



ALBERTA TEACHERS
OF ENGLISH AS
A SECOND LANGUAGE

**Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language
Annual General Meeting
Friday, October 17, 2025
Online - Aspen Room
4:00 – 5:30 PM**

AGENDA

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Establishment of quorum** (require 52 members – as of Oct.3.25)
- 3. Approval of 2025 AGM Agenda**
- 4. Approval of 2024 AGM minutes**
- 5. Reports of Officers**
 - President's Report
 - Treasurer's Report
- 6. Reports of Committees**
 - Calgary Local
 - Central Alberta Local
 - Edmonton Local
 - Bursary Committee
 - Advocacy Committee
 - TESL Canada
 - Alberta Routes
 - Communications Committee

MOTION: To approve the ATESL Annual Reports as presented at the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

Motions before the membership

- 7. Approval of the 2026 -2028 Strategic Plan**
- 8. Approval of the 2024 Audited Financial Statement**
- 9. Approval of Auditor**

MOTION: Move that ATESL contract MNP 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, 2025.

10. Appointment of Local Co-chairs and Board Members at Large

The Following ATESL Members have been approved by acclamation to their Local Chapters as Co-Chairs, or as Board members at large:

- Calgary Local Co-chair – Holly Sadowsky
- Edmonton Local Co-chair – Bahareh Karkheiran Khouzani
- Advocacy Chair – Herly Cervera
- TESL Canada Representative – Sofia Elgueta Duplancic

11. Ratification of President Elect

Motion to ratify the 2024-2025 President-Elect, Johnson Kunnel who was appointed by the Board after the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

12. Election of Officers for 2024-2025

President-Elect

13. Bylaw Amendments

Bylaw	Current	Proposed Amendment
II, 2	A member shall cease to be a member if he fails to pay the annual membership fee on the due date.	A member shall cease to be a member if they fail to pay the annual membership fee on the due date.
IV, 14	The President shall be the presiding director of the Association, the Chairman of the Board and a member, ex-officio, of all committees appointed by the Board of Directors. S/He shall have general supervision of all matters and affairs of the Association. The President shall, as an alternate signer, have the same signing authority as the Secretary as described below in IV.17.	The President shall be the presiding director of the Association, the Chairman of the Board and a member, ex-officio, of all committees appointed by the Board of Directors. They shall have general supervision of all matters and affairs of the Association. The President shall, as an alternate signer, have the same signing authority as the Secretary as described below in IV.17.
IV, 15	The President-Elect shall generally assist the President and shall, in the event of the absence or disability of the President, perform his/her duties and possess his/her authority.	The President-Elect shall generally assist the President and shall, in the event of the absence or disability of the President, perform their duties and possess their authority.

IV, 17	The Secretary shall have charge of all archives of the Association, shall prepare or cause to be prepared and preserved a record of all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors and shall sign and execute all instruments in the name of the Association when authorized to do so by the Board of Directors. S/He shall be the legal custodian of all property of the Association.	The Secretary shall prepare or cause to be prepared and preserved a record of all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors.
IV, 18	The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all monies of the Association and shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, same in such bank as shall be designated by the Board of Directors. S/He shall keep or cause to be kept a proper set of books of account of the Association and shall exhibit the same to the Board of Directors when required. S/He shall submit at the Annual Meeting a report of the accounts of the financial condition of the Association and of all monies received and expended by him/her . S/He shall arrange, or cause to be arranged, an annual audit of the Association and file an annual financial report with the Registrar of Companies in compliance with the Societies Act.	The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all monies of the Association and shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, same in such bank as shall be designated by the Board of Directors. They shall keep or cause to be kept a proper set of books of account of the Association and shall exhibit the same to the Board of Directors when required. They shall submit at the Annual Meeting a report of the accounts of the financial condition of the Association and of all monies received and expended by them . They shall arrange, or cause to be arranged, an annual audit of the Association and file an annual financial report with the Registrar of Companies in compliance with the Societies Act.
VIII.	VIII ALTERING BYLAWS	VII ALTERING BYLAWS
IX	IX. MAINTENANCE OF MINUTES AND OTHER BOOKS AND RECORDS	VIII MAINTENANCE OF MINUTES AND OTHER BOOKS AND RECORDS
X	X INSPECTION OF RECORDS OF THE ASSOCIATION	IX INSPECTION OF RECORDS OF THE ASSOCIATION

XI	XI BRANCHES OF ATESL	X BRANCHES OF ATESL
XII	XII ATESL BURSARY	XI ATESL BURSARY
XII.	ATESL Conference Co-chairs	ATESL Conference Managers
XII, 1	The Board will recruit and appoint Conference Co-chairs to oversee the planning of the ATESL Conference. The co-chairs are accountable to the Board...	The Board will recruit and appoint Conference Managers to oversee the planning of the ATESL Conference. The managers are accountable to the Board....
Foundational Documents		
Aim statement	Increase the number of ATESL-accredited professionals.	Increase the number of accredited professionals.

MOTION: to approve the ATESL Bylaw amendments as presented.

14. a) ATESL Name Change

MOTION: To approve that ATESL change its name from the Association of Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language to the Association of Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language effective January 1, 2026.

b) Additional Bylaw Amendments

Bylaw	Current	Proposed
Title	Bylaws of the Association of Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL)	Bylaws of the Association of Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language (ATEAL)

I.	Any person interested in English as a Second Language education in Alberta may apply for membership.... The Board has the discretion to accept or reject an application for membership in the Association that fails to meet the objectives of ATESL....	Any person interested in English as an Additional Language education in Alberta may apply for membership.... The Board has the discretion to accept or reject an application for membership in the Association that fails to meet the objectives of ATEAL....
IV, 1. c)	ATESL Local Chairpersons as per ARTICLE XI	ATEAL Local Chairpersons as per ARTICLE XI
X	BRANCHES OF ATESL	BRANCHES OF ATEAL
X, 1	Provincial members within a given geographical area to be determined by the Board of Directors may apply for local association status within ATESL by making application to the Board of Directors.....	Provincial members within a given geographical area to be determined by the Board of Directors may apply for local association status within ATEAL by making application to the Board of Directors.....
X, 4	Each local association shall have a local Executive, consisting of two Chairpersons, Secretary, Treasurer and whatever other officers are decided upon by the local Association and subject to ratification by the ATESL Board.	Each local association shall have a local Executive, consisting of two Chairpersons, Secretary, Treasurer and whatever other officers are decided upon by the local Association and subject to ratification by the ATEAL Board.
X, 6	In the event that any local association fails to maintain a membership of at least eight (8) members of ATESL , that association shall be deemed to have been dissolved	In the event that any local association fails to maintain a membership of at least eight (8) members of ATEAL , that association shall be deemed to have been dissolved
XI	ATESL Bursary	ATEAL Bursary

XI, 1	The Board of Directors shall have the power to award a bursary or bursaries annually to ATESL members who are interested in pursuing further studies in ESL .	The Board of Directors shall have the power to award a bursary or bursaries annually to ATEAL members who are interested in pursuing further studies in EAL/ESL .
XI, 2	Applications must be made in writing to the Secretary of ATESL . The Board of Directors shall set a deadline for applications and a schedule for determining and announcing results.	Applications must be made in writing to the Secretary of ATEAL . The Board of Directors shall set a closing date for applications and a schedule for determining and announcing results.
XI, 3	Selection of the bursary recipient will be based on the following: a) length of ATESL membership b) involvement with ESL at the local or provincial level c) expected benefit to the ESL profession in Alberta	Selection of the bursary recipient will be based on the following: a) length of ATEAL membership b) involvement with EAL at the local or provincial level c) expected benefit to the EAL profession in Alberta
XI, 4	All members of ATESL are eligible to apply for the bursary, provided that a) they have been a member of ATESL for at least two years b) they have not received a bursary from ATESL in the past two years	All members of ATEAL are eligible to apply for the bursary, provided that a) they have been a member of ATEAL for at least two years b) they have not received a bursary from ATEAL in the past two years
XII.	ATESL Conference Managers	ATEAL Conference Managers
XII, 1	The Board will recruit and appoint Conference Managers to oversee the planning of the ATESL Conference.	The Board will recruit and appoint Conference Managers to oversee the planning of the ATEAL Conference.
Foundational Documents:		

Belief Statement	The Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL) believes that it is vital to assist learners whose first language is other than English by providing them with the necessary language training and skills to achieve their goals in an English speaking society. Furthermore, we believe that ESL practitioners act in a manner that maintains the honour and dignity of the profession.	The Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language (ATEAL) believes that it is vital to assist learners whose first language is other than English by providing them with the necessary language training and skills to achieve their goals in an English speaking society. Furthermore, we believe that EAL practitioners act in a manner that maintains the honour and dignity of the profession.
Vision	Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language will be regarded as essential and credible professionals duly respected and supported by the society at large.	Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language will be regarded as essential and credible professionals duly respected and supported by the society at large.
Mission Statement	As the professional organization Teachers of English as a Second Language in Alberta, ATESL's mission is to promote the highest standards of teaching and provision of English Language programs for learners in Alberta whose first language is other than English. Overseeing an ESL teacher accreditation process which encourages high standards of teacher preparation and performance. promoting the rights of immigrant learners and their unique identities (backgrounds, sexual orientations, genders, etc.) and by fostering understanding, acceptance, and inclusion by ESL instructors and the larger community	As the professional organization for Teachers of English as an Additional Language in Alberta, ATEAL's mission is to promote the highest standards of teaching and provision of English Language programs for learners in Alberta whose first language is other than English. Overseeing an EAL teacher accreditation process which encourages high standards of teacher preparation and performance. promoting the rights of immigrant learners and their unique identities (backgrounds, sexual orientations, genders, etc.) and by fostering understanding, acceptance, and inclusion by EAL instructors and the larger community
Target	The organization is designed to serve: · Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL) members	The organization is designed to serve: · Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language (ATEAL) members

Aim Statements	• Work with government, and community stakeholders to recognize English proficiency as an essential requirement for both basic academic achievement and meaningful social, cultural, political and economic integration of ESL learners into Canadian society. • Gain recognition of the professionalism of ESL teachers in Alberta	• Work with government, and community stakeholders to recognize English proficiency as an essential requirement for both basic academic achievement and meaningful social, cultural, political and economic integration of EAL learners into Canadian society. • Gain recognition of the professionalism of EAL teachers in Alberta
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Motion to further amend the Bylaws and Foundational Documents as presented.

15. Acknowledgements of Retiring Board Members

16. Passing of the gavel

17. Adjournment

Prize giveaways:

- **2026 Conference Registration**
- **\$100 Gift Card for the Keg**
- **\$50 Gift Card for Lush**
- **\$50 Gift Soap Package from Mother Earth Essentials**
- **4 - \$25 Gift Cards for Indigo**

Reports of Officers:

ATESL President's Annual Report 2024-2025

Introduction

Our 2025 conference theme, *Teaching Forward: Reimagine, Connect, Empower*, shows our continued commitment to moving forward despite our ever-changing landscape. While the past year has brought many unexpected challenges, it also demonstrated the power of reimagination and the strength we draw from our connections. For instance, ATESL has made considerable progress through our interprofessional collaborations that have resulted in securing a grant for professional development, a successful in-person symposium, and the continued dedication to ethical governance. Through it all, we have remained empowered—and united. Together, we will continue moving forward together into the future.

Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our amazing conference team led by Conference Managers: Desiree Pomerleau and Reyhaneh Ghadir Zadeh, Elder- Krista White who opened the conference with a prayer, featured speakers, exhibitors, presenters, planners, and volunteers who have taken part in the conference planning, and of course our ATESL Business Manager, Irene Wood, whose hard work and dedication help us to have a successful organization.

ATESL would like to recognize the following individuals for their leadership and contributions to making the conference such a success:

- Desiree Pomerleau and Reyhaneh Ghadir Zadeh – Conference Managers
- Kathy Chu and Pam Ndumbi - Program Chair & Scheduling manager & their team of program reviewers
- Shabana Shahzad & Haimei Wang– Publishers and Exhibitors Chair
- Nura Mohamed & Silvia Sosa– Donations & Hospitality Chairs
- Hyeyung Park – Publicity and Social Media Chair
- Irene Wood – Registration Chair
- Doug Vantour– IT Manager
- Joycelyn Cheung- Lead Moderator and her team of moderators and facilitators

Sponsorships

ATESL would also like to thank the generous sponsors of our 2025 Conference for their support and financial contributions:

Platinum Level:

CCIS (Calgary Catholic Immigration Society)

NorQuest College

SAIT (Southern Alberta Institute of Technology)

Gold Level:

Centre for Newcomers

Silver Level:

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

Bronze Level:

New Language Solutions

ELLii (ESL Library)

Student Sponsor (supporting 5 student registrations)

AWES

Symposium, Conference and Events

Symposium and Conference Formats and Rates

With the generous donation from Dr. Donald Mason, Director of the University of Alberta's Faculty of Education – English Language School, ATESL was able to host a one-day, in-person symposium. The theme was *Infinite Paths: EAL for a Transformed World*. This event occurred on May 23, 2025, led by our amazing Symposium Managers, Janet Kwong and Elina Stop, and their organizing committee. The symposium attracted 70 attendees, and included a variety of presentations, exhibitor showcases, lightning talks, and a keynote address. We are thrilled that this space has been offered again, allowing for another in-person symposium next year.

For the annual conference, the ATESL Board decided to continue its online format in an effort to remain fiscally responsible and considering some of our members may be experiencing financial hardship. The online format allowed us to keep registration rates low and saved many members the travel and accommodation expenses they would have incurred. Another great advantage of hosting the conference online is that all presentations will be recorded and made available to all attendees for six months following the conference.

Local Chapter Summaries

The Local Chairs continue to provide an outstanding number of Professional Development (PD) opportunities to members through virtual sessions and in-person workshops. A heartfelt thank you to the local chairs for their hard work and commitment. I encourage all members to read their reports so you can learn more about the professional opportunities they provided and I also encourage you to attend future sessions. All chapters coordinated and offered online sessions this year, which allowed members from across the province to participate.

Calgary Local

The Calgary Local hosted three online professional development (PD) sessions and two in person social events. The topics included trauma-informed teaching and the role of teachers in the era of AI, as well as field trip best-practice in LINC programs. Moving into 2026, the goal is to offer more PD sessions online to accommodate all members across the province.

Many thanks to Jeffrey Robinson and Jani Krulc for their excellent work.

Central Alberta Local

This year's efforts have focused on strengthening engagement, promoting inclusion, and

ensuring that all regional activities reflect ATESL's Best Practices for Adult ESL and LINC Programming. Available to all members, two workshops drew strong provincial interest, reflecting the ongoing demand for high-quality professional learning opportunities. These efforts helped maintain connection with ATESL's wider professional network while reinforcing our shared values of accessibility, collaboration, and continuous growth.

Thank you to Melinda Johnston for her excellent work.

Edmonton Local

The chapter met eight times over the past year, organizing one Winter Social event and seven professional development sessions via Tutela featuring a diverse range of topics and presenters. While some attendees were official ATESL members, others were Tutela users who are not affiliated with ATESL. This broader participation reflects a growing interest in the chapter's programming and its relevance to the wider English language teaching community.

Thanks to Indira Cervillos Novillo and Pam Ndumbi for their excellent work.

Financial Overview

Financial Statement

Our yearly audit was successful once again, and we are grateful for our auditors at MNP for all their advice and feedback. ATESL continues to explore alternate avenues for funding and the Board is committed to increasing annual revenue in order to keep the organization financially viable. However, ATESL will not be raising the membership fees this year and we remain committed to supporting our membership through challenging times.

Bursary Committee

The bursary committee consists of three individuals: Doug Vantour (Treasurer), JJ Pulleyblank (Secretary) and Sofia Elgueta (Past President). Bursaries are some of the benefits offered to ATESL members. The Board approved 8 applications totalling \$3,900. Additionally, there were bursaries provided to 6 speakers at the 2025 conference for the First Time Conference Presenter bursary at \$100 each (\$600).

Advocacy and Policy

Advocacy Committee

Via monthly online meetings, various initiatives addressed member concerns and sector-wide challenges such as provincial and federal funding reductions, lack of job security, permanent part-time employment, limited career growth, and insufficient workplace healthcare. To ensure responsive and sustained advocacy on funding instability and program disruptions.

We would like to thank committee members, Hyeyung Park, Yuji Abe, Herly Cervera, Eman Ghanem, and Livia Fajkusz for their participation this past year. A great way to support the Advocacy Committee is to consider volunteering for it. Contact advocacy@atesl.ca for more information.

Advocacy and Governance

ATESL raised the issue of Alberta's funding cuts and the resulting closure of language training services for second language learners with TESL Canada. In response, TESL Canada's Advocacy Committee is working on developing strategies to support affected members in our province, including bringing these concerns forward to federal government bodies and other key stakeholders. TESL Canada also held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April 2025 and shared its audited financial statements to members in September 2025 to wrap up the AGM.

Restoring Funding

In early 2024, ATESL sent a letter regarding wage equity co-signed by the TESL Canada President, the TESL Manitoba Acting President, the TESL Ontario Executive Director, the TESL Ontario Chair, and the TESL Saskatchewan Board Chair. A response was received in January 2025 stating that hiring practices and wages were determined by organizations, independent of the IRCC.

Around the same period, various organizations and institutions were severely impacted with funding cuts. This led to several letters pertaining to the restoration of LINC funding cuts sent to the Ministers of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Minister Marc Miller and Minister Lena Metlage Diab. These letters included a shared template from TESL Ontario in February 2025 for our membership to share their personal thoughts about the funding cuts. Another Advocacy letter regarding funding impacts, which included personal testimonials from ATESL members and was sent in August 2025. To date, these letters have remained unanswered.

Citizenship Markers

An email to the provincial government regarding planned citizenship markers on driver licenses was sent on September 22 to Premier Danielle Smith, Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade, and Immigration, Joseph Schow, and the Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction, Dale Nally. The email was cc'd to Lizette Tejada, Shadow Minister for Immigration and Multiculturalism and Naheed Nenshi, leader of the NDP. We expressed concerns that the addition of citizenship markers on government-issued identification could single out non-citizens in a way that undermines their sense of safety and belonging in Alberta. This could lead to the establishment of a troubling precedent by linking immigration status to identification that must be presented in everyday life. The template is available for interested ATESL members.

Instructor Excellence

This year, an Instructor Excellence Award honouring an ESL/EAL professional in Alberta was introduced. The award celebrates transformative teaching. The nominee should consistently demonstrate outstanding commitment to students, exemplary pedagogical expertise, innovation and resource development, inclusive and equitable practice, collegiality, collaboration, and a positive, lasting impact.

Eligibility requires the nominee to be an Alberta resident with ATESL membership. Application requirements include a signed nomination consent form, a nomination summary, 2 – 4 peer and/or student testimonials, and a letter of support from the employer/supervisor is recommended.

Potential Name Change

Last year, the ATESL Board began investigating a potential Association name change from the 1979 incorporated name ATESL - *Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language* to ATEAL - *Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language*.

This change is being proposed to enhance inclusiveness among our learners and teachers. Many organizations adopted 'EAL' including The Government of Alberta, NorQuest College, MacEwan University, Solomon College, NAIT, and Alberta Education. The 'ESL' term was omitted and replaced by 'EAL' in ATESL's recent Best Practices and MARG EDI projects.

Member Feedback

In March 2025, the membership was consulted and 88 of ATESL's 580 members responded to the survey. The results indicated that 61% were in favour of the name change, 35% were against, and 4% were undecided. 'ATEAL' was the most popular choice.

If the membership decides to proceed with the proposed name change, the associated costs would be a total of approximately \$475.00. This includes the following:

- a \$25.00 name change fee with Alberta Registries
- \$50.00 name search with Alberta Registries (already conducted)
- Less than \$100 to amend the logo.
- Less than \$300 for website migration (The domain names of '[ateal.ca](https://www.ateal.ca)' and '[ateal.org](https://www.ateal.org)' were secured in December 2024 in preparation of this vote.)

Governance and Ethics

Bylaw Amendments

Upon reviewing ATESL's bylaws and foundational documents, the Board discovered that the language could be updated to be gender neutral, the Secretary job description was no longer reflective of the role, there was a numbering error which was made in 2016, and the Conference Managers were called Co-chairs. We are presenting a motion to the membership to amend the bylaws, as well as one of ATESL's aim statements regarding accreditation.

Should the association name change be approved, there will be an additional motion to amend the bylaws & foundational documents further to reflect the change.

Strategic Plan

This year, the Board developed a new strategic plan. We will be reviewing it with the membership and presenting a motion to approve it later in the AGM. The focus of the strategic plan continues to be engagement, member support, and membership recruitment and retention. However, the Board also wants to add the focus of fiscal responsibility to the strategic plan with a new sustainability component.

Should you wish to view the strategic plan in its entirety, please visit the ATESL website to view, <https://www.atesl.ca/about/atesl-documents/>.

Grants and Proposals

Developing Intercultural Competence through Narrative Métissage

In January 2025, ATESL submitted a proposal for Developing Intercultural Competence through Narrative Métissage under the Ethnocultural Grant Program of the Provincial government. This grant was approved and is well underway. There will be a presentation at the conference and workshops scheduled in the new year in both Calgary and Edmonton. We are excited about sharing this innovative project with the membership.

Communications and Social Media

Communications and Social Media Committee

Throughout 2025, ATESL has maintained an active presence on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Posts highlighted chapter workshops, professional development opportunities, holiday acknowledgments, and job/volunteer calls. Each post was supported with clear details and branded visuals to promote consistency and accessibility.

A special thank you to Zuzana Buchanan for her amazing work as Communications Chair. Additionally, we want to extend a warm thank you to Hyeyung Park for managing the social media posts for the 2025 Conference.

Partnerships

Alberta Routes

With funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education and the IRCC, the Alberta Routes program initiative of NorQuest College continues to provide free professional development opportunities to EAL practitioners in community-based adult learning programs as well as to LINC and EAL providers in larger urban areas across the province. These include monthly webinars, customized in-person workshops, online study groups, mentorship support, and comprehensive online resources.

Thank you to Lia dela Cruz for your continued efforts.

TESL Canada

ATESL membership automatically includes membership with TESL Canada, giving members access to TESL Canada's bursaries, group benefit plans, professional development opportunities, and scholarships. TESL Canada also provides regular updates through its national newsletter the TESL Canada Journal, a peer-reviewed academic resource on language teaching, learning, and assessment.

Professional Development and Certification

In 2024, 22 ATESL members applied for TESL Canada professional certification. So far in 2025, that number has increased to 28 members. TESL Canada has scheduled four professional development sessions for 2025, with the first one planned for October. In addition, TESL Canada representatives will be present at ATESL's 2025 Conference to respond to member

questions about TESL Canada services.

A special thank you to Mehdi Soleimani for his amazing job representing ATESL and our members' interests at the TESL Canada Board.

TIES Literacy Centre of Expertise

A huge thank you to Donna Clarke and her team at TIES Literacy Centre of Expertise for hosting their monthly Let's Talk PD sessions and sharing them with our membership.

Inter-Provincial Partnerships

ATESL continues to meet with provincial associations sharing issues such as upcoming initiatives, association updates, ideas, and information, as well as discussing joint efforts to advocate for the EAL community. These interprovincial meetings provide a great opportunity for collaboration across provincial boundaries.

New Board Members

We are thrilled to be welcoming the following new Board members whose appointment will happen during the AGM.

- Advocacy Committee Chair: Herly Cervera
- Calgary Local Co-chair: Holly Sadowsky
- Edmonton Local Co-chair: Bahareh Karkheiran Khouzoni
- TESL Canada Representative: Sofia Elgueta

Outgoing ATESL Board Members

ATESL and I would like to express our most sincere gratitude to our outgoing ATESL Board members. Your contributions have all been an essential part of our success. Thank you all for your leadership, mentorship and commitment.

- Edmonton Local Co-chair – Indira Cevallos Novillo
- Calgary Local Co-chair - Jeffrey Robinson
- Advocacy Chair – Hyeyung Park
- TESL Canada Representative - Mehdi Soleimani
- Past President – Sofia Elgueta

Conclusion

In closing, it has truly been an honour and privilege to have collaborated with so many dedicated and talented ATESL members this past year. Your endless dedication and efforts in service of this field, the support offered to each other and to our learners continue to inspire me.

Guided by a strong executive team, I am grateful for the support I received throughout my tenure. Irene is the fundamental pillar of ATESL as a living fountain of knowledge about every conceivable thing and Sofia has always inspired me with her gift of diplomacy. The quiet resolve of both these incredible ladies have been instrumental to my success as president.

Finally, I want to acknowledge Johnson Kunnel, our incoming President. I have no doubt that his stable hand will guide ATESL to new horizons.

Respectfully submitted by,

May Yeung, ATESL President, 2025

2025 Treasurer Annual Report

Our Financial Position

ATESL's financial year (2024/2025) was similar to years past. Starting in 2020, ATESL began to hold its first of now five virtual conferences, with an in-person conference in 2023 thrown in. The unfortunate reality of an in-person conference is that the inflationary pricing of venues, catering, and accommodation expenses have increased dramatically.

While ATESL has remained committed to the needs and desires of the ATESL members, it also has recognized that being fiscally responsible, especially in this given time, must take higher priority.

Cuts to Programming (the Elephant in the Room)

As everyone is keenly aware, the federal government has implemented some new policy and procedural changes that have had a significant impact on our industry and others. Firstly, the reduction in funding from IRCC to the LINC programs across the country have had a tremendous impact. We have seen a reduction in staffing, reduction in student retention, and even total closures of programs as a result. Another major impact and decision from the federal government is the reduction in the immigration numbers, which also affects the pool of students requiring services. ATESL is committed to fiscal responsibility which is detailed in the 2026 -2028 strategic plan.

To combat the above mentioned changes, ATESL took measures to limit the expenditures as much as possible. All monthly Professional Development sessions in Calgary, Central, and Edmonton were moved from a paid Zoom account to the free platform provided through using Tutela as the meeting host. Additionally, some PD sessions for each chapter were combined to avoid having three separate PD sessions each month, thus limiting the expenditures required to attract presenters. All monthly PD sessions were limited to an online setting, which helped to reduce the overhead expenses associated with in-person sessions.

Membership Fees

Year	Fee Increase Rate	Membership Fee - 1 Year Regular Membership Rate
2024		\$62.42
2025	2%	\$63.67
2026	No Increase	\$63.67

During last year's AGM, the membership approved a 2% increase for the annual membership fees. ATESL will be pausing the 2% rate increase for the 2026 year, and the membership rate will remain unchanged from its current rate.

Auditor's Report

MNP conducted a review of the ATESL financial records and statements. The audit findings letter was provided on March 8, 2025. MNP has not indicated any recommendations or changes to the financial policies that should be conducted and has found that there are no significant risks or disclosures.

Finally, it has been an honour to serve as Treasurer of ATESL for this first of two years and I look forward to continuing in this role in 2026. We are in excellent hands with Irene as our Business Manager who continues to shine as captain of the ship!

Respectfully Submitted by Doug Vantour – ATESL Treasurer

Reports of Committees:

Calgary Local

2025 ATESL Calgary Local Annual Report

The Calgary Local has had a successful season, hosting three online professional development (PD) sessions and two in-person socials. The PD sessions, held on Zoom, touched on currently relevant topics like trauma-informed teaching and the role of teachers in the era of AI, as well as field trip best-practice in LINC programs. A fourth PD session is tentatively planned for December and will also focus on AI. We extend our sincere thanks to all the presenters for sharing their time and expertise with us.

The Winter Social at the Bank and Baron saw twenty-five members in attendance, while the Fall Social at the Kensington Pub had a smaller turnout of seven. Both events successfully brought together the local membership in forging new connections.

February	Winter Social at the Bank and Baron ; 25 members in attendance
February	<i>Working with Trauma-Affected English Language Learners</i> - Rosalia Dela Cruz, 20 members in attendance
April	<i>Irreplaceable EAL Teachers in an Era of AI</i> - Dr. Johnson Kunnel, 15 members in attendance

May	<i>From Classroom to Community: Enhancing LINC Learning Through Field Trips</i> - Marcela Paniagula Ochoa
September	Fall Social at The Kensington Pub ; 7 members in attendance
December	<i>AI Session</i> - Nura Mohamed (Tentative)

Jeffrey Robinson and Jani Krulc stepped into the role of co-chairs in October 2024, with Nura Mohamed acting as treasurer.

A special thanks to Jeffrey Robinon, who stepped down in August 2025, and a warm welcome to Holly Sadowsky, who is beginning her one-year tenure as co-chair in October 2025.

As we move into 2026, our goal is to offer more professional development (PD) sessions online to accommodate all members across the province. We plan to again host two in-person socials, one in the winter and one in the fall.

We would also like to take a moment to sincerely thank our local members for their ongoing support, active participation, and thoughtful suggestions throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted by Jani Krulc, Calgary Local Co-chair

Central Alberta Local

Serving as Chair of the Central Alberta Chapter continues to be both a privilege and a learning experience. This year's efforts have focused on strengthening engagement, promoting inclusion, and ensuring that all regional activities reflect ATESL's Best Practices for Adult ESL and LINC Programming.

Although local participation remains limited, I have continued to represent the region with professionalism, consistency, and optimism. The past year reaffirmed that inclusion extends beyond communication and outreach — it requires active representation, genuine listening, and the willingness to create shared spaces where every voice feels heard and respected.

Throughout 2025, engagement initiatives included professional development (PD) surveys, direct outreach, and collaboration with other chapters. Approximately 20% of Central members responded to the PD survey, providing valuable insights that guided this year's events.

Despite modest local participation, two workshops drew strong provincial interest, reflecting the ongoing demand for high-quality professional learning opportunities through ATESL:

a. February 2025 – “Cracking the Code: A Guide for Constructive Rubric Design”

Facilitator: Dr. Herly Urbiztondo-Cervera

Focus: Helping instructors design adaptable assessment rubrics for ESL and LINC classrooms.

Attendance: 14 participants, primarily from outside the Central region.

b. March 25, 2025 – “Supporting Learners with Mental Health Challenges”

Facilitator: Rosalia Dela Cruz (Alberta Routes)

Focus: Addressing the relationship between mental health and language learning, and introducing trauma-informed teaching strategies.

Attendance: 12 participants from across Alberta.

These sessions reaffirmed ATESL’s reputation as a trusted provider of relevant and meaningful PD. For 2026, I plan to expand PD opportunities provincewide through a developing partnership with Score Guides (Vancouver) to create new online modules that combine theory and practice. As survey participation remains low, next year’s engagement strategy will prioritize relationship-building over data collection, ensuring topics arise from real community conversations and shared professional needs.

Central ATESL continues to emphasize the importance of representation within local settlement and language networks. While partnerships with organizations evolved into closed professional circles that unintentionally limit opportunities for collaboration and shared learning.

Central ATESL’s goal is to reopen those circles by fostering an inclusive professional community that values curiosity over hierarchy. We seek to bring together instructors, volunteers, and tutors — especially those who are new to the EAL field — in a spirit of mutual respect and support.

The vision is simple: people coming together with open minds, leaving judgments and titles at the door. Whether sharing workshop ideas, seeking advice on AI integration in teaching, or exchanging classroom strategies, we grow stronger by learning from one another. In doing so, Central ATESL reaffirms its role as a bridge-builder across institutions and community initiatives.

Inclusion remained at the heart of every initiative this year. Key achievements include:

- **Cross-Regional Collaboration:** Partnering with the Calgary and Edmonton chapters to deliver hybrid PD sessions accessible across Alberta.
- **Diverse Facilitation:** Engaging presenters from both Alberta and British Columbia to share innovative, inclusive approaches to adult language instruction.
- **Provincial Representation:** Consistent attendance at ATESL Board meetings to ensure Central Alberta’s perspectives are represented in provincial decision-making.

These efforts helped maintain connection with ATESL’s wider professional network while reinforcing our shared values of accessibility, collaboration, and continuous growth.

Inclusion is not merely participation — it is representation, respect, and reciprocity. When dialogue remains limited to a small circle of familiar voices, opportunities for innovation and equity are lost.

ATESL’s ongoing opportunity in Central Alberta lies in rebuilding trust and shared purpose among educators, institutions, and community partners. Through consistent visibility and open communication, ATESL can strengthen its identity as an inclusive professional community that welcomes all who are passionate about teaching and supporting newcomers.

To advance these goals, I recommend:

- a. Community Representation:** Establish a formal ATESL presence at regional stakeholder and partnership meetings to enhance visibility and strengthen relationships.
- b. Partnership Renewal:** Reconnect with Stakeholders to rebuild collaboration and encourage dialogue about shared inclusion goals.
- c. Cross-Regional Mentorship:** Pair members from smaller or isolated chapters with colleagues from active regions to promote engagement and professional growth.
- d. Recognition of External Contributions:** Celebrate ATESL members who advance the organization's mission through community outreach and volunteer service.
- e. Provincial Inclusion Framework:** Continue developing practical supports that address participation barriers in underrepresented regions.

This year has underscored that inclusion grows from authentic relationships and mutual respect. Although engagement within the Central region remains challenging, I remain committed to ensuring ATESL's presence is visible, valued, and connected across Red Deer and beyond.

By fostering partnerships, attending community meetings, and modeling inclusive leadership, we can strengthen ATESL's reputation as a collaborative and trusted voice for Alberta's EAL professionals — one that stands for accessibility, equity, and community connection across the province.

Respectfully submitted by Melinda Johnston, Central Alberta Chair

Edmonton Local

This report summarizes the activities, highlights, and new initiative of the ATESL Edmonton Chapter for the 2024-2025 programming year. The chapter met eight times over the past year, organizing one Winter Social event and seven professional development (PD) sessions.

All PD sessions were hosted on Tutela, where a range of participants joined the events. While some attendees were official ATESL members, others were Tutela users who are not affiliated with ATESL. This broader participation reflects a growing interest in the chapter's programming and its relevance to the wider English language teaching community.

Throughout the 2024-2025 programming year, the ATESL Edmonton Chapter organized a total of eight events, including one in-person Winter Social and seven online professional development (PD) sessions.

These sessions featured a diverse range of topics and presenters.

Month	Presenter	Session	Location
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January		Winter Social	In-person
January	Jonny Kalambay	Roshi - Using Roshi.ai to generate Real-World Assessments	Online
February	Mary Bertucci	Indigenous topics	Online
March	Elsie Johnson	Language, Culture, and Voice: The Role of Identity Texts	Online
April	Rigvi Kumar	Pre-Writing Skill Building Activities for LINC CLB 4 Teachers	Online
May	Doug Vantour	Digital Literacy Strategies for Stage 1 Learners in LINC	Online
June	Bahareh Karkheiran	Supporting Literacy Learners in LINC: Developing Process-Oriented Listening Instruction for CLB 1 and 2	Online
September	Echo Yuen, Myoungjin Chun	Exploring Task Features to Power Up Oral Production	Online

Highlights and New Initiatives

- **Platform Utilization:** All presentations were successfully hosted on Tutela, ensuring consistent access and centralized content management.

- **Tutela Group Overview:** The ATESL Edmonton Chapter group on Tutela currently has 492 members. This number reflects the size of the online community engaging with the chapter's events and resources though not all individuals are official ATESL members.
- **Attendance Metrics:** Presentations averaged 10 participants per session. The session with the highest attendance focused on technology and the application of artificial intelligence in task creation, indicating strong interest in innovative instructional tools.
- **Certificate Distribution:** Online certificates were issued exclusively to ATESL members who attended the sessions. This practice continues to be appreciated and is recommended for continuation, as members frequently request and value receiving certificates for their professional development records.
- **Event Branding:** A recommendation was made during a meeting with a Tutela representative to brand ATESL events more clearly by adding the label "ATESL Webinar" at the beginning of each session title. This would help distinguish ATESL-hosted events from others on the platform and enhance recognition among participants. It is suggested that this branding be implemented in future sessions.
- **Student Voices Panel:** A proposed initiative involves inviting learners to participate in a panel discussion where they share their experiences in language programs. This would provide valuable insights into learner perspectives, inform instructional practices, and highlight the impact of educators' work. It could be scheduled as a special session or integrated into an existing PD event.
- **Monthly Member Spotlight:** To foster community and peer learning, the chapter could feature one ATESL member each month on social media platforms. Spotlights may include teaching tips, classroom strategies, or reflections on professional growth. This initiative would help build connections, recognize member contributions, and increase the chapter's online presence.

Respectfully submitted by Indira Cevallos Novillo & Pamela Ndumbi, Edmonton Local Co-chairs

Bursary Committee

The ATESL bursary for professional development is one of the many advantages of membership. The Bursary Committee consists of three ATESL board members: Past President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

This year, eight applications, all meeting the criteria, were received for the March and September submission dates. The Bursary Committee is pleased to have supported eight members for their endeavours in professional development for a total of \$3900. Recipients were awarded funds to support: a 2025 LESLLA symposium presentation, a Micro-certificate in Diversity and Inclusion- Course, a 2025 American Association for Applied Linguistics Conference, a Teaching Listening and Speaking-ESL: Teaching Business English through Score Guides, an Educational Psychology course at University of Alberta: Learning Disabilities—Issues and Interventions, a course at University of Calgary: Facilitating Adult Learning, and a Certificate in Curriculum Development - through Canadian College of Educators.

We are pleased to support ATESL members for their ongoing professional development. For

bursary consideration, kindly refer to the eligibility criteria, note the bi-annual application dates, and complete the fillable application form at <https://www.atesl.ca/membership/bursaries/>.

Advocacy Committee

2024-2025 Advocacy Committee Members have convened regularly via online meetings every month to discuss a range of issues and initiatives aimed at advocating for our members and learners.

In November 2024, the newly established Advocacy Committee began engaging in various initiatives to address members' concerns and sector-wide challenges. The committee has concentrated on policy advocacy, launching a member survey in January 2025 to set priorities and drafting a letter opposing Stage 2 LINC funding cuts in February 2025. The January 2025 survey highlighted member engagement as a key theme, while the main issues identified were provincial and federal funding reductions, lack of job security, permanent part-time employment, limited career growth, and insufficient workplace healthcare.

In response to the sudden announcement of the Bow Valley College ESL program's closure in March 2025, the committee explored immediate advocacy strategies, including compiling a list of relevant information for posting on the ATESL website.

To ensure responsive and sustained advocacy on funding instability and program disruptions, the Advocacy Committee drafted a letter with testimonials to the new IRCC Minister, Lena Metlege Diab, in July 2025, and ATESL successfully submitted a letter with testimonials in August 2025.

In August 2025, the Advocacy Committee Members responded to a survey created by the Committee Chair to gather feedback on the 2024-2025 advocacy activities and future steps. The committee members considered the most impactful activities to be conducting the survey, writing a letter with testimonials to the new IRCC Minister, and advocating for ATESL members affected by LINC stage 2 closures. Meanwhile, the advocacy committee members prioritize restoring LINC program funding, securing foundational learning ESL funding, and supporting private post-secondary ESL pathways as their advocacy activities for 2025-2026.

The 2024-2025 Advocacy Committee are: Hyeyung Park, May Yeung, Sofia Elgueta Duplancic, Livia Fajkusz, Eman Ghanem, Yuji Abe, and Herly Cervera

Respectfully submitted by Hyeyung Park, Chair, Advocacy Committee

TESL Canada

TESL Canada Membership Benefits

ATESL membership automatically includes membership with TESL Canada, giving members access to TESL Canada's bursaries, group benefit plans, professional development

opportunities, and scholarships. More details on membership benefits are available at [Membership Benefits Website](#). TESL Canada also provides regular updates through its national newsletter and publishes the TESL Canada Journal, a peer-reviewed academic resource on language teaching, learning, and assessment.

Professional Development and Certification

In 2024, 22 ATESL members applied for TESL Canada professional certification. So far in 2025, that number has increased to 28 members. TESL Canada has scheduled four professional development sessions for 2025, with the first one planned for October 9. In addition, TESL Canada representatives will be present at ATESL's 2025 Conference to respond to member questions about TESL Canada services.

Advocacy and Governance

ATESL raised the issue of Alberta's funding cuts and the resulting closure of language training services for second language learners with TESL Canada in April 2025. In response, TESL Canada's Advocacy Committee is working on developing strategies to support affected members in our province, including bringing these concerns forward to federal government bodies and other key stakeholders. TESL Canada also held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April 2025 and shared its audited financial statements to members in September 2025 to wrap up the AGM.

Respectfully submitted by Mehdi Soleimani, ATESL Representative to TESL Canada

Alberta Routes

2025 Report to the ATESL AGM Alberta Routes

With funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education and the IRCC, the Alberta Routes program initiative of NorQuest College continues to provide free professional development opportunities to EAL practitioners in community-based adult learning programs as well as to LINC and EAL providers in larger urban areas across the province.

In addition to a roster of webinars each month and customized in-person workshops, other services offered include online study groups, mentorship support for tutors, instructors, and program coordinators, classroom visits, and online resources, including handbooks and tip-sheets.

A calendar of upcoming webinars and a map of the regions supported by each Advisor are available on the website albertaroutes.norquest.ca.

New Resources

The Alberta Routes team of advisors recently created two new workshops: (1) Pearson Test Preparation and (2) Teaching Senior English Language Learners – with a grant from the Alberta Retired Teachers Association.

A new resource, The Alberta Routes EAL Literacy Handbook, was also produced. The handbook is a practical guide for EAL literacy educators and offers essential background information on EAL literacy learners as well as effective teaching strategies and ready-to-use lesson plans.

In 2025, Alberta Routes launched its social media presence on Facebook and YouTube with a playlist consisting of the following short videos:

- 8 videos of Indigenous Elders speaking about Identity, Treaty, Tobacco, Body-Mind-Spirit, Residential Schools, Truth & Reconciliation, Barriers, and With Respect
- 9 videos of classroom lesson excerpts by NorQuest College teachers
- 6 video tutorials on Finding Online Resources, Alberta Routes Resources page, Multilevel Handbook, Task-Based Teaching, Teaching Grammar, and Teaching Idioms

Provincial and National Involvement

Alberta Routes advisors also actively participate in provincial conferences

and symposia. In addition to presentations in the Fall 2025 ATESL Conference (Gender-Inclusive Learning Environments and Promoting Indigenous Awareness: The Elders Speak),

Alberta Routes advisors also gave in-person presentations at the following:

- Community Learning Network Annual Literacy and Learning Symposium, April 29-May 1 (Tips & Tools for Successful Conversation Groups and Gender-Inclusive Learning Environments)
- Spring 2025 ATESL Symposium, May 22 (Tips & Tools for Successful Conversation Groups)
- 2025 Family Literacy Conference (An Integrated Approach to EAL and Family Literacy)

Alberta Routes Lead, Alana Johnson, also participated in the CLB National Consultation held in Calgary on Sept 23.

The current Team of Advisors are:

- Alana Johnson, Lead (Region 4, South)
- Rosalia Dela Cruz (Region 3, Central)
- Selestia Herrera-Ganton (Regions 1 & 2, North-West-East)

Respectfully submitted by Rosalia Dela Cruz, Alberta Routes Representative

Communications Committee

Throughout 2025, ATESL has maintained an active presence on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Posts highlighted chapter workshops, professional development opportunities, holiday acknowledgments, and job/volunteer calls. Each post was supported with clear details and branded visuals to promote consistency and accessibility.

A special highlight this year was the ATESL Symposium in May 2025, where the Communications Chair collaborated with Symposium managers and the ATESL Conference 2025 social media team to coordinate promotion. This work extended beyond the regular scope of the role and demonstrated the value of cross-committee collaboration in strengthening ATESL's visibility.

While social media readership remains modest, our platforms provide an important communication channel for members. Looking ahead, strategies such as highlighting member

voices, cross-promotion with partner organizations, and greater use of video and visuals will help expand reach and engagement.

The ATESL Conference 2025 was covered directly by the conference social media team. Their outcomes will be presented in the Conference Committee Report at the AGM.

Future Directions

As ATESL prepares for a potential name change, the Communications Committee will reflect on how this shift may impact our social media presence and branding. This will be an opportunity to refresh our platforms, increase visibility, and ensure alignment with ATESL's evolving identity.

 Connect with ATESL:

- Facebook: facebook.com/ateslnews
- Instagram: instagram.com/ateslnews
- LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/atesl

Respectfully submitted by Zuzana Buchanan, Communications Chair