



ALBERTA TEACHERS  
OF ENGLISH AS  
A SECOND LANGUAGE

**Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language  
Annual General Meeting  
Edmonton, AB  
Friday, October 12, 2018  
4:00 – 5:30 PM  
Location: Fantasyland Hotel, Beverly Hills Ballroom**

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Establishment of quorum** (require 69 members – as of Sept.28.18)
- 3. Approval of agenda**
- 4. Approval of 2017 AGM minutes**
- 5. Approval of the December 31, 2017 Audited Financial Statement**
- 6. Appointment of the Auditor**  
**MOTION: Move that ATESL contract Halpert Monsma 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, 2018.**
- 7. Reports of Officers**  
Presidents' Report
- 8. Reports of Committees**  
Calgary Local  
Central Alberta Local  
Edmonton Local  
Southern Alberta Local  
Bursary Committee  
TESL Canada Representative  
Rural Routes Member at Large  
Advocacy Committee  
Accreditation Review Committee
- 9. Presentation of Awards**  
Carolyn Dieleman Award – Debbie Severinsen  
Dawn Seabrook deVargas Fellowship – Helen Lewis  
ATESL Lifetime Membership – Wendy Chambers

#### **Motions before the membership**

- 10. MOTION: That ATESL sign the 2018 TESL Canada Memorandum of Agreement and pay retroactive fees from January 2018 to year end.**
- 11. MOTION: That ATESL sign a Memorandum of Agreement with TESL Canada for 2019, for a one-year term to be revisited annually.**

**12. Appointment of Local Co-chairs**

Calgary  
Edmonton  
Southern Alberta  
Central Alberta

**13. Appointment of TESL Canada Representative**

**14. Appointment of Rural Routes Member at Large**

**15. Ratification of 2017-18 President Elect**

**16. Election of Officers for 2017-2018**

President-Elect  
Secretary  
Treasurer

**17. Acknowledgements of Retiring Board Members**

**18. Passing of the gavel**

**19. Adjournment**

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**ATESL Presidents' Annual Report 2017/2018**

Welcome to the ATESL 2018 Conference, Leaders and Learners: Integration and Inclusion.

Thank you for supporting ATESL throughout the year and for attending the AGM today. The success of this event is a reflection of a collective dedication to the profession. Thank you to our keynotes, guest speakers and presenters who share their expertise and to our conference attendees who value the opportunities for professional development and networking offered through the ATESL conference.

**ATESL 2018 Conference Planning Committee:**

Thank you to our Conference Co-Chairs, Dorte Weber and Eaman Mah, for your incredible leadership and expertise, and thank you to the demonstrative community spirit and dedication of our Conference Planning Committee. This event would not be an event without you all.

Co-Chairs: Dorte Weber and Eaman Mah

Hospitality and Sponsorship: Ruth Jordan, Elina Stop, Kim Dudas

Registration: Peter Myhre

Program: Andrea Cheuk

Facilities: Alison Vickerman

Publishers: Ping Ping Lee, Anita Palen

Lightning Talks: Erin Waugh

## **ATESL 2017-2018 Board**

President	Kim Dudas
Past President	Dr. Lisa Rochman
President Elect	Colyn deGraaff
Treasurer	Seppy Masoodi
Secretary	Wendy Illot
Southern Alberta Chair	Dr. Greg Ogilvie, David Fuller
Calgary Co-chairs	Jyoti Grewal, Irina Derevyanko
Central Alberta Chair	Anna Robertson, Elise Kruithof
Edmonton Co-chairs	Diana Agudelo, Elina Stop
TESL Canada Representative	Celia Logan
Rural Routes Representative	Martha Urquhart
Business Manager	Irene Wood

It has been a true privilege to serve as ATESL President, and I must acknowledge the amazing group of professionals with which I've had the great fortune of working. Thank you for your commitment to our field and to the association that supports our professionals. You have been an intraprovincial force! Thank you for your collaboration throughout the year, both online and in person. Your guidance has been indispensable.

Again this year, the local chapters in Edmonton, Central, Calgary, and Southern Alberta provided an array of quality professional development opportunities for members. The hard work of our local co-chairs and active members ensure there are a variety of activities throughout the year.

- Southern Alberta: 41 members
- Central Alberta: 25 members
- Calgary: 316 members
- Edmonton: 307 members
- Other: 1 member
- Total: 690 members

## **Board Positions**

This year's AGM will see the election of an ATESL Secretary, Treasurer and President Elect. ATESL also seeks to appoint a new Rural Routes Representative, Social Media Coordinator and local co-chairs across the province. If you are interested in taking on a role with the ATESL Board, please contact Irene Wood at [ask@atesl.ca](mailto:ask@atesl.ca).

## **ATESL Awards**

ATESL is very proud to offer four First-time Presenter Bursaries, the Carolyn Dieleman Award, and the ATESL Lifetime Member Award. ATESL is also the administrator of the Alberta Workforce Essential Skills Society (AWES)-sponsored Dawn Seabrook de Vargas Fellowship.

**First-time Presenter Bursaries** are given to ATESL members who are presenting at the conference for the first time. This year, a random draw from the pool of all eligible candidates drew the following four winners: Zuzana Buchanan, Shabana Shahzad, Jenny Bourne, and Maria Dumitrescu. Each received a cheque for \$250. Congratulations, and thank you for sharing your expertise at the ATESL conference!

The **Carolyn Dieleman Award** celebrates individuals who have made an impact on the delivery of and access to innovative, quality language and ESL literacy programs in Alberta. This year's recipient of the Carolyn Dieleman Award is Debbie Severinsen. Debbie has developed modules and tasks for LINCWorks, emphasizing workplace skills and essential skills for newcomers across Canada. She is currently developing curriculum for a new NorQuest initiative called Community Service Learning geared toward CLB 6 classes. Debbie will receive complimentary registration for the next ATESL Conference.

The **Dawn Seabrook de Vargas Fellowship**, thanks to the generous contribution of Alberta Workplace and Essential Skills (AWES), has been awarded to Helen Lewis. This award recognizes Helen's innovation in the field of ESL and essential skills and contributions to the ESL community. Helen holds an Essential Skills Practitioner Certificate and has shared her expertise to help build capacity in language learning, intercultural communicative competence and newcomer integration in business career training. Through her efforts and influence, more newcomers to Canada have been able to access learning materials and eventually successfully complete their studies in business careers.

This year's winner of the **ATESL Lifetime Membership Award** is Dr. Wendy Chambers in recognition of her exemplary contributions and dedication to the profession. As noted by her nominator and emphatically acknowledged by the ATESL Board, "Wendy's contributions to the field, and ATESL specifically, are most significant. Her service has been outstanding: she served on the ATESL Board for four years, as Secretary, President Elect, President, and Past President. When no one volunteered to chair the 2017 ATESL conference in Calgary, Wendy offered to do it (with a co-chair) while still serving her term on the Board. This represented a major effort and an incredible time investment. For three years she has been an active member of the ATESL Advocacy Committee, and she continues to serve as a Director of the Board of the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks, representing Alberta. Wendy has made tangible contributions to our field in her work on a range of projects. She was an author of the government-sponsored 'ATESL Adult ESL Curriculum Framework'; she wrote a substantial portion of the document 'Building skills and expertise for using e-learning with adult ESL learners'. Wendy shares her knowledge at conferences, having given 26 oral presentations. She reviews manuscripts for journals, and has reviewed proposals for the Government of Alberta. When TESL Canada was in difficult straits, Wendy served as the Acting Executive Director for six months - during that time she managed office and support staff, directed the teacher training program recognition process, coordinated the professional certification process, liaised with a national board of twenty members, and provided leadership for the national TESL Canada conference of 600+ delegates. Wendy regularly attends provincial, national and international conferences to augment her knowledge of the field, which she imparts to others through her teaching and materials development. Wendy has always shown dedication and passion in her contributions to ESL, TESL and service organizations such as ATESL and the CCLB. Her willingness to give of her time and her talent are deserving of recognition." Wendy will receive a life membership for ATESL.

Congratulations, Debbie, Helen and Wendy. Thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate their colleagues and fellow ATESL members. Please join us in congratulating the bursary and award winners.

### **ATESL Newsletter**

The ATESL newsletter will have been published four times this year - in Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall, which will be released following the conference. Each issue is available for viewing on the ATESL website. Thank you, Frankie Ning Chin, for all your efforts as ATESL's 2017-2019 ATESL newsletter editor.

### **EdTech SIG**

Spring 2018 saw the inception of the Educational Technology Special Interest Group (EdTech SIG). The purpose of the EdTech SIG has been to bring English language professionals currently working with technology together on a quarterly basis to support their professional development in the area. I wish to extend our appreciation to the SIG's co-chairs: Wendy Chambers, Amy Meckelborg and Gabriela Jessome.

### **Social Media**

ATESL has been working to increase its social media presence. The Communications Committee is on the lookout for an ATESL member who wishes to become our next Social Media Coordinator. The Social Media Coordinator(s) is responsible for developing and maintaining the strategy/process for ATESL's social media platforms. This includes the completion of communications-related activities that promote ATESL's relationships, enhance its image, and advance the mission and vision of the organization.

Thank you to Maureen Souply (Stewart) for stepping in as our interim Social Media Coordinator for the busy time surrounding ATESL's 2018 conference. If you are social media savvy and have an interest in this exciting volunteer opportunity, please contact ATESL at [ask@atesl.ca](mailto:ask@atesl.ca).

### **ATESL Conference Inclusion and Accessibility Fund**

ATESL wants to ensure the conference is accessible to all members who want to attend. For years, qualifying ATESL members have had access to ATESL's semiannual bursaries as well as our first-time presenter bursaries. In addition, each local chapter awards a free conference registration to one local member each year.

In Fall 2018, ATESL created the Conference Inclusion and Accessibility Fund to earmark fundraising dollars for overhead costs associated with making ATESL conferences inclusive and accessible to more members. Please stay tuned for ATESL's upcoming fundraising initiatives and for further information about ATESL's Conference Inclusion and Accessibility Fund.

### **Interprovincial Collaboration**

ATESL has, in accordance with our strategic plan, continued to foster a collaborative relationship with provincial boards from across the country. To do this, we've committed to regular quarterly teleconferences in order to share updates, explore collaborations and joint projects, and learn from one another. We are very happy to have among our registrants the past president of BC TEAL, Joe Dobson and TESL Ontario president David Hazell.

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, but

also with a representative from TESL Ontario. I also had the opportunity at that conference to sit down with BC TEAL's own Social Media Chair to discuss best practices.

At the BC TEAL conference, myself and the chair of ATESL's Accreditation Review Committee met with BC TEAL's Professional Certification and Program Committee to discuss action items pertaining to teacher certification in each province. Both committees were built in similar fashion in response to the October 2017 suspension of TESL Canada Certification, and many of our associated concerns and challenges have been similar.

### **Language Training Learning Event**

ATESL and NorQuest College, with funding from Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), led the PNT (Prairies and Northern Territories) region professional development event February 21 and 22 at the Shaw convention centre in Edmonton. The event brought together LINC educators, coordinators and managers from the PNT region for two days of professional development. The event was the first of its kind for the region and had the goal of providing sector specific professional development as well as increased collaboration and networking in the field.

Session handouts as well as recorded sessions can be found here: <https://www.norquest.ca/media-centre/events/2018/western-canada-language-training-learning-event.aspx>

### **Proactive Fiscal Responsibility**

ATESL has remained dedicated to ensuring its membership receive solid value for their membership, and that their contributions to the organization are treated with fiscal responsibility.

Following the October 2017 suspension of services announcement from TESL Canada, ATESL made the decision to operate with caution in light of the unexpected circumstances. In January 2018, Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) negotiations began with TESL Canada's re-opening of operations, the MoA negotiations were eventually tabled until ATESL could consult with its members. This was to ensure that ATESL's future financial commitments reflected the interests of our membership. We have maintained open communications with TESL Canada since October 2017 through regular communication between ATESL's presidential chain and the TESL Canada president. Additionally, ATESL has continued to have an experienced ATESL board representative appointed to the TESL Canada board.

In light of the fact that ATESL would be the largest TESL Canada affiliate in the absence of BC TEAL and TESL Ontario, the ATESL board has consulted with a lawyer to ensure all of ATESL's actions pertaining to TESL Canada have been and continue to be in accordance with what they should be.

We consulted the membership via an online member feedback session and through a membership survey. Of the 113 ATESL members who responded to the survey, 78% indicated they see value in services provided by TESL Canada membership, and 70% reported that they feel ATESL should continue as a TESL Canada affiliate. For more information pertaining to the membership survey questions and results, please email [ask@atesl.ca](mailto:ask@atesl.ca).

In response to the suspension of TESL Canada Certification, ATESL created the ad-hoc Accreditation Review Committee (ARC) to keep our finger on the pulse of the teacher certification climate in Canada. The ARC will continue its work in 2019. Please see the ARC annual report for a summary of the Committee’s activities and for their recommendations surrounding teacher certification. Updates will continue to be available in ATESL newsletters.

**Get Involved - ATESL Board**

As mentioned, ATESL seeks to elect a Secretary, Treasurer and President-Elect and to appoint a Rural Routes Representative, Social Media Coordinator and local co-chairs across the province. If you are interested in taking on a role with the ATESL Board or would like further information about any of these positions, please visit [www.atesl.ca](http://www.atesl.ca) or contact Irene Wood at [ask@atesl.ca](mailto:ask@atesl.ca).

**Get Involved - ATESL Committees and EdTech SIG**

If you wish to be involved in any of the following ATESL committees or our EdTech Special Interest Group, please visit [www.atesl.ca](http://www.atesl.ca) or contact [ask@atesl.ca](mailto:ask@atesl.ca) for more information.

- Communications Committee
- Advocacy Committee
- Accreditation Review Committee

**Acknowledgements**

<b>Outgoing Board Members</b>	<b>Outgoing Committee Members</b>
<p>Dr. Lisa Rochman                      Seppy Masoodi                      Wendy Illot                      David Fuller                      Jyoti Grewal                      Irina Derevyanko                      Anna Robertson                      Elise Kruithof                      Elina Stop                      Martha Urquhart</p>	<p><b>Advocacy</b>                      Tracey Derwing                      Wendy Chambers                      Stacy Norrbom                      Theresa Wall</p> <p><b>Accreditation Review Committee</b>                      Dorte Weber                      Jenny Bourne                      Lorelei Anselmo</p>

<p><b>Continuing Board Members</b></p> <p>Colyn deGraaff  Kim Dudas  Dr. Greg Ogilvie  Diana Agudelo  Celia Logan *</p>	<p><b>Continuing Committee Members</b></p> <p><b>Advocacy</b>  Wendy Illot  Kim Dudas</p> <p><b>Accreditation Review Committee</b>  Nancy Robertson  Sheri Rhodes  Dora DiLullo  Luisa Toteda  Maria MacMinn  Kim Dudas  Marie Frankovich</p> <p><b>Communications Committee</b>  Maureen Souply  Colyn deGraaff  Diana Agudelo</p>
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\*If ATESL membership votes in favor of being affiliated with TESL Canada for 2019, Celia Logan will be re-appointed as the 2019 ATESL Representative to TESL Canada due to her extensive experience in this role.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Kim Dudas – President**

**Lisa Rochman – Past President**

**Colyn deGraaff – President Elect**

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**Calgary Local Annual Report 2017/2018**

Co-Chairs: Jyoti Grewal and Irina Derevyanko

Treasurer: Elaine Mew

Secretary: Edi Casimirri

The Calgary Local hosted five PD sessions between November 2017 and September 2018.



November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Holiday Social</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Milestones Grill and Bar</i></li> </ul>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Using Plain Language in the Classroom</li> <li>● Perspectives on Introversion and Engagement in the Adult ESL Classroom</li> <li>● Teach more in less time using Authentic Online Materials</li> </ul>	<i>Centre for Newcomers</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rabia Garewal</li> <li>● Kelti Giles</li> <li>● Shabana Shahzad</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enhancing Language Assessment, Instruction, and Curricular Design with a Focus on Vocabulary</li> </ul>	<i>SAIT</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Brock Wojtalewicz</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Google Slides for Vocabulary Practice</li> <li>● Flipsnack for Writing</li> <li>● Capturing Speech and Video</li> <li>● Phones for Classroom Engagement</li> </ul>	<i>Bow Valley College</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Edi Casimirri</li> <li>● Andrea Scholes</li> <li>● Sheri Rhodes</li> <li>● Tanya Yaunish</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Focus on Literacy</li> </ul>	<i>Agape Language Centre</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emily Albertsen</li> <li>● Val Baggaley</li> <li>● Judi Morris</li> </ul>

The Calgary Local would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank all of the facilitators and panelists who contributed to professional development in our community over the past year.

**Respectfully submitted by Jyoti Grewal and Irina Derevyanko**

## **Central Alberta Local Annual Report 2017/2018**

Co-chairs: Anna Robertson, Elise Kruithof

Treasurer: Heather Carson

Secretary: Carol Smyth

The 2017-18 season got off to a smooth start in Central Alberta, as all four executive members stayed on for the second year of their terms. We began the season with a lovely holiday social at a local restaurant where members had a chance to do some networking. We got down to business at a full-day Saturday workshop on January 27<sup>th</sup>. We watched a recorded webinar featuring Shelley McConnell discussing Visuals and ESL Literacy Learning. Val Baggaley travelled up from Calgary to share her wisdom on Teaching CLB 2L: Building Repetition to Enhance Learning. We rounded out the day with a presentation from Hannah Disen on Integrating Pronunciation Teaching into PBLA. We had hoped to have a second workshop on April 7, but unfortunately the timing didn't work out for enough people. While we did have some interest, it wasn't enough to warrant bringing in guest speakers from out of town.

At this time, we are looking to replace all four of our executive members as we are all stepping down from our positions this year. We are planning to have a business meeting/conference share event at a local restaurant on October 19<sup>th</sup> where we will have "elections" for our new executive and where people who attended the ATESL conference can share what they learned with the rest of us.

**Respectfully submitted by Anna Robertson**

## **Edmonton Local Annual Report 2017/2018**

Co-Chairs: Elina Stop, Diana Agudelo

Secretary: Belinda Escandallo

Treasurer: Nick Williams

Communications Officer: Rosemary McMahon

Hospitality: Julie McArthur and Renuka Jantz

The Edmonton chapter met 7 times this past year, averaging between 20-25 members attending. We have piloted and successfully hosted two remote presentations. The ATESL Conference took place in Calgary in October, so we did not host a meeting that month. Furthermore, February's meeting was rescheduled due to the LINC Conference that took place in Edmonton.

<b>September</b>	What every adult ESL teacher needs to know about bilingualism	Leila Ranta, University of Alberta
<b>December</b>	Literacy Learners' Strategies: learning to learn	Jean Campbell, Saskatoon Open Door Society (remote presentation)
<b>December</b>	Winter Social	
<b>January</b>	Teaching Strategies Exchange Learning English with CBC	Justine Light, University of Alberta

<b>March</b>	ESL Directors' Forum	ASSIST, CCI-LEX, Changing Together, ECALA, ECSD LINC, EMCN, Metro, NAIT, NorQuest College, PALS, Solomon College, UofA
<b>April</b>	Cover Less, Uncover More: the Transformative Power of Slowing Down	Kelly Morrissey, Ontario (remote presentation)
<b>May</b>	Apologia for Tweets: Twitter for Professional Development	Bonnie Nicholas, NorQuest College

Our Annual General Meeting took place on September 28, 2018, and we would like to welcome Maryna Siek as the new Edmonton Local Co-Chair. We would like to express our gratitude to all of the outgoing volunteers, Elina Stop and Nick Williams, for their dedication and commitment. Edmonton local is currently looking for a treasurer. If you are interested in the position, please contact the local co-chairs.

We look forward to bringing you many more interesting meetings and events in the upcoming year with the Edmonton Local!

**Respectfully submitted by Elina Stop and Diana Agudelo**

### **Southern Alberta ATESL Local 2017/2018**

**Co-Chairs: Greg Ogilvie & David Fuller**

The Southern Alberta Chapter held a number of social and professional development events during the past year. As members from southern Alberta were actively involved in the annual conference in Calgary, the first event was held on November 24, 2017. This event brought various educators and administrators together to participate in a community of practice sharing session. The session included presentations from nine educators about a variety of topics ranging from the use of vocabulary logs to developing religious literacy in the ESL classroom. The professional development event provided local educators with a number of teaching ideas and sparked excellent discussion about various elements of second language education.

The Southern Alberta Chapter celebrated the holiday season by hosting a Christmas Party on December 14, 2017. The party brought local second language teaching experts together to share food and engage in merriment. In addition to ESL related trivia (including questions related to knowledge of languages from around the world), a White Elephant Gift Exchange was held with glass paperweights as the desired target of exchange. The event provided a fun opportunity for members to socialize and share stories.

The first event in 2018 was held in February and was entitled "HSP Challenge: Developing and Sharing Online Resources." The workshop facilitated by Joerdis Weilandt helped participants to better understand the meaning of 'open educational resource' (OER) and relevant concepts associated with it. In addition to learning about different licensing options and how to locate open educational resources,

participants also explored how to use one specific OER, H5P. This resulted in each participant developing a unique resource utilizing the application.

Subsequently, a professional development event was held on April 26, 2018 entitled “Canadian Benchmark Assessments ‘For’ and ‘Of’ Learning.” The event was facilitated by Dr. Lucelle Prindle from Southern Alberta Language Assessment Services (SALAS Ltd.). Dr. Prindle shared the intake procedures followed in the region and outlined how assessments could be used to guide instruction based on the Canadian Language Benchmarks. As with the previous events, the presentation was not only informative, but provided opportunities for local educators to engage in discussion about their pedagogy.

After a well-earned summer break, the Southern Alberta Chapter was active again at the beginning of September hosting a barbeque in Lethbridge. Surrounded by the beautiful coulees of Lethbridge and the historical Fort Whoop Up, the barbeque provided an opportunity for educators to reconnect and meet new colleagues while sharing food.

Members of the local chapter of ATESL would like to thank David Fuller for his service as the co-chair this year! David was an invaluable resource in organizing events and his contributions will be sorely missed!

The chapter is looking forward to another great year of community building through social and professional development events. We encourage members to look out for upcoming events and to become actively involved in the chapter.

**Respectfully submitted by Greg Ogilvie**

#### **Bursary Committee Annual Report 2017/2018**

**Members: Wendy Ilott- Secretary, Lisa Rochman- Past President, Kim Dudas- President**

ATESL was very pleased to support the professional development pursuits of eight members who participated in a variety of professional development activities. Bursary recipients attended the 2018 TESL Canada conference, the Metropolis Conference, the AAAL Conference as well as several TESL graduate level courses. In the spring, the bursary committee received seven applications of which 5 were awarded their requested amount. In the fall, we received three applications. All fall applications were all awarded their requested amount.

We are pleased to support all ATESL members across Alberta. If you are considering applying for a bursary, please remember the following:

- Your initial application must mention both the financial need as well as the professional development opportunity.
- The maximum amount available is \$500.
- You must be an ATESL member at the time of application.
- We receive applications bi annually: September 15 and March 15 each year.
- Each approved applicant is expected to submit all receipts for tuition/registration expenses.
- Each applicant must submit a 250-word summary/evaluation of the event or course they have attended, which may be selected for publication in the ATESL Newsletter (available online at [atesl.ca](http://atesl.ca)).

**Respectfully submitted by Wendy Ilott (Chair, Bursary Committee)**

## **TESL Canada Representative Annual Report 2017/2018**

TESL Canada has come back from a very tenuous position at the beginning of 2018. As the members of ATESL know, TESL Canada had ceased head office operations in November of 2017, but, after hearing from stakeholders and members across the country requesting TESL Canada try to remain open in some form, the organization decided to remain operational although in a much smaller format. Many members wanted TESL Canada to at least keep the Teacher Accreditation ongoing as well as Teacher Training Programs (TTPR) and the Journal.

The organization has managed to revive itself chiefly with the help of volunteers. There is one paid part-time staff and one contracted adjudicator working with Teacher Certification and TTPR, which has processed approximately 130 applications (29 in Alberta) since last January 2018. The Journal is now housed in the University of Western Ontario and has published two issues since last year. TTPR is currently open for currently recognized programs, and TC is exploring an online application that may facilitate the process.

Financially, the organization remains fragile but is more stable than it was in January 2018. It signed MoU's for January – June with all provinces except for ATESL and TEAM (Manitoba). The new MoU's have been issued for July – December and 4 provinces have now signed on including Manitoba. ATESL will be voting on a motion regarding its continued relationship with TESL Canada at the AGM in Edmonton this October.

President Paula Kristmanson has addressed the lack of communication that TC seemed to chronically suffer from by sending monthly letters to the membership, updating the website, and responding to all correspondence sent to the [president@tesl.ca](mailto:president@tesl.ca) email. We have also reactivated our Twitter account and have been tweeting and retweeting on topics and events pertinent to members and stakeholders. The organization is attempting to become a more open and accessible organization that responds to the needs of its membership.

**Respectfully submitted by Celia Logan**

## **Rural Routes Member at Large Annual Report 2017/2018**

Rural Routes has accomplished an amazing amount under the direction and leadership of Dorte Weber, who began managing the program in September, 2017. The list of services offered over the past year included:

- Online Intercultural Communication Practitioner series, Levels 1, 2, and 3
- In-house ESL and Intercultural Communication program for employees of a Stettler nursing home in partnership with the Stettler CALP
- Development of an employer guide, CALP guide, and instructors' guide for the training of employees and management in Intercultural Communication

Along with the above special projects, Rural Routes continued with its ongoing services of the:

- Prep for Online Learning
- SATIE program for identification of professional development needs
- Online courses to help train ESL tutors and instructors
- Online resources, such as tip sheets, lesson plans, and facilitators' guides
- Regular webinars targeting specific topics in ESL programming
- Lunch 'n Learn webinars providing one hour snapshots of areas of interest
- PD services for the Rural Delivery Program (RDP) instructors across Alberta

For information about any of the above programs and projects, contact any of the advisors ready to help communities implement and sustain ESL programming (see below for the list of advisors), visit the website (see below for website addresses), or contact Dorte Weber at [dorte.weber@norquest.ca](mailto:dorte.weber@norquest.ca).

**NORTH:** 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.

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

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

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

Calendar of courses: <https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/events.aspx>

Resources: <https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/resources.aspx>

SATIE: <https://satie.norquest.ca/>

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

**Respectfully submitted by Martha Urquhart**

## **ATESL's Accreditation Review Committee - Annual Report - 2017/2018**

### **Overview**

The ATESL Accreditation Review Committee (AARC) is an ad-hoc committee organized by the ATESL Board in response to the October 16, 2017 announcement of the suspension of TESL Canada's teacher accreditation process. The Committee is comprised of 6-10 ATESL members in good standing of which one serves as committee chair. The ATESL president serves in an ex-officio capacity. The AARC strives to gather information about professional accreditation of English language teachers in Alberta and identify options around this. The Committee is responsible for evaluating this information in order to make recommendations to the ATESL Board of Directors.

The objectives of the AARC are:

- To review historical and current accreditation systems from TESL Canada, ATESL, TESL Saskatchewan and TESL Ontario;
- To keep up to date with how TESL Canada proceeds with plans to support services for teacher accreditation;
- To investigate stakeholders' requirements of qualifications for teachers of English as an additional language. Investigation will include federal and provincial stakeholders, language providers in Alberta; and ATESL members;
- To identify options for teacher accreditation, evaluate these options based on criteria approved by the ATESL Board and report our recommendations to the Board.

### **Accreditation Systems Scan**

The AARC meets monthly, and since its inception in November 2017, the AARC has established terms of reference and completed an up-to-date environmental scan of accreditation systems available to ATESL members through TESL Saskatchewan, TESL Ontario, TESL Canada, and the former ATESL accreditation process.

### **Stakeholder Review and Surveys**

The AARC has gathered information from key external stakeholders such as IRCC, Alberta Works, and Languages Canada regarding teacher qualifications in language programming in Alberta and in Canada.

The ATESL president and AARC chair have had conversations with BC TEAL's Professional Certification and Program Committee in order to identify areas in which the two ad-hoc committees can share information moving forward in order to maximize on committee efficiency.

From July-September 2018, the AARC conducted a survey of language providers in Alberta. The survey was created using SurveyMonkey and a link to the survey was sent to 60 language providers in the province through a mass email. It had a completion rate of 50 percent. It contained 22 questions. The survey was also sent to Community Adult Learning Programs throughout the province at the discretion of Rural Routes advisors.

The questions included first identification questions and then a series of questions to determine hiring practices as they relate to the criteria typically mentioned in the various accreditation systems which we have been reviewing. These included questions about education requirements, factors influencing salary levels, practicum requirements, teaching experience, expectations and decision making around accreditation and the role of ongoing professional development.

Results from this survey are being compiled into a summary report which will be shared with the new ATESL Board at their first Board meeting, which will be held in November.

## **AARC 2018/2019**

The ATESL Board has decided to extend the term of the Accreditation Review Committee into 2019 in order to continue to monitor and advise on the evolving accreditation climate in Canada. More details will be available in the ATESL newsletters.

The 2018/19 ARC will continue to meet to discuss next steps at the direction of the ATESL Board.

## **Recommendation of the AARC (October 2018)**

The Accreditation Review Committee recommends that, for the immediate future, ATESL continues to refer members to TESL Canada for teacher certification. The AARC will maintain ongoing assessment of accreditation processes and criteria available to ATESL members in accordance with the mission and vision statement of ATESL to "... oversee ESL teacher accreditation process[es] which [encourage] the highest standards of teacher preparation and performance."

**Respectfully submitted by Sheri Rhodes**

## **ATESL Advocacy Committee Annual Report 2017/2018**

Tracey Derwing, Chair

Wendy Chambers, Member at Large

Kim Dudas, President

Wendy Ilott, Member at Large

Stacy Norrbom, Member at Large

Theresa Wall, Member at Large

The Advocacy Committee is a standing committee of ATESL. Ex-Officio officers include the Past-President, President, and President-Elect. The ultimate goal of the Advocacy committee is to take an active role in the successful integration of immigrants into Alberta's education system, communities, and workplaces. The Committee undertook several initiatives in 2018 (meetings were held in November, 2017, January, February, March, April, May, June, July and September of 2018).

### **Actions taken in the November, 2017 – September 2018 year:**

- The Advocacy Committee now has a dedicated webpage on the ATESL website – articles and updates are posted there (in some instances, the Advocacy Committee's postings have gone to the resources section of the website).
- Tracey Derwing, on behalf of the ATESL Advocacy Committee, has provided ongoing feedback to IRCC regarding the new Citizenship Guide throughout this time period. The Guide is scheduled to be launched in October 2018.
- The ATESL Board and the Advocacy Committee have had questions about pay equity on a number of occasions. The Committee felt that the membership should first understand how diverse programming is in this province. To that end, they arranged a panel at the ATESL Conference in Calgary, 2017, and Wendy Chambers and Tracey Derwing wrote an article on the diversity of programming (based on the panelists' contributions) that appeared on the Advocacy website and in the ATESL newsletter in September, 2018.



- An ongoing issue for discussion at the Advocacy Committee meetings was teacher resources for LGBTQ2+ issues. We researched several sources for information, but ultimately decided that the best route would be to apply for a contract from the Government of Alberta to develop PD workshops for teachers. Several members of the Advocacy Committee contributed to ATESL's application in conjunction with NorQuest to develop PD in this area.
- ATESL has been approached several times in the last year regarding a need for PD for K-12 teachers. Kim Dudas has reached out to the ESLC Specialist Council (ATA) for closer collaboration. Without stepping on toes, ATESL may be able to support some of the districts that have been asking for help. This issue will be pursued with the ESLC in the next few months.
- The Advocacy Committee was alerted to the dwindling faculty at the University of Alberta in the TESL area. ATESL wrote a comprehensive letter to the Dean of Education in support of hiring a new faculty member to ensure that the TESL program continues to be a viable resource.
- Theresa Wall of the Advocacy Committee sent links to several literacy resources to be uploaded to the ATESL website.
- Kim Dudas represented ATESL at several meetings with AISSA: she updated the Advocacy Committee each month and we eventually determined that the LGBTQ2+ area was one where we could make a contribution.

Several members of the Advocacy Committee have completed their terms: Wendy Chambers, Tracey Derwing, Stacy Norrbom, and Theresa Wall. The committee welcomes individuals who are interested in advocating on behalf of instructors and learners. Please contact Kim Dudas if you are willing to serve on this committee. The terms of reference appear below.

Throughout the year, the Committee discussed many other issues, and will continue to advocate on behalf of instructors and learners.

**Respectfully submitted by Tracey Derwing**

#### APPENDIX

#### *Terms of Reference for Advocacy Committee*

##### General Purpose/Mandate:

The ATESL Board believes that it has a role to play in advocating on behalf of its members on issues which affect the members and their learners. The mandate of the Advocacy Committee is to provide recommendations to the Board on issues to be addressed and strategies to be used in addressing them. The ATESL Board will make any public statements through the President or the Chair of the Advocacy committee or a person delegated by the President. The ATESL Board, through the President, the Chair of the Advocacy committee, or a person(s) delegated by the President will make regular representations to appropriate government officials to inform them of priorities and concerns.

##### Accountability:

The Advocacy Committee is accountable to the Board. It is also accountable for reporting to the membership through the website and at the annual general meeting.

Members:

1. Chair: To be established at the beginning of each committee year.
2. Ex Officio member: President

Members at large: Individuals from the membership are encouraged to participate in providing committee with input and involvement in initiatives and activities.

It is recommended that a representative from The Coalition for Equal Access to Education (Calgary and Edmonton) be invited to sit as a member-at-large.