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## President's Report

Dear fellow ATESL members,

ATESL Conference 2018

Summer is upon us, and while ATESL's four local chapters wind down for the season, ATESL committees and initiatives are still in full swing. Our conversations are abuzz with preparations for the upcoming conference October 12-13 at Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton. The theme of this year's conference will be *Leaders and Learners: Integration and Inclusion*. Keynote speakers Michel Chikwanine, Dr. Ingrid Johnston, and Dr. Jennifer Foote are sure to impress! Please note that the early bird deadline is September 12.

Bursary Deadline

ATESL offers professional development bursaries to eligible ATESL members each spring and fall. The deadline for fall bursary applications is September 15. If you have been an ATESL member in good standing for the past two years, you may be eligible. Visit [www.atesl.ca](http://www.atesl.ca) for more information.

AGM

Please join us on Friday, October 12 for ATESL's AGM and the wine and cheese reception that will follow. At the AGM, ATESL membership will have an opportunity to review and discuss the findings from ATESL's online feedback session and membership survey regarding our relationship with TESL Canada while we move forward as an association. Members will also have an opportunity to review and discuss ATESL's recommendations surrounding teacher accreditation requirements identified by Alberta language providers, provincial and federal stakeholders, and ATESL membership.

ATESL Board Updates

The ATESL Board wishes to thank Elise Kruithof, former ATESL central co-chair, and Seppy Masoodi, former ATESL treasurer, for their efforts while they served on the ATESL Board. Regrettably, Elise and Seppy had to step down prematurely from their roles on the

ATESL Board. The ATESL Board wishes them all the best on their endeavors.

#### Social Media Coordinator Position

ATESL has re-established a Communications Committee that is looking for a Social Media Coordinator responsible for developing and maintaining the strategy/process for ATESL's social media platforms. For more information about this exciting volunteer opportunity, visit [www.atesl.ca](http://www.atesl.ca).

#### TESL Canada Affiliation with ATESL

ATESL has been in negotiations with TESL Canada since January 2018 regarding an interim memorandum of agreement, but to date no new memorandum has been signed between the two associations. ATESL membership provided input in late May 2018 via an online feedback session which informed the contents of a membership survey set to go out to ATESL members in Summer 2018. At the AGM in October, ATESL members will have the opportunity to decide how to move forward in terms of ATESL's relationship with TESL Canada. In the meanwhile, ATESL members seeking TESL Canada certification will need to purchase a direct membership from TESL Canada in order to have their application processed.

#### Interprovincial Relationships

I am happy to report that even in this time of uncertainty regarding the future of TESL Canada, ATESL continues to maintain ties both with TESL Canada and with provincial associations across the country.

ATESL maintains a representative, Celia Logan, on the TESL Canada Board of Directors, and the ATESL presidential chain makes every effort to keep reciprocal lines of communication open with TESL Canada President, Paula Kristmanson.

For years, an Interprovincial Committee of ATESL's cohorts has been meeting regularly to keep abreast of what is happening in the field. The Interprovincial Committee fosters relationship building, learning and trust between cohort association presidents and executive directors from nearly every province.

In May 2018, ATESL accepted an invitation to attend the BC TEAL conference in Vancouver. At this conference, I had the opportunity to meet in person not only with

representatives from BC TEAL and TESL Ontario, who was also invited, but also with BC TEAL's own Social Media Chair and even with that association's committee which has been built in similar fashion to ATESL's Accreditation Review Committee in order to review professional certification requirements and options for teachers.

#### Business Manager Anniversary

Irene Wood, ATESL's business manager, has entered her 12<sup>th</sup> year with our organization. We are so fortunate to have Irene on the team. She continues to offer the ATESL Board and membership consistent, thorough, friendly service that we truly appreciate. Thank you, Irene, for all that you do for us behind the scenes. You are truly integral to our success as an organization.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Dudas, ATESL President.



## President Elect Introduction

Dear ATESL members,

I've always held the belief that strangers are just friends we haven't met yet. This sort of optimism has worked out for me pretty well so far. It's given me the opportunity to meet incredible people, several of whom I have to thank for attracting me to ATESL. Better still, it's given me the honour of now greeting all of you.

As your new President Elect I know that I have much to learn in the coming months. While I've begun to familiarize myself with the numerous sub-committees, I still welcome feedback from the membership about what you want to see from the organization.

It's already becoming clear that 2019 will be a momentous occasion. As some of you might know, next year we'll be celebrating ATESL's 40th Anniversary. I look forward to marking this occasion in a meaningful way with all of you, both online and in the community, and in return I hope to see your participation as we look to collaborate (and innovate) during this landmark year.

All the best,  
Colyn deGraaff

## SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

To emphasize our commitment to dialogue, ATESL recently formed the Social Media Committee to develop a set of best practices and activities to better promote awareness about immigration, English language learning, and to share professional development opportunities in our province. With a set of guidelines completed, the search for a volunteer coordinator is underway, and you can expect to see more of us online in the future.

## Past President Report

It is hard to believe it is already summer. I hope everyone had a wonderful 2017-2018 year so far. As summer comes, this is a great time to reflect on what role you would like to play supporting your profession. For those interested in getting involved with the board, there are several positions available to take on starting in October.

Consider if you are interested in the role of: President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, TESL Canada Representative, Rural Routes Representative. If you have any question on the role, please feel free to reach out to me at [Irochman@atesl.ca](mailto:Irochman@atesl.ca) or Irene at [ask@atesl.ca](mailto:ask@atesl.ca).

As always, ATESL remains active with the provincial and interprovincial groups. In May, I attended the AAISA led working group Helping Immigrants Succeed-Employment. This group is currently determining the project to undertake to best support newcomers accessing employment.

In June there was a quarterly inter-provincial meeting with member of the provincial organizations across Canada.

As summer comes, I hope everyone manages to take some time to relax and recharge.

Submitted by Lisa Rochman.

## Calgary Local Report

Calgary local chapter was planning to host in April a webinar on the topic of learning disabilities facilitated by Ann Price of CanLearn Society. Unfortunately, due to time conflict, the facilitator was not available, so the webinar was postponed to a later date.

Four amazing Tech Lightning workshops at Bow Valley College wrapped up our PD sessions for the summer. These workshops took place on May 10. Below are the highlights.

1. Google Slides for Vocabulary Practice, presented by Edi Casimirri, an ELL Instructor at Bow Valley College's School of Global Access.

Vocabulary acquisition and mastery are at the core of language learning. Google Slides is a presentation tool that can be used in an ELL classroom to help learners: interact with and manipulate new vocabulary; select related meaningful images; and, practice presentation skills. Edi demonstrated how she uses this tool with immigrant youth.

2. Flipsnack for Writing, presented by Andrea Scholes, an ELL Instructor at Bow Valley College's School of Global Access.

Andrea presented an interesting and useful tool for reviewing, practicing and assessing student writing, at the same time as developing their technology skills. Flipsnack is a free online program that students can sign up to and store work that they create. Flipsnack is a practical and accessible tool for students at any level of English language learning, as well as being a quick and easy way to produce and share work connected with any theme, activity or even field trip.

3. Capturing Speech and Video, presented by Sheri Rhodes, Program Administrator at the Languages Institute, Faculty of Continuing Education and Extension, at Mount Royal University.

We have multiple artifacts of student writing to demonstrate their skills in a snapshot in time and as a way to demonstrate development over time. Creating artifacts to do this with our students' oral production is helpful for us to both understand and design learning opportunities to support skills development. The bonus of capturing students' oral production is that the students can review and notice their own features of production and growth over time. Workshop participants explored a way to capture oral production with their mobile phones and then revisit audio and video samples in the classroom or computer lab.

4. Phones for Classroom Engagement, presented by Tanya Yaunish, an ELL Instructor at Bow Valley College's School of Global Access.

Keeping mobile devices out of the classroom these days is nearly impossible Tanya was exploring a couple of different ways that can make devices engaging instead of distracting. Workshop participants learned about an online survey tool that creates charts and word clouds as the learners input their answers. The second tool is used for creating automatically randomized quizzes for quick comprehension checks in class.

Submitted by: Jyoti Grewal & Irina Derevyanko.

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## Edmonton Local Report

Past Meetings: April's meeting, *Cover Less, Uncover More: the Transformative Power of Slowing Down*, was held at NorQuest College. We had 26 people present at the meeting and 25 online participants. Kelly Morrissey presented low-prep ways to easily incorporate activities that guide students back into previously studied material in order to foster deeper processing and retention of language. Participants had an opportunity to explore a variety of free worksheets and graphic organizers that can be used with any written or audio text through Kelly's website, [www.kellymorrissey.com/](http://www.kellymorrissey.com/).

May's meeting was facilitated by Bonnie Nicholas, her presentation titled *Apologia for Tweets: Twitter for Professional Development*, had as main goal to show participants that Twitter can be used for different

purposes, especially for professional development. She walked attendees through how she follows leaders and colleagues in ELT on Twitter, stays on top of trends and knows what is happening in our field. She talked about building a Professional Learning Network, #PLN, and her work in #cdnELTchat (formerly known as #LINCChat). Lastly, she answered questions for those new to Twitter.

Future Meetings: The next Edmonton local meeting will be in September. We would like to express our gratitude to the team that makes these meetings happen, they are Nick Williams (Treasurer), Julie McArthur (Hospitality), Belinda Escandallo (Secretary), and Rosemary McMahon (Communications Officer).

Submitted by: Elina Stop & Diana Agudelo, Edmonton Local co-chairs.

## ATESL Board 2017-2018

Kim Dudas  
President

Colyn deGraaff  
President Elect

Lisa Rochman  
Past President

Wendy Illott  
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,  
Stacy Norrbom,  
Theresa Wall,  
Wendy Chambers  
Advocacy Committee Members

Irene Wood  
Business Manager

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## Southern Alberta Report

The school year is coming to an end and so are the events for the Southern Alberta Chapter of ATESL. In April, the chapter held an event at the University of Lethbridge entitled “Canadian Benchmark Assessments ‘For’ and ‘Of’ Learning.” The event featured guest speaker Dr. Lucelle Prindle from Southern Alberta Language Assessment Services (SALAS Ltd.). Dr. Prindle discussed intake procedures for newcomers to the region and shared her expertise about using assessments to guide instructional practices. The presentation was followed by rich discussion amongst participants.

The chapter had planned a barbeque for June to celebrate the end of the school year. The event was planned to take place in the beautiful coulees of Lethbridge at Indian Battle Park adjacent to Fort Whoop Up; however, thunder, rain and high winds caused the event to be cancelled. In its place we will hold a welcome back to school barbeque in September to bring local ESL practitioners and administrators together. We hope to see you there!

The Southern Alberta Chapter would like to thank all of the members who presented and participated in events throughout the year. There were a number of great opportunities to develop connections in the community and to participate in professional development. We look forward to continued involvement in social and professional development events in the coming year.

Have a great summer!

Submitted by: Greg Ogilvie & David Fuller.

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## Bursary Committee Report

We are pleased to announce that we received seven applications for the ATESL bursary and have approved five claims. As a result, this summer we will be awarding \$2,250 in bursaries for members’ professional development. The remaining applicants are encouraged to apply again in the fall.

Don’t forget that the next bursary application deadline is September 15, 2018!

In order to be approved you must:

- Provide a *complete* application
- Be willing to share a report on the benefits of your training that may be shared in the ATESL newsletter or on the ATESL website.
- Preference is given to those unable to secure funding from other sources.

For more information on the application requirements, check out our website at <https://www.atesl.ca/membership/bursaries/>

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Ilott, on behalf of the Bursary Committee.

## TESL Canada Report

TESL Canada AGM was held on June 9, 2018 in Fredericton, New Brunswick and consisted of both attendance in Fredericton and presence by provincial affiliates on Zoom. Quorum was reached. The meeting talked about the financial situation of the organization and, after a request from ATESL, the unaudited financial statement for the first quarter was promised. The second quarter financials will be available in July. A new executive slate was elected by acclamation and includes representation from nearly all provinces across the country.

Teacher Accreditation: Files are being processed as quickly as possible, however, there can be a lot of delays if the files are not complete, which is often the case.

TESL Journal: The latest issue featuring pragmatics came out in May.

Financial Situation: the report from the Treasurer at the AGM recommended increasing fees for processing Teacher Training Programs which should help improve the financial health of the organization.

Provincial Reps Committee: Liliana Dominguez and I co-chaired a meeting for this committee on May 28, 2018. We discussed how to make communication between provinces and TESL Canada smoother and also discussed the proposal to charge provincial affiliates a flat fee. Newfoundland wouldn't support this because they are such a small organization.

Submitted by: Celia Logan, TESL Canada Representatives.

## Advocacy Committee Report

Advocacy Committee Members:

Wendy Chambers  
Tracey Derwing, Chair  
Kim Dudas  
Wendy Illott  
Stacy Norrbom  
Lisa Rochman  
Theresa Wall

The Advocacy Committee now has its own webpage (under ABOUT on the ATESL main webpage). We regularly add items to the webpage, so it is worth checking out on a monthly basis.

One of our current endeavours is to leverage support for the two university TESL programs in Calgary and Edmonton, both of which have lost professors to retirement. So far there is no indication that any of the professors will be replaced and yet both these programs have contributed significantly to our field over the last many years.

The Advocacy Committee continues to seek out some resources for ESL/LINC classrooms regarding LGBTQ issues (note that Stacy Norrbom has already uploaded some resources and information to the ATESL website).

Kim Dudas, President of ATESL, has been attending AAISA (Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies) meetings to determine if we can assist as an organization in some of their upcoming projects. The Advocacy Committee is also hoping to rekindle a relationship with the ESL-C Specialist Council (our K-12 counterpart).

Tracey Derwing is continuing to provide support on ATESL's behalf to the IRCC development of the Citizenship Guide, which should be launched later this year.

Both Tracey Derwing and Wendy Chambers will be stepping down from their positions on the Advocacy Committee after the conference in October, after a three-year commitment. The Committee will be looking for new members with new ideas going forward. If you are interested in joining the Advocacy Committee, please contact Tracey Derwing at [tderwing@ualberta.ca](mailto:tderwing@ualberta.ca).

Submitted by: Tracey Derwing.



## Rural Routes Report



ALBERTA TEACHERS  
OF ENGLISH AS  
A SECOND LANGUAGE

Rural Routes (RR) has had a successful year. All of the areas' advisors are in place and ready to help communities implement and sustain their ESL programming. To find out who the advisor is for your area, see the contact information at the end of this report or check the map at:

<https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/contact-us/maps.aspx>.

Rural Routes (RR) has many online services available for all CALPs in Alberta:

- Regular webinars target specific topics in ESL programming
- Lunch 'n Learn webinars provide one-hour snapshots of areas of interest
- Prep for Online Learning helps CALPS, tutors, and students develop online learning skills
- SATIE helps individuals identify their PD needs

For a list of upcoming events, check the website at:

<https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/>

Rural Routes (RR) also provides PD services for the RDP instructors across Alberta (Rural Delivery Program).

Rural Routes (RR) just wrapped up a successful project in partnership with Stettler's CALP. RR provided training for employees and management to identify communication issues that resulted from cultural expectations. Resources that resulted from this project include: an employer guide, a CALP guide, and an Instructors' guide. Watch for RR's presentation of these three resources at the Language Symposium in September.

### *Advisors:*

Alex Marshall serves Cold Lake, Fort McMurray, Fox Creek, High Level, and all of the communities across northern Alberta. [Alex.Marshall@norquest.ca](mailto:Alex.Marshall@norquest.ca) or 780-644-6001.

Jeanne Spearman supports the communities of Bonnyville, Grande Cache, Smoky Lake, Wetaskiwin, Whitecourt, and all of the communities east and west of Edmonton. Contact via [Jeanne.Spearman@norquest.ca](mailto:Jeanne.Spearman@norquest.ca) or call 780-644-6207.

Jacky Rivas works with Drumheller, Lloydminster, Ponoka, Provost, Rocky Mountain House, Vermillion, and all the areas in central Alberta. Contact via [Jacky.Rivers@norquest.ca](mailto:Jacky.Rivers@norquest.ca) or call 780-644-6428.

Alana Johnson supports Banff, Cardston, Oyen, Strathmore, Warner, and all the areas across southern Alberta. Contact via [Alana.Johnson@norquest.ca](mailto:Alana.Johnson@norquest.ca) or call 780-644-6301.

Submitted by: Martha Urquhart.

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## Ed Tech SIG Report

The Ed Tech SIG met on June 4 via Zoom, an online video conferencing platform, for one hour and members in attendance learned about three different educational technology applications for use in the English language classroom. Each presentation was approximately 15 minutes long and the presenters included Elina Stop who introduced VoiceThread, Judith Van Bruggen demonstrated how to use Kahoot, and Hannah Akindele shared information about Quizlet. We wish to extend a huge thank you once again to each of the presenters for preparing and delivering interesting and informative talks!

The SIG is interested in communicating via social media. A poll will be sent to SIG members to explore how social media may be used, and this will be one of the topics of discussion at the next meeting in September. All ATESL members are welcome to join the Ed Tech SIG. The goal

of the SIG is to bring together a network of like-minded Ed Tech enthusiasts to further our own professional development for the purposes of collaborating, sharing and empowering our colleagues and learners. To be added to our mailing list, contact us at [edtechsig@atesl.ca](mailto:edtechsig@atesl.ca)

Respectfully submitted by: Amy Meckelborg, Gabriela Jessome & Wendy Chambers, Ed Tech SIG co-chairs.

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## Ads and Information

Please watch your emails for notice regarding ATESL Annual Awards, the ATESL member survey regarding TESL Canada and several more updates before the fall!

ATESL is still looking to fill the position of Social Media Coordinator - for more information on the posting, please check: <https://www.atesl.ca/membership/jobs/>

Have a great summer!





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## Conference Committee Report

Hello from the Conference committee. We are working very hard to bring you a great conference on October 12 and 13!

Here are a couple of sneak peek previews:

### Keynote speakers

Michel Chikwanine is a former child soldier now living in Toronto, and an inspirational speaker who works to motivate people to believe in their ability to make positive change.

Ingrid Johnston is a researcher into multiculturalism, post-colonial studies and migrancy. Her work is particularly relevant right now as we see countries around the world closing their borders.

Jennifer Foote is an assistant professor at University of Alberta researching pronunciation with a focus on intelligibility and how to help learners improve their intelligibility.

We are planning a pecha kucha session on technology relevant to language instructors. We have a GREAT MC lined up, but we are not telling you who just yet. There has to be SOME suspense.

Fantasyland Hotel will be ready to receive us. They have always done a great job with our conference and we look forward to another welcoming and comfortable experience.

Submitted by Eaman Mah & Dorte Weber, conference co-chairs.