



**Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language
Annual General Meeting
Calgary, AB
Friday, October 15, 2021
4:45 – 5:45 PM
Location: Online - Green Room**

AGENDA

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Establishment of quorum** (require 62 - 10% of Oct.1.21 Membership- 619)
- 3. Approval of 2021 AGM Agenda**
- 4. Approval of 2020 AGM minutes**

- 5. Reports of Officers**
 - Presidents' Report
 - Treasurer Report
- 6. Reports of Committees**
 - Calgary Local
 - Edmonton Local
 - Southern Alberta Local
 - Bursary Committee
 - TESL Canada
 - Rural Routes
 - Advocacy Committee
 - Communications Committee

MOTION: To approve the ATESL Annual Reports as presented at the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Motions before the membership

- 7. Approval of the 2020 Audited Financial Statement**
- 8. Approval of 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, 2021.
- 9. Appointment of Local Co-chairs and Board Members at Large**

The Following ATESL Members have been approved by acclamation to their Local Chapters as Co-chairs, or as Board members at large:

Calgary Local - Patrick Lee, Nura Mohamed
Edmonton Local - Rigvi Kumar
Central Alberta Local - Sara Chavez
TESL Canada Representative - Daniel Green
Rural Routes Representative - Alana Johnson
Advocacy Committee Chair - Alexandra Marshall

10. Ratification of President Elect

Motion to ratify the 2020-21 President Elect, Gabriela Jessome, who was appointed by the Board following the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

11. Election of Officers for 2021-2022

President Elect

12. Acknowledgements of Retiring Board Members

Calgary Local Co-chair - Priscilla Lee
Calgary Local Co-chair - Nancy Robertson
Edmonton Local Co-chair - Daniel Green
Rural Routes representative - Jim Hawrylenko
TESL Canada Representative - Wendy Chambers
Past President - Lori Kennedy

13. Passing of the gavel

14. Adjournment

Prize giveaways:

- **Two year ATESL Membership**
- **2022 Conference Registration**
- **\$100 Keg Gift Card**
- **\$50 Earls Gift Card**
- **\$50 Earls Gift Card**
- **CARE Cookbook**

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

2021 ATESL Presidents' Annual Report

When I reflect back on 2021 I need to address the elephant in the room – a global pandemic. It may have been the Asian year of the Ox, but for me in my position of President of ATESL, it has been the year of Covid-19 – a year of dramatic changes and challenges. Within that chaos we have been fueled by a fire that has ignited a desire for us to be resilient and inventive. The initial impact of online teaching was the new modus operandi, for teachers, administrators, students, organizations and institutions - a place where digital gatherings occur in virtual spaces. We have met this challenge headfirst and the byproduct has been ingenious innovations that have changed the way we teach, learn, collaborate and connect.

This year, the ATESL Board and the local chapters have met adversity head on, and have kept our members connected and engaged through regional activities, meetings, and virtual events. In this way, we continue to successfully build community and grow as individuals.

Another example of this drive to move forward is our second annual virtual conference. I would like to thank our fabulous conference team, led by our Conference Managers Denise Lo and Sofia Elgueta Duplancic. Their shared vision of 'Lighting the Future - Expanding Expectations' speaks to the wish for conference participants to share their knowledge and experience acquired in the past year and to support each other during this time of transition. I would also like to give a big thank you to the keynote speakers and presenters, as well as our ATESL administrator extraordinaire, Irene Wood. I'd also like to thank the many volunteers that made this conference the success that it has been. It is truly indicative of their passion toward our profession and appreciation of professional development.

ATESL would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their leadership and contributions to making the conference such a success:

- Denise Lo and Sofia Elgueta Duplancic – Conference Managers
- Tara Penner, Maryna Siek and Kent Lee - Program Chairs
- Dora Di Lullo-Patten – Sponsorship Chair
- Tyla Olsen and Lasha MacQuarrie – Publisher Chairs
- Lisa Matthew and Barbara Edmondson – Hospitality Chairs
- Zuzana Buchanan – Conference Media Chair
- Doug Vantour – Moderator Coordinator
- Jigar Lad - Tech Support
- Irene Wood – Registration

ATESL would also like to acknowledge the commitment and financial contributions to the ATESL 2021 Annual Conference sponsors:

Diamond Level:

- Centre for Newcomers
- British Council IELTS
- University of Calgary Continuing Education

Platinum Level:

- Bow Valley College
- Norquest College

Gold Level:

- CCIS
- Columbia College

Silver Level:

- Cambridge University Press
-

Bronze Level:

- ACE – Advanced Consulting for Education, INC
- LARCC of CSS
- University of Alberta Faculty of Extension

Conference Rates

In recognition of the fact that our members may have been experiencing financial hardship this past year, the Board lowered conference registration fees to make our annual conference more accessible to our membership and to be more in line with what other provinces are charging.

Social Media

Thank you to all of you who are engaging with ATESL's social media, because of you and our social media volunteers, we have been continuing to grow our presence. . If you haven't done so already, please consider connecting with ATESL on LinkedIn and update your profile to include work and/or volunteer experience with ATESL.

A special thank you to Daniel Green for all his diligence and excellent work in creating and maintaining a social presence for us and to Zuzana Buchanan for the work she did as the social media chair for our 2021 conference.

Annual Wellness Benefits for ATESL Staff

During the pandemic this year, there was a global recognition of the importance of addressing wellness in the workplace. ATESL has been mindful of the significance of this and as a result we are providing an annual wellness benefit to Irene Wood.

Local Chapter Summaries

The locals continue to provide a remarkable number of opportunities for members to engage in professional development sessions while building communities for ESL practitioners. We are also excited to announce that the Central Region will now have a new chair. A special welcome to Sara Chavez for accepting the position of the Central Alberta Local Chair.

Bursary

Bursaries are one of several benefits offered to ATESL members. The Board approved applications totaling \$1675 in member bursaries this year. The Board also decided that first time conference presenters should be encouraged, and ten \$100 bursaries were drawn for ATESL members who are using this conference as a means of sharing their knowledge with their peers for the first time.

Rural Routes

ATESL's relationship with Rural Route continues to flourish and we are excited to continue to partner with them to reach our members and learners in more remote areas of the province. The NorQuest Rural Routes team has worked very hard over the past year to provide new resources. Among them are the new ESL Tutor Handbook and a redevelopment of the Multi-Level Curriculum Handbook. Both are incredible tools for our members, and we are happy to tell you that you can find them on ATESL's resource database. Rural routes has been working hard with advisors to incorporate Indigenous worldviews into learner lessons. They are also in the process of redeveloping Intercultural Communication Workshops which will be launched in 2022.

ATESL is proud to be partnering with such a vital organization, and we thank Dorte Weber and the Rural Routes team at NorQuest for their work across the province.

Best Practices Project

ATESL received approval for a \$145,000 SILP provincial grant in February 2020 to update the Best Practice Guidelines for Adult ESL/LINC Programming in Alberta. Four ATESL presidents will have been a part of the process to secure and oversee the project; Colyn DeGraaff, Lori Kennedy, Dora Di Lullo-Patten and Gabriela Jessome. This ongoing 22-month project is on track to wrap up on schedule in January 2022. The Project Manager, Sara Gnida, and Project Consultant, Herly Cervera have been working tirelessly to ensure that **ATESL's Best Practices for Adult ESL and LINC Programming in Alberta** is updated and revised to reflect the changes that have happened in the field and the evolution of best practices since its last revision in 2009. There are two sessions scheduled for the conference and we hope you are able to attend at least one of them. We'd also like to thank all of the focus group attendees, our advisors, and reviewers for their time and input. We are excited to launch the new page on the website and document in the coming months. The ATESL Board acknowledges the Alberta Ministry of Labour and Immigration and thanks them for their support of this important project.

Inter-Provincial Partnerships

This year ATESL continued to meet with interprovincial associations to discuss issues such as changes due to Covid-19 and advocacy. These meetings provide an opportunity to collaborate on projects and exchange ideas across provincial boundaries.

ATESL Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee is made up of a group of hard working individuals who work to further causes that support the well-being of ESL learners and teachers.

This year the committee worked on many issues including:

- Supporting and co-founding the “Let’s Talk about Literacy” series
- Establishing the first ever GSA for ESL teachers
- Sharing of resources to support teachers and learners in transitioning to work and citizenship education
- Authoring regular articles about critical topics such as trauma, decolonization or teaching effectively in the COVID paradigm
- Advocating for additional settlement and language services for temporary foreign workers, international students and asylum seekers
- Building collaborative relationships with other ESL professional organizations across Canada

The Advocacy committee also issued a survey and there is a link to it in the body of the report. We appreciate your valuable input and ask that if you haven’t already done so, please respond to the survey before October 20.

The ATESL Board would also like to formally thank Wendy Ilott, who has been on the advocacy committee for six years, and has chaired it for the past three. Her guidance and dedication have been so appreciated, and she will be missed. Alexandra Marshall has agreed to take over as chair for Advocacy, and we are thrilled to have her join us.

Charitable Branch Investigation Committee

At last year’s AGM, ATESL promised to create an AdHoc Charitable Investigation Committee to research the viability of creating a Charitable Branch of ATESL in order to bring in additional revenue. There was a call to the membership to fill the Board Member at Large position of Investigator. Nura Mohamed put her name forward and was appointed. The focus of the committee was to explore sources of revenue for the organization. After considerable investigation, it was determined that this is not a viable option given our current financial situation.

ATESL would require a great deal more money in order to fund the start of a charitable trust. The money would also need to be very clearly allocated and could not be used as a means of revenue for the organization. The recommendation is to re-evaluate the option of a Charitable Branch if and when we are in a significantly more profitable position to support one. We are still open to establishing a charity arm in the future; however, this would not solve our financial issue as previously thought because any funds raised will need to be allocated to charitable acts and not day to day operations. A special thank you to Nura Mohamed and Irene Wood for their dedication to this endeavour.

Financial Statement

Despite the pandemic 2020 was our first positive revenue year since 2014. The online conferences are significantly less expensive to host. The Board decided pre-pandemic to move all meetings online in order to lower expenses, and the trend will likely continue in the future as well.

ATESL needs to seek alternate avenues for funding and the Board is committed to increasing annual revenue in order to keep the organization profitable.

Strategic Plan

Since 2017, ATESL has worked toward its Strategic Plan goals, revising its plan every three years.

To date, we continue to strive toward the plan of Envisioning the Future with the following key areas of focus:

1. Broadening the variety and reach of professional development opportunities - such as PD sessions for online low level literacy and local workshops, the literacy support group, and the new GSA.
2. Continuing to build the value and benefits of ATESL membership - such as opportunities to access insurance, bursaries and awards, first time presenter bursaries and early career conference rates.
3. Promoting ATESL's presence and increasing awareness of its role and benefits of membership. One way in which we have done this is through using social media to bring awareness to ATESL and its members.
4. Relationship building - online conferences and professional development opportunities have helped reach outside of urban centers and the province. Ongoing meetings with provincial affiliates and TESL Canada continue to build connections.

The Strategic Plan will be revisited this coming year and the new three-year plan will be presented at the 2022 AGM.

TESL Canada

TESL Canada continues to offer a wide range of benefits for ATESL members to enjoy - everything from access to RBC insurance for home and auto or comprehensive health and dental with Blue Cross to professional development bursaries. This year they offered complimentary professional development opportunities and webinars. The TESL Canada journal is free for all ATESL members. Last year 15 ATESL members applied to TESL Canada for certification. TESL Canada has been very accommodating in allowing for practicums to be done online, either synchronously or asynchronously. They are also offering provisional certificates for those who are unable to complete a practicum. These certificates will be upgraded to full certificates once the practicum is completed.

A special thank you to our outgoing TESL Canada representative Wendy Chambers for her support and commitment to ATESL. Her experience and wisdom will be missed on the ATESL board. We are excited to have Daniel Green take the baton from Wendy and we know that he will do an exemplary job in his new role as TESL Canada representative for ATESL.

New Board Members

Last year, after the AGM, a call was put out for President Elect and Gabriela Jessome was appointed in December, she will be ratified later in the AGM.

We are excited to be welcoming the following new board members whose appointment will happen later in the AGM

- Calgary: Nura Mohamed and Patrick Lee,
- Edmonton: Rigvi Kumar,
- Central Alberta: Sara Chavez,
- Rural Routes: Alana Johnson,
- TESL Canada Representative: Daniel Green

Outgoing ATESL Board Members

We would like to offer the following individuals our sincere gratitude for their services. They have performed their roles and duties with grace and dedication:

James Hawrylenko - Rural Routes
Daniel Green - Edmonton Local Co-chair
Nancy Robertson - Calgary Local Co-chair
Priscilla Lee - Calgary Local Co-chair
Wendy Chambers - TESL Canada Representative
Lori Kennedy - Past President

Conclusion

To conclude, I would like to thank three very special individuals for whom I am very grateful. First of all Irene Wood, our amazing administrator, who continues to surprise me with her ability to wear a multitude of hats while juggling so much, in order to keep me and the organization running so smoothly. We are truly blessed with all she offers: her exceptional skills, depth of experience and wealth of knowledge about the history of our organization but mostly with her heart. Irene knew when and how to help before I could say more than two words. She just knew and was there. Thank you, Irene

Secondly I'd like to thank our past president Lori Kennedy who has been a super mentor. Anytime I needed information, advice, input or suggestions, Lori was there. She has been supportive and wise and her experience has helped me to grow and be the best president that I could be. Thank you Lori.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Gabriela Jessome, our incoming president. I was very happy when Gabriela said that she would become president. We are in good hands. Gabriela's wealth of wisdom and experience are only two of her positive traits that she brings to the organization. Her compassion and way of looking at situations through various lenses will also help us to look at the many ways in which we can continue to grow. I have truly appreciated Gabriela's insight which she has provided me. Thank you, Gabriela.

Respectfully submitted by Dora DiLullo-Patten, ATESL 2021 President

2021 ATESL Treasurer Annual Report

There have been very few moments to celebrate in the last eighteen months. However, one silver lining to social distancing is the financial impact on the annual ATESL conference. The 2020 Treasurer's report indicated that the cost of the online conference would be significantly lower than a regular in-person conference. ATESL made a much-needed profit during the 2020 conference. This profit alleviated some of the concerns that we have been running a deficit for the last few years and has started to restore our funds.

Online conferences have forced many professional and academic organizations to rethink the conference model. When the world opens again and we can physically gather once more, we will want to continue to explore ways of lowering conference costs when expenses such as venue and refreshments make up such a significant portion of a traditional conference budget.

ATESL still needs to seek alternate avenues for funding if we are to remain sustainable. This year we appointed an ex-officio committee member to explore new funding opportunities. We are still open to establishing a charity arm in the future; however, this will not solve our funding issue as previously expected because any funds raised will need to be allocated to charitable acts and not running an organization. The alternative funding committee member continues to explore possibilities such as advertising revenue, but more work still needs to be done.

ATESL is currently in good shape. The grant we received has allowed us to update our Best Practices. We continue to support our members through bursaries and awards, as well as offering health benefits and professional development opportunities.

Respectfully Submitted by Jessica Legacy, ATESL Treasurer

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

2021 ATESL Calgary Local Annual Report

2021 was a very robust year for the Local as we offered 9 PD sessions which offered a range of topics related to our field. All the sessions were hosted virtually on Zoom. We are very grateful to all the presenters who shared their time and expertise with us.

January	<i>Assessment CLB Writing: Profiles of Ability</i> Bob de Hoog, ELL Instructor, Bow Valley College
February	<i>Assessment CLB Writing: Profiles of Ability (Part II)</i> Bob de Hoog, ELL Instructor, Bow Valley College
March	<i>Academic integrity among EAL learners: Insight for COVID-19 and beyond</i> Sarah Elaine Eaton, Associate Professor, Werklund School of Education University of Calgary
April	<i>Avenue for Online Learning</i> Kevin Simpson, ELL Instructor, Maple Leaf Academy

May	<p><i>Stress Reduction for ESL teachers</i></p> <p>John Wang, Mental Health Counsellor</p>
June	<p><i>Covid Delivery Mode Discussion Panel</i></p> <p>Wayne Letcher, ELL Instructor, Bow Valley College & Curriculum/Content Developer, TIES</p> <p>Justin Maier, Academic Manager, Maple Leaf Academy</p> <p>Desiree Pomerleau - LINC Instructor, Columbia College & Centre for Newcomers</p> <p>Jana Ciobanu - LINC Manager, The Immigrant Education Society</p> <p>Sangita Thapa, CanLearn Society, Nepali Literacy Instructor</p> <p><i>Avenue for Online Learning - Part 2</i></p> <p>Kevin Simpson, ELL Instructor, Maple Leaf Academy</p> <p><i>Responding to the Challenges of Multi-Mode Delivery for Literacy Learners: Student Engagement In-Class, Online and Hybrid</i></p> <p>Donna Clarke, Literacy Instructor; Lead for the Literacy Centre of Expertise, The Immigrant Education Society (TIES)</p> <p>Jeremy Wilson, LINC Literacy instructor; Literacy Centre of Expertise Assistant, The Immigrant Education Society (TIES)</p>
September	<p><i>Introducing a Suite of Inclusive and Antiracist Writing Guides</i></p> <p>Julia Lane, Writing Services Coordinator</p> <p>Emily Lam, Writing and Learning Peer</p> <p>SFU Student Learning Commons</p>

We would also like to thank the local committee members for their time and commitment this past year:

Priscilla Lee and Nancy Robertson, Co-chairs
Peggy Jubien, Secretary/Treasurer

We are very excited to introduce the 2022 local committee:

Nura Mohamed and Patrick Lee, Co-chairs
Peggy Jubien, Treasurer

The secretary position is still available. If you are interested, please contact calgary@atesl.ca.

Lastly, we would like to thank our local members for their support, participation and suggestions. We look forward to seeing you at the November social!

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Robertson, Calgary Local Co-chair

2021 ATESL Edmonton Local Annual Report

The Edmonton chapter met virtually 8 times this past year, with between 20-55 members attending.

DATES	SESSION INFORMATION	PD LOCATION
September 25, 2020	Local PD and AGM - Learning about Somalia to Help Boost Motivation and Investment in Somali Lit/CLB Students by Salwa Mohamud	Online Tutela/ BigBlueButton
October 2020	No PD (Online ATESL Conference)	Online Tutela/ BigBlueButton
November 29, 2020	Writing Centers and Language Learning by Dr. Lucie Moussu	Online Tutela/ BigBlueButton
December 2020	No PD	Online Tutela/ BigBlueButton
January 29, 2021	What, Why and How to Implement Various Technology Tools to Increase Learner Motivation and Engagement	Online Tutela/ BigBlueButton
February 26, 2021	Resources and Supports for LINC Program Remote Delivery by Alison Vickerman	Online Tutela/ BigBlueButton
March 26, 2021	Grammatical errors impeding communication and how to interpret CLB 2012 descriptors by Sabine Riccio	Online Tutela/ BigBlueButton
April 30, 2021	Learning difficulties and disabilities and how to recognize them in the classroom By Xue (John) Wang	Online Tutela/ BigBlueButton
May 28, 2021	Are Online Grammar Materials Any Good? By Dr. Leila Ranta, Daniel Green, Fiza Abedin, Raghda Abdelqader, and Teea Gergely.	Online Tutela/ BigBlueButton
June 25, 2021	Spatial Chat Demonstration by Daniel Green and Fiza Abedin	Online Tutela/ BigBlueButton

Volunteer Term Ends

Daniel Green's two year term has now ended. He may take on the role of Communications Officer for the 2021/2022 year depending on other role nominations at the ATESL AGM in October.

Rosemary McMahon stepped down as ATESL Edmonton treasurer March 2021 after many years in the position, and Shona Nichols was appointed as her replacement.

The following members are continuing their roles:

Fiza Abedin (second year)

Secretary - Marie Fontaine - *On Hold Until In Person Meetings Resume*

Hospitality - James Hawrylenko - *On Hold Until In Person Meetings Resume*

Newly Appointed membership roles:

Local Co Chair (first year): Rigvi Kumar

Treasurer: Shona Nichols

Communications Officer: Daniel Green (to be determined)

Highlights and New Initiatives

- Tried new meeting platforms such as Spatial Chat
- Grew the EDMONTON LOCAL page on Tutela to 277 members
- Provided PD to Edmonton and regional partners
- Continuation of certificates (PDFs)
- Increased Instagram/Twitter/Facebook Social media initiatives

Upcoming

- ATESL Conference Online (October 15th and 16th)
- Next Edmonton Local meeting - tentatively set for **Friday, November 22th, 2021**

If you have a suggestion for upcoming PD, or want to present at one of our monthly meetings, please email edmonton@atesl.ca

Respectfully submitted by Fiza Abedin and Daniel Green, Edmonton Local Co-chairs

2021 Southern Alberta Local Annual Report

The Co-Chairs of the Southern Alberta Chapter are Alana Johnson and Lauren Barrows.

The Southern Alberta Chapter held two highly attended virtual professional development events for members in 2021.

1. On February 2nd 19 Southern Alberta ATESL members attended a community practitioners' sharing session on the topic of *Motivating the Unmotivated – Motivating and Engaging all EAL Learners*.
2. On April 22nd Patrice Palmer and Victoria Senyard presented on teacher self-care and mindfulness. The event was promoted to and attended by ATESL members from around the province.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the chapter from hosting any in-person gatherings in 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Barrows and Alana Johnson, Southern Alberta Local Co-chairs

2021 Bursary Committee Annual Report

The Bursary Committee are the ATESL Secretary, Treasurer, and Past President.

ATESL is pleased to have supported the professional development of four members.

In March, the Bursary Committee received three applications, and all were approved for the maximum amount of \$500 each. The three bursary recipients completed professional development activities

including coursework towards a Master of Education, an online teaching certification program, and a certificate in higher education leadership.

In September, one additional applicant was approved for attendance to the annual ATESL conference for a maximum amount of \$175.

We are pleased to support ATESL members. For bursary consideration, kindly refer to the eligibility criterion, note the bi-annual application dates, and complete the fillable application form found at <https://www.atesl.ca/membership/bursaries/>.

Submitted by May Yeung, Chair of the Bursary Committee

2021 TESL Canada Representative Annual Report

Despite another challenging pandemic year, TESL Canada has continued to build on the momentum it gained over the previous year in terms of its activities and scope. The board meets monthly and the AGM was held June 28, 2021. During the AGM, Paula Kristmanson, who has served as TESL Canada president for the past three years, moved into the role of past president. The new TESL Canada president is Donald Moen. For a complete list of TESL Canada Board of Directors for 2021-2022, please see <https://www.tesl.ca/about-us/board-of-directors-and-committees.html>

ATESL has now entered its second year with the Memorandum of Agreement in place that caps membership transfer payments to TESL Canada at \$8,000 per year. TESL Canada received 15 applications from ATESL members seeking certification.

TESL Canada financial audits are current to 2020 and no issues or concerns were raised by the auditing accounting firm, Shahid Naqi Professional Corporation. In 2020, TESL Canada applied for and secured a \$40,000 CEBA loan and recently applied for an extension for this loan with a maximum forgiveness of \$10,000. If granted, the total loan will be expanded to \$60,000 with an overall forgiveness of \$20,000, if repayment of \$40,000 is done by December 21, 2022.

Over the past year, Donald Moen has been instrumental in securing a comprehensive health and dental plan through Blue Cross. TESL Canada members are also able to access RBC Home and Auto Insurance. For details, see <https://www.tesl.ca/membership/membership-benefits.html>

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, many teacher training programs moved online. TESL Canada continues to allow 100% of the practicum portion of accredited programs to be offered online, including both synchronous and asynchronous modalities. TESL Canada is also offering a "provisional certificate" if candidates are not able to obtain a practicum. The provisional certificate can be upgraded to a full certificate once practicum hours are completed. Additional updates in response to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic are expected. Please consult the website for the current [guidelines](#). A new Teacher Training Program manual for international partners will be available soon. TESL Canada recently partner with Selkirk College and disseminated a short survey to teacher training programs to determine current practices and gather information about potential future practices. Results will be shared with teacher training programs.

TESL Canada also offered complimentary PD opportunities in 2021. The Professional Development Committee organized a variety of webinars over the year including presentations by Diane Tyers, Trevor Laughlin and Brittany Hack, Scott Douglas, Richard Stockton, and many more. Be sure to check out the

TESL Canada website to see [upcoming professional development opportunities](#) offered by accredited teacher training programs.

TESL Canadian Educational Foundation (TCEF), the charitable arm of TESL Canada, distributed two \$250 learning bursaries in the spring and has two more available in the fall. The bursaries are meant to provide support for members pursuing PD opportunities, including short online courses. Each successful recipient provides a summary of the event upon its conclusion, and this is included in the TESL Canada Connects newsletter.

The TESL Canada Board is dedicated to keeping its membership informed about its activities and new initiatives. TESL Canada Connects is a publication also sent out to members, and it is available on the website. TESL Canada updates are also available on social media, including Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

The TESL Canada Journal Special edition (2021) has been published. There is a call for proposals for the 2022 Special Topic Issue. The *TESL Canada Journal* (<http://www.teslcanadajournal.ca>) is soliciting proposals from prospective guest editors for the 2022 Special Issue. The *TESL Canada Journal* is an open access, refereed journal for practicing teachers, teacher educators, graduate students, and researchers. As the federally funded flagship journal of the TESL Canada Foundation since 1984, its mandate is to publish articles that contribute to the advancement of the teaching and learning of English and French as second languages in Canada; second language teacher education; and the maintenance and development of minority, heritage, or Aboriginal languages. All published articles receive DOIs and are archived by Portico and LOCKSS.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Chambers, TESL Canada Representative

2021 ATESL Rural Routes Annual Report

The Rural Routes professional development service is funded by Advanced Education to provide free, high quality professional development and mentorship to people engaged in teaching or tutoring English as a Second Language, primarily in community adult learning programs and other programs funded through the granting councils in Edmonton, Calgary and Red Deer.

Our services include online and face-to-face workshops on more than 70 TESL related topics. See a selection at <https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/services/workshops.aspx>

Workshops are offered online in two ways: the regular workshop schedule available to anyone in Alberta, see <https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/events.aspx> and customized workshops requested by individual Community Adult Learning programs for their staff.

Mentorships and coaching are a large part of our services. We support teachers, tutors and administrative staff through phone calls, visits, emails and text messages, answering urgent questions, advising on resources, supporting new staff and providing ideas for program planning.

We added a new community of practice initiative in 2020-2021 with a series of Anti-Racism Talking Circles. These events allowed participants a safe space to talk about their experiences, feelings, and the questions they had in a safe space. The Talking Circles will continue in 2022.

Finally, we develop our own resources based on the needs we see in the communities. In 2020, we released the ESL Tutor Handbook, a 550 page monster of a resource intended for new tutors with little or no background in ESL, who just need a resource to lean on during their first few months on the job.

The lesson plans and handouts included with this resource reflect needs identified by the programs we serve, and they are designed to showcase best practices in TESL, based on the content of NorQuest's TESL certificate program. And here is the free download:

<https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/getattachment/Resources/Content/Rural-Routes-ESL-Tutor-Handbook/September30TutorHandbook.pdf.aspx>

The brilliant team that developed the tutor handbook, Tyla Olsen and Patricia Peters, went on to further triumph in 2021, when they redeveloped our old multi-level curriculum. The new one provides instruction on how to teach multi-level classes, how to adapt a resource to a higher or lower CLB level, and 16 lesson plans on four settlement topics, each lesson developed for CLB 1, 3 and 5 with all the handouts needed. In addition, it provides a package of online extension lessons tied into the same topics and outcomes, but designed for the higher-level learners to access independently while an instructor works with the lower level students. It is already getting praise from the instructors who have reviewed it. We look forward to delivering hard copies to the communities when we are able to travel, but in the meantime, the resource can be downloaded here:

<https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/resources/content/rural-routes-multi-level-handbook.aspx>

We have often in the past been asked to support instructors at the Indigenous colleges, but we were well aware of the challenges involved in adapting materials for newcomers to be suitable for Indigenous learners, when the differences between those groups are so profound. In 2021, we had an opportunity to bring some expertise on board to adapt and expand our workshop on teaching reading and writing to include Indigenous worldviews, teaching strategies and resources. We hope that this workshop will be one we can offer to instructors working with Indigenous learners who are also second language or second dialect learners of English.

A major project in progress is the redevelopment of the Intercultural Communication workshop series. This project focuses on bringing the workshops up to date, reflecting the challenges and opportunities developing in recent years, to include anti-racism initiatives and indigenous cultural perspectives. The new workshop series will launch in January 2022. Watch the Rural Routes Events page for details.

In 2020, we added support for numeracy to our list of services when we were fortunate enough to bring Glen McAlpine into Rural Routes part time. Glen was an amazing asset to our team and we all loved working with him. Sadly, Glen passed away suddenly this spring, leaving an enormous hole in the hearts of the whole NorQuest family. We hope to be able to resume this service when a new facilitator is in place.

While we are still, in October 2021, unable to travel to our clients to support them face to face, we are fortunately able to continue our work online and to help our clients succeed in delivering ESL programming to their learners. We look forward to a new year of delivering professional development and developing useful resources so that ESL learners around the province have improved learning opportunities.

Respectfully submitted by Dorte Weber, Team Lead, NorQuest Rural Routes

2021 ATESL Advocacy Committee Annual Report

The ATESL Advocacy Committee is a group of committed professionals who work to further causes that support the well-being of ESL learners and teachers. The Advocacy Committee is inspired to action from our dedication to quality education and professionalism.

This year we focused on work relating to the following priorities:

- Barriers to learning
- Employment best practices
- 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion
- ESL learners transitioning to work
- Access to citizenship
- Supporting Literacy teachers
- Trauma informed practice
- Decolonization
- Teaching online

This past year a great deal of work has been done in relation to these priorities including:

- Supporting and co-founding the “Let’s Talk about Literacy” series
- Establishing the first ever GSA for ESL teachers
- Sharing of resources to support teachers and learners in transitioning to work and citizenship education
- Authoring regular articles about critical topics such as trauma, decolonization or teaching effectively in the COVID paradigm
- Advocating for additional settlement and language services for temporary foreign workers, international students and asylum seekers
- Building collaborative relationships with other ESL professional organizations across Canada

How can you support the work of the Advocacy Committee?

1. Complete our annual survey which helps us identify the priorities our membership supports for the coming year. You will find the survey here. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2XWM727>
2. Consider volunteering for the Advocacy Committee. Contact advocacy@atesl.ca for more information.

On a personal note, as I turn over the chair, I would like to thank all of the Advocacy Committee members for your patience, persistence and passion. Working with you has been a highlight of my career and I am so excited to see the next projects and ideas you come up with to support our teachers and learners.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Ilott, Chair ATESL Advocacy Committee

2021 Communications Committee Annual Report

ATESL’s social media presence has continued to grow in 2021. We are continuing to use Canva.com to create image-based posts for ATESL’s social media accounts (including Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook). Both the Edmonton and Southern Local are now posting PD events on Social Media.

ATESL has also partnered with The Literacy Center of Expertise (TIES) in the Let’s Talk About Literacy Series, which has also been advertised on all social media accounts.

Please connect with ATESL on LinkedIn and update your profile to include work and/or volunteer experience with ATESL.

We will continue to use social media to bring awareness to ATESL, its mandate, our work and the work of our partners.

Respectfully submitted by Daniel Green, Social Media Coordinator