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President's Report

Dear fellow ATESL members,

I have had the great privilege to meet many of you, and I hope to get to know more of you in the coming year. It is my pleasure to serve as ATESL president for the 2017-

2018 term. As you know, the incoming president for this year resigned from his position after a year of amazing work as president elect. Thus, ATESL was left with vacancies not only in the president elect position as planned, but, more critically, in the presidential role. I am



honored to have been elected to this post at the 2017 AGM, and I am very fortunate to work with a dedicated board that is committed to the advancement of our profession. In particular, I wish to thank Lisa Rochman, Past President, and Irene Wood, ATESL Business Manager, for their continued patience, guidance and collaboration. While serving as your president, I hope to draw not only from my experience in the areas of board governance and EAL programming in Alberta, but also from my experience on the ATESL board.

My involvement with the ATESL board goes back to 2006, when I began a two-year term as treasurer. I returned to the board in 2016 in the role of TESL Canada Representative. I have lived in Alberta most of my life, working and volunteering in a variety of EAL and literacy programs, primarily as a teacher, for nearly two decades. I have extensive board experience, having chaired two boards prior to my term as ATESL president.

President Elect

The position of president elect remains vacant. The ATESL board meets monthly via Google Hangouts, and two or three times face-to-face each year. The president elect will attend these meetings, and will shadow the president and past president in anticipation of taking on the ATESL presidential role at the 2018 AGM. If you are

interested in this exciting opportunity which will support your profession and your professional development, please contact me at president@atesl.ca; I look forward to working with you!

ATESL 2017 Conference

The ATESL 2017 Conference was held on October 20 and 21 at the Westin Hotel in Calgary. This event might not have taken place without the dedication of Wendy Chambers and Chris Wharton, who stepped in to co-chairs this event in addition to their commitment to their roles as ATESL past president and president elect. They, along with their conference planning committee volunteers and ATESL business manager extraordinaire, Irene Wood, did a fabulous job coordinating the conference. The conference featured student volunteers, a well-attended AGM, the Ed-Tech Jam (co-hosted by BC TEAL), engaging keynote speakers, abundant workshops and seminars, and of course delicious food. I wish to extend a special thank you to the more than 150 presenters, 450 attendees and again to the dozens of volunteers who made this event such a success.

ATESL 2018 Conference

The ATESL 2018 Conference will be held on October 12 and 13 at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton. I very much look forward to working with our 2018 conference co-chairs, Dorte Weber and Eaman Mah. If you are interested in contributing your time and skill to the conference planning, we will soon be posting calls for volunteers.

TESL Canada Membership

Historically, ATESL members have automatically become TESL Canada members. TESL Canada membership fees have been included in the ATESL membership rate. In October 2017, TESL Canada cancelled their 2018 conference in closed their office. As TESL Canada's member services have been greatly reduced for 2018, TESL Canada will submit to ATESL a proposal for a revised memorandum of understanding. At that time, the two associations will begin negotiations around ATESL's 2018 TESL Canada fees. ATESL has paid all TESL Canada membership fees which were due to July 1, 2017 as per the biannual fee agreement in place with TESL Canada. In the interim, if ATESL members wish to

update their membership with TESL Canada, you may do so through the TESL Canada website. TESL membership fees are not expected to change in 2018.

TESL Canada Representative

The TESL Canada board remains active during this transitional time. ATESL welcomes Celia Logan to her (new) term as TESL Canada Representative. Celia took on this role during a time of upheaval. Thank you, Celia, for attending board meetings on behalf of both associations, for raising issues and keeping ATESL connected, and essentially for being ATESL's liaison to TESL Canada — our eyes on the ground, as it were.

ATESL Accreditation Working Group

In response to TESL Canada's suspension of its teacher certification process, ATESL has assembled a working group to research options and make recommendations regarding EAL teacher certification in Alberta. The group will meet in January 2018 to set priorities and to select a chairperson for the group. The chairperson will report back to the ATESL Board on a regular basis.

Recommendations will be brought forward to ATESL members at the 2018 AGM. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments about the accreditation working group, please contact me at president@atesl.ca

Submitted by: Kim Dudas, ATESL President

Past President's Report

This year will see ATESL have its regular conference as well as partner with IRCC and NorQuest for a special LINC professional development opportunity. The ATESL past-president has been working on the upcoming Western Canada Language Training Learning Event (LTLE). On Wednesday and Thursday, February 21 and 22, 2018, the Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL) and NorQuest College are hosting the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) funded conference for LINC educators and program coordinators/managers. The event will be held at Shaw

Conference Centre in Edmonton, Alberta. This is the inaugural event of a three-year cycle, and is expected to rotate between Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan annually.

The conference will have half-day workshops, full-day workshops, and concurrent sessions. Topics include CLB Assessment, Curriculum & Resource Development, Teaching Multi-Level Classes, PBLA, Literacy, Student Mental Health and Wellness, Students with Special Needs, Indigenization, and LGBTQ.

An interprovincial Advisory committee has been working together with ATESL and NorQuest since the late spring to ensure this event meets the needs of LINC providers in the three provinces.

Thank you to all the people who have contributed to this planning or the event itself.

Submitted by: Lisa Rochman, ATESL Past President

2017 Conference Summary

It is difficult to believe that it has been over a month since the ATESL 2017 Conference wrapped up. In the weeks leading up to the event, the conference planning committee was coordinating the itineraries of the keynotes, making final decisions about the menus, confirming the AV needs of the presenters, securing the ASL interpreters, finalizing and printing the conference at-a-glance programs, purchasing presenter gifts, and orienting student volunteers, together with a host of other activities that would never have happened without our great group of volunteers!



Pictured are Conference Co-chairs, and Ed Tech Summit Coordinators (from left to right):

Wendy Chambers, Chris Wharton, Joe Dobson (BC TEAL), and Nathan Hall (BC TEAL)

A huge thank you goes out to all those who gave so freely of their time, expertise, and money to make this event a success. This includes the ATESL volunteers, the student volunteers, the presenters, the attendees, and the sponsors. The 2017 ATESL Conference welcomed 450 registrants, benefited from the generosity of 12 sponsors, and included 64 student volunteers who contributed to the conference in a variety of ways. Even with the funding shortages, ATESL members came out and supported their provincial association. Thank you!

Over 150 presenters offered 97 sessions covering a wide array of streams from ASL, PBLA, and EAP to mindfulness, mental health, and educational technology. In fact, the inaugural Educational Technology Summit on Saturday, co-hosted with BC TEAL, was a tremendous success, bringing together a diverse group of presenters to share the latest in Ed tech for the English language classroom.

Special thanks go out to our wonderful keynote speakers, including Dr. Bonny Norton (University of British Columbia), Dr. Darren Lund (University of Calgary), and Dr. Greg Kessler (Ohio University). They were generous with their time and accessible to conference attendees. They helped set the tone for the success of the conference. Thank you to the invited speakers who include Espen Stranger-Johannessen (University of British Columbia) and invited panelists from Bow Valley College who include Joy Stillwell, Tiffany Allard, Dan Merryfield, Wanda Warkentin, and Nadia Khan.

According to the post-conference survey results, attendees seemed to agree that the conference was a tremendous success. Of course, as expected, there were mixed reviews. Overall, the majority of survey respondents indicated their gratitude to the planning committee for organizing such a great event, but there were also some of the common contradictory conference criticisms. For example, "There were so many great presentations - Lots of choice!" vs. "There were too many great presentations - I missed many that I wanted to see!" "The cinnamon buns were to die for!" vs. "Cinnamon buns do not constitute a 'nutrition' break!" "Bring back the lightning talks" (even though we only

received ONE submission in 2016). “The keynotes were excellent!” vs. “Ask membership for their input on keynote selection next time”. “Great schedule!” vs. “Stop overlapping 45-minute and 90-minute sessions!” “Loved the long lunch break!” vs. “Lunch break was too long!”

We welcome the feedback, and we would also like to welcome new volunteers into the fold.

If you want to help out in future conferences, but you are not quite sure how to get started, please contact the ATESL board and they will be happy to discuss the many options available. Please contact Irene Wood at atesl.admin@atesl.ca

Respectfully submitted by:
Wendy Chambers and Chris Wharton, ATESL 2017
Conference Co-chairs

Edmonton Local Report

We would like you to meet this year’s executive for the ATESL Edmonton Local Chapter and September presenter.



From left to right: Diana Agudelo Cruz (Co-Chair), Nick Williams (Treasurer), Elina Stop (Co-Chair), Janet Kwong (Past Co-Chair), Leila Ranta (September presenter), Julie McArthur (Hospitality), Belinda Escandallo (Secretary), Renuka Jantz (Hospitality). Missing: Rosemary McMahon (Communications Officer)

New Co-Chair: Diana Agudelo Cruz

Diana Agudelo comes by her love of teaching naturally. She has an MA in TESL, with both classroom and coordinating experience in language programs within Edmonton's nonprofit sector. She serves as an integral member of the local ESL community.

Existing Co-Chair: Elina Stop

Elina Stop is currently teaching in the LINC program at NorQuest College. Elina completed the TESL Master’s at the University of Alberta. She has been teaching English

for seven years at different organizations, to students of different ages. Elina finds her teaching experience very rewarding, and she is looking forward to many more years in this field.

Secretary: Belinda Escandallo

Belinda Escandallo is an ESL Instructor for over ten years at the University of Cebu, Philippines. She finished her Master’s degree in English with Applied Linguistics at the University of San Carlos way back in 2006. She decided

ATESL Board 2017-2018

Kim Dudas
President

Lisa Rochman
Past President

Wendy Ilott
Secretary

Seppy Masoodi
Treasurer

Celia Logan
TESL Canada Representative

Jyoti Grewal, Irina Derevyanko
Calgary Local Co-Chairs

Elina Stop, Diana Agudelo
Edmonton Local Co-Chairs

Elise Kruithof, Anna Robertson
Central Alberta Co-Chairs

Greg Ogilvie, David Fuller
Southern Alberta Co-Chairs

Martha Urquhart
Rural Routes Representative

Dr. Tracey Derwing,
Theresa Wall,
Stacy Norrbom
Advocacy Committee Members

Irene Wood
Business Manager

Central Alberta Report

Most LINC instructors were able to attend at least one day of the ATESL conference in October. A Literacy PD event was planned for November but had to be rescheduled to accommodate the presenters. The training is currently scheduled for late January (more details to follow). A holiday social was held on December 8 in Red Deer.

Submitted by: Elise Kruithof and Anna Robertson,
Central Alberta Local Co-chairs

Southern Alberta Report

The Southern Alberta ATESL Chapter has started the new academic year off with a bang! Southern Alberta was well represented at the annual ATESL Conference in October in Calgary in terms of both presenters and

attendees. The event was a great opportunity to network with peers from across the province, and to demonstrate the wonderful work being conducted in the southern portion of the province. At the board meeting, David Fuller was welcomed as the new co-chair for the chapter; we are looking forward to his contributions to ATESL in the coming year.

The first event of the new academic year was held in November, with 21 local administrators and educators attending the event at the University of Lethbridge. The event entitled “Community of Practice Sharing Session: Learning from Peers in the ESL Community” included eight presentations from local educators about topics including vocabulary logs, religious literacy, technological applications in the ESL classroom, effective instructional strategies, and intercultural activities. Participants left the event with a number of practical tips and ideas to foster further contemplation.

The Southern Alberta Chapter also hosted a Christmas Party on December 14. The party provided an opportunity for educators to unwind and enjoy the festive spirit of the season together. There were games, a White Elephant Gift Exchange and lots of opportunities for conversation while breaking bread together.

The Southern Alberta Chapter will also be hosting a number of professional development events in the New Year. We are tentatively planning a H5P Challenge Event, where local educators will develop materials based on an open access educational resource to share with peers, in addition to other workshops and gatherings. Stay tuned for more information about upcoming events!

Merry Christmas from the Southern Alberta ATESL Chapter!!!

Submitted by: Greg Ogilvie and David Fuller, Southern Alberta Local Co-chairs

Calgary Report

In September, the Calgary chapter had a back-to-school idea shared with 20 people in attendance. The annual ATESL conference took place in October 2017. The Calgary chapter held their Winter Holiday Social at Milestones Bar & Grill on November 25, 2017. With 25 people in attendance, this was a fun event with Bingo games and draws for Indigo gift cards won by the attendees.

For January, we will be hosting a session with two presenters on January 25 at the Centre for Newcomers. The first presentation is titled 'Teach more in less time using authentic online material' by Shabana Shahzad and the second presenter, Rabia Garewal, will present on "Using Plain language in classroom Practice".

On February 27, Brock Wojtalewicz will conduct a workshop on vocabulary acquisition in the classroom. More details to follow.

Other presentations that are occurring during the first half of the year include technology use in the classroom, introverted and extroverted students, and using assessment tools to assess all four areas.

Submitted by: Jyoti Grewal and Irina Derevyanko,
Calgary Local Co-chairs

Bursary Committee Report

In 2017, ATESL provided members with \$2,310 in the form of five individual bursaries for professional development. In light of the recent reductions in

discretionary professional development funding for LINC teachers, we were especially pleased to facilitate further opportunities for professional growth. 35 per cent of the bursary funds awarded helped members attend professional conferences while the remaining 65 per cent of the funds supported members in graduate studies.

We look forward to the next round of applications. We encourage all ATESL members to complete an application form

(www.atesl.ca/cmsms/uploads/File/Forms/ateslbursarypdf.pdf). The due date is March 15.

Points to consider when you apply:

1. You need to have been an ATESL member for 2 years prior to application and have not received a bursary within the last two years.
2. You need to demonstrate in the application the appropriateness of the proposed event or course of studies.
3. You need to mention a return to Alberta to work following the course of studies.
4. You must describe how you are unable to receive this funding from other sources. Financial need must be evident.
5. You must be willing to write a 250-word report of the program or event, and agree to have it published in the ATESL newsletter or website, and/or present at a conference or local meeting.

Submitted by the Bursary Committee:

Wendy Ilott, ATESL Secretary

Seppy Masoodi, ATESL Treasurer

Lisa Rochman, ATESL Past President

Save the date!
Friday October 12 and Saturday October 13, 2018
ATESL Annual Conference
Fantasyland Hotel - Edmonton

ATESL Conference 2018 – Be Part of the Excitement!

ATESL 2018 Conference Committee is looking for volunteers to help make 2018 a great conference. Please contact Eaman Mah or Dorte Weber at: conference2018@atesl.ca to get first pick of the committees!

Newsletter Information

The ATESL Newsletter is published quarterly.

Deadlines: February 15, May 15, August 15,
November 15

Announcements, workshop dates, book reviews, teaching ideas, and articles relevant to the field. Contact: Irene Wood at services@atesl.ca

More information and archives
at www.atesl.ca/newslettersArchive

Professional Development Bursaries

Apply for an ATESL Professional Development Bursary

Deadline: March 15, 2018
<http://www.atesl.ca/bursary>

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 other than English.