

Advocacy report 2020

This year ATESL Advocacy demonstrated that it is above all, responsive. We began our year in October with our key priorities: 2SLGBTBQ+ 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.

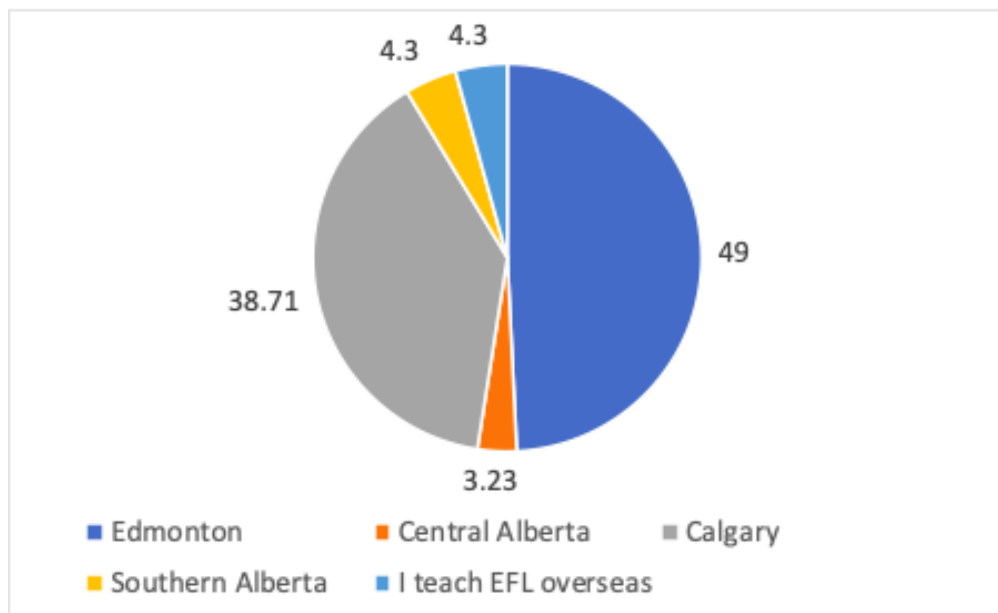
We met on March 16, 2020 the day before schools closed, and came up with a plan to support our teachers during the pandemic. Within the week we had daily Tutela workshops running with a variety of excellent volunteer presenters to help support teachers shift to online learning. During the first weeks 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.

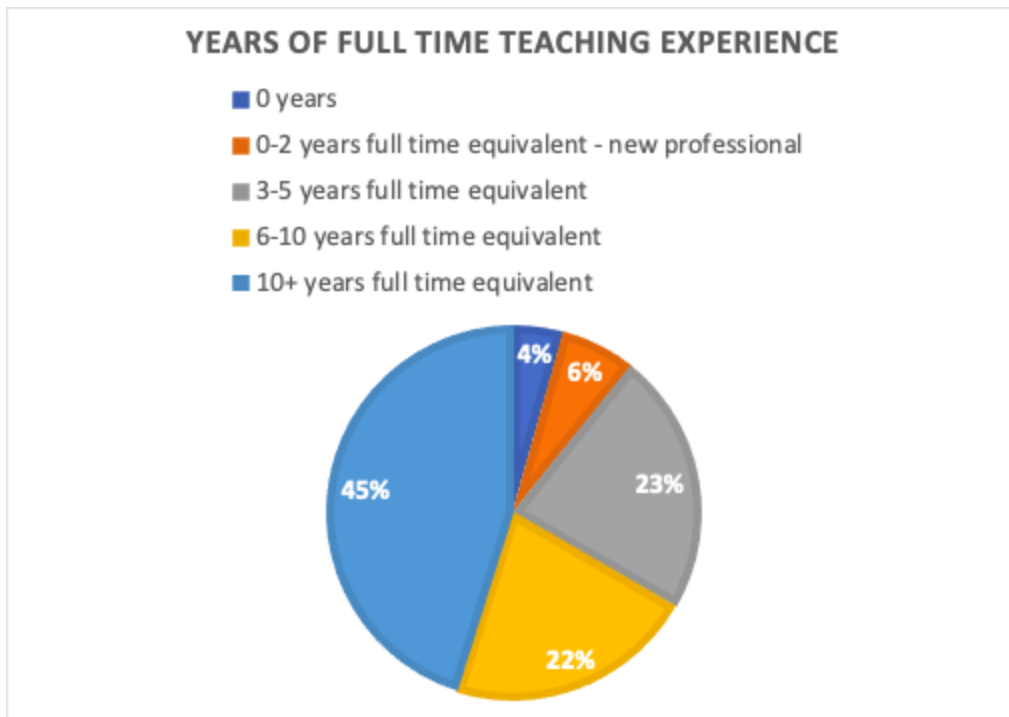
In June we sent out a survey to find more about our ATESL membership and the key issues that are impacting them. We had an impressive 93 responses!

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

Question 1: I work in...

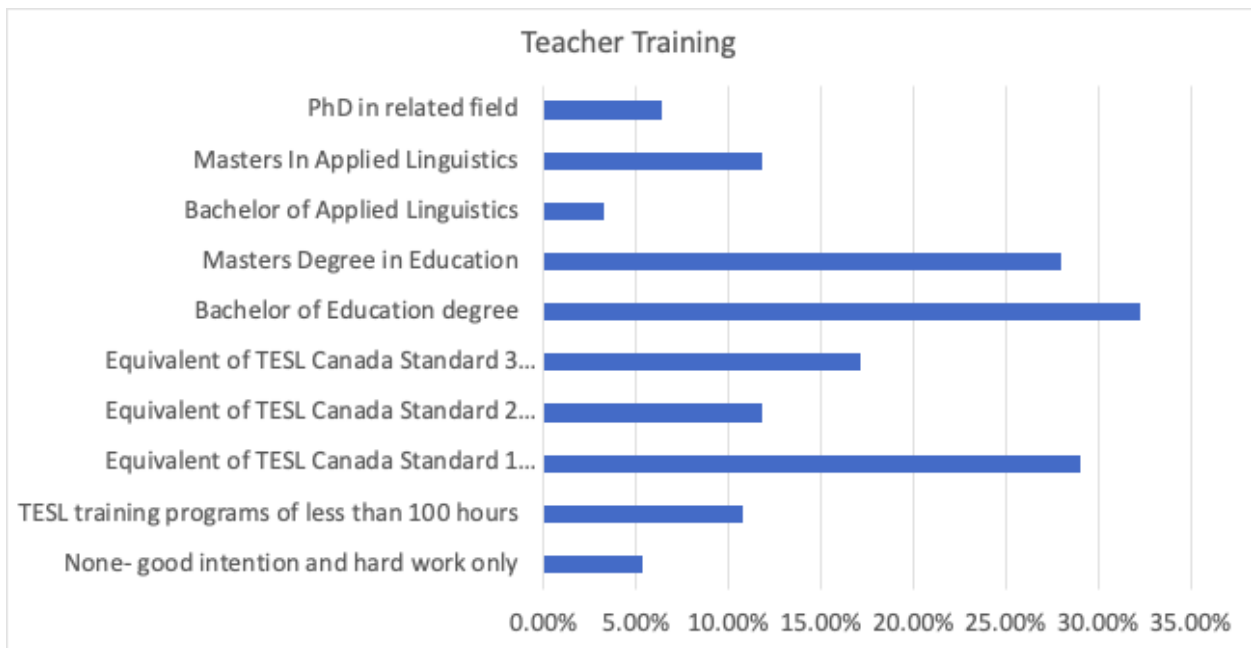


Question 2: How long have you been teaching ESL?

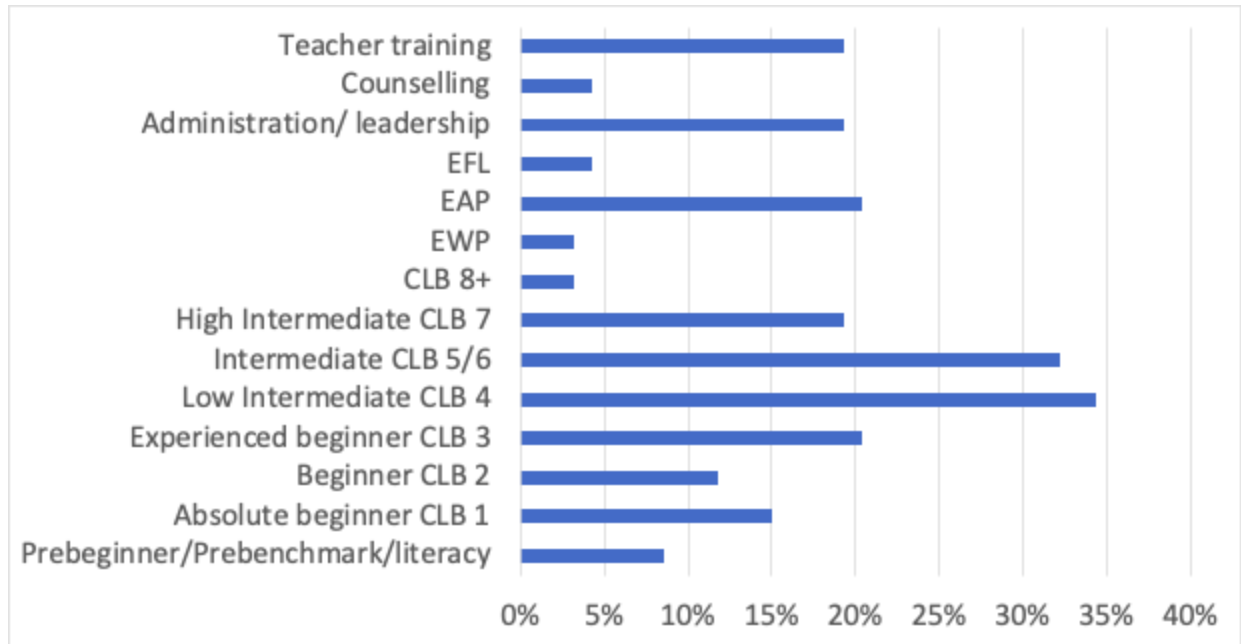


Question 3

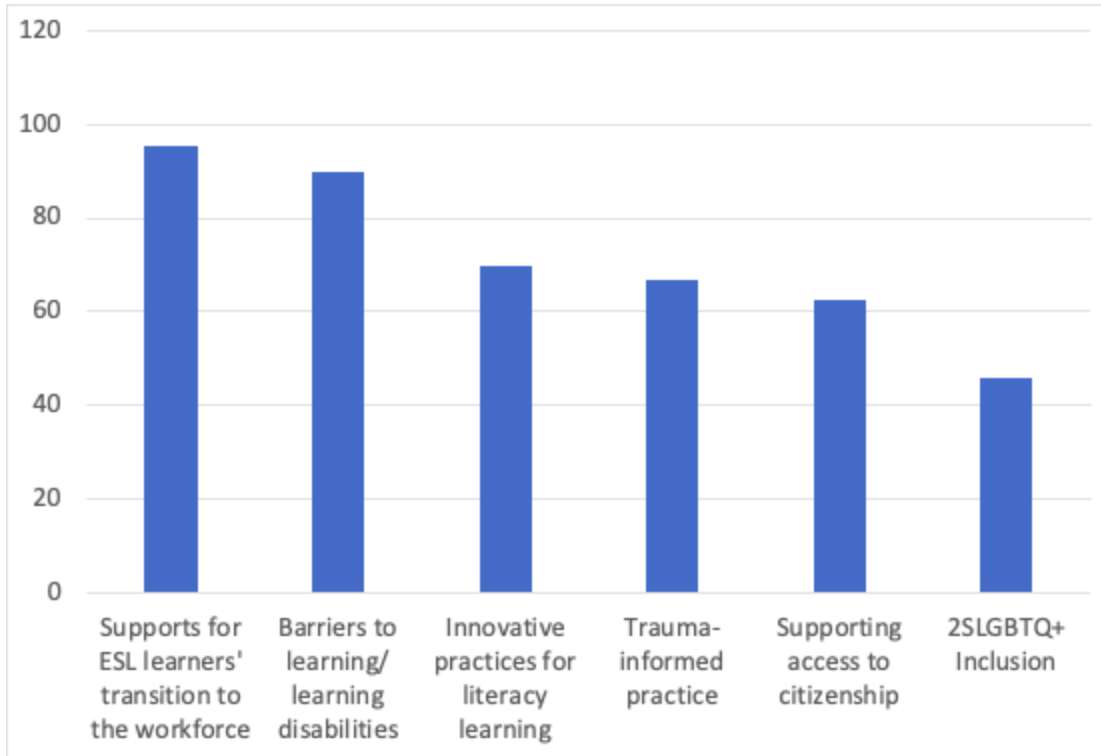
What teacher training have you experienced?



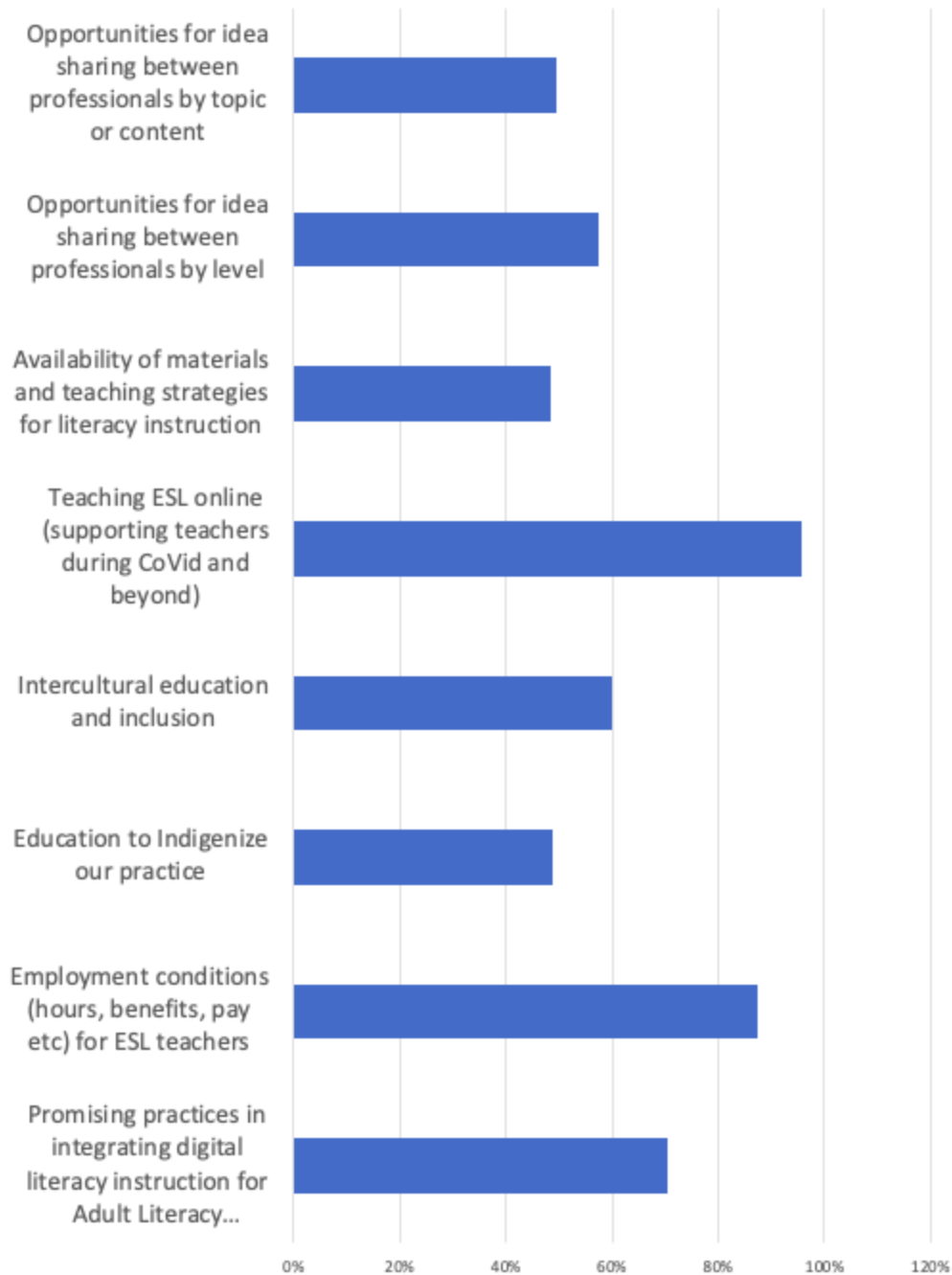
(Note: Some people chose more than one because more than one is true for them- for example people with masters degrees and teaching experience also qualify for TESL standard 3.)
 Question 4 What levels are you teaching in 2020? or What work do you do?
 (choose all that apply in the past year)



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,
Wendy Ilott
Chair of the ATESL Advocacy Committee