



ALBERTA TEACHERS  
OF ENGLISH AS  
A SECOND LANGUAGE

## President's Message

Dear Fellow ATESL Members,

As we finish 2021 and begin our 2022 journey it gives us time to reflect, not only about the challenges that we have had but also about all the knowledge and growth we have experienced, from learning and applying new delivery formats of instructions, to viewing our expectations and igniting our creativity, thinking outside the box, and seeing the light of hope ahead.

The ATESL Board has actively been involved in finding ways to support all of our members and joined efforts in setting goals, completing projects, and celebrating and sharing achievements with you all.

I would like to take this opportunity to first of all, thank you all for your commitment to education, your dedication to your students and your passion for teaching. Thank you to all ATESL Board members for always being willing to collaborate, for all your hard work and thanks to all the volunteers that have made ATESL continue to thrive. We can only be successful when we work together.

Let's begin by describing some achievements, initiatives and goals.

### **Conference 2021**

ATESL 2021 Lighting the Future: Expanding Expectations was incredible, 464 attendees, 97 speakers and 65 sessions with a tight agenda for the two days. From opening the conference with a prayer, smudging, and a blessing from Indigenous Elder Ida Bull, to having fabulous keynote speakers and themes: Dr. Rod Ellis (joining from New Zealand) "Task-based Language Teaching for Low-Proficiency Learners", Prof. Scott Thornbury (joining from Spain) "Back to the old normal?", Dr. Ena Lee (Joining from BC) "The possibilities of 'critical hope in a 'nice' field like TESL", and Dr. Dwayne Donald with the amazing "River Walk", and of course the amazing set of presenters who truly expanded our expectations with their work, knowledge and information. We reduced the rate for attending the fully online conference as a continued initiative that ATESL offered in support of our members.



The success of this online conference would not have been possible if not for all the hard work, dedication of the Conference Managers, Sofia Elgueta and Denise Lo, their planning committees, keynotes, presenters, sponsors, vendors, moderators and Lead IT support, and the many faces behind the scenes who volunteered.

### **Conference 2022**

We are exploring possibilities for our ATESL 2022 Conference: from having one more year a fully online conference to a potentially hybrid format, with one day online and one day in-person. We will have a final decision in the new year and to do a Call for Conference Managers for either our first Hybrid format conference or our third fully Online one. We will keep you posted; this might be a great opportunity for you to be a part of an exciting new project.

### **ATESL Board**

We are pleased to announce the ATESL Board team and the Business Manager, as per the ATESL AGM 2021 and recent appointees by the ATESL board that will be ratified in the next ATESL AGM meeting:

#### **2021 - 2022**

Gabriela Jessome, President

Doug Vantour, President Elect

Dora DiLullo-Patten, Past President

May Yeung, Secretary

Jessica Legacy, Treasurer

Sofia Elgueta-Duplancic, Social Media Coordinator

Alexandra Marshall, Advocacy Chair

Nura Mohamed, Calgary Co-Chair

Patrick Lee, Calgary Co-Chair

Sara Chavez, Central AB Co-chair

Fiza Abedin, Edmonton Co-Chair

Rigvi Kumar, Edmonton Co-chair

Alana Johnson , Southern AB Local Co-chair / Rural Routes

Lauren Barrows, Southern AB Local Co-chair

Daniel Green, TESL Canada Representative

We would also like to thank and wish all the best to the following members who made great contributions to ATESL, and have completed their terms:

Lory Kennedy, Past President

Nancy Robertson, Calgary Co-Chair

Priscilla Lee, Calgary Co-Chair

Jim Hawrylenko, Rural Routes Representative

Wendy Chambers, TESL Canada Representative

### **President Elect**

We are delighted to announce Doug Vantour as the President Elect for ATESL. Doug's qualities, expertise and experience will be of great value to our ATESL team. He has been a key component to the success of the 2021 conference and personally I'm super excited to be collaborating with him. Welcome, Doug.

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## President's Report (cont.)

### Advocacy Committee

We thank the former and present members of the advocacy committee: Wendy Illott, Alexandra Marshall, Wanda Chell, Eman Ghanem, Becca Scheiris, Herly Cervera, Lori Kennedy, Dora Di Lullo-Patten, Sue Collis, Jess Legacy and Amy Abe for their commitment and dedication to ATESL.

The advocacy committee supports teachers with online teaching, our 2SLGBTQ+ community, literacy teachers, trauma informed practice among others, and support of improving employment conditions for ESL teachers. On that note, a letter advocating for paid sick leave has been created and has been sent to organizations across Alberta by the Board.

### Interprovincial Partnerships

During our last quarterly meeting with our counterparts across the country we discussed updates, potential issues, and consultations pertaining to the ESL/EAL/ELL profession, and brought forward our letter regarding paid sick leave for all English language Teachers. We have proposed that our interprovincial colleagues join us to introduce this letter to their Boards for approval and amend for distribution in their areas, in hopes that advocating for paid sick leave can become a movement across the country. We will keep you posted regarding their responses.

### Best Practices

It is with great pleasure that we inform you that the Best Practice Guidelines for Adult EAL and LINC Programming in Alberta is ready. After over 22 months of arduous work and continuous revisions, the Project Manager, Sara Gnida and the Project Consultant, Herly Cervera have finalized the document. Currently Sara and Herly are working on the final reporting to our funders. Thank you both for all of your dedication, perseverance, and hard work.

You can find the online document here: **ATESL Best Practices** , the downloadable PDF version, the EPUB -3 and the Pressbooks OER can be also found on this link. Your comments and suggestions are valued, please consider completing the survey shown in the ATESL Best Practices link or emailing [bestpractices@atesl.ca](mailto:bestpractices@atesl.ca) .

### Social Media

We thank Daniel Green for all the fantastic work he did as a Social Media Coordinator and it is with elation that we welcome Sofia Elgueta Duplancic as our new ATESL Social Media Coordinator. Daniel will continue as the new TESL Canada Representative. Sofia was indispensable in the success of the ATESL Conference 2021 in her role as a Co-Manager. We are very excited for her vision and what she will bring to our ATESL social media world. Stay tuned and welcome Sofia to the ATESL Board team.

I look forward to working for you all this year!

Respectfully submitted by:

Gabriela Jessome  
ATESL President

# Local and Committee Updates

## Calgary Local Update

At the AGM, both Priscilla and Nancy had completed their terms as Calgary Co-chairs and now Nura and Patrick are the new official Co-chairs. After the summer break, ATESL Calgary invited Julia Lane to present in the September PD session. Her presentation “Inclusive and Antiracist Writing Guides” introduced participants to the idea of avoiding the unconscious use of language that support post-colonial power structures. She also spoke at length on the topic of the relativity of 'accents'

On January 12, 2022, Herly Cervera will be presenting the updated ATESL Best Practices Guide. The workshop will focus on exploring best practice statements, vignettes, references and PD resources, classroom and community resources. In the new year, we are also looking forward to presentations in the areas of literacy, and helpful interactive online tools, as well as resources for teaching online.

We look forward to working with you in the coming years!

Respectfully submitted by:

Patrick Lee & Nura Mohamed  
Calgary Local Co-chairs

## Edmonton Local Update

After a summer break, ATESL Edmonton invited Jason Andrews to present in the November PD session. He presented on Leadership in Language Learning and the participants were introduced to the idea of authentic leadership and how teachers can become effective leaders in the EAL field. In December, Herly Cervera presented the updated ATESL Best Practices website and focused on the sections on Indigenization and Anti-Racism. The workshop further explored best practice statements, vignettes, references and PD resources, classroom and community resources with a walk-through of the document through the web. In the new year, we are looking forward to presentations in the areas of literacy, pronunciation and online ESL resources.

ATESL Edmonton also welcomes Rigvi Kumar to join Fiza Abedin as co-chair.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fiza Abedin & Rigvi Kumar  
Edmonton Local Co-chairs

## ATESL BOARD

**President** - Gabriela Jessome

**President Elect** - Doug Vantour

**Past President** - Dora DiLullo-Patten

**Secretary** - May Yeung

**Treasurer** - Jessica Legacy

**Calgary Co-Chairs** - Patrick Lee & Nura Mohamed

**Central AB Chair** - Sara Chavez

**Edmonton Co-Chairs** - Fiza Abedin & Rigvi Kumar

**Southern AB Co-chairs** - Lauren Barrows & Alana Johnson

**TESL Canada Representative** - Daniel Green

**Rural Routes Representative** - Alana Johnson

**Social Media Coordinator** - Sofia Elgueta Duplancic

**Advocacy Chair** - Alexandra Marshall

**Business Manager** - Irene Wood

# Local and Committee Updates

## Central Alberta Local Update

Greetings from the Central Alberta ATESL chapter!

As we close 2021, and despite of the pandemic, we had the opportunity to attend different online activities to keep our ATESL members engaged and identified with our association. I am pleased to announce that the Central Alberta ATESL chapter will be working closely with the Southern Alberta Local and Rural Routes in 2022. Our first virtual Professional Development Day will be held on January 20th, from 7 to 8:30 pm. Save the date! We have sent an introductory email along with a electronic survey to know more about you and your professional development needs. In the meantime... HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

Respectfully submitted by:

Sara Chavez

Central Alberta Local Chair

## Southern Alberta Local Update

We would like to wish all ATESL members a Happy New Year!

In 2021 the Southern Alberta chapter held several, well attended virtual events for our local members and those across the province. Our first event of 2022 will be a virtual event on January 20th (7:00 – 8:30pm), Informing and Improving Instructional Practice Using the ATESL Best Practices presented by Herly Cevera. All ATESL members are welcome to attend.

An online poll was recently sent to our members to solicit ideas for upcoming professional development sessions (virtual or in person). We aim to offer a diverse range of useful sessions throughout the year as we recognize the diverse contexts and issues that we face in our teaching. We have tentatively targeted April and June for our 2022 events.

Lauren Barrows and Alana Johnson will continue as co-chairs of the region in 2022, and if you missed the online poll and would like to get in touch with your ideas and training needs then please do so! We value your comments and input! We can be reached at [southernab@atels.ca](mailto:southernab@atels.ca)

Respectfully submitted by:

Lauren Barrows and Alana Johnson

Southern Alberta Local Co-chairs

## Social Media Update

Daniel Green has completed his time as ATESL's Social Media Manager, and Sofia Elgueta Duplancic will begin the role in January 2022. Sofia was a 2021 conference co-chair, and is excited to bring her experience with that conference into this role. We encourage you 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:

Daniel Green

# Local and Committee Updates

## TESL Canada Representative Report

TESL Canada has had an exciting year innovating ways to best support its membership. TESL Canada is proud to be supporting its members by having offered extended health and dental benefits through Blue Cross. They have also started a new engagement initiative through the TESL Canada Connects PD Corner. The first edition revolves around the theme of antiracism and antiracist pedagogy and will involve a list of curated resources in the TESL Canada newsletter, followed by an open-forum discussion and reflection on the topics, themes, best practices, and resources. The first of these discussion sessions will be on Wednesday, January 6th at 1PM MST.

The TESL Canada board also has many new and returning faces for the 2022-2023 year:

President - Donald Moen (ON)

Vice-President - Kathy Whynot (NB)

Past-President - Paula Kristmanson (NB)

Secretary - Andrea Leitch-Blake (NB)

Treasurer - Eric Violago (MB)

### Committee Chairs

Professional Development - Yalda Ahmadvand (BC)

Standards - Dmitri Priven (ON)

Settlement Language National Network - Judy Sillito (AB)

Public Relations and Outreach - Amrita Gill (MB)

Journal Advisory Committee - Xuemei Li (NL)

### Elected Provincial And Territorial Representatives

TESL Newfoundland and Labrador - Vacant

TESL New Brunswick - Karen Spracklin

TESL Nova Scotia - Nicola Sattler (NS)

TEAM Manitoba - Vacant

TESL Saskatchewan - Vicki Schoch (SK)

ATESL - Daniel Green (AB)

Respectfully submitted by:

Daniel Green

TESL Canada Representative

# Local and Committee Updates

## Rural Routes Representative Update

The Rural Routes Initiative supports and builds capacity of ESL providers so they can offer culturally integrated English language programs and services to enhance economic and social integration in rural communities for adult newcomers.

We reach beyond the NorQuest regional stewardship, as we are a provincially and federally funded program. Rural Routes is happy to provide two new resources. The links to these resources are found on the ATESL website, but can also be accessed directly using the links below.

### *Rural Routes Multi-Level Handbook*

As an English language instructor teaching a multi-level class, would you like some help planning differentiated lessons that engage all of your learners? If so, this resource was designed for you! You will find a brief introduction with an overview of the theory of teaching multi-level classes and ready-to-use lesson plans and materials, at a CLB 1, 3 and 5 level.

There are two components to this resource, the first is a link for the Websafe online portion:

**<https://media.norquest.ca/esl-rural-routes/>**

Handbook: **<https://eslruralroutes.norquest.ca/getattachment/Resources/Content/Rural-Routes-Multi-Level-Handbook/Rural-Routes-Multi-Level-Handbook.pdf.aspx>**

### *Rural Routes ESL Tutor Handbook*

Complete handbook and guide with needs assessment, lesson planning, learners plans, games and activities.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Alana Johnson

Rural Routes Representative

## Advocacy Committee

The ATESL Advocacy Committee continued its work advocating for learners of English as an additional language and their teachers throughout the province. In 2021 we worked towards a letter for employers and stakeholders which asks them how we as an organization can support them in ensuring that EAL/ESL teachers in Alberta have a healthy workplace by providing paid sick leave, a measure which improves the lives of both students and teachers.

If you are interested in participating in the Advocacy Committee, please email [advocacy@atesl.ca](mailto:advocacy@atesl.ca) with an expression of interest.

Respectfully submitted by:

Alexandra Marshall

Advocacy Committee Chair



# ONLINE ATESL 2021 LIGHTING THE FUTURE EXPANDING EXPECTATIONS

## Sharing the light

This year we had the second virtual conference ATESL has hosted. The theme, 'Lighting the Future: Expanding Expectations', encouraged attendees to look at the future with hope and to share their knowledge, lessons learned, and insights to light the way as we transition into a new normal of teaching English.

In spite of all the challenges our members have faced in the last year, the Conference was well attended by 464 registrants. Ninety-seven speakers presented in 65 sessions, in two days packed tight with knowledge and sharing of excellent, applicable teaching ideas and resources.

Most attendees preferred the virtual format for this year, for its flexibility and safety, but the need to connect was evident in an outstanding level of engagement with over 2800 community board messages, 110 different discussion topics, and 238 photos shared!



This year's Conference was a success thanks to everyone who took part in it. The Sponsors who generously supported us during a most uncertain time and our Exhibitors and Publishers came and shared their products, resources and services in their virtual booths and lightning talks. Every attendee who joined sessions, asked questions, left comments and shared pictures and resources made the conference feel 'alive'. The presenters, who crafted sessions that were engaging and relevant and joined rehearsal runs to ensure everything would be perfect on their presentation day, delivered content that was of the highest quality and has continued to be used as registrants watch the session videos. Our moderators facilitated trial runs and supported presenters as well as attendees in each individual session.



# Keynote speakers

We had amazing keynotes who joined us from far and close. **Professor Scott Thornbury** (joining from Spain) opened the conference with his presentation: “Back to the old normal?” and encouraged us to redefine teaching and learning going forward. Then, **Dr. Dwayne Donald** took us on an immersive “River Walk” experience and shared knowledge and Indigenous teachings. On Saturday, **Dr. Ena Lee** (from BC) shared the thought-provoking presentation “The possibilities of ‘critical hope’ in a ‘nice’ field like TESL”. And finally, **Dr Rod Ellis** closed our Conference from New Zealand, with a presentation full of practical tips: “Task-based Language Teaching for Low-Proficiency Learners”.



## THANK YOU \* THANK YOU

**IRENE WOOD**  
**DORA DILULLO PATTEN**  
**TARA PENNER**  
**KENT LEE**  
**MARYNA SIEK**  
**TYLA OLSEN**  
**LASHA MACQUARRIE**  
**SHONA NICHOLS**  
**DOUG VANTOUR**  
**ZUZANA BUCHANAN**  
**LISA MATTHEW**  
**BARBARA EDMONDSON**

## ATESL BOARD

## Thank you!

Each person played a role in the success of the 2021 ATESL Conference and we'd like to thank those who worked the hardest to support our second virtual event:

**Registration (and a thousand uncredited roles):** Irene Wood - this Conference could not have happened without you.

**Sponsorship:** Dora DiLullo Patten (ATESL President), for securing many amazing, generous sponsors.

### Program

**Chairs:** Tara Penner, Kent Lee and Maryna Siek, who worked tirelessly to ensure each presentation was relevant and engaging and adjusted the agenda a dozen times to offer a variety of sessions in every time slot.

**Members:** Majid Nikouee, Stacy Norrbom, Brigitta Fishwich, Leanne Rempel, Lauren Barrows, Nancy Robertson, Yvonne Breckenridge

# Thank you! (cont.)

## **Publishers and Exhibitors**

**Chairs:** Tyla Olsen and Lasha Macquarrie, who coordinated and guided our awesome exhibitors in setting their virtual booths and directing attendees to resources, books and services they offer.

**Members:** Donald Mason and Sara Gnida

**Donations/Giveaways:** Shona Nichols, for supporting local businesses and successfully engaging the attendees in fun contests

**Moderator Lead:** Doug Vantour for selecting, training and guiding moderators, playing a key role in this year's smooth sailing.

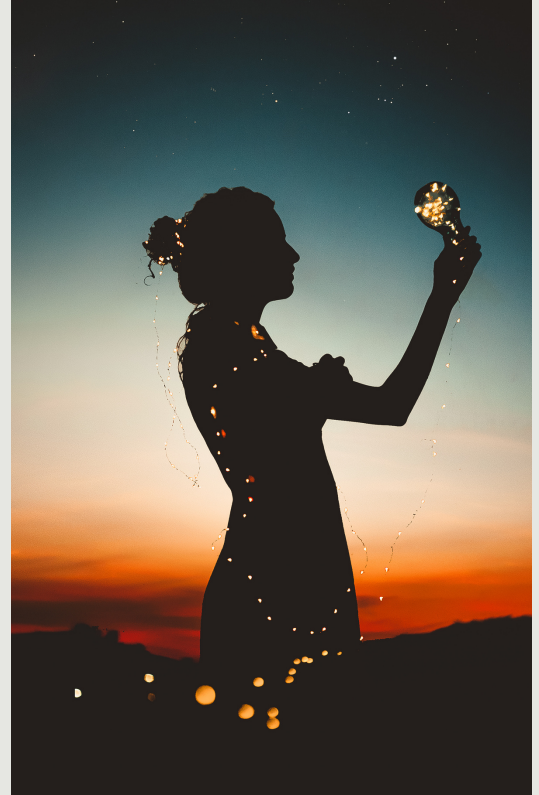
**Social Media:** Zuzana Buchanan, for being our social media guru and connecting us with the province, country and world.

**Hospitality:** Lisa Matthew and Barbara Edmondson, for finding meaningful gifts we know our presenters and keynotes loved!

... and the ATESL Board, who listened to our ideas, gave us suggestions and valuable feedback, and supported us every step of the way.

Thank you for helping to light the future of teaching English in our province and beyond!

Respectfully submitted by Sofia Elgueta and Denise Lo



Thank you!

# ATESL New Board Member Bios

## **Doug Vantour - President Elect**

Doug has had a passion for teaching since 2012 and has done so in various capacities. He started his teaching career in Occupational Health and Safety and then expanded into the field of language instruction. He began his language instruction career as a volunteer with the Cultural Connections Institute – The Learning Exchange (CCI-LEX) and now is a full-time and part-time instructor with the Edmonton Catholic Schools LINC program. He is an advocate for continuing education, the rights for cultural identity, and respect for all. He has been affiliated with various committees and executive boards in a number of roles and looks forward to bringing that experience to ATESL. In his free time Doug enjoys, camping, golfing, hiking, and likes to cook. When not sitting in his shared home office, you will find Doug at the dog park or working in the garden.

## **Rigvi Kumar - Edmonton Local Co-chair**

Rigvi is currently working as a part-time CLB 6 LINC Instructor at ASSIST Services Community Center and also as a Bridging Program Writing Studies 101 TA at the University of Alberta. Previously, she worked as a Curriculum Assistant at CCI-LEX where she designed and curated lesson plans and learning materials/videos for ESL students from various educational backgrounds and learning experiences. She is also currently a Master's in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) student at the University of Alberta and plans to pursue a doctorate degree in this field in the future.

## **Patrick Lee - Calgary Local Co-chair**

Patrick has been teaching English as a second language for two years now. After completing his Bachelor of Arts with a specialization in Russian history, he obtained TEFL accreditation at the University of Toronto and began his teaching career in Calgary at GEOS language institute. Over the course of his tenure as a teacher, Patrick has committed himself to fostering a learning environment that is lively, energetic and engaging. Being an ESL instructor has granted him the opportunity to cultivate meaningful relationships with students from a wide array of backgrounds, an experience he has found to be immeasurably rewarding. Patrick is currently focused on developing his practice as a private tutor, as these days he enjoys engaging with students in a one-on-one context and tailoring lessons to their individual needs. Outside of work, Patrick enjoys reading and spending his summers hiking in Kananaskis. Recently, he has deep passion for the ocean and loves engaging with it directly during his annual surfing trips.

## **Nura Mohamed - Calgary Local Co-chair**

Nura has been teaching ESL for more than 10 years and has taught all levels and age groups. In addition to that, Nura has taught English overseas in the grade school system in the UAE for three years. She's currently a LINC Instructor at The Immigrant Education Society and has been teaching the PBLA world for 4 years. Nura obtained her bachelors in Communication from the University of Calgary and CELTA certificate from Cambridge English Language Assessment, University of Cambridge in 2016. In her free time, she enjoys painting and hiking in Banff.

# ATESL New Board Member Bios

## **Sara Chavez - Central Alberta Chair**

Sara holds a Master of Science degree from California State University and experienced the challenges of being an ESL learner when taking English for Academic Purposes at Flinders University, South Australia. Years later, she got her Teacher of English as a Second Language certificate from the Canadian College of Educators, Ontario, and had the opportunity to help others to get confidence in their English language skills when volunteering at Working Women Community Centre, Toronto. Recently, she worked as a LINC instructor at Central Alberta Refugee Efforts, and as an ESL teacher at Red Deer College (now, Red Deer Polytechnic). Besides teaching, she really enjoys the great outdoors.

## **Sofia Elgueta Duplancic - Social Media Coordinator**

Sofia has 20 years of experience teaching EAL. She has taught children and adults in South America and has been with the English Language School, University of Alberta, since she moved to Canada in 2008. She usually teaches Academic English but has developed and taught a variety of courses for specific purposes, workplace communication, and global citizenship, among others.

She strives to make a difference in her students' lives by helping them develop the communication and language skills they need to thrive. She is committed to professional development and incorporating current best practices to facilitate language acquisition through interaction and participation in a setting of student-centred learning.

After helping organize the 2021 ATESL Conference, she is excited to continue connecting with the membership in her role as Social Media Coordinator. She can't wait to share the organization's initiatives and amazing work with the world!

## **Alexandra Marshall - Advocacy Committee Chair**

Alexandra Marshall has been teaching ESL for over 15 years to a variety of students in a wide range of contexts. Alex holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta and is passionate about working with immigrants to Canada. She looks forward to contributing to the betterment of ESL instruction in Alberta.

To find out more about the ATESL Board, please visit the website [HERE](#).

*Happy 2022!*

# MEd in Teaching English as a Second Language

## Theory and Practice in the Field of TESL

The goal of this online Master of Education program is to develop specialized professionals in the field of Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL).

**Start Date:** September 2022  
**Length:** 2.5 years | part-time  
**Format:** 100% Online  
**Department:** UBC Department  
of Language & Literacy Education

**Apply by:** March 15, 2022!

**Learn More:**

[pdce.educ.ubc.ca/med\\_test](https://pdce.educ.ubc.ca/med_test)



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