Alberta Routes Professional Development Services

Did you know?

Alberta Routes provides **FREE** professional development workshops, mentorship supports, resources, customized training plans, and other services that are designed especially for programs and providers who deliver English as a Second Language services in their community!

For general information, contact the Alberta Routes Team Lead at ruralroutes@norquest.ca or 780-644-6301

Alberta Routes Professional Development Services

Funded by Skilled Trades and Professions (STP) and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

Workshop Descriptions

These workshops are customized to fit a community's needs. They vary in length—from one to four hours—and can be done in one or two parts, depending on the availability of our staff and your coordinators/tutors. Contact your Alberta Routes regional representative to arrange for a workshop in your community. Our webinars are typically shortened versions of these workshops but can represent a full workshop's duration.

Teaching Strategies and Frameworks

Building Critical Thinking Skills in English Language Learners
Developing critical thinking skills helps English language learners enhance their communication. Through intentional critical thinking tasks, instructors can help learners expand their vocabulary, strengthen their accuracy and fluency, and use language for different purposes in a variety of contexts. During this engaging and interactive workshop, participants will explore what critical thinking is, strategies and tips to help learners develop these skills, as well as practical communication activities instructors can use to foster learner's critical thinking.

Classroom Management
Classroom management can be challenging for any instructor. During this workshop, participants will have an opportunity to explore five factors that influence a well-managed classroom.

Developing Vocabulary in ESL Learners
Intentional instruction time in vocabulary encourages learners to notice, focus on, and link meaning to new vocabulary. It also allows learners to use new vocabulary in spoken and written communication. This workshop will look at ways instructors can provide intentional instruction time, tips to consider, and resources.

ESL Tutor Training
This workshop is for participants new to the role of ESL Tutor. It will orient participants to their role, to the needs of their

adult English language learners, and to a sample learner plan and lesson plan.

Foundations for Task Based Teaching

Task-based teaching is the leading ESL methodology today. In this workshop, participants will gain an understanding of what task-based teaching is, how it works in practical terms and why it is important in the context of the Canadian Language Benchmarks. They will explore the benefits of task-based teaching for both learners and instructors. They will also practice and create a task-based lesson for their own learners.

Foundations for Teaching Pronunciation

In this hands-on workshop, participants will identify how and where to produce English vowel and consonant sounds, how to produce correct syllable and sentence stress, and how to plan a productive lesson cycle with effective activities. Participants will experience a variety of teaching techniques and lesson ideas that they can bring back to their own learners.

Growth and Goalsetting

Participants will learn how to support learners in setting achievable learning goals that integrate all four language skills. We will also explore realistic goal setting for tutors and instructors to help them identify learner success and achievement.

Interactive Strategies for Teaching Speaking

Based on ATESL (Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language) Best Practices for Adult EAL and LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) Programming in Alberta, this workshop explores principles and strategies for teaching speaking. Participants will deepen their understanding of the Canadian Language Benchmarks as they learn how to design speaking lessons to increase learner fluency and accuracy. They will also be exposed to tried and true interactive activities to use in their classes.

Introduction to the Canadian Language Benchmarks

In this workshop, participants will deepen their understanding of the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) as they learn

how the CLB can help them determine learner proficiency, plan instruction, and assess learning.

Learning Strategies for ESL Literacy Learners
Because ESL literacy learners often have limited or no formal education, they often lack well-developed learning strategies. In this workshop, participants will become familiar with three categories of learning strategies that when taught to ESL literacy learners will enable them to better understand, learn, and use new language and literacy. Participants will also explore how they can teach and support learners in acquiring and using new learning strategies.

Lesson Planning Made Easy
Lesson plans are essential to successful teaching and learning. But lesson planning can feel like an overwhelming task when there are so many demands on a teacher or tutor's time. This workshop breaks down the elements of lesson planning into a few simple steps and teaches tips and strategies to make daily planning easier.

Project Based Learning
Project-based learning is an engaging and authentic way to integrate language use and critical-thinking skills into the English-language learning environment. In this workshop, participants will learn about project-based learning, its benefits to learners, and how to create project-based learning opportunities for their students.

Strategies for Teaching Grammar
Participants will increase their confidence when teaching grammar by exploring a wide variety of strategies and resources to help them plan lessons that contextualize grammar, provide focused practice, and open opportunities to use grammar to communicate**.**

Strategies for Teaching Listening
Based on ATESL Best Practices for Adult EAL and LINC Programming in Alberta, this workshop explores principles and strategies for teaching listening. Participants will gain familiarity with the Canadian Language Benchmarks, discover useful resources, and learn how to design a listening lesson

Strategies for Teaching Multi-level Classes
In this workshop, participants will explore four strategies for adapting instruction to multi-level classes and discover two classroom activities that work particularly well in multi-level classrooms. They will also become familiar with those parts of the Canadian Language Benchmarks that are particularly useful when planning instruction for multi-level classes.

Strategies for Teaching Pronunciation
Participants in this workshop will refine their strategies for addressing word stress, rhythm, linking, intonation, and problem sounds in their EAL teaching. Participants will prioritize pronunciation problems and explore ways to help learners apply what they learn.

Strategies for Teaching Reading
Based on *ATESL Best Practices for Adult EAL and LINC Programming in Alberta*, this workshop explores principles and strategies for teaching reading. Participants in this workshop will gain familiarity with the Canadian Language Benchmarks, discover useful resources, and learn how to design a reading lesson.

Strategies for Teaching Writing
Based on *ATESL Best Practices for Adult EAL and LINC Programming in Alberta*, this workshop explores principles and strategies for teaching writing. Participants will gain familiarity with the Canadian Language Benchmarks, discover useful resources, and learn how to design a writing lesson.

Task-Based Language Teaching
This workshop introduces participants to the theory and practice of Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT), an approach to language instruction that is fundamental to the Canadian Language Benchmarks. Participants will learn what a pedagogical task is, identify the principles and practices underlying TBLT, create a task, and design a task-based lesson and assessment.

Teaching by Theme
Do you teach using themes? Would you like to start using themes in your teaching? Themes are topic areas such as

health, food and nutrition, and financial literacy. Participants in this workshop will look at what themes are, and explore topics related to specific themes, activities, as well as useful resources and activities. This workshop can be offered as a 1-hour workshop focusing on one of the following themes. Series:

Getting to Know You
Home and Community
Food and Nutrition
Health and Safety
Financial Literacy

Teaching CLB 1-2
This workshop is for participants who want to develop or enhance their ability to create lessons for CLB 1-2 learners, based on the CLB competencies. By the end of the webinar, participants will have ideas of the specific vocabulary, grammar, and strategies required by CLB 1-2 learners for all the four skill areas.

Teaching ESL Literacy Learners
Through this workshop, participants will learn how to recognize ESL literacy learners, distinguish between the various levels of ESL literacy as defined by the Canadian Language Benchmarks, explore principles for ESL literacy instruction, and identify strategies and resources for teaching ESL literacy learners.

Teaching Pre-Benchmark Learners
Participants in this workshop will develop or enhance their ability to create lesson plans based on the Canadian Language Benchmark competencies. Participants will be shown steps that apply to any CLB level; however, this workshop is specific to creating lesson plans for pre-Benchmark CLB learners.

Numeracy
This workshop is for instructors, tutors, and program staff who work directly with numeracy learners. In this workshop, participants will learn to use the modules effectively with their learners in one on one and small group settings. We will also

explore ways of using the module assessments as a learning tool.

Tools and Resources for Teaching

ATESL Best Practices

This workshop introduces participants to ATESL's Best Practices for Adult EAL and LINC Programming in Alberta. As they explore the document, participants will have the opportunity to gather ideas and solutions to address issues related to their own EAL context.

An ESL Toolkit of Educational Games and Activities

Explore over 55 educational games and activities you can use to make your ESL classes more engaging and fun. You will learn how to use them to reinforce grammar, thematic vocabulary, and the four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing).

Introduction to LINC Works

LINC Works integrates essential skills, entry-level certifications, and facilitated work placements into programming for newcomers to better prepare them to enter the workforce and maintain employment. The project focuses on learners at CLB levels 3 and 5 and will be applicable for a variety of programs. This workshop presents the LINC Works materials and guides tutors and teachers to make the best use of this resource.

Introduction to Open Educational Resource (OER)

In this workshop, participants will be guided in how to use a free, online, interactive English language textbook in their ESL classes. Participants will gain an understanding of how the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) and intercultural communicative competence (ICC) are integrated throughout the chapters and how the numerous interactive features can enhance teaching and learning. Participants will explore the many ways they can use this resource in their teaching or tutoring communities.

The Language Experience Method for Beginning and Literacy Learners

Not sure where to start with your beginning learner or literacy learner? The Language Experience Method is an excellent and versatile method that engages learners who need to see some quick results to build their confidence. This workshop introduces the method and gives participants an opportunity to create their own language experience activity.

Online Resources for ESL
In this workshop, participants will explore a variety of free and fantastic online resources to use with their ESL learners. Participants will become familiar with instructor-use and learner-use tools to enhance instruction, provide home practice, and engage learners with tried and tested tools and activities. Participants will take away a list of amazing resources.

Picture This: Using Pictures with English Language Learners
Pictures are one of the most common resources for teaching English language learners. During this workshop, participants will learn about the benefits of using pictures to develop language skills. Participants will also have an opportunity to explore activities and ideas for using pictures in tutorial sessions and classrooms.

Pragmatics
In this workshop, participants will be introduced to the concept of pragmatics, and learn how to incorporate pragmatics into your classes and explore useful resources.

Setting and Maintaining Professional Boundaries for ESL Providers
In this workshop, participants will identify mindfulness practices and explore reflection strategies to support healthy boundaries. Participants will learn about compassion fatigue and how to set and enforce realistic expectations regarding their commitment to help and to serve learners.

Teaching Financial Literacy to English Language Learners
During this workshop participants will identify learner needs and concept related to financial literacy. Participants will also look at ways to incorporate financial literacy into their lesson plans and useful resources.

Teaching Idioms
This workshop is for participants working with English language learners who are at an intermediate level and higher. During this workshop, participants will identify reasons for teaching idioms, as well as things to consider when introducing idioms to learners. Participants will have a chance to explore different activities and online resources for teaching idioms.

Tips and Tools for Successful Conversation Groups
Conversation groups and classes can be a versatile and effective way to develop language skills for newcomers. Participants will learn about the benefits of conversation classes for English language learners and the diverse ways conversation groups can be organized to meet learner needs. Participants will also focus on ideas and tips to use in tutorial sessions and classrooms.

Tools & Resources for ESL Providers
ESL Providers will be introduced to the services offered by Alberta Routes (mentorships, workshops, resources, classroom visits, website), as well as to English as an additional language (EAL) terminology.

Using Realia with English Language Learners
"Realia" is a term that refers to any real object we use to engage a learner and enhance their learning process. Examples of realia include a bus schedule, flyer, or cereal box. During this workshop, participants will learn how realia can enhance a lesson. They'll also discover ways to use realia with their learners.

Warmers and Fillers for Teaching
Have you ever found yourself with a small block of time you needed to fill in your class/tutoring time because your lesson ran shorter than you planned? Have you ever wished you had an activity to bring energy into your lesson? Participants in this interactive workshop will discover warm up and filler activities to add to their toolkit. Participants will also leave with a handout filled with great warm-up and filler activities.

Teaching Online

Games and Activities for Online Learning
An online instructor's role can be a struggle, and keeping learners engaged while teaching can seem like a monumental task. Join us for this interactive webinar to discover games and activities that will capture and keep your learners' attention from the moment they log in.

Online Facilitation Skills
In this workshop, we will explore different strategies to support online learning. If you are new to online facilitation or looking for new interactive teaching methods this webinar will provide practical ideas for online facilitation.

Practical Ideas for Blended Learning
The growing prevalence of technology inside and outside the classroom makes things a whole lot easier to keep your learner(s) engaged with activities even when they have gone home. Blended classes aim to take the best aspects of online learning and combine them with the best aspects of traditional classes for a more comprehensive learning experience.

Assessment

CELPIP Preparation
This workshop introduces the format of the CELPIP test and highlights the test taking strategies that will improve your learners' chances of success on the test. You will learn how to prepare activities that help learners prepare for the exam.

Citizenship Preparation: Creating a Course
In this workshop, participants will explore the essential components of citizenship preparation courses for EAL learners. This workshop will discuss classroom models, course outlines, topics, eligibility and the application process, citizenship test preparation, and resources for students and facilitators. A booklet of related resources will be provided.

ESL Assessment
In this workshop, participants will identify strategies for

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assessing learner needs and setting learning goals based on those needs. They will explore strategies and tools for assessing learning outcomes, providing feedback, and encouraging learners to reflect on their own learning.

IELTS (International English Language Testing System) Preparation

This workshop is designed to help participants better understand the IELTS test, introduce participants to useful IELTS resources, and enable participants to plan activities that will help students with all four sections of the exam.

Orientation to Alberta Routes Assessment Tool

Designed for the Alberta Routes program and based on the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB), these four skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) assessment tool will help program coordinators identify approximate CLB levels to place learners, make instructional decisions, and determine a learner's readiness for a formal CLB assessment.

Community Connections and Programming

An Integrated Approach to ESL and Family Literacy

Family literacy practitioners will acquire tools and strategies to support ESL families. The course includes discussion of culture, traditions, and best practices for merging ESL and Family Literacy programs.

Developing Community Partnerships to Support Newcomers

This workshop is designed to assist participants in supporting ESL learners in the workplace. Participants will look at needs assessment to forge partnerships with local businesses that employ newcomers. Partnering with local employers to accommodate the specific needs and time constraints of newcomer workers can open opportunities for learners and help employers seeking to integrate newcomers.

ESL Outside the Box

Are you and your learners tired of the same old routines? Do you have learners who are not available for regular classes or tutoring? This workshop highlights unusual but effective ways of setting up ESL learning in your community. Participants will

explore unique formats for organizing ESL classes and tutoring, identify best practices for fostering meaningful and engaging learning opportunities in non-traditional settings, and learn how to implement teaching strategies and ideas in non-traditional settings.

Preparing Refugees for the Post-Sponsorship Period

In this workshop, participants will acquire information and resources to support refugees nearing the end of the sponsorship period to guide them to self-sufficiency. This workshop is developed for anyone who is involved in refugee sponsorship.

Starting or Inheriting an ESL Program: Steps to Success

This workshop will guide participants through the essential steps to successfully setting up an ESL program. In addition to gaining a foundation in ESL programming principles and best practices, participants will explore needs assessments, program and curriculum development, resource identification, staff and volunteer selection and professional development. This workshop is for those starting up an ESL program or for new coordinators in existing programs. Participants will also take away a booklet of related resources.

Volunteer Engagement for ESL Providers

In this workshop, participants will apply strategies to recruit, retain, and recognize volunteers in ESL and literacy programs. They will learn how to effectively connect volunteers to meaningful opportunities through a ten-step approach to screening. They will discuss trends and demographics that impact why and how individuals engage, and they will develop an understanding of the organizational standards essential for effective volunteer engagement.

Inclusion and Diversity

Everyone is Welcome!

Teachers and tutors never know who will walk through their doors! Everyone is Welcome! explores one more element of diversity in our ESL classrooms: the diverse ways our brains are wired. During this workshop, we will overview Autism

Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and Learning Disabilities.

Interrupting Bias
Conscious and unconscious biases are part of being human. During this interactive workshop, participants will examine what bias is and how to mitigate bias. Participants will also learn practices that are helpful to effectively set expectations for valuing diverse viewpoints and facilitating respectful conversations. The information and teaching practices discussed in this workshop can be utilized in a variety of disciplines/areas to promote equity and inclusion.

Introduction to Intercultural Communication
In this workshop, participants are invited to reflect on foundational concepts related to culture, including how culture is defines, how it relates to people's behaviors and values, and how to respond to unfamiliar encounters with mindfulness, to foster effective communication and build relationships.

Learning Disabilities and ESL
Learning English is difficult. How much more challenging is it when you have a learning disability! This workshop will discuss strategies to help your learners read and write. Though these strategies are designed for learners with learning disabilities, all learners can benefit from a fresh approach to reading and writing.

The LGBTQ+ in the EAL Classroom
Participants will gain an understanding of how to create a safe and welcoming learning environment and how to address LGBTQ+ issues in the classroom. This workshop introduces the concepts around equality and rights, appropriate vocabulary, and other basic information that supports best practices.

Parenting in Two Cultures
Newcomers often struggle with childrearing in a culture with quite different practices and expectations from their own. This workshop investigates some of the challenges newcomer parents and children face and gives practical suggestions on how to teach newcomer parenting to negotiate the gap.

Promoting Indigenous Awareness*:* The Elders Speak
As part of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action, this workshop supports ESL practitioners with content and strategies to teach newcomers about the country's indigenous history and cultures.

Supporting Learners with Mental Health Challenges
Many newcomers struggle with mental health issues. In this three-hour workshop, participants will learn about mental health issues and how they impact adult English language learners. Participants will also learn how to plan and implement instruction that is sensitive to and inclusive of individuals with these issues.
The workshop will address when and where to seek professional help and how to refer learners to a mental health professional in a tactful and non-intrusive manner. Participants will also have the chance to explore mental health curriculum resources for learners.

What is really going on here...and does it matter?
A learner may not be making progress – but why? Is it because they have never had the chance to go to school and are just now learning how to read and write? Is it trauma? Is it just language development? Is it a learning disability? Is it stress? This workshop will explore common challenges for these folks and effective teaching strategies to help them all progress.

Working with Trauma Affected ESL Learners
This workshop is for instructors, tutors and program staff who work with English language learners. In this workshop, participants will learn to define trauma and look at the ways it impacts an individual and the ESL learning environment. Participants will explore trauma informed care and the ways they can support trauma impacted learners. Participants will also learn different calming techniques.

Alberta Routes Guest Speakers Webinar
From time to time, Alberta Routes invites content experts from outside the College to present to our clients on various topics of interest. This webinar features a guest speaker speaking on a topic of special interest to Alberta Routes clients. Please

refer to the Alberta Routes website for a description of the content for the date you are registering for.

Intercultural Communication Series

Intercultural Communication Series Level 1
In this first course participants are exposed to Indigenous history and theories of intercultural competency. Participants will explore ways to develop cross cultural leadership tools intended to support a diverse workplace and learning community. Participants will apply the acquired knowledge via case studies, online discussions, and reflective practices.

Module 1: Foundations in Intercultural Communications
Module 2: Aspects of culture
Module 3: Self-awareness challenging assumptions
Module 4: Strategies and approaches for navigating culture
Module 5: The Role of Culture and Communication in the Socialization Process

Intercultural Communications Series Level 2:
Level 1 is a prerequisite
In this second level of the intercultural communication series level, participants dive deeper into Indigenous history, knowledge, and experiences as well as theories of intercultural competency. Participants will explore ways to develop cross cultural leadership tools intended to support a diverse workplace and learning community. Participants will apply the acquired knowledge via case studies, online discussions, and reflective practices.

Module 1 Humility & History
Module 2 Intersections of Power and Privilege
Module 3 Treaties
Module 4 The Indian Act
Module 5 Assemble Learning

Intercultural Communication Series Level 3:
Level 1 & 2 are prerequisites
In this third level of the intercultural communication series, Participants further examine core concepts and theories on cultural competence. This level provides participants with an

opportunity to critically examine their own socio-cultural locations to raise intercultural awareness, assist in intercultural mindset development and facilitate intercultural competence development.

Module 1: What it means to be culturally responsive
Module 2: Identity and examining power and privilege
Module 3: Culture and cultural transition processes
Module 4: Wrap-up & Review: Learnings throughout level 3 with elements of understanding from levels 1 and 2
Module 5: Complete Intercultural Developmental Inventory: Completing the IDI

Anti-Racism Talking Circles

What needs to be discussed regarding anti-racism in our communities?

Societal events over the past year have encouraged people and organizations to deeply consider that it is no longer enough to be quietly non-racist, but rather, now is the time to be vocally anti-racist.

What needs to be discussed about anti-racism in your communities? We want to provide you with space to better understand and/or respond to this question in a way that makes you feel safe, seen, and heard.

We invite you to join us in our Circle Series. Over the course of three circle discussions, we will provide a space to listen and share as we aim to answer this question together as a community.

Our Circle Series consists of three one-hour circle conversations.

As a participant, when you sign up for this Circle Series, we expect you to:
• commit to attending all three one-hour circle conversations
• share your voice or simply be present to hear from others
• be open to and follow the circle process
• respect other circle participant's privacy and voices

As your hosts in this Circle Series, you can expect us to
- offer you space to listen and share
- respect your privacy and voice
- compile the conversation using anonymous language

Other Services Offered

Mentorship Support	Alberta Routes Online
Contact the Alberta Routes regional advisor in your area with questions and concerns about your ESL program or specific learner needs. We can help you find, review, or create helpful resources.	Alberta Routes offers a selection of online workshops based on our face-to-face workshop topics. To see what is currently being offered, go to the *Events* tab on the Alberta Routes website: https://albertaroutes.norquest.ca/home.aspx

Study Groups

Study groups offer participants an opportunity to gather ideas and solutions, get hands-on practice and connect with other ESL practitioners. Study group topics continue to be added, as needs are identified.

Please reach out to your Alberta Routes advisor for more information on Alberta Routes study groups or to request a study group for your organization. Current topics include:

- ATESL Best Practices

- The Canadian Language Benchmarks
- ESL Literacy
- Pronunciation
- Multi-level Classes
- Foundational Concepts on Social Justice
- Activities and Resources for Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing
- Grammar
- EAL Tutor Essentials

Alberta Routes Tip Sheets

Looking for some quick and practical tips to support English language learners? Designed for English Language and Settlement providers, topics include Working with Wikis, ESL Literacy, How to Become an ESL Teacher, and much more.

To download these **FREE tip sheets**, go to the *Resources* tab on the Alberta Routes website and search for "Alberta Routes tip sheets" or type in this URL:

https://albertaroutes.norquest.ca/resources/content/alberta-routes-tip-sheets.aspx

Classroom Visits

When requested, we can provide formal and informal classroom observations with helpful feedback, direction, and guidance.

Notes

Alberta Routes Professional Development Services

For more information about accessing our **FREE** services, please contact your Alberta Routes regional advisor or visit our website: https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/events.aspx

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