

The Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL) is a professional organization which promotes the highest standards of teaching and English language program provision for all learners in Alberta whose first language is not English.

Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language

atesl

Newsletter

January-February 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Valuing what we do, who we are ... Singing praises for unsung heroes

So many acknowledgements need to be made regarding the work of our members. The work of Terese Szlamp-Fryga and Greg Sowak put it in and their many committee members and members-at-large resulted in an excellent and well-attended conference this past October in Edmonton. The work of the local executives both in Edmonton and Calgary, the work of past and current provincial board and committee members — too many to mention and too many that I would not care to omit. My sincere thanks to all the volunteers this past year and those who are working this year to give back to the organization. The opportunity to thank participating members is pivotal to my first message as ATESL president.

The reality of the ESL field is that the average ESL professional (whether working in administration, research or the classroom) works part-time, on tenuous contract terms or even for several different organizations. Relatively few full-time, permanent positions exist. We are sometimes so focused on where our next assignment is coming from, whether we are going to get our contracts renewed or if the program we have devoted our energy to will have its funding renewed that we feel we don't have the energy or security to explore our profession and connect with each other through ATESL events. We might not have control over the realities of our work situations, but we do have control over what we can contribute to the organization that brings us together as a result of our common experiences and expertise.

The diversity of areas we work in are as complex as our employment situations but common to all of us is the nucleus of our profession — teaching English language and culture to a

multifaceted group of people — international students, immigrant adults as well as children.

Whenever I attend local meetings, I meet people whom I have worked with in one capacity or another in a variety of work situations. Yet the institutional label does not define the professional, it is the profession they belong to that defines them. If we just lifted the institutional labels from the organizations we work for, we would find a community of colleagues whom we have worked side by side with in many different capacities over the years. Recycling ourselves into new organizations doesn't change our essence and our common aspirations. This is why ATESL is so important. It removes an institutional label that is sometimes apt to create division and competition and instead brings us together through a common ground — our profession.

We all have something of value to contribute to the profession and to ATESL. Although accreditation is highly valued, advocated and encouraged by ATESL to our members, it is not a prerequisite for becoming a member. Although I am not discouraging members from seeking accreditation — it is an essential goal of ours to offer this to members — you don't need to wait to be accredited or have to decide to be accredited to participate and be considered a valuable member of ATESL.

In this issue of the ATESL newsletter, I would like to draw members' attention to calls for participation in a number of different committees. Although the accreditation committee criteria require members to be accredited, there are other ATESL committees looking for members to participate, whether accredited or not. As they are looking for involvement from our members, the Conference committee, Learners Affairs committee and Special Profiles committee will be highlighted in this newsletter. The local ATESL associations are actively recruiting

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Updates on Committees
Special Profiles
Thank You From the Conference
2002 Co-Chairs
A Message From ESLnewcomer.net
Local Reports
ATESL AGM 2002 Minutes

President's message cont'd

new members. There is even an opportunity to apply for the recently approved paid position of newsletter editor.

My hope with the Special Profiles section of the newsletter and the related committee is to offer an opportunity to acknowledge and value the accomplishments of our members and the students we serve. We tend to be humble, unassuming and afraid to openly celebrate our contributions to the community we work in. Perhaps having a forum in which to honour the accomplishments of our unsung heroes will be a step in the direction we are heading as an organization — to elevate the profile of our profession in the community of professionals. We need to take pride in what we do and openly proclaim it. Greater membership participation, promotion of accreditation and public acknowledgement of our members and the success of our students are crucial steps in raising the profile and professional image of our vocation.

Please consider this an open invitation to get involved in your organization.

Maria MacMinn

ATESL President

Teach English Overseas!



**Travel the Globe
Earn Great Money..**



**TESOL Certified-5 days
In-Class. No degree
Or Experience needed**

Study In-class or Online
or by Correspondence

FREE Info Pack: 1-888-270-2941
FREE Info Seminars- Mondays
7 Pm. @ Quality Hotel, 3828 Macleod Tr. S
www.globaltesol.com

**The University
of Birmingham
MA in TEFL/TESL
Open Distance
Learning**

**Choice of Graduate
Certificate, Diploma, or
Master's Degree**

**Local Administration
Centres in Brazil,
Japan, South Korea
and Canada**

**Canadian based local
tutors for students in
Canada**

**Option to switch to a full-
time on-campus
programme in
Birmingham**

 **Study Abroad
Canada**

P.O. Box 3231
51 University Ave.
Charlottetown, PE
Canada C1A 7N9
Tel: 1-877-779-TEFL
Fax: 1-877-219-8480
Email: matesl@eccl.ca
Web: <http://www.eccl.ca>

MA in TEFL/TESL Open Distance Learning



**The University
of Birmingham**
Birmingham, U.K.

If you are a TEFL/TESL professional with two or more years of experience and would like to upgrade your professional qualifications, then you may be a candidate for the University of Birmingham MA TEFL/TESL by distance education.

For more information contact the
Local Administration Centre:



**Study Abroad
Canada**

**New to the field of TESL / TEFL?
Ask about Study Abroad Canada's in-class or
distance TESL Certificate Programs.
They are recognized by TESL Canada.**

association notes

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Anna Deluca – Tel: 780-433-2657, anna.deluca@shaw.ca

BURSARY COMMITTEE

I would like to congratulate the following two recipients of ATESL bursaries:

- **Clare Myers** employed at Bow Valley College, Mount Royal College and the University of Calgary.
- **Ana Petrunic** employed at Global Village Calgary.

A bursary of \$200 per recipient has been awarded to help these deserving and dedicated individuals in their professional development in the field of ESL.

Check the ATESL website for bursary applications

ATESL RATES

Would you like to place an education advertisement in the ATESL newsletter?

- Outside half page: \$125 or \$400 for four issues
- Inside full page: \$160 or \$520 for four issues
- Inside half page: \$100 or \$320 for four issues
- Inside quarter page: \$65 per item

Email info@atesl.org for deadlines and more information

TESL Canada Office
P.O. Box 44105
Burnaby, BC V2B 4Y2
Phone/Fax: 604-298-0312 or
Toll free: 1-800-393-9199
Email: teslcanada@home.com

Disclaimer

The information contained in the ATESL Newsletter is provided as a benefit and service to ATESL members. While we attempt to present information which is useful for our members, and screen out potentially harmful information, we do not guarantee the accuracy, quality, completeness or timeliness of this information.

THE 2003 ATESL BOARD

Maria Macminn
President

Shaheen Murji
Past President

Jaye Frederickson
President Elect

Joanne Yee
Secretary

Valerie Baggaley
Treasurer

Glaide Benjamin
Calgary Co-Chair

Shannon Vander Meulen
Calgary Co-Chair

Dorte Weber
Edmonton Co-Chair

Marian Rossiter
Edmonton Co-Chair

Anna Deluca
Accreditation Committee

Kevin Schoepp
Website Committee Chair

Hana Taleb Imai
Conference Co-Chair

Gerry Landreville
Conference Co-Chair

Ivan Sundal
Administrative Assistant

This is our first online edition of the ATESL newsletter. Some of the traditional features of the old newsletter such as the mission statement, the membership application and the bursary application can be found on the website.

recruiting

The ATESL board is recruiting for the following committees:

Special Profiles Committee

This is a new committee that will solicit, review and select articles featuring profiles of members who have achieved success or made a significant contribution to the ESL field, or students who have a success story that would be of interest to ATESL members or to ESL students. This committee will come up with terms of reference to inform the direction of this new committee.

The committee reports to the ATESL provincial board. One member (the chair of the committee) is represented on the provincial ATESL board.

To apply for an appointment to this committee please e-mail the ATESL board at info@atesl.ca by March 7 with a summary of your background and the reason you would be interested in joining this committee.

Accreditation Committee

ATESL is looking for members to be part of the Accreditation committee.

This committee is charged with the responsibility of reviewing and evaluating the application of individuals seeking ATESL accreditation. Committee members meet approximately two to three times a year to review and make decisions about applications. The committee reports to the ATESL provincial board. One member (the chair of the committee) is represented on the provincial ATESL board.

Qualification Criteria for ATESL Accreditation Committee Members

- At least five years experience teaching ESL
- Evaluation of teacher classroom performance

- At least two years experience in a work place or academic supervisory capacity where the following has been part of the responsibility:
- Interview and selection of ESL teachers
- ATESL accredited
- Alberta resident
- Currently working in the field of ESL in Alberta or has been away from Alberta and ESL for no more than one year

If you are interested in sitting on this committee and have the appropriate qualifications, please apply by e-mail with your resume and a cover letter to the ATESL Board at info@atesl.ca by March 7.

Learners Affairs Committee

This is a new committee that will address the interests and issues of the students that ATESL serves. This committee will come up with terms of reference to inform the direction of this new committee.

The committee reports to the ATESL provincial board. One member (the chair of the committee) is represented on the provincial ATESL board.

To apply for an appointment to this committee please e-mail the ATESL board at info@atesl.ca by March 7 with a summary of your background and the reason you would be interested in joining this committee.

Newsletter Editor (paid position)

The newsletter editor is a part-time paid position that reports to the board. The editor is responsible for preparing, producing and issuing the ATESL online newsletter four times a year. Other duties and responsibilities are as follows:

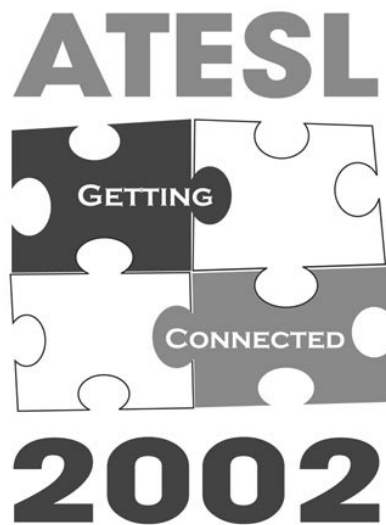
- Prepare a production schedule for the upcoming year
- Ensure relevant information is distributed to participants and ensure that deadlines are met
- Work with the past president to solicit contributions and select articles to be published
- Actively promote submissions from local and provincial executives
- Maintain contact with the editor of the *TESL Canada Journal* and other affiliate newsletter editors and supply articles, if feasible
- Prepare and maintain ad rates and sell advertising, if feasible
- Keep accurate accounting of invoices related to the preparation of the newsletter
- Prepare and deliver reports re: financial interactions and newsletter-related activities
- Work closely with the ATESL secretary and administrative assistant to ensure the newsletter reaches all members
- Maintain an archive of past newsletters
- Report on the progress of the newsletter to ATESL executive

Qualifications:

- Experience in editing publications, (on-line publication experience desirable but not essential).
- Desktop publishing and related computer layout and design skills and experience
- Experience in the ESL field

This position could be of interest to a team of individuals whose combined skills and experience would meet the required experience and skills listed above.

Please apply with a resume and cover letter summarizing your skills, experience and salary expectations to the ATESL board at info@atesl.ca by February 28.



Personally, Professionally, Technologically

On behalf of the conference planning committee, the co-chairs would like to thank all the conference planning volunteers, student volunteers, speakers and presenters for participating with such enthusiasm in **Getting Connected 2002**.

Getting Connected 2002 provided many opportunities for all of us to get connected — and reconnected — with colleagues, new friends, providers of ESL training, providers of TESL training, funding organizations and gurus. We believe some reasons for the success of **Getting Connected 2002** are as follows:

- We had a variety of speakers and presenters who addressed the myriad interests of the ATESL membership.
- Grant MacEwan College provided us with a modern facility, technological assistance and registration services. The refreshments were divine — especially the cookies!
- The Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe Hotel made sure we had great meals and an excellent venue for our plenaries and annual general meeting.
- The publishers' display gave us an extensive menu of books, software and other resources to peruse and purchase.
- The website launch truly brought ATESL into the technological age.
- The talent show at the wine and cheese event reminded us all of the wealth of musical talent blossoming within the ATESL membership.

We will submit our report to the ATESL Board later this month but would like to take this opportunity to wish the Calgary planning committee all the best with the next conference.

With greatest appreciation and thanks,

Terese Szlamp-Fryga and Greg Sowak
Co-chairs – Getting Connected 2002

ESLnewcomer.net

National Network for Providers of Adult Newcomer ESL



#208-2525 Commercial Drive, Vancouver BC V5N 4C1
T: 604-876-5758 F: 604-876-5709
E: eslnewcomernet@telus.net W: www.eslnewcomer.net

On behalf of the Maximizing Settlement Working Group and TESL Canada, we are pleased to announce the launch of our website
<http://www.eslnewcomer.net>.



This launch is the initial step in what we hope will soon become a site on your list of “favourites” — providing easy access to what is happening in LINC/ELSA/MIIP-ESL across the country. (LINC = Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada; BC’s ELSA Program = English Language Services for Adults and Manitoba’s MIIP Program = Manitoba Immigrant Integration Program).

A reminder that two opportunities await us in the fall of 2003! The second National Settlement Conference being held October 2-5 in Calgary and the TESL Canada Conference is slated for November 13-15 in Burnaby, BC.

Our website gives call for presentation information and deadlines. Please do take a look for

yourself and encourage your colleagues and staff to consider getting involved.

Symposium topics for TESL Canada include “Best Practices on Settlement Language Delivery” and a sharing session for the National Network for Providers of Adult Newcomer ESL. We also welcome workshops related to these topics that will make up a strand of presentations throughout the conference — extended call for proposals deadline is now February 22, so submit those ideas!

Finally, if there are subject areas that you feel deserve highlighting in our next newsletter, let us know by March 7 at eslnewcomernet@telus.net.

Brenda Lohrenz,
Project Manager

Frederick Popovich,
Researcher

Alberta contacts are:

Martha Beach (Calgary)
LINC Coordinator, Calgary Catholic
Immigration Society
Lc@ccis-calgary.ab.ca
Tel: 403-262-2006

Anna Maria Fantino (Edmonton and Regions)
LINC Assessor, Catholic Social Services
AnaMaria.Fantino@catholicsocialservices.ab.ca
Tel: 780-424-3545

special profiles

I am pleased to introduce this new section of our newsletter. This section will profile members of our community whom we would like to acknowledge for their special achievements, contributions and successes in the ESL field. In future newsletters we may also feature student success stories to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of the students our profession is dedicated to. Please join me in reading the following profiles and in proudly celebrating their achievements. – Maria MacMinn

ATESL Lifetime Member – Liz Karra



Liz Karra was honoured at the Annual General Meeting at the ATESL 2002 conference in Edmonton when she was awarded a lifetime membership in ATESL for her extensive contributions to the organization and to the ESL field over the past 15 years. Liz served as ATESL President Elect, President, Past President and Board member

between 1987 and 1993. She was Co-chair of the ATESL Edmonton local from 1993 to 1994 and Conference Co-Chair for both the 1997 and the 2000 ATESL conferences. In addition, she has served on the Accreditation committee since 1997.

Liz has also made significant contributions to the larger ESL community. She co-developed the *Best Practice Guidelines* that are currently used for ESL program self-evaluation. She has been involved in the administration of numerous ESL programs in the province, most recently at Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton. She has conducted needs assessments and program evaluations in the ESL and adult literacy communities; taught related courses at the post-secondary level; made presentations at professional regional and national conferences; and served on the Board of Directors of the Council of Second Language Programs Canada.

Liz has always been willing to do whatever she can to further the professionalism in our field. She has provided support for other programs, student teachers, and ESL students in countless ways. The dedication and enthusiasm that Liz has shown as an ATESL member are an inspiration for us all, and the recognition that the Board of Directors conferred on her with an ATESL lifetime membership attests to her valuable contributions to the profession. Congratulations

– by Marian Rossiter

ATESL Member – Sarah Eaton

(Chosen as Mount Royal College bookstore's Author of the Month for her book on marketing language programs)

101 Ways to Market Your Language Program: A practical guide for language schools and programs is an easy-to-read book designed for language educators and program managers. It discusses fundamental marketing principles in an educational context, using examples specific to language programs.

The book is divided into eight sections, each focused on a different aspect of how to market a language program effectively. Each of the 101 ideas is listed on a separate page for easy reading and implementation. The book takes the reader through various stages of marketing, from defining what it is you are marketing, to figuring out the most successful strategies for your own situation, to finally reviewing and assessing your progress. A handy desk book for language program managers and coordinators.



Author, Sarah Elaine Eaton, an ATESL member and language teacher, has been chosen as Author of the Month at the Mount Royal College Bookstore. Check it out at www.mtroyal.ab.ca/bookstore — click on **MRC Authors** on the top left corner.

local reports

EDMONTON LOCAL REPORT

The Edmonton Local launched its fall season with a well-attended Annual General Meeting on September 27, 2002. Peter Myhre, the key-note speaker for the evening, presented some of his research findings on ways of dealing with disruptive learner behaviour in the adult ESL classroom.

The local elected a new executive for the 2002-2003 season. They are:

Co-Chairs:	Jaye Fredrickson and Dorte Weber
Secretary:	Christine Land
Treasurer:	Ron Thomson
Publicity:	Tracey Sheloff
Hospitality:	Karen McFarlane
Phone Coordinator:	Wendy Ilott

We extend a special word of thanks to out-going chair Barb Penner, secretary Peter Myhre, treasurer Gail Dumas and phone coordinator Joanne Tkachyk for their work on behalf of ATESL in the past year.

The meeting calendar for the coming months is being developed and anyone who has ideas they would like to see addressed at a meeting should contact Jaye Fredrickson at jfredrickson@emcn.ab.ca or Dorte Weber at weberd@macewan.ca

Meeting dates and speakers:

February 28, 2003 — *Terry McLean*: "Giving students a fighting chance – Pragmatics in the language classroom"

March 28 — To be announced

April 25, 2003 — To be announced

May 23, 2003 — *Melody Rhine*: "Hosting an ESL student – Lessons learned from host"

All meetings will be at our regular meeting place:

8th floor, NorQuest College
10215-108th Street, Edmonton

Time: Wine and cheese at 4:30 p.m.
Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Jaye Fredrickson and Dorte Weber
Edmonton Chapter Co-Chairs

CALGARY LOCAL REPORT

Calgary Local wants to maintain its momentum in 2003. In November we were happy to present a workshop by Clare Myers on Inter-Cultural Communication. We'd also like to thank David Watt for coming out to talk about the Canadian Language Benchmarks and the rate of adult language acquisition. Next we look forward to a "Swap-Mart for Teaching Ideas" meeting on Feb. 26 at Almadina school. Check out the website and watch your inbox for details. Other upcoming events include a Drama Presentation in March hosted at the Shane Global Village and a presentation about how to use Power Point to develop interactive computer exercises hosted at the Maple Leaf Academy in April.

Our membership has increased, and many members have approached the chairs to discuss getting involved on one of the committees. The response is great and much appreciated. As Calgary will be hosting the conference in October 2003, there is lots of work on the horizon, and the chairs of the conference, Gerry Landreville and Hana Imai, look forward to hearing from anyone interested in participating. The next meeting is scheduled at Mount Royal College on February 19 at 4:30 p.m. Contact Hana at hanatalebimaim@shaw.ca or Gerry at 403-802-3991.

See you at the workshops put on each month. Members are encouraged to bring guests and the drop-in fee for non-members is only \$5.00.

Glaide Benjamin & Shannon Vander Meulen

Co-chairs, Calgary Local

minutes

ATESL AGM 2002 Minutes
October 19, 2002 Crowne Plaza
Edmonton, Alberta

Shaheen Murji called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. **Quorum** was established through a sign-in sheet of attendees. 126 members were in attendance.
2. **Acceptance of agenda:** Barb Penner moved and Terese Szlamp-Fryga seconded that the agenda be accepted. Motion carried.
3. **Acceptance of October 2001 AGM minutes:** Karen Barnes moved and Lili Fortier seconded that the minutes be accepted. Motion carried.
4. **Annual Reports:** Written reports were received from all of the following except Accreditation.
 - **President** – Shaheen Murji reported on her year and the major projects that were carried out including the code of ethics and the increase in membership fees. She thanked the membership.
 - **Past President** – Leila Ranta reviewed the resolution of the quorum issue from last year's AGM and gave thanks to the conference committee, Ivan Sundal and Howard Welch.
 - **President Elect** – Maria MacMinn reported on the review of the Accreditation committee.
 - **Secretary** – Dawn Garinger reviewed the ATESL highlights for the year.
 - **Treasurer** – Valerie Baggaley reviewed the audit and financial records.
 - **TESL Canada** – Leanne Floden reported on the interest at TESL Canada in ATESL's code of ethics. She referred people to Virginia Christopher for debate on the TESL Canada National Standards.
 - **Newsletter** – Tom Jiry highlighted his report by reiterating that the ATESL newsletter will be moving.
 - **Calgary Local** – Shannon VanderMuelen and Glaide Benjamin reviewed the events from the past year in Calgary.
 - **Edmonton Local** – Jaye Fredrickson reported on the events held in Edmonton over the year and gave her thanks to the local board.
 - **Accreditation** – Liz Karra explained that the process is running smoothly and the biggest concern is which programs to accept.
 - **Administrative Assistant** – Ivan Sundal reported that membership is up 20%.

All reports were received with thanks.

5. By-law Resolutions:

- Documentation detailing the resolution proposals was received at the meeting.
- Jaye Fredrickson asked for a vote on the seven separate resolutions. Both the current by-law and the proposed amendments appeared in the September ATESL Newsletter.
- Resolution 1 – Shaheen Murji asked for a show of hands. All were in favour with one member abstaining.
- Resolution 2 – Shaheen Murji asked for a show of hands. All were in favour.
- Resolution 3 – Shaheen Murji asked for a show of hands. All were in favour with one member abstaining.
- Resolution 4 – Shaheen Murji asked for a show of hands. All were in favour.
- Resolution 5 – After some debate on wording, Martha Beach proposed a friendly amendment that reads "except when a position is represented by more than one person, only one vote will be taken." Shaheen Murji moved that the amended be accepted. Tracey Derwing seconded the motion. Shaheen Murji asked for a show of hands. Three members opposed, none abstained and the remainder supported.
- Resolution 6 – Shaheen Murji asked for a show of hands. Three members opposed, five abstained and the remainder were in favour.
- Resolution 7 – Shaheen Murji asked for a show of hands. All were in favour with five members abstaining.

6. Other Business:

- Proposed Budget 2002/2003 – Valerie Baggaley presented her written budget.
- Projected revenue for 2003 is \$39,650 and expenses \$44,650.
- \$5000 from the website budget will cover the difference.
- Martha Beach moved that it be accepted. Elke Siebels seconded. The membership voted and all were in favour with no one abstaining.

minutes cont'd

7. Elections

- Jaye Frederickson had been nominated for the position of President-Elect. There were no nominations from the floor. Jaye accepted the nomination. Jaye Frederickson was acclaimed President-Elect.
- Dawn Garinger nominated Joanne Yee for the position of Secretary. Joanne accepted the nomination. There were no nominations from the floor. Joanne Yee was acclaimed Secretary.
- Valerie Baggaley allowed her name to stand again for the position of Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor. Valerie Baggaley was acclaimed Treasurer.

8. Acknowledgements:

- The following Board and ATESL members were acknowledged for their contributions to ATESL: Ivan Sundal, Kevin Schoepp, Greg Sowak Terese Szlamp-Fryga, Liz Karra, Leila Ranta, Leanne Floden, Elke Siebels, Dawn Garinger and Tom Jiry.

9. Passing of the Gavel

- Shaheen Murji passed the gavel to new president Maria MacMinn.

10. Adjournment

- Shaheen Murji moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dawn Garinger seconded. Motion carried.

ATESL
c/o #6, 102 Education North
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB T6G 2G5
www.atesl.org

*Note: The ATESL office is not the
Dept. of Ed. Psych., University of
Alberta*