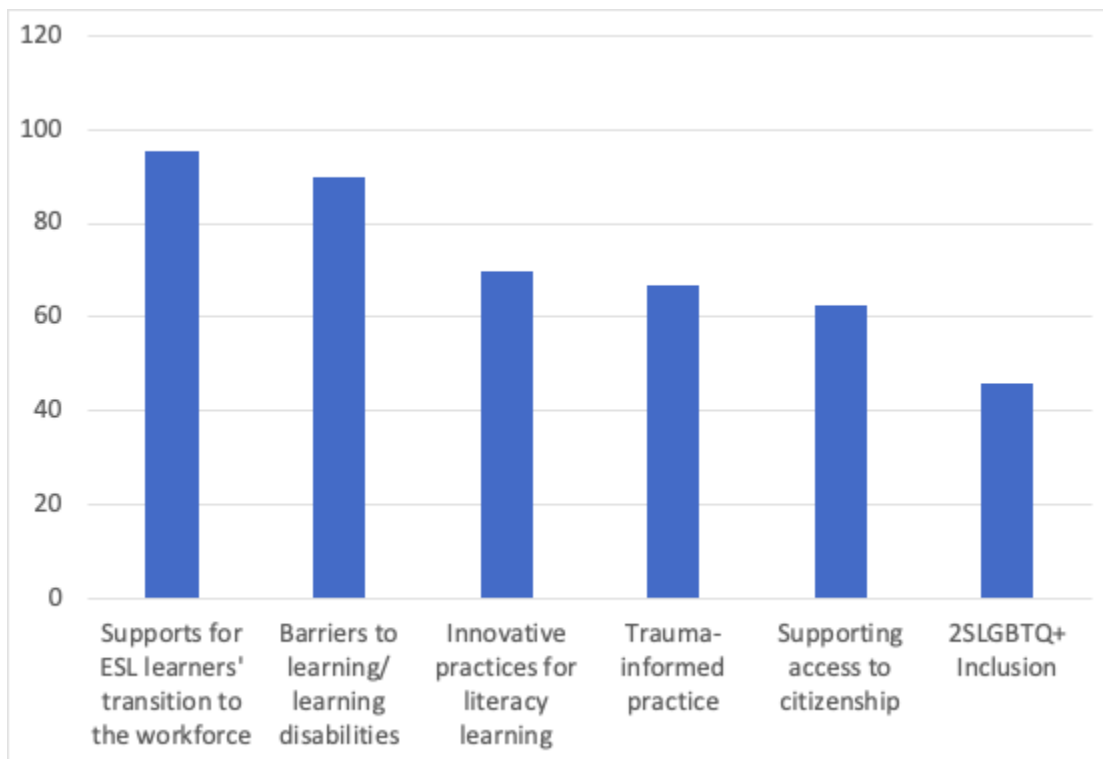
(Note: Some people chose more than one because more than one is true for them- for example people with masters degrees and teaching experience also qualify for TESL standard 3.)

Question 4 What levels are you teaching in 2020? or What work do you do?

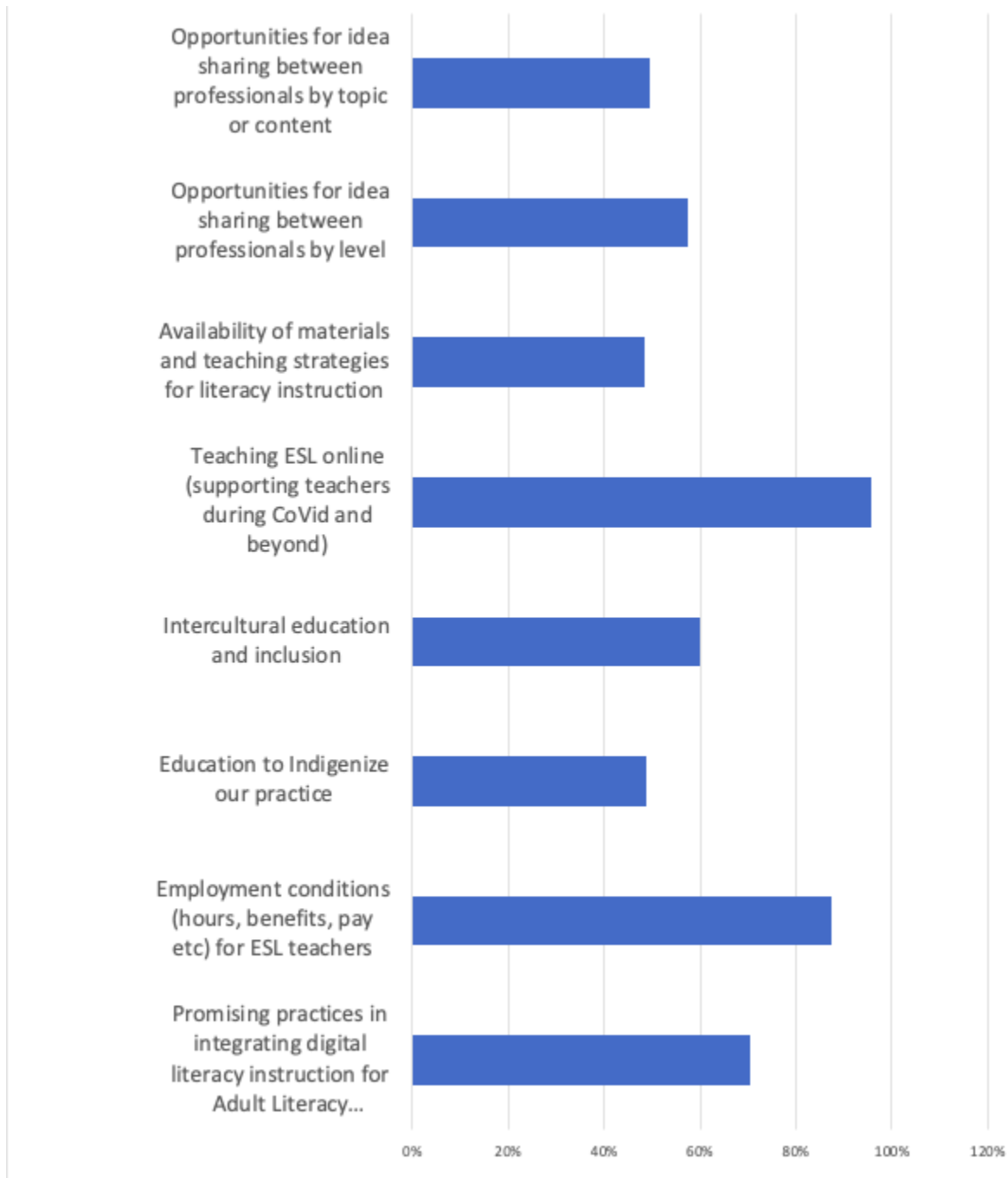
(choose all that apply in the past year)



Question 5- Ranking question- In my opinion as a professional, the most important issues relating to our **students** at this time are...



Question 6- In my opinion, as a professional, the most important issues relating to our **teachers** at this time are...



As you can see from the data above, we are a group of highly educated and experienced professionals who are concerned about supporting **all** learners as they transition to the workforce while we manage the challenges of teaching online in unsteady employment circumstances. Given the information we collected above, we will be continuing with our current priorities while investigating more opportunities to work teachers especially teachers working online.

Above all, thank you to all of the Advocacy committee members for their inspiring and perseverant attitude. This is a wonderful group to work with! Thank you also to all of the generous ATESL members who volunteered their time and talents to help support our committee's work.



Respectfully submitted by Wendy Ilott, Chair of the ATESL Advocacy Committee

**ATESL Communications Committee Annual Report 2019-2020**

This has been a great year for ATESL's social media accounts. ATESL is now using the website canva.com to create image-based posts for our four social media accounts. We have been using Canva since April 2020, and there has been a strong uptick in social media engagement. As well, ATESL now boasts an Instagram account to go along with our Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter accounts. If you are on LinkedIn and have volunteered with ATESL you can link ATESL as a place of employment/volunteering. We encourage you to do update your profile to reflect the work you have done with us either presently or in the past.

This year, ATESL began posting *Tech-Tuesday* and *Sunday Reads* on all social media accounts. Though this took a brief hiatus leading up to the 2020 conference, ATESL will resume the *Tech-Tuesday* and *Sunday Reads* social media posts in November 2020. A big thank you to everyone who is following ATESL on social media! We appreciate all the likes and reshares that the ATESL membership has been giving us! We will continue to use social media to bring awareness to ATESL, its mandate, our work and the work of our partners, events, and to drive traffic to our website (atesl.ca).

ATESL is excited to bring you more social media updates throughout the 20/21 year. Please let us know if there is any additional content you would like to have featured on the ATESL social media accounts!

Respectfully submitted by Daniel Green, Social Media Coordinator