

CONTENTS

April 2019

President's Report

Colyn deGraaff

President Elect's Report

Lori Kennedy

Past President's Report

Kim Dudas

Edmonton Local Report

Maryna Siek & Diana Agudelo

Calgary Local Report

Bob de Hoog & Nancy Robertson

Central Alberta Report

Jessica Legacy

Southern Alberta Report

Greg Ogilvie & Jenny Bourne

Rural Routes Representative Report

Debbie Severinsen

TESL Canada Representative Report

Celia Logan

Accreditation Review Committee Report

Kim Dudas

Advocacy Committee Report

Wendy Ilott

Communications Committee Report

Colyn deGraaff

Conference Committee Report

Alana Johnson & Jacky Rivas

Membership Fee Increase Message

Colyn deGraaff

ATESL Benefits & Insurance Information

ATESL Board

President's Report

Dear ATESL Members,

Welcome to another edition of the ATESL newsletter! It's been quite the start to the new year, and there are many exciting things happening that we'll be updating you on in this issue.



Welcoming your new
President Elect

It is a great pleasure that I introduce you to your new President Elect, Lori Kennedy. Lori began teaching in 2015 and is currently teaching Stage I and designated literacy classes. She holds a BA in English from Memorial University of Newfoundland and an MEd in Teaching English as an Additional Language from University of Calgary. Her professional interests include motivation and adult literacy learners. We welcome Lori to our board of directors and wish her the best of luck in her new role.

40th Anniversary Conference

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of ATESL. To mark the occasion, we are commemorating this "ruby



anniversary” with a special logo and theme. Led by the hardworking conference planning committee (who you’ll meet in this issue), we’ve landed upon the following logo and theme: We’ll look forward to seeing all of you in Calgary on October 18 and 19, 2019 for this year’s conference hosted at the Westin.

Membership Changes

As we transition into our 40th anniversary year, our organization remains in a strong position to continue its operations and is currently making changes to ensure its long-term sustainability and include new benefits for members.

Rather than roll these changes out overnight, we wanted to inform you that there will be a change to membership fees effective June 1, 2019. The full details of this change can be found within this newsletter.

Agreement with TESL Canada

Last October we asked you, the members, about your input regarding ATESL’s involvement with TESL Canada. The response was large and in favour of continuing our partnership with Canada’s national professional association. In the past few months we have worked together to diligently address your questions and comments and have signed a new agreement with TESL Canada. This agreement will continue our professional relationship and provide ATESL members with access to TESL Canada Certification as part of your ATESL membership fees.

Submitted by Colyn deGraaff, ATESL President



President Elect Report

2019 marks a milestone year for ATESL. This year, we will celebrate 40 years of not only language teaching, but also of community service and making a difference for newcomers in our province. I’m so honoured to have come on board in time to commemorate this landmark year with you all.

My first few weeks as your new President Elect have been spent familiarizing myself the various projects underway in the province, and I know that’s just the tip of the iceberg! I am looking forward to spending the next several months continuing to learn and listen to your feedback on how ATESL can better serve your needs as language providers.

I hope our 40th year will be one of collaboration, innovation and continued service to our learners as we continue to promote the highest standards and best practices of teaching English. Happy 40th to you all.

Submitted by Lori Kennedy, ATESL President Elect



Past President Report

It has been a pleasure to get to know our new board and committee members a little better these past months. Thank you once again to Frankie Ning Chen for all the work you put into our quarterly newsletters! I continue to work closely with ATESL’s Advocacy Committee and Accreditation Review Committee. Please look for updates on the activities of these committees in this newsletter. As part of ATESL’s presidential chain, I also meet online regularly with our affiliates across the country. The Interprovincial Committee provides us with an excellent opportunity to learn from our affiliates and to also share the knowledge and experiences that we have. As the sole member of the presidential chain located in Edmonton, I also help ensure that ATESL is represented at meetings of our colleagues in the settlement sector located in the capital city. I look forward to a productive spring and summer as ATESL continues to cultivate relationships and explore new ones.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Dudas, ATESL Past President (2018-2019)

Edmonton Local Report

Edmonton Local has a new treasurer. She is Rosemary McMahon, who is also our communications officer. Rosemary replaced Nick Williams who served three years as the treasurer. Next is a recap of the chapter's activity.

Past Meetings: January's meeting was held at One World One Centre on the 25th. Carolynne Melnyk gave a brief introduction explaining the principles of Qigong and shared specific movements or energy points that can be used with students that have experienced traumatic situations.

February's meeting happened on the 22nd at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. John Doyle gave a presentation discussing his experience teaching middle schoolers overseas at a Palestinian refugee camp in south Lebanon. He discussed teaching approaches from his earlier LINC experience that came in useful at the camps and some approaches from his camp experiences that would be beneficial for LINC classes.



John Doyle's presentation on February 22 at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers.

Future Meeting: Our March PD session was at the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers on Friday, March 15, 2019. David Ley, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Arts Drama Department gave a presentation on the use of voice in the classroom. Participants learned simple exercises for warming up and preserving the health of their voice, techniques for expanding their vocal range and expression to help enhance their confidence and increase the dynamic quality of their presentations.

Submitted by Diana Agudelo and Maryna Siek, Edmonton Local Co-Chairs



Calgary Local Report

The Calgary Local hosted one PD session on March 7 at Bow Valley College. It focused on the why, what, when and how of teaching grammar. It proved to be a very popular topic as 32 members, the president elect and two of her guests attended.

The most recent session took place on April 9. This one focussed on the realities of online teaching: the various types of online courses, the challenges and the strategies to overcome them. It was held at Bow Valley College and refreshments were provided by the School of Global Access.

Upcoming PD sessions include:

- *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*
 - *Materials Design*
- *Reintroducing the fun in teaching English (under PBLA)*
 - Date: Tuesday, June 11 (3:30 to 5 / 6 to 7:30 p.m.)
- *Double Feature: Dispelling Myths about Teaching Pronunciation and Vocabulary.*
 - Date: Saturday, September 28 at SAIT from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

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



Central Alberta Report

Central Alberta ATESL hosted their welcome to 2019 gathering on Friday, January 25. Ten members attended and we had a lovely time eating tacos and talking about language. The board has also been hard at work creating

a database of rural organizations that provide English lessons and other services to newcomers. One of our goals this year is to connect rural communities within Central Alberta to ATESL.

On February 8, ten members met at a new café / meeting space in downtown Red Deer to discuss feedback in ESL classes. Carol Smyth presented on providing action-oriented feedback, and I presented on giving audio feedback on speaking assessments. We aim to offer three more sessions this year.

Submitted by Jessica Legacy, Central Alberta Chair



Southern Alberta Report

The southern Alberta Chapter have been organizing sharing sessions for the community of TESL practitioners in the area and we just hosted our first of the year. On March 28 practitioners from many different sectors of TESL gathered to discuss the topic of *Vocabulary Teaching – Resources and Best Practices*. This session was well attended by professionals from LINC programmes, K-12 education and post-secondary institutions who exchanged their best practices and favourite resources. The event went long as there was so much to share, and everyone left inspired and with their brains and bellies full.

Our next event is tentatively scheduled for later this spring and the topic of the Sharing Session will be *Building Community in the Language Classroom – Resources and Best Practices*. This will be followed in early summer by our annual member BBQ.

We look forward to continuing to build community and friendships while inspiring each other, as 2019 progresses.

Submitted by Jenny Bourne and Greg Olgilvie, Southern Alberta Co-Chairs



Rural Routes Report

Central Alberta ATESL hosted their welcome to 2019 Rural Routes provides professional development to ESL practitioners in rural and smaller communities, as well as to programs funded through the granting councils. Rural Routes is funded by Advanced Education and managed by NorQuest College.

As well as supporting smaller ESL providers with TESL expertise and resources, Rural Routes also brings rural perspectives to larger TESL community through participation in conferences and on the board of ATESL.

New in Rural Routes this spring: Supporting ESL Learners with Mental Health Issues, the Language Experience Approach to Teaching Beginning Literacy Learners, and Tips and tools for Successful Conversation Groups.

Submitted by Debbie Severinson, Rural Routes Representative



TESL Canada Representative Report

April 1, 2019

TESL Canada had its latest monthly meeting on March 6, 2019. The next meeting will be on April 23, 2019.

Board Positions: Judy Sillito is actively recruiting for the new board.

IRCC: Dianne Tyers made her first report on the value of teacher accreditation in Canada.

Professional Development Committee: an IELTS webinar was held on March 14. Another webinar is planned for April.

Communication: Sheri Rhodes was voted in as interim Outreach Committee chair

TCEF: TESL Ca is planning a new award for teaching excellence. They would like to make this award to one member of each provincial partner at the organization's conference or AGM. Information will be sent to all the affiliates for nominations.

Submitted by Celia Logan, ATESL's Representative to TESL Canada



Accreditation Review Committee Report

The ARC met on Feb 28 for its first quarterly meeting of 2019. ATESL president, Colyn deGraaff, updated the Committee on the status of ATESL's MoA with TESL Canada. ATESL's past president has accepted the role of interim chair of the ARC unless another Committee member wishes to step into the role. The next meeting of the ARC will be in May 2019.

Submitted by Kim Dudas, ARC Committee Chair



Communications Committee Report

Since the last newsletter the Communications Committee has been busy with the promotion and outreach of ATESL's local PD Events and important reminders. We've also been thrilled to update our members on this fall's conference theme (and logo)! The conference will be taking place on October 18 and 19 at the Westin in Calgary.

The Communications Committee has been active on social media reporting and sharing several best practices from around the sector. We'd like to thank Elina Stop who has stepped in to help with these activities as Maureen Souply takes a brief leave.

If you haven't already, remember to follow us on Facebook and on Twitter at @ATESLnews.

Submitted by Colyn deGraaff, ATESL President



Advocacy Committee Report

Now is a very exciting time to be involved in advocacy in Alberta! So many of you answered the call to become involved in advocating for learners and teachers that we had to create two groups: the strategic committee and the working committee. The strategic committee meets monthly to review issues and then contacts members of the working committee to make it happen! We would like to take this opportunity to welcome ATESL's Advocacy Committee: Wendy Ilott, Abir Aboutaha, Herly Cervera, Wanda Chell, Eman Ghanem, Bernadene Ryan, Kim Dudas, and Colyn deGraaff (ex-officio). The strategic committee reviews issues and then contacts members of the working committee to make it happen! Based on phone interviews with everyone who expressed interest in advocacy work, we have identified four areas of focus:

- Continued work on inclusion of LGBTQ2+ learners in our classrooms.
- Transition to work from ESL – phase 1 raise awareness of existing materials, resources, funding and opportunities
- Best practices in Employment for teaching and learning ESL
- LIFE learners and citizenship at CLB 4 – raising awareness of learning differences and opportunities to help them succeed.

If you are interested in advocacy, please do not hesitate to contact Wendy Ilott (canadianteacher2@gmail.com).

Submitted by Wendy Ilott, Advocacy Committee Chair



Conference Committee Report



40 Years: A Declaration of Excellence

We would like to introduce the hardworking ATESL Conference committee members for 2019.

Alana Johnson and Jacky Rivas - Conference co-chairs

Alana Johnson, Sonia Seghal, Terri Peters, Ayala Roudstein, Dianne Leong Fortier, Siddiqa Sadiq – Program Committee

Desiree Belter and Tyla Olsen – Publishers Committee

Jacky Rivas and Sheri Rhodes – Facilities and Lightning Talk Coordinator

The committee first met in late February and will continue to meet monthly until October. We are excited to announce that this year's logo and theme has been approved by the board. This year's theme will be A Declaration of Excellence to celebrate ATESL's Ruby Anniversary and 40 years of quality work from English language professionals in Alberta. The conference will be held at the Westin in beautiful downtown Calgary on October 18 and 19. Earlier in March a facilities committee member met with the Westin event coordinator to discuss catering and space.

Additionally, we have confirmed two keynote speakers for this year's conference and will share further information with ATESL members once contracts have been agreed upon and signed. Stay tuned for further information on this year's fantastic line-up!

On March 28 the planning committee met and began their next steps as per their assigned roles and committees. Conference co-chairs are excited to have a great group of experienced ESL practitioners on board this year to plan and celebrate a monumental year for ATESL. Lastly, we would also like to thank ATESL's president Colyn deGraff and Irene Wood for all your support thus far.

Submitted by Alana Johnson and Jacky Rivas, ATESL's 2019 Conference Co-Cha



Membership Fee Increase Message

Hello ATESL Members,

During the past 40 years, ATESL has managed its finances responsibly and with strong accountability to the membership. Thankfully, it remains in a strong position to continue its operations, but as we grow and address emerging challenges, we need to ensure the organization's long history of fiscal stability is maintained.

For those who might not be aware, ATESL currently offers one of the lowest membership fees in Canada when compared to other provinces that offer similar professional development initiatives.

In addition to seeking funding from diverse sources, one of the ways that we are intending to support the organization is with a change to membership fees. Rather than roll these changes out overnight, we strongly believe you should know when and how they are changing.

All ATESL membership fees will receive a nominal increase effective June 1, 2019. These changes will help us provide benefits and supports across the province, including:

- Planning and execution of the annual ATESL conference,
- Securing relationships with interprovincial partners,
- Providing new comprehensive health insurance plans for our members,
- Increase bursaries and/or conference incentives,
- Local PD sessions, and chances to win a free conference registration,
- Continuing to address annual operating costs and overhead sustainability.

The new membership fee tiers will be as follows:

Membership Levels	Current Fee	New Fee
One Year Regular	\$ 48.38 + GST = \$ 50.80	\$ 58.00 + GST = \$ 60.90
Two Year Regular	\$ 84.00 + GST = \$ 90.30	\$ 100.00 + GST = \$ 105.00
One Year: Volunteer, Student, Unemployed / Retired	\$ 32.25 + GST = \$ 33.86	\$ 38.00 + GST = \$ 39.90

Rest assured, ATESL is constantly looking for sponsorships and other sources of funding to increase the value of membership while keeping fees as low as possible. If you have any suggestions, questions, or feel that you're in a position to contribute to this growth, please write us at ask@atesl.ca

We have answered some Frequently Asked Questions that you may have regarding the membership changes. Please see below:

FAQ

Q: Why are membership fees increasing now?

A: The ATESL board feels that increasing fees mid-year can help avoid a deficit for the 2019 calendar year. Please feel free to email ask@atesl.ca for more information regarding ATESL's historical financial statements.

Q: Can I renew now so I don't have to pay more when the cost goes up?

A: Of course! Your membership expiration date will still be carried annually from the current expiry date.

Q: ATESL passed the last membership fee increase at its AGM in 2015. Is the Board obligated to get membership approval before enacting a fee increase?

A: Per the bylaws, *"1. The membership fee for each class of members shall be determined by the Board of Directors and, from time to time, be subject to review by the members at the Annual General Meeting."*

Prior to the January 1, 2016 fee increase, ATESL hadn't raised its membership fees for over a decade. The board reviewed the current finances and forecast that it would be best to enact the proposed membership fee increase in June of this year, to coincide with the launch of new bursaries and group insurance plans.

Q: What are the sources of revenue for ATESL?

A: ATESL currently has only two sources of revenue, Membership Fees and profit from conferences. Fees cover only a small portion of our budget and profit from conferences is a tenuous revenue source. All other provincial TESL associations (e.g., B.C., Ontario, etc.) receive large grants from external sources. The ATESL board is actively looking to find other funding sources.



ATESL Benefits and Insurance Information

ATESL is excited to announce that we have partnered with BenefitLink Resource Group to offer our members comprehensive options for Life, Health and Dental Insurance.

How does this work?

Simply by being an active ATESL member, you will have access to reduced rates on health and dental coverage, and life insurance. This is an optional member benefit.

What does it cover?

There are two options for coverage:

Green Shield Canada's Health Assist ZONE® plan(s) provide coverage for day-to-day medical, dental and travel expenses, as well as unforeseen health expenses. Members will now have the ability to ZONE in on getting the health and dental plan that their families need, without all the hassles of trying to decipher what exactly the plan includes, or better yet, excludes.

GoLife is a life insurance plan with a friendly online experience through an interactive platform. GoLife provides fast, easy, and affordable term life insurance options. GoLife's goal is to make life insurance affordable and accessible to Canadian families.

More information and links to general plan information is available on ATESL's website. Links to apply for benefits or insurance are only available to fully paid members once you have logged into your online profile.



ALBERTA TEACHERS
OF ENGLISH AS
A SECOND LANGUAGE



ATESL is proud to offer member exclusive insurance plans in partnership with BenefitLink Resource Group, Green Shield Canada, and Go Life.

Available to all registered ATESL members!



Coverage Highlights

	1	2	3	Fundamental	4	5	6
Medical Required	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓
Drug Coverage	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
Health Coverage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Paramedical Coverage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vision Coverage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Travel Coverage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dental Coverage	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓

Coverage Price Ranges (per month)

	1	2	3	Fundamental	4	5	6
Single	\$27-\$38	\$72-\$83	\$82-\$93	\$92-\$109	\$55-\$71	\$111-\$129	\$126-\$148
Couple	\$49-\$70	\$134-\$158	\$154-\$179	\$159-\$195	\$102-\$134	\$212-\$251	\$241-\$284
Family	\$63-\$89	\$174-\$200	\$200-\$228	\$233-\$270	\$134-\$172	\$273-\$322	\$314-\$366

**Pricing will be based on the age and health of the covered member*



www.ATESL.ca

ATESL Board 2019-2020

Colyn deGraaff
President

Kim Dudas
Past President

Lori Kennedy
President Elect

Celeste Bickley
Secretary

Jake Scheffer
Treasurer

Celia Logan
TESL Canada Representative

Bob de Hoog, Nancy Robertson
Calgary Local Co-Chairs

Maryna Siek, Diana Agudelo
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Jessica Legacy
Central Alberta Co-Chair

Greg Ogilvie, Jenny Bourne
Southern Alberta Co-Chairs

Debbie Severinsen
Rural Routes Representative

Maureen Souply
Social Media Coordinator

Irene Wood
Business Manager