

CONTENTS

January 2019

President's Report

Colyn deGraaff

Board Biographies

Past President's Report

Kim Dudas

Calgary Local Report

Bob de Hoog & Nancy Robertson

Edmonton Local Report

Maryna Siek & Diana Agudelo

Central Alberta Report

Jessica Legacy

Southern Alberta Report

Greg Ogilvie & Jenny Bourne

Rural Routes Report

Debbie Severinsen

Social Media Report

Maureen Souply

2018 Annual Bursary Committee Report

Wendy Illott

2018 ATESL Conference Report

Dorte Weber & Eaman Mah

ATESL Canada Representative Report

Celia Logan

Bursary Reports

Jyoti Grewal, Kent Lee & Justin Mikkelsen

President's Report

Dear fellow ATESL members,

As 2018 has come to a close, we are invited to reflect on the incredible accomplishments made at the end of this year.



Conference 2018

The ATESL 2018 conference was an incredible success thanks to the hard work and dedication of the conference co-chairs, planning committee, keynotes, presenters, vendors, and the many faces behind the scenes who volunteered. The fact that an event like this can run smoothly is a testament to the quality of its organizers, and we were overjoyed to see a total of 420 attendees turn out.

TESL Canada

Following the unexpected circumstances from TESL Canada in October 2017, ATESL has been in constant contact to negotiate the nature of our partnership. After lengthy discussions, ATESL made the decision to conduct a survey to ensure that its financial commitments reflected the will of its membership.

Following an online feedback session and subsequent survey, the membership spoke 70 percent in-favour of continuing on as a TESL Canada affiliate. In response to this, a membership vote was put forth at our 2018 AGM and the motion was carried to continue with this important partnership. It was also successfully moved that ATESL would retroactively pay dues for the January-December 2018 calendar year.

Since the AGM, we are pleased to announce that ATESL and TESL Canada have finalized a successful and fruitful memorandum of understanding. Those ATESL members

who applied for TESL certification during this year and paid out of pocket are invited to notify us at admin@ATESL.ca.

President Elect

At the ATESL 2018 AGM there were no nominations submitted for President Elect, the board began the search for an eager individual to join its Board of Directors and assist in ATESL's landmark 40th anniversary year in 2019. Information about the position can be found on the ATESL website, and we hope to announce a qualified candidate soon.

ATESL Board 2018/2019

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce its new makeup following the ATESL 2018 AGM. These individuals include:

Colyn deGraaff – President
Kim Dudas – Past President
Jake Scheffer – Treasurer
Celeste Bickley – Secretary
Jessica Legacy – Central Alberta Local Co-Chair
Bob de Hoog – Calgary Local Co-Chair
Nancy Robertson – Calgary Local Co-Chair
Maryna Siek – Edmonton Local Co-Chair
Diana Agudelo – Edmonton Local Co-Chair
Greg Ogilvie – Southern Alberta Local Co-Chair
Jenny Bourne – Southern Alberta Local Co-Chair
Celia Logan – TESL Canada Representative
Debbie Severinsen – Rural Routes Representative
Maureen Souply – Social Media Coordinator
Irene Wood – Business Manager

We look forward to guiding the organization in the months ahead and also welcome the numerous executives serving in the local regions.

Membership Across Alberta

The local chapters in Southern Alberta, Central Alberta, Calgary, Edmonton, and other have begun to build their ranks for the new year and at the 2018 AGM there were 690 members active across the province.

Conference Co-Chairs 2019

We have begun thinking about the 40th Anniversary - a our 'Ruby' milestone year - and have begun to identify opportunities and special guests. To carry forward this important task, we have been looking for two energetic, committed ATESL members to co-chair the next ATESL Conference in Calgary at the Westin in Calgary on October 18 and 19, 2019.

The Conference co-chairs will oversee the organization of the conference and the recruitment of the 2019 conference subcommittees. We hope to have a dedicated pair to announce, but if you have any questions – or just want to get involved in the 2019 conference – contact atesl.admin@atesl.ca

Interprovincial Partnerships

ATESL communicates monthly with its counterparts across the country, discussing issues pertaining to the ESL/ELL profession. On November 1st and 2nd the President attended TESL Ontario Conference following their previous attendance of our own ATESL 2018 Conference in Edmonton. Meeting with colleagues across the country, including members of TESL Ontario and TESL Saskatchewan, the group discussed changes to provincial ministries, upcoming priorities for federal and provincial budgets, and issues affecting settlement and classrooms. In the coming months it will be the goal of this interprovincial group to discuss teacher certification and teacher program recognition initiatives.

Social Media

Following the mandate of the ATESL Communications Committee earlier this year, ATESL successfully recruited a Social Media Coordinator and has commenced with significantly increasing its social media and online presence. Members are encouraged to follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter for regular updates about the industry, events happening in the community, and to find like-minded colleagues to network and learn with.

Respectfully submitted by: Colyn deGraaff, ATESL President

Board Biographies

President - Colyn deGraaff

As a seasoned writer, designer and public speaker with over ten years of experience in program delivery, communications and marketing, and design. Colyn is the Manager of E-Learning & Communications for the Calgary Immigrant Educational Society (CIES) and he received his Bachelor's in English from St. Mary's University in 2010. He is currently completing his Master's in International and Intercultural Communications through Royal Roads University in Victoria (2019).



Past President - Kim Dudas

Kim's interest in TESL began in 1998 during her time working with secondary school teachers in Quebec through Canada's Official Language Monitor Program. Since then, Kim obtained a BA Honors in Romance Languages followed by an MEd TESL from the University of Alberta. In the past two decades, she has taught a variety of English language and literacy classes at MacEwan, NorQuest, and NAIT as well as with La Société éducative de l'Alberta, STAR Literacy and St. Albert and District Further Education. Kim also has extensive experience in board governance. She served as ATESL Treasurer from 2006 to 2008 and with the Executive at St. Albert and District Further Education between 2013 and 2016, but she could not resist the opportunity to re-join the ATESL Board as ATESL's Representative to TESL Canada in 2016 and as President in 2017.

President Elect - Vacant

Secretary - Celeste Bickley

Celeste Bickley is excited to be rejoining the ATESL community once again after teaching for four years overseas, in the Sultanate of Oman. Celeste first joined ATESL in 2011 as a master's student at the University of Alberta. She is currently teaching in the ESL Intensive program at NorQuest College, where she began her career in the LINC program back in 2011. Her areas of professional interests are using technology in the classroom, pronunciation instruction, and the teacher/learner development of intercultural competence. Outside of the classroom, Celeste enjoys reading, yoga and anything active or outdoorsy. You can usually find Celeste at the snack table at most ATESL functions.



Treasurer - Jake Scheffer

I started my career as a Forester in the 1980s. From the start, I oriented my effort towards the integration of computers with forestry work. Following that, I owned an IT company where I consulted with businesses and trained people in the use of computers and accounting systems. I began my career as an ESL teacher after graduating with a MEd (TESL) in 2014. Currently, I am a contract instructor at NAIT, but have spent time teaching at NorQuest and the Mennonite Centre. My wife and I have spent time volunteer teaching ESL in Czechia and The Republic of Georgia. We hope to do the same in Bolivia this winter. I am also active in forming an association of ESL instructors at NAIT and am keenly interested in how IT can be used in the ESL classroom.

Edmonton Co-Chair - Diana Agudelo

Diana Agudelo is the Academic Coordinator for the LINC program at Edmonton Catholic School District (ECSD). She has worked in management for a total of seven years in two non-for-profit organizations in the city. Prior to this, she taught LINC classes part time and full time, as well as ESL classes. She has a Certificate in Language Program Management, a Master in TESL from Mankato State University, Minnesota, USA, and is currently enrolled in a Post-TESL Certificate from Bow Valley College. Outside of work, Diana enjoys scrapbooking, knitting, gardening, skating, and Zumba.





Edmonton Co-Chair - Maryna Siek

Born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, Maryna Siek obtained her Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Alberta. Since 2012, Maryna has worked in LINC programs across the city. Maryna Siek is a PBLA Lead Instructor for one of the LINC programs with Edmonton Catholic School District (ECSD) and a LINC Online instructor to CLB 1-4 students with Norquest's LINC Program. She has a passion for helping students establish successful lives in Canada. When Maryna is not teaching, she enjoys visiting different cities across Canada taking pictures of Canada's beautiful landscapes. Aside from travelling, Maryna is an avid DIYer taking on different projects in her spare time.

Central Alberta Co-Chair - Jessica Legacy

Jess Legacy has a PhD in English from the University of Edinburgh. She is a LINC English instructor at CARE, and a college instructor at Red Deer College. She is committed to fostering an inclusive community in Central Alberta. Jess teaches and facilitates with humour and encourages critical thinking and lifelong learning. When she is not teaching, she enjoys crocheting, beer and spending time with her family.



Calgary Co-Chair - Bob de Hoog

Bob has been working at Bow Valley College for the last 4 years as an ELL instructor. Before that he worked at Global Village in Calgary. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Simon Fraser University, where he majored in Linguistics.



Calgary Co-Chair - Nancy Robertson

Nancy Robertson has been involved in the field of teaching ELL for the past 27 years. After teaching in Japan and completing a Masters in English Language Teaching in England, she returned to Canada and has taught in both Toronto and Calgary. She has been fortunate to have taught in a variety of programs including ESL, EAP, Summer Intensive, Bridge to Canadian Nursing and ACE TESOL. For the past few years, she has gotten more involved in the administration of ELL programs and is currently a program coordinator with the School of Global Access at Bow Valley College. She also teaches LINC Home Study, thereby striking a wonderful balance of admin and instruction!



Southern Alberta Co-Chair - Jenny Bourne

Jenny Bourne is very excited to be joining the ATESL board as the Southern Alberta Co-chair, but realises that she has big shoes to fill! Jenny currently works as the manager of the English Language Institute at the University of Lethbridge but has over 20 years of EAL teaching experience in South Korea, Kazakhstan, Ontario, Quebec, BC and Alberta. Jenny holds a MA in Cultural Studies, a BA in Communication Studies and a B.Ed. Although she has worked teaching native English speakers and EAL students in both the public and private education systems, teaching students from kindergarten to post-secondary studies, she thrives working with adult students in the EAL setting. Jenny is delighted to be part of the ATESL community and can't wait to start planning the Southern Alberta chapter's Christmas party!

Southern Alberta Co-Chair - Greg Ogilvie

Greg Ogilvie is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Lethbridge. He has worked as a language teacher and teacher educator in Canada, Ethiopia, and Ukraine. His scholarly interests include task-based language teaching, critical interculturality, restorative justice pedagogy, and supervision practices to foster professional growth.





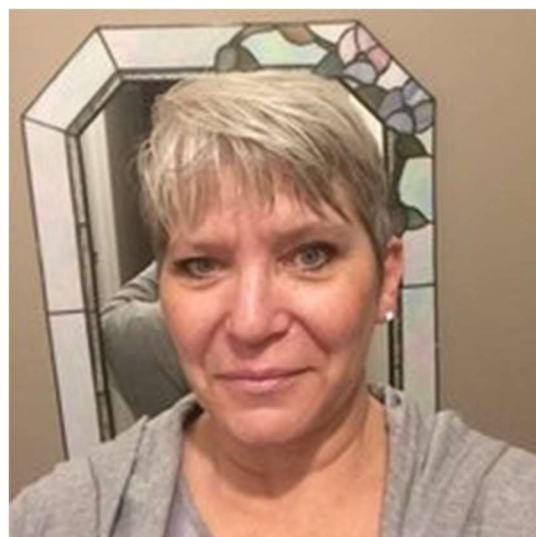
Social Media Coordinator - Maureen Souply

Maureen has worked in the education and post-secondary fields for nearly 15 years. She has worked primarily with adult literacy learners, immigrants, and refugees as a mentor, instructor, curriculum developer, and leader. Maureen has served on numerous boards and committees in various roles including serving on the ATESL Board from 2008 to 2016 in various roles including the Presidential Chair, secretary, and Social Media Coordinator. She has served as Treasurer and Secretary for AIMGA, on the Bow Valley College Board of Governors, among many other commitments in board governance. Maureen has volunteered with numerous not for profit organizations in her career including ATESL, Street Arts International, the Immigrant Youth Outreach Project, and the Bert Foster Fund Campaign. Currently, Maureen works in International Development as the Teaching

and Learning Consultant at Bow Valley College. She has an honour bachelor's degree from Brock University and is pursuing a master's degree at Royal Roads University.

Rural Routes Representative - Debbie Severinsen

I am currently working as an instructor in the LINC program at NorQuest College in Edmonton. I'm also working as a language assessor for Catholic Social Services on a casual basis. Prior to joining the ESL field, I spent ten years as the Adult Student Coordinator in the Volunteer Tutor Program at the Centre for Family Literacy.



ATESL Representative to TESL Canada - Celia Logan

Celia Logan is a long time ELL professional. She worked with various school boards in Montreal as well as social agencies in Calgary delivering ELL courses at all levels. She has been teaching with Bow Valley College since 2006. She served as ATESL's TESL Canada representative from 2013 to 2015 and was happy to be able to help out in the same capacity starting in October of 2017. It is a significant time of transition for TESL Canada and Alberta's voice needs to be heard on this national board.




Past President's Report

We hope you enjoy this winter edition of the ATESL newsletter. I will continue to work closely with ATESL's Newsletter Editor, Frankie Ning Chen, on quarterly editions of the ATESL newsletter in 2019.

ATESL's 2019 Advocacy Committee is expected to meet in January 2019. Applicants who have expressed interest will have been contacted in early December. As you may be aware, this is a turnover year for the Advocacy Committee, an invaluable opportunity for new committee members to make a difference! Updates about ATESL's Advocacy Committee will be available in the Spring 2018 newsletter.

ATESL's Bursary Committee meets in September and March to discuss bursary applications. Bursary recipients submit a 250-word report to ATESL summarizing/evaluating the event or course of study for which the bursary was approved. Samples of reports submitted by this year's bursary recipients are included in this newsletter.

Respectfully submitted by: Kim Dudas, ATESL Past President



Calgary Local Report

The 2018/19 year for the ATESL Calgary Local has begun! The committee is comprised of:

Co-Chairs: Bob de Hoog and Nancy Robertson

Treasurer: Elaine Mew

Secretary: Kim MacDonald

The year was kicked off with the annual Winter Social on November 28 at the State and Main Kitchen and Bar. Members from various institutions, such as Bow Valley College, Centre for Newcomers and U of C attended. It was a really great way to unwind, get to know each other better and share ideas for PD workshops and getting more involved in the upcoming year. A tentative

schedule for the PD sessions is below. In selecting topics, the idea was to choose hands-on and practical topics that would apply to a variety of teaching situations. We are very grateful for the positive response and enthusiasm of our presenters! In planning the session line-up for the second half of 2019, we welcome suggestions and ideas from our members!

Tentative Schedule:

1. Utilizing Learning English with CBC

- Presented by Brock Wojtalewicz, ELL Instructor and Researcher.
- Thursday, January 24 between 6 and 8 p.m. at Bow Valley College.
- With a hands-on approach, discover various strategies that this current and accessible resource can be implemented in your classroom instruction.

2. Helping students with tricky grammar

- Presented by Anita Hibbard, ELL Lead Teacher, Mount Royal University; Bob de Hoog, ELL Instructor, Bow Valley College; Desiree Belter, ELL Instructor, University of Calgary / Bow Valley College
- Thursday, February 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. (Location TBD).
- Have you ever been faced with a tricky grammar question and unsure how to explain it? Discover strategies and techniques for guiding students to understand and cope with complex structures.

3. The realities of online teaching

- Presented by Jody Gilbert, Program Coordinator, Bow Valley College; Maureen Harron, ELL Instructor, Bow Valley College.
- Tuesday, April 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Bow Valley College.
- ELL online courses are increasing and expanding rapidly and more instructors are interested in adding online teaching to their repertoire. Find out the various types of online courses and the factors to consider for each one.

4. Double Feature: Workshops to Develop Techniques for Literacy Classes

- Saturday, May 11 at CIES Welcome Centre from 9:30 a.m. to noon.
- Move it or Lose it
- Patricia Len, B.A., M.Ed., LINC Literacy Instructor & Team Lead Welcome Centre, C.I.E.S. and Donna Clarke, LINC Literacy Instructor and PBLA Lead.
- In this practical workshop, you will participate in 10 activities that will get the students up and moving so that they have the opportunity to experience and enact their new language.
- Materials Design
- Emily Albertsen, ELL Instructor, Bow Valley College
- In this interactive hands-on workshop we will explore principles of effective material design for ESL literacy learners. We will focus on creating level-appropriate reading texts that build literacy, visual literacy, and language skills. The presenter will share theory, tips, and templates.

Respectfully submitted by: Bob de Hoog and Nancy Robertson, Calgary Local Co-Chairs

Edmonton Local Report

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



From left to right: Elina Stop (Past Co-Chair), Maryna Siek (Co-Chair), Diana Agudelo (Co-Chair), Julie McArthur (Hospitality), Belinda Escandallo (Secretary), and Marian Rossiter (September presenter). Missing: Rosemary McMahon (Communications Officer)

The ATESL Edmonton Local AGM was held on September 28, 2018 where we elected our new Co-Chair, and ratified our existing Secretary, Hospitality and Communications Officer. We did not find a replacement for our exiting Treasurer, Nick Williams, therefore he will continue on until we find somebody else.

New Co-Chair: Maryna Siek

Maryna Siek has been working in LINC programs since 2012. She is a PBLA Lead Instructor at Cardinal Collins, one of the LINC sites with Edmonton Catholic School District (ECSD) and a LINC Online instructor to CLB 1-4 students with Norquest's LINC Program. Outside of work, she loves to bake, travel and practice calligraphy.

Existing Co-Chair: Diana Agudelo

Diana Agudelo is the Academic Coordinator for the LINC Program at Edmonton Catholic School District (ECSD). She has a Certificate in Language Program Management, a Master in TESL from Mankato State University and is currently enrolled in a Post-TESL Certificate at Bow Valley College. In her free time, Diana enjoys scrapbooking, knitting, gardening, skating, and Zumba.

Secretary: Belinda Escandallo

Belinda Escandallo was an ESL Instructor for over ten years at the University of Cebu, Philippines. She finished her Master in English with Applied Linguistics at the University of San Carlos in 2006. She published two books: Phonetic Proficiency, and Study and Thinking Skills for College Students. At present, she is a full-time student in the Graduate School for Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta. She's one of the recipients of the H.W. Wilson Graduate Scholarship.

Hospitality: Julie McArthur

Julie McArthur has been working as a LINC instructor at EMCN since July 2015. She started her teaching career in Elementary and Junior High French Immersion schools after graduating from the U of A. Currently she is teaching a CLB 3 full-time class at Eastwood school. When she is not at school you may find her swimming lengths at Eastwood Pool, skiing in Goldbar or walking the dog in Mill Creek Ravine.

Existing Communications Officer: Rosemary McMahon

Rosemary is the Program Manager of four LINC schools (Sacred Heart, Cardinal Collins, One World...One Centre and St. Francis) with the Edmonton Catholic School District (ECSD). She has worked with ECSD for close to 30 years. Her work has led her to a women's only LINC Curriculum for St. Francis and completion of the ACE Certificate in Language Program Management. Apart from the regular duties of a Program Manager, her main focus and passion over the last few years has been the creation and growth of a LINC Literacy Schools at Sacred Heart, St. Francis and OWOC.

Professional Development

Professor Emerita Marian Rossiter from the University of Alberta explored a number of topics such as the results of surveys conducted about settlement and integration success of newcomers to Canada. She also discussed ongoing challenges that immigrants and refugees face and what we need to know about immigration issues in the media that are likely to become federal election debate topics in 2019. On November 30, 2018 Renuka Jantz and Linda Sutcliffe will present on the perceived shortcomings of our current "standard" assessment process while focusing on seniors. They will talk about specific challenges and possible solutions that can be applied to any age demographic.

Third Annual Winter Social

The ATESL Edmonton Local will meet on December 14, 2018 from 5 to 7 p.m. at State and Main on Jasper Avenue, Edmonton. In an informal environment, colleagues will have a chance to get to know each other, network as well as share teaching experiences as we celebrate the end of the year.

Next ATESL Edmonton Local Meeting

All members will be asked to fill out a form with their suggestions for professional development for the new year.

January 25, 2019 Edmonton Local ATESL Meeting

Presentation: TBA Location: TBA

Respectfully submitted by: Diana Agudelo & Maryna Siek, Edmonton Local Co-Chairs



Central Alberta Report

The Central Alberta ATESL board is entirely new this year. Jessica has signed on as co-chair. Anna Morgan-Wold is the new treasurer and Mary Leighton is the incoming secretary. The influx of newcomers continues on a steady incline in Central Alberta. ESL classes have increased and as a result, new teachers have been recruited as ATESL members. The new board is looking forward to arranging professional development events in the coming year and continuing to connect with organizations throughout Central Alberta.

Respectively submitted by: Jessica Legacy, Central Alberta Co-Chair



Southern Alberta Report

The Southern Alberta ATESL Chapter is ready for another exciting year of professional development opportunities and social events! Despite the long distance, southern Alberta was well represented at the annual ATESL Conference in Edmonton in October 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, Jenny Bourne was welcomed as the new co-chair for the chapter; we are looking forward to the contributions she is going to make to ATESL in the coming year.

The first event of the new academic year was held on November 29, with 16 local educators from diverse teaching institutions attending the event at the

University of Lethbridge. The event entitled “Grammar Teaching – Resources and Best Practices: Community of Practitioners Sharing Session” included seven presentations from local educators about grammar teaching in their contexts. Topics covered included teaching grammar using Jeopardy and other online platforms, the dictogloss technique, using charts and colour coding language, applying formulas to teach grammar with low level learners, and much more. In addition to the planned presentations, there was also an opportunity for general sharing about teaching practices. Participants left the event with a number of practical tips and ideas to foster further contemplation in relation to grammar instruction.

The Southern Alberta Chapter will be hosting its much-anticipated second annual Christmas Party on December 13th. The party will provide a fun opportunity for educators to unwind and enjoy the festive spirit of the season together. Watch for additional information about the event. We wish everyone a very joyous holiday season!!

Respectfully submitted by: Greg Ogilvie & Jenny Bourne, Southern Alberta Local Co-Chairs



Rural Routes Report

Debbie Severinsen is the new Rural Routes Board Representative. She is currently working as an instructor in the LINC program at NorQuest College in Edmonton. Prior to joining the ESL world, she spent ten years as the Adult Student Coordinator in the Volunteer Tutor Program at the Centre for Family Literacy (CFL). While working at the CFL, she encountered many Adult Coordinators who were working in communities in rural Alberta and was always amazed at the amount of commitment they put into helping English language learners. So, when the opportunity to join ATESL as a Rural Routes Representative presented itself, Debbie jumped on board.

Rural Routes is an Alberta wide support program that helps adult ESL providers and ESL programs that are located in the smaller centres of Alberta. This coming year Rural Routes is introducing a number of new workshops, among them working with trauma affected learners and learners with mental health challenges. New TESL focused workshops include the language experience method with literacy learners, lesson planning and goal setting for learners, starting and managing conversation groups and non-traditional approaches to ESL in smaller centres. 2019 will be an exciting year with these additional workshops.

Respectfully submitted by: Debbie Severinsen, Rural Routes Representative



Social Media Report

I am pleased to continue to serve in the role of Social Media Coordinator as part of the ATESL communications team. We have been active on three platforms: Twitter (@ateslnews), Facebook (www.facebook.com/ateslnews), and LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/in/atesl-alberta-teachers-of-esl-3148a661/). We hope you follow us on at least one of these and have engaged with our posts. ATESL created and follows social media guidelines in order to ensure we remain professional, respectful, and responsive. The intent of creating an online presence for ATESL is to increase awareness of our organization and to drive people to the atesl.ca website. Should you feel that something needs to be posted, please email us.

Respectfully submitted by: Maureen Souply, Social Media Coordinator



2018 Annual Bursary Committee Report

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 five 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).

Respectfully submitted by: Wendy Ilott, former Bursary Committee Chair



2018 ATESL Conference Report

The ATESL 2018 conference was held on October 12 and 13, 2018 at the Fantasyland Hotel at West Edmonton Mall. The conference theme was Leaders and Learners: Integration and Inclusion. The theme was intended to invite presentations exploring the inclusion of minorities in ESL communities, while recognizing Canada's role as a world leader in the integration of immigrants. At the same time, we continue to be learners in our field and continue to improve on the services we provide and to become more inclusive and more aware of the unique situations of others. The 2018 ATESL conference attracted a total of 348 registrations who took in a total of 70 presentations from 111 presenters, including keynotes and invited speakers. The conference was financially successful, and overall feedback was positive with 90 percent of respondents saying they were satisfied with the conference.

We had three keynotes and two invited speakers. Ingrid Johnston gave an intriguing presentation on using children's literature in language teaching. Jennifer Foote gave an engaging and very well received address on the art of teaching pronunciation. On Saturday, we welcomed Michel Chikwanine, a former child soldier and now motivational speaker who talked about his experiences and his hopes for life in Canada. We appreciate the great turnout and the enthusiasm with which the conference attendees embraced their conference this year.

Submitted by Dorte Weber & Eaman Mah, ATESL 2018 Conference Co-Chairs



TESL Canada Representative Report

TESL Canada was very happy to welcome ATESL members back into its organization this October after ATESL extensively consulted with its membership. ATESL participation means that TESL Canada is able to more actively represent English Language Learning professionals from across Canada. A new board was elected in June during the TESL New Brunswick conference and has members from across the country, including Ontario and BC. The teacher certification program has continued, certifying approximately 20 teachers from Alberta so far this year. TESL Canada is continuing to improve communication with members via social media feeds like Twitter and Paula Kristmanson's letters. As well, a quarterly newsletter was launched highlighting different ELL activity from across the country. (Look for a feature on Alberta programs in December's issue!) This year we are hoping to offer more online PD opportunities via Zoom, and also start to update the teacher certification process. There will be plenty of communication to members to advise them of these changes.

Submitted by: Celia Logan, TESL Canada Representative



Bursary Reports - Samples from 2017/2018

My reason for applying to the Master of Education program at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology is both professional and personal. I have been working as an English Language Foundations Instructor at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) for the past six years. Prior to this, I have worked in many different educational settings ranging from non-profit organizations, small and medium-sized corporations, elementary and high schools, language centers and private institutions.

I consider it a prerequisite for every educator to be able to connect with today's 21st century technological generation of students. I want to gain more skills about different teaching methods as well as the means to modify and develop teaching materials using technology. The sociocultural consequences of our teaching also fascinate me as I believe language is more than what occurs within the four walls of the classroom.

The Master's program at UOIT allows me to do all I've outlined above by using a collaborative teaching approach. It provides the ability to connect in a global classroom and network with professionals all around the world. Their academic body is made up of professionals who are versed in a broad spectrum of areas. This program would allow me to major in technology and also take courses that shed more light on issues around adult education. Through widening my own scope of teaching practice, I'll be able to provide authentic learning experiences for my students. I will also be more than willing to share my learnings with the ATESL community via their newsletter or website.

Submitted by: Jyoti Grewal

The ATESL Bursary has allowed me to attend the American Association of Applied Linguists (AAAL) Conference in Chicago in March 2018. The AAAL Conference "has a reputation as a comprehensive and stimulating professional event that offers thought-provoking plenary presentations, in-depth colloquia and paper sessions, excellent book exhibits, and plentiful opportunities for networking with applied linguists from North America and countries around the world"¹.

I attended numerous sessions by scholars who presented reports of their latest research that related to second language (L2) learning and teaching. This information has not only expanded the breadth of my knowledge, but through reflecting on the material presented, I have gained a deeper understanding of processes and teaching methodologies that may contribute to L2 learning. In addition to listening to presentations, I had the opportunity to present original research with my PhD supervisor which was a valuable experience in knowledge dissemination.

The ideas that I have developed as a result of my attendance have helped me complete my PhD dissertation on teaching L2 reading and successfully defend it. In the future, I hope to share my new-found knowledge with the ATESL community through presentations at local meetings, our annual conference, or just informal conversations with other colleagues. In fact, I plan on incorporating what I learned about L2 reading and automatic text analysis methods into my already accepted presentation at this year's ATESL Conference in Edmonton.

Thank you very much for your support in my professional development endeavour through the ATESL Bursary.

Submitted by: Kent Lee

I have worked with many unique and diverse groups of clients in my positions as both an English instructor and Language Assessor. My students and clients have demonstrated various challenges and I believe it is helpful to have an understanding of the challenges they may have faced in their lives. In the winter semester of 2018, I studied EDPY 581 - Psychological Aspects of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education, as part of my Master's in TESL studies. In that course we analyzed and gained a greater understanding of many of the issues that ESL students face. The course helped me to understand those struggles and be more empathetic towards my students and what they may be experiencing. We also learned about the individual and societal consequences of bilingualism and explored the factors that affect the development of bilingualism for second language learners. The course enhanced my understanding of the process of second language acquisition which my students/clients are undergoing.

One of the major issues we examined in EDPY 581 is difficulties that students face in acquiring English fluency despite residing in an English-speaking environment. I have seen this issue in many of my students and clients and the research has helped me to understand and be more patient with the difficulties that students face. This has been particularly helpful in the counselling aspects of my role as a language assessor. This course helped me to create realistic expectations for students' learning outcomes and to help my students understand and set realistic outcomes for themselves.

In my current role as Language Assessor I often counsel students on issues relating to language, education, and life in Canada. This course helped me to understand how much students need to study a language to become fluent, how to avoid language loss, and the importance of language to students' cultural identity. Importantly, we looked at the place of newcomers' first language in their life in Canada and the importance of maintaining their first language on their identity and how this can benefit their family/children.

I would like to thank ATESL for your consideration and for offering this bursary. Thank you very much.

Submitted by: Justin Mikkelsen