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ATESL President's Report

Dear fellow ATESL Members,

Welcome to another edition of the ATESL newsletter and what a crazy year 2020 is turning out to be! Despite all the changes and challenges, ATESL has remained a constant and there are many exciting things happening.



41st Conference

As you may have heard already, our 41st conference, scheduled for October 16 and 17, has moved completely online. The theme for ATESL's 2020 E-Conference will be Seeds of Possibility: Curiosity, Drive and Innovation – a fitting theme given our current situation. Our Conference Managers have been hard at work ensuring we get the most from our online platform, and we are very excited to 'see' you all there in October.

SILP Proposal

ATESL received approval for a provincial grant in the new year to update the Best Practice Guidelines for Adult ESL/LINC Programming in Alberta. It is a 22-month project which kicked off in April with the hiring of Herly Cervera as the Project Consultant and Sara Gnida as the Project Manager.

Agreement with TESL Canada

There have been some changes to our 2020 agreement with TESL Canada. Previously, ATESL paid a per member annual fee to TESL Canada which typically amounted to roughly \$11,000. This year, TESL Canada put forth a suggestion to cap our annual payments to the organization at \$8,000 which ATESL gratefully accepted. Despite reducing our annual fees, this agreement will continue our professional relationship and will continue to provide ATESL members with access to TESL Canada certification and all other benefits as part of your ATESL membership fees.

Proposal Writing Committee and Charitable Branch Committee

ATESL has been working to create two new committees to help find additional sources of revenue for the organization. They are still in their initial phases, but we hope to have them up and running soon.

ATESL Advocacy Committee

When face-to-face classes were suspended in March, the ATESL Committee worked quickly to organize professional development sessions to begin supporting teachers during a very challenging time. The ATESL Advocacy Committee was able to host 11 webinars from March 18-April 1, 2020. The warm reception showed the need for such support for teachers during this time. The participants at all 11 seminars totaled 1116 attendees from across Canada. Thank you to everyone who presented and participated.

While hosting the various webinars, it became clear that low literacy teachers need additional support during this time. In response, the Advocacy Committee has created a special interest group that will be hosted on Tutela. Stay tuned for updates and invites from Jessica Legacy, the

Central Alberta ATESL chair who will be moderating the forums and organizing upcoming literacy webinars.

Distance Learning Resources

Given all of the recent closures, the ATESL Board would like to offer support to our members and our learners. Please visit our [website](#) for more information.

A [Google Drive folder](#) has been created as a venue for shareable documents and resources, and a Google Doc which contains links to online learning tools and sessions. We encourage you to share any resources that you may know of. Please email atesl.admin@atesl.ca if you have any valuable online learning links you may know of! This is a strong and giving community, and together we can help one another and our learners.

Submitted by Lori Kennedy, ATESL President



Calgary Local Report

Because of the physical distancing rules set by the Alberta Health Authorities in March, all PD sessions scheduled for the spring and summer have been postponed until the rules will be relaxed. Nancy and Maria are looking at the possibility of turning some of the sessions into webinars, either through Tutela or other means. As soon as some dates will become available, they will be submitted to the ATESL admin for posting.

Stay safe and healthy.

Submitted by Maria Dumitrescu and Nancy Robertson,
Calgary Local Co-Chairs



Central Alberta Local Report

Central Alberta wishes all its members health and safety during this challenging time. Classes at CARE transitioned to online delivery on April 6th. We have been pleasantly surprised at the willingness of our students to follow us in this journey. Many of our teachers have been experimenting with classroom delivery through zoom or small groups in WhatsApp. We are grateful to the Advocacy committee for their support, offering workshops, resources and encouraging words. During this time we want to emphasize the importance of community, collaboration and making self-care a priority. Connection is key. Whether six feet apart or through the computer, we are all still connected to each other through our values and our commitment to our students. Thank you for all you do.

Submitted by Jessica Legacy, Central Alberta Local Co-Chair.



Rural Routes Representative Report

In response to the Covid-19 crisis, Rural Routes advisors have stepped up online delivery and included webinars on tools and skills for online facilitation. These webinars have been very well received and we will continue to run them while there is interest. We are also starting a new study group in early May. Please see our website [ESLRuralRoutes.norquest.ca/Events](https://www.norquest.ca/ESLRuralRoutes/Events) to select and register for webinars. Everyone is welcome.

Submitted Debbie Severinsen, Rural Routes Representative

Edmonton Local Report

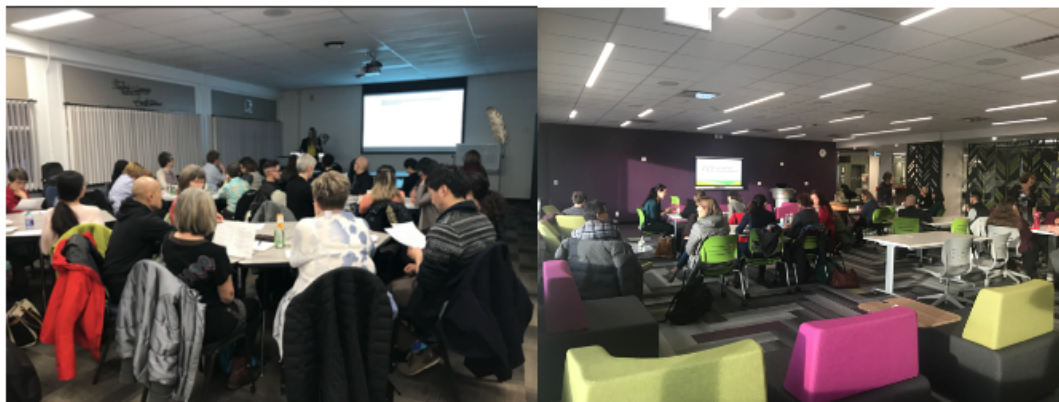
Greetings all,

The Edmonton local chapter has been busy planning monthly professional development sessions! With a brief pause due to COVID restrictions, we are happy to announce we will be continuing our monthly networking and PD events online. Here is a brief look at our 2020 offerings.

To kick off 2020, we hosted a networking and professional development event at Sacred Heart School. Alex Marshall presented on diversity and inclusion in the ESL classroom and discussed how ESL practitioners can approach brave conversations in the classroom. Attendees left with a wealth of knowledge gained and great resources and materials to use in their classrooms!

In February, Evelyn Neame and Priscila Magaldi Netto presented on Using High and Low Tech Feedback to Enhance Learning. This event was held in the beautiful Innovation Studio at NorQuest College. The presentation reviewed the Written Corrective Feedback process proposed in Evans, Hartshorn & Strong-Krause, 2011. Evelyn and Priscila shared how they adapted it to help their students reduce grammar errors and take charge of their learning. They also shared screen capture software to provide audiovisual feedback to students on written work, presentations, and recordings.

We are incredibly thankful to Alex, Evelyn and Priscila for volunteering their time to speak to our members and share their expertise! (Left: January's PD | Right: February's PD)



Unfortunately, due to COVID shutdowns, face to face monthly PD sessions for March and April were cancelled. Transitioning to delivering our PD events online, see below for our exciting online PD session line up:

May 15, 2020	Classroom Culture Shock: strategies for acclimatizing students to a learner-centred mode by Anne Merritt
May 29, 2020	Introducing Blended Learning in Settlement Language Programs by Martha Urquhart and Bonnie Nicholas

June 26, 2020	Teaching Culture Online by Heejung Kim
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More information about these events can be found on [ATESL's Event page](#). To access these webinars, please join the ATESL Edmonton Local Chapter group on Tutela (<https://tutela.ca/GroupHome?organicgroup=31037>). We will take a brief break in July/August and be back in the fall for our annual AGM and PD night.

Finally, a huge shout out to Marie Fontaine, James Hawrylenko and Rosemary McMahon, our local chapter's secretary, hospitality and treasurer/communications officer, respectively. Thank you so much for all of your help and expertise organizing these events!

The Edmonton local chapter is currently seeking members interested in the co-chair, treasurer or communication officers position. For more information, please contact edmonton@atesl.ca.

Submitted by Maryna Siek and Daniel Green, Edmonton Local Co-chairs



TESL Canada Representative Report

The TESL Canada board and its committees have been very active during the first quarter of 2020. Three regular board meetings have been held this year, including the most recent taking place on April 29.

Each ATESL member is also a member of TESL Canada, and a portion of the membership fees is paid to TESL Canada each quarter. ATESL has recently signed a new Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with TESL Canada and with the payments capped at \$8,000 each year.

The TESL Canada Journal published a Special Issue in December 2019, *Building Capacity for 21st Century Digital ELT Practices*. The topic is particularly timely in light of the COVID pandemic and the move for many English language programs to online delivery. The issue is available on the TESL Canada website at:

<https://teslcanadajournal.ca/index.php/tesl/article/view/1393/1219>.

The most recent TESL Canada Newsletter was published in March 2020. Among the articles was a feature on Storybooks Canada by Bonny Norton. Check out the newsletter

at: https://www.tesl.ca/images/Publications/TESL_Canada-newsletter-March2020.pdf. A huge thank you to editor, Celia Logan, for her work on this!

A Calgary-based accounting firm is currently auditing the 2017 through to 2019 financials, and this work will be complete in time for the next annual general board meeting.

Teacher Training Programs (TTPs) were consulted via a survey and a Zoom meeting during the early stages of the COVID-19 disruption to consult around issues of concern. The Board passed three motions (below). The motions were TTPs via an email on April 13 and are posted on the TESL Canada website.

1. Until on-site ESL classes/programs reopen, in order to qualify for TESL program certification, the minimum

number of f2f classroom observation and practice teaching hours for Standards 1, 2, and 3 will be:

- Face-to-face/in-class teaching 40%
- Online synchronous 20%

The maximum number of online asynchronous hours will be 40% of the total number of observation and teaching hours (see asynchronous options in point #3). The total observation and teaching hours remains the same: 10 + 10 for Standard 1 and 30 + 20 for Standards 2 and 3.

*This would facilitate certification for students whose practicum was interrupted by the health crisis.

2. Create a TESL Canada provisional certificate that would be awarded based on coursework completion only (no practicum requirement). This certificate will be valid for 1 year from the time of issue and be exchanged for a full certificate once a candidate submits proof of their practicum completion.

*This would facilitate certification for students who were not able to complete their practicum because of the health crisis. This provisional certification may allow people to secure interim employment or supply teaching.

3. The following are acceptable online asynchronous practicum activities:

- Classroom observation: watching recorded classes with reflection.
- Practice teaching: delivery of content (e.g., moderated online discussions related to readings, videos or podcasts, submission of work with feedback loop, prepared voice-over PowerPoint presentations) via online learning management systems such as Moodle, Brightspace, Blackboard, or Canvas; and evaluated micro-teaching demonstrations.

Submitted by Wendy Chambers, TESL Canada Representative

ATESL 2020 E-Conference

ATESL 2020 is going online! Join us October 16th and 17th for ATESL's 2020 E-Conference: Seeds of Possibility: Curiosity, Drive, and Innovation.



ATESL 2020 **ONLINE**

Seeds of Possibility:

Curiosity, Drive, and Innovation

We are so excited about the presentations, keynote speakers, and professional development opportunities. This year, we are excited to extend conference programming! We would like to extend an open invitation to English language program Managers, Coordinators and Admin staff. Do you have a presentation idea? Get your submission in to share knowledge and expertise with your colleagues!

Just a reminder that the Call for Presentations is available on the conference website:

<https://www.atesl.ca/conference/program/> with the deadline for submissions on June 30, 2020.

Please send all submissions to program@atesl.ca. We thank all who have already submitted!

If you'd like to get involved with this year's ATESL Conference, email a brief statement of interest to conference2020@atesl.ca. Roles and positions on the Conference Committee include people who are skilled in:

- Programming & scheduling
- Reviewing presentation proposals
- Recruiting publishers and exhibitors
- Sponsor Recruitment &
- Tech support

Please email Indira and Maryna to indicate your interest.

Cheers,

Indira Cevallos Novilo & Maryna Siek
2020 ATESL Conference Project Managers

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