



**Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language  
Annual General Meeting  
Calgary, AB  
Friday, October 18, 2019  
4:30 – 5:30 PM  
Location: Westin Hotel, Mayfair Room  
Minutes - Unapproved**

- 1. Call to order: 4:39 PM**
- 2. Establishment of quorum (require 65 members – as of Oct.4.19)**  
**members: 92**  
**Non- members: 9**
- 3. Approval of agenda**  
**Motion to approve the Agenda as distributed:**  
**Moved: Colyn DeGraaff**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: Leila Ranta**  
**Opposed:0**  
**Abstain:0**  
**In favour: All**  
**Carried**
- 4. Approval of 2018 AGM minutes**  
**Motion to approve the 2018 AGM Minutes as distributed.**  
**Moved: Colyn DeGraaff**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:Dora DiLullo**  
**Opposed:0**  
**Abstain:0**  
**In Favour: All**  
**Carried**
- 5. Approval of the December 31, 2018 Audited Financial Statement**  
**Motion to approve the 2018 Audited Financial Statement as presented to the membership.**  
**Moved: Jake Scheffer**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: Kim Dudas**  
**Opposed:0**  
**Abstain:0**  
**In favour: All**  
**Carried**

**6. Reports of Officers**

Presidents' Report  
Treasurer Report

**7. Reports of Committees**

Calgary Local  
Central Alberta Local  
Edmonton Local  
Southern Alberta Local  
Bursary Committee  
TESL Canada Representative  
Rural Routes Member at Large  
Advocacy Committee  
Accreditation Review Committee  
Communications Report

**8. Presentation of Awards**

Carolyn Dieleman Award – Diana Agudelo  
Dawn Seabrook deVargas Fellowship – Maureen Souply  
ATESL Lifetime Membership – Justine Light

**Motions before the membership**

**9. 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, 2019.**

**Moved: Colyn DeGraaff**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Jake Scheffer**

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

**In Favour: all**

**Carried**

**10. Appointment of Local Co-chairs**

Calgary - Maria Dumitrescu

Edmonton - Daniel Green

Southern Alberta – Alana Johnson

Central Alberta Action: the Board will continue to assist Jess Legacy in finding a co-chair

**11. Appointment of TESL Canada Representative**

**Wendy Chambers**

**12. Ratification of 2018-19 President Elect**

Per bylaw: 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 Lori Kennedy as the 2018/19 President Elect, as appointed by the board on January 15, 2019.**

**Moved: Colyn DeGraaff**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Jess Legacy**

In favour: All

Opposed:0

Absentions:0

Motion carried

**13. Election of Officers for 2019-2020**

President-Elect

Nominations from Floor

3 calls for nominations from the Floor – no nominations from the floor.

**Written Ballot – Motion to approve the nomination of Dora DiLullo-Patten as 2019/20 President Elect.**

**Moved: Colyn DeGraaff**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Lori Kennedy**

**Opposed - 0**

**Abstention – 0**

**In favour- All**

**Carried**

**14. Acknowledgements of Retiring Board Members**

Greg Ogilvie – Southern Alberta Co-chair

Bob De Hoog – Calgary Local Co-chair

Diana Agudelo – Edmonton Local Co-chair

Celia Logan – TESL Canada Representative

Kim Dudas – Past President

**15. Passing of the gavel -**

**Colyn DeGraaff gives Lori Kennedy gavel**

**16. Adjournment time: 5:32 PM**

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

### **ATESL Presidents' Annual Report 2018-2019**

2018-2019 was a year of strategic planning and renewed pace-setting for the future of our association. The success of this year's conference, and our ongoing activities in the province, are a reflection of the membership's collective dedication to the profession. We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our keynotes, guest speakers, presenters, planners, and volunteers who have taken part in the conference planning, regional activities, and committee meetings throughout the year.

### **ATESL 2019 Conference - 40 Years: A Declaration of Excellence**

It has been a remarkable experience to watch this year's conference come together. ATESL promotes opportunities for professional development and networking and the *ATESL 2019 Conference, 40 Years: A Declaration of Excellence* is no different. We'd like to extend our special thanks to our Conference Co-Chairs, Alana Johnson and Jacky Rivas, for their incredible leadership and expertise in planning this event, and we'd also like to thank the Conference Planning Committee who have put in countless hours to make this event a success. The community spirit and dedication of these individuals cannot go unremarked, and we're proud to recognize Ayala Roudstein, Dianne Leong-Fortier, Desiree Belter, Debbie Severinsen, Greg Danowski, Priscilla Lee, Sheri Rhodes, Sonia Sehgal, Terri Peters, and Tyla Olsen for their assistance.

In alignment with our 40th anniversary, the Board voted to approve an early career rate at 40% off to eligible ATESL members for this momentous milestone. We are pleased to announce that we approved 11 individuals this year and believe that this number highlights a need to continue offering discounted conference rates to those new to the field and those returning from teaching abroad. We plan to continue offering a similar early career rate for future conferences.

### **TESL Canada Agreements**

The 2018-2019 fiscal year began with the formalization of a new membership agreement with TESL Canada and our commitment to participate in the country's largest cross-provincial professional association for instructors in the field of ESL. We're excited about the value this membership has added for professionals in Alberta over the past year, and encourage our members to attend the TESL Canada AGM which is taking place at our 40th Anniversary Conference.

### **Cross-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, and the implementation of PBLA. It was during this time that the board also investigated the cost of professional memberships across the country. In response, ATESL has been able to keep its membership price as one of the most competitive and affordable in the country.

### **ATESL Strategic Planning**

The revision of the Terms of Reference for ATESL's numerous committees was long overdue and has now been updated to provide these volunteers with more nimble, impactful goals. Additionally, the ATESL board formalized a new strategic plan to adjust to changing funding priorities and to explore areas of growth for the association. The 2020-2022 strategic plan will affect areas including: (1) broadening the variety and reach of professional development opportunities through mini-conferences and proposed online professional development, (2) continuing to build the value and benefits of an ATESL membership through stronger economic incentives, (3) greater promotion of ATESL's presence across the province through increased communications outputs and events (as well as media appearances, which have begun), and (4) maintaining and deepening collaborative relationships with leaders in provincial, national, and international associations.

### **Financial Report**

We began this year with some notable changes to adapt to the current financial environment. One of these changes was the addition of online service charges for membership fees, intended to offset losses incurred by merchant processing fees. All ATESL membership fees additionally received a minor increase which went into effect on June 1, 2019. These changes were made to provide benefits and supports across the province, including:

- Planning and execution of the annual ATESL conference,
- Securing relationships with interprovincial partners,
- Providing new comprehensive health insurance plans for our members,
- Increase bursaries and/or conference incentives,
- Support Local PD sessions, and chances to win a free conference registration,
- Continuing to address annual operating costs and overhead sustainability.

Historically ATESL has had 3 sources of revenue - grants, fees and conferences - all of which have a sizable impact on our operations. Other provinces' TESL associations are heavily supported by these same sources of revenue, some receiving up to 80% of their revenue from grants and certifications. ATESL does not have the same allowances or opportunities for granting in Alberta, and without the same certification model as other provinces the conferences have been our primary source of income. As such, growing costs over the past few years has required ATESL to run deficit budgets, and while in the short term this has not been a

problem, the margins for conferences have been shrinking smaller and smaller. For the past two years we have had losses that were paid for by savings from previous years and, unless this conference is very unprofitable, we should have enough cash to cover two more years of deficit. The ATESL board is currently looking very carefully at how we can reduce our costs and increase our income, as well as adjust our association's status to make it more eligible for community and educational funding supports.

Several actionable items have already been proposed and will be the focus of the newly assembled Board for 2019-2020. Support for Board initiatives and suggestions from our membership are also welcomed.

### **Benefits**

Another exciting new change at ATESL this year was the addition of new membership benefits (unofficially called ATESL 'perks'). These benefits are provided by businesses in Alberta who recognize the sizeable contribution ATESL members make in the everyday lives of their students and the community. With an ATESL membership, members are eligible for 5%-20% off select business products and services and the number of businesses included is growing each month. Province-wide this includes retail companies like *Michaels*, and regionally we have begun to partner with registered massage therapists, tax services, home care businesses, and more. The full list will be updated and made available through the ATESL website.

ATESL is also excited to announce that we have partnered with BenefitLink Resource Group to offer our members comprehensive options for Life, Health, and Dental Insurance.

### **ATESL Awards**

ATESL is very proud to offer three awards this year: The ***Carolyn Dieleman Award*** celebrates individuals who have made an impact on the delivery and access of innovative, quality language and ESL literacy programs in Alberta. The ***Dawn Seabrook de Vargas Fellowship***, thanks to the generous contribution of Alberta Workplace and Essential Skills (AWES), recognizes innovation in the field of ESL and essential skills and contributions to the ESL community. **The ATESL Lifetime Membership Award** recognizes outstanding, committed accomplishments in motivating and improving the field of ESL instruction here in Alberta.

Congratulations to our award recipients for 2018-2019:

Carolyn Dieleman Award – Diana Agudelo

Dawn Seabrook deVargas Fellowship – Maureen Souply

ATESL Lifetime Membership – Justine Light

## ATESL Newsletter & Social Media

The ATESL newsletter continues to be published in the Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall, and remains the best source for receiving in-depth updates about ATESL’s activities across the province. Each issue is available for viewing on the ATESL website, and we’d like to recognize Kim Dudas (Past President), Frankie Ning Chin (Newsletter Editor), and contributors who have made this past year’s series of newsletters a success. In addition, we’d also like to thank Maureen Souply who has been instrumental in the outreach and communications of our activities on social media and has helped increase the association’s following online.

## Board and Committee Memberships

As several members of our Board and committees complete their terms, we would like to those who participated in 2018-2019 for their attentiveness and commitment to ATESL’s activities. Their expertise, critical thinking, and volunteering have supported some key initiatives over the past year, and we’d like to recognize the following outgoing, continuing, and incoming members:

<p><b>Outgoing Board Members</b></p> <p>Kim Dudas - Past President          Celia Logan - TESL Canada Representative          Diana Agudelo - Edmonton Local Co-chair          Bob de Hoog - Calgary Local Co-chair          Greg Ogilvie - Southern AB Local Co-chair</p>	<p><b>Outgoing Committee Members</b></p> <p><b>Advocacy</b>          Kim Dudas</p> <p><b>Accreditation Review</b>          Kim Dudas          Maria MacMinn          Nancy Robertson</p>
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<p><b>Continuing Board Members</b></p> <p>Lori Kennedy- President Elect          Colyn DeGraaff – President          Jake Scheffer – Treasurer          Celeste Bickley – Secretary          Maureen Souply - Social Media Coordinator          Debbie Severinsen - Rural Routes Representative          Nancy Robertson - Calgary Local Co-chair          Maryna Siek - Edmonton Local Co-chair          Jess Legacy - Central AB Local Co-chair          Jenny Bourne - Southern AB Local Co-chair</p>	<p><b>Continuing Committee Members</b></p> <p><b>Advocacy</b>          Marcela Alfonso          Herly Cervera          Wanda Chell          Colyn DeGraff          Eman Ghanem          Wendy Illott          Lori Kennedy          Fiona Lowes          Monica MacFadzean          Alexandra Marshall          Bernadene Ryan          Rebecca Scheiris</p>
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	Lena Verhappen Ibtessim Zekri  <b>Accreditation Review Committee</b> Jennifer Acevedo Colyn DeGraaff Dora DiLullo Marie Frankovitch Lori Kennedy Sheri Rhodes Luisa Toteda
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**Proposals**

Finally, one of the largest efforts of the board this past year was the formalization and proposal for ATESL to offer LGBTQ2+ professional development training and resources for learners in classroom. The project continues to gain momentum with ongoing discussions and we will be looking to apply the completed project pitch in future funding proposals.

We thank the membership once again for their support and commitment over the past year, and we look forward to bringing this new vision to the forefront in the years ahead.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

**Colyn DeGraaff, President**

**Kim Dudas, Past President**

**Lori Kennedy, President Elect**

**Treasurer Annual Report 2018 - 2019**

ATESL is in fair financial shape, but action needs to be taken to secure other sources of revenue and/or alter our expenses. We need to ensure that we correct our course in order to maintain the viable and beneficial organization we have today. This report lays out some of the background and needs.

Historically, we have had three sources of revenue: grants, membership fees, and conferences. Conferences have typically kept us in the black. However, for the past few years this has not been the case and, as a result, we have run deficits. In the short term, annual deficits have not been a problem because we have had a significant amount of reserve. This cash is profit from earlier years when we were able to make substantial profit from conferences.

Since 2015 we have made very little profit on conferences, as a result, ATESL has run deficits. Conference costs have risen substantially over the past few years. Conferences, in the current format, are an unstable source of revenue.



Other province’s TESL organizations are heavily supported by other sources of revenue. These include income from TESL certification, grants or interactions with external agencies. Other provinces generate between 30% and 80% of their revenue from these sources.

Grants have been sources of income for ATESL in the past; however, the income from grants and the grant expenses have been more or less equal. We are currently looking at more income from these sources, but there are challenges because ATESL’s legal status as an Association makes us ineligible for many grants.

Aside from inflation, ATESL membership fees have remained stable. With the exception of conference costs, expenses with inflation have been constant. For the past two years, we have had losses that were paid for by savings from previous years and, unless this conference is very unprofitable, we should have enough reserve to cover two more years of deficit. This trajectory is unsustainable.

The ATESL board is currently looking very carefully at how we can reduce our costs and increase our income. As a result, support for ATESL Board initiatives and suggestions from our membership will be appreciated.

**Respectfully Submitted by Jake Scheffer**

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**Calgary Local Annual Report 2018 – 2019**

Co-Chairs: Nancy Robertson and Bob de Hoog  
 Treasurer: Elaine Mew  
 Secretary: Kim MacDonald

The Calgary Local began the 2018/19 program with the annual Winter Social at the *State and Main Kitchen and Bar*. Between January and September 2019, we held six PD sessions at different times and days of the week to try to accommodate the varying teaching schedules of our members.

January	<i>Utilizing Learning English with CBC</i>	Bow Valley College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Brock Wojtalewicz</li> </ul>
March	<i>Teaching Grammar: Why? What? When? How?</i>	Bow Valley College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Anita Hibbard</li> <li>● Bob de Hoog</li> <li>● Desiree Belter</li> </ul>
April	The Realities of Online Teaching	Bow Valley College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Glen Cochrane</li> <li>● Jody Gilbert</li> <li>● Maureen Harron</li> <li>● Nancy Robertson</li> </ul>
May	Developing Techniques for ELL Literacy Classes	CIES Welcome Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Move it or Lose it               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Patricia Len</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Donna Clarke</li> <li>● Materials Design</li> <li>○ Emily Albertsen</li> </ul>
June	Reintroducing the fun in teaching English (under PBLA)	Calgary Central Library <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maria Dumitrescu</li> <li>● Elizabeth Bertram</li> </ul>
September	Dispelling Myths about Teaching Pronunciation and Vocabulary	SAIT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dora DiLullo-Patten</li> <li>● Laura DiLullo</li> <li>● Brock Wojtalewicz</li> </ul>

The Calgary Local would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank all of our presenters who shared their expertise and time with our ELL community over the past year. We also want to thank our local members for enthusiastically participating in the various workshops.

**Respectfully submitted by Nancy Robertson and Bob de Hoog**

#### **Central Alberta Local Annual Report – 2018-2019**

This has been a year of new roles, spaces and experiences for Central Alberta. An entirely new board signed on in October, when we met to discuss PD ideas for the upcoming year. There were some new faces at the meeting, and we have aspired to expand our membership this year. We have been building a directory of organizations outside of Red Deer in order to keep them informed of events and PD sponsored by CA-ATESL. Early in 2019 we hosted a welcome gathering at a local taco restaurant in Red Deer. It was great to spend time with our members in a social setting. In February we hosted a professional development gathering about action-oriented and audio feedback. We held the event at Wild Horse Market Studio, a fantastic new yoga studio and meeting space in downtown Red Deer. We returned to Wild Horse in September for a lightning talk event which, while not largely attended, was an informative and inspiring afternoon that generated lively conversation. Next year, CA-ATESL will welcome a new co-chair. The board looks forward to re-establishing a rotation where an experienced chair can support and guide incoming board members. Central Alberta intends to build momentum in its involvement in ATESL and continue to provide support and opportunities to ESL teachers in our area.

**Respectfully Submitted by Jessica Legacy**

#### **Edmonton Local Annual Report 2018 – 2019**

**Co-Chairs:** Diana Agudelo, Maryna Siek

**Secretary:** Belinda Escandallo

**Treasurer and Communications Officer:** Rosemary McMahon

**Hospitality:** Julie McArthur

The Edmonton chapter met 9 times this past year, averaging between 20-30 members attending. Edmonton also hosted a mini conference in May.

<b>September</b>	Local AGM Settlement and Immigration Issues in Canada	Marian Rossiter	NorQuest College
<b>October</b>	Postponed due to ATESL Conference in Edmonton	--	--
<b>November</b>	Consider the Goals	Renuka Jantz and Linda Sutcliffe	Mennonite Centre
<b>December</b>	Third annual winter social	--	State & Main on Jasper Avenue
<b>January</b>	Qigong	Carolynne Melnyk	One World One Centre
<b>February</b>	Did teaching LINC prepare me for refugee camps?	John Doyle	Mennonite Centre
<b>March</b>	Using the voice in the classroom	David Ley	Mennonite Centre
<b>April</b>	Teaching with Settlement in Mind	Theresa Wall and Liette Wilson	Sacred Heart
<b>May</b>	Edmonton Mini Conference Teach & Inspire: Practice Generated Knowledge	Various Presenters	Sacred Heart

Nominations for co-chair, secretary and hospitality roles for the 2019-2020 year were approved at the Annual General Meeting on September 27, 2019. The Edmonton Local Chapter would like to welcome Daniel Green as the new Edmonton Local Co-Chair. As well as, Marie Fontaine - the new secretary and Jim Hawrylenko for hospitality. We would like to express our appreciation to outgoing committee members, Diana Agudelo (co-chair), Julie McArthur (hospitality) and Belinda Escandallo (secretary), for their dedication and commitment over the past two years. We would also like to recognize and thank Rosemary McMahon for her dual role as a communications officer and treasurer, as well as all presenters who contributed to professional development. We look forward to hosting more PD events in the upcoming year!

Edmonton Local Committee 2019/2020:  
Co-Chairs: Maryna Siek and Daniel Green  
Secretary: Marie Fontaine

Treasurer and Communications Officer: Rosemary McMahon  
Hospitality: Jim Hawrylenko

**Respectfully submitted by Diana Agudelo and Maryna Siek**

**Southern Alberta ATESL Local 2018/2019**

Co-Chairs: Greg Ogilvie & Jenny Bourne

The Southern Alberta Chapter held a number of social and professional development events during the past year. Before bidding farewell to 2018, the Southern Alberta Chapter hosted its second annual Christmas Party on December 13th. Despite flu season, it was attended by approximately a number enthusiastic members who enjoyed professional networking in a relaxed and festive environment. Challenging professional trivia games were played, a white elephant gift exchange took place, and food and drink was shared. It was a collegial way to see off 2018, and welcome the 2019 professional year.

As our members eased into their new terms and semesters we turned our attention to our next professional sharing event, which took place on March 28, 2019. Practitioners around Southern Alberta, and from many different sectors of TESL, gathered to discuss the topic of *Vocabulary Teaching – Resources and Best Practices*. This session was well attended by professionals from LINC programmes, K-12 education and post-secondary institutions who exchanged their best practices and favourite resources. The event went long as discussions were lively, and everyone left inspired with ideas to take to their disparate classrooms.

Our next event took place later in the spring and the topic of the sharing session was *Creating a Positive Learning Environment – Approaches and Best Practices*. This session took place on the University of Lethbridge campus in the evening of May 27<sup>th</sup>. We, once again, had participants from different institutions with instructors teaching students of all ages and English levels. It was of interest to note the differing methods used for creating safe and positive learning environments to meet the needs of the very different communities of learners that we teach in Southern Alberta.

Before everyone dispersed to their very busy, or very relaxing summers, the Southern Alberta Chapter held our most recent event. Surrounded by the beautiful coulees of Lethbridge, but with the comforts of home, the barbeque provided an opportunity for educators to connect in a formal atmosphere, and meet new colleagues while sharing food and games.

Members of the local chapter of ATESL would like to thank Greg Ogilvie for his service as the co-chair the past two years! Greg was an invaluable resource in organizing events and his contributions will be sorely missed!

The chapter is looking forward to another great year of 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 Jenny Bourne and Greg Ogilvie**

**Bursary Committee Annual Report 2018 – 2019**

Members: Celeste Bickley (Chair), Kim Dudas, Jake Scheffer

ATESL is very pleased to support the professional development of five members. Bursary recipients are attending a variety of PD activities such as the ATESL conference in Calgary, the English UK ELT conference and a TESL certificate program. In the fall, the bursary committee received six applications, of which five were awarded their requested amount.

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).

**Submitted by Celeste Bickley (Chair, Bursary Committee)**

**TESL Canada Representative Annual Report 2018 – 2019**

TESL Canada has continued its rebuilding process during the 2018/19 year. It is slowly resuming some of its former activities and reestablishing its financial stability.

Financially TESL Canada is much more stable this year, even reporting a small profit last month. It has signed MoUs with all provinces, still with the exception of TESL Ontario and BC TEAL. However, TESL Canada is exploring possible alternate connections with both BC and Ontario that could possibly bring the organizations closer together. There was an annoying situation with PayPal not being able to accept payment during the spring and summer which has recently been resolved to the relief of all users.

TESL Canada applied for, and was approved for, a grant from IRRC to study professional teacher accreditation. This research will be useful in making the whole process of accreditation smoother and more meaningful.

Teacher Accreditation remains one of the most important functions of TESL Canada. A total of 230 dossiers have been submitted this year, with 42 of them from Alberta. There were the same number of applicants processed in the first six months of 2019 as in the whole of 2018. Donna Hoffman is working part time in the New Brunswick office space to keep the process

moving, and is committed to responding to queries and concerns in a timely manner. However, if any members have concerns about the amount of time before receiving an answer, they can always contact the provincial representative for more information.

The organization is also continuing working on the Teacher Training Program Recognition (TTPR) program. Previously accredited programs are able to retain their accreditation and the Board has reinstated the process for new TTPRs, and will be doing more publicity related to this in the coming months.

The charitable branch of TESL Canada, TESL Canada Educational Fund (TCEF), has been busy distributing funds to deserving members in the form of travel bursaries to conferences and Exemplary Teacher awards. Don't forget to apply for these awards!

An exciting PD initiative has been growing this year. TESL Canada has organized three webinars on various topics. We hope to expand this offering in the next year and welcome ideas on topics to be featured.

The board has been focusing on improving communication between the organization and its members. President Paula Kristmanson has continued sending out a message to members every month to inform them of initiatives and activities, and this year TESL Canada started a bi-monthly newsletter to talk about ESL activity from member affiliates across the country.

Finally, TESL Canada is pleased to have its AGM hosted at the ATESL Conference in Calgary this year. There is a nearly full slate of board members with representation from across Canada which shows the commitment of members from across the country to supporting a national voice for ESL professionals.

**Respectfully Submitted by Celia Logan**

### **Rural Routes Annual Report 2018 – 2019**

This year has been quite busy for the Rural Routes Program as it continues to serve the Community Adult Learning Programs and granting councils throughout Alberta. In July there was a reorganization of the program to better serve the stakeholders. The program shifted from a 5 member team to a 3 member team comprising of two full time advisors, one full time manager/advisor, and several contract subject matter experts. The regions were re-drawn from 4 to 3. The manager now serves as advisor to one region in addition to administrative duties. This change has allowed Rural Routes to dedicate more time to face-to-face interaction, relationship building and direct support for ESL practitioners and program managers while contracting subject matter experts to design and deliver most of our online professional development. Alana Johnson or Jacky Rivas are currently working as advisors and Dorte Weber remains as the Department Head for the Rural Routes Program.

We would like to highlight two newly completed workshops. The first is called Promoting Indigenous Awareness: Elders Speak. This workshop features videos in which elders from five nations in Alberta address topics of their choice that they think newcomers should be aware of. The workshop includes three lesson plans at CLB 3,4 and 5 that can be used as they are or be templates/models for additional lesson plans based on the videos. We are presenting this workshop at ATESL on Saturday.

The second workshop is LGBTQ+ in the ESL classroom. This workshop supports ESL practitioners in supporting LGBTQ+ learners in the classroom.

We are all looking forward to the new year and our continued interactions with all of those working in the field.

**Respectfully Submitted by Debbie Severinsen**

#### **Advocacy Committee Annual Report 2018 – 2019**

This has been a very exciting year for the Advocacy committee. Prior to the 2018 conference we put out a call for interest in joining the committee. For a committee of 8 people, we received responses from a record 21 members! Due to the talent and energy that responded to our call, we added additional working groups to focus on the 5 issues that our members have identified. We have working groups related to Learning barriers, Employment best practices, ESL to work, access to citizenship, and LGBTQ2S+ inclusion. Over the past year we have collected research on learning barriers, citizenship exam accommodations, ESL and transitioning to work, advocacy for our profession, and continued work on the LGBTQ2S+ projects. We have presented at the Edmonton local and have 2 presentations at the ATESL conference. At 9:25am on the Saturday of the conference we will have a networking and information sharing session about our key areas of interest in the Lakeview room. We hope you can join us there!

**Respectfully Submitted by Wendy Ilott**

#### **Ad-Hoc Accreditation Review Committee Annual Report 2018 - 2019**

The Ad-Hoc ATESL Accreditation Review Committee (AARC) was organized to respond to the October 13, 2017 announcement of the suspension of TESL Canada's teacher accreditation process. The ARC now meets quarterly and is responsible for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations to the ATESL Board of Directors in matters related to accreditation of English language instructors in Alberta by monitoring accreditation practices across Canada.

The Accreditation Review Committee recommends that ATESL members continue to be referred to TESL Canada for their teacher accreditation needs.

**Respectfully submitted by Kim Dudas, Accreditation Review Committee Chair**

### **Communications Annual Report 2018 - 2019**

We had an engaging and productive year on the Communications Committee. We thank everyone who has connected with us either directly or by following our accounts on social media. We 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](http://atesl.ca)). Thank you to Irene for her work with Nigel on the website.

ATESL has three social media accounts: Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook. If you are on LinkedIn and have volunteered with ATESL you can now 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. Earlier in the year we went through the process of verifying our ATESL page with Facebook and we are now a verified page, which is meant to help with visibility and engagement.

We look forward to the year ahead and hope you will continue to connect with us on social media and the website.

**Respectfully submitted by Maureen Souply, Social Media Coordinator**