

## **TESL Ontario announces Hamilton winner of province-wide poster contest**

Kicks off English as a Second Language Week Celebrations across Ontario Toronto, November 10, 2009 - A Hamilton student is the grand prize winner of a province-wide poster contest created to honour ESL education, the Teachers of English as a Second Language of Ontario (TESL Ontario) today announced. The winner is Ms. Jin Fang Xu, an ESL student with the St. Charles Adult Education Centre West in Hamilton, Ontario.

The poster contest was designed as a vehicle to raise awareness of ESL Week -- an annual celebration of ESL education and learning that is growing in popularity across the province. This year, ESL Week takes place December 6-12, 2009, and has the support of several communities, thousands of ESL teachers, students, and many learning institutions and school boards across Ontario.

"The poster contest was developed as a way to capture the spirit of ESL education and learning, by showcasing the talents of our students who come from around the world," says Renate Tilson, executive director, TESL Ontario. "ESL education is essential to our economy as it prepares new Canadians to be employable and make meaningful contributions to society. Given the state of our economy today, ESL education is more important than ever."

In addition to the grand prize winner, there are three "runner-up" contest winners including London, Ontario residents Joy Im and Helen Kim; and Remzi Tatici from Burlington, Ontario.

All poster contest submissions will be exhibited during the TESL Ontario conference president's reception on December 10, 2009, in Toronto. The contest was open to any elementary or secondary English Language Learner (ELL), English as a Second Language (ESL) student and Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) adult learners in Ontario. Finalist entries were received from more than 50 schools or sites. Contestants were invited to design a poster that conveys the spirit of learning English as a second language in Canada, as a way of promoting ESL Week. The poster designs, and further information about the contest, are available at [www.teslontario.org](http://www.teslontario.org).

Adds Tilson: "The contest is a great way to build inspiring communities while bridging different cultures, ethnic backgrounds and languages. It also happens to be a lot of fun." ESL Week has been declared by many communities across Ontario including: Ajax, Amherstburg, Barrie, Brampton, Caledon, Clarington, Cornwall, Fort Erie, Kingston, Markham, Milton, Norfolk County, North Bay, Oakville, Orillia, Oshawa, Peterborough, Pickering, Scugog, Stratford, St. Thomas, Toronto, Windsor and York Region. Many of the TESL Ontario affiliates in the participating centres have organized activities, including writing contests, film festivals and art displays, in honour of ESL Week.

- more -

- 2 -

A feature of ESL Week is the TESL Ontario conference that takes place December 10-12, 2009 in Toronto. The conference - Language for a Changing World -- is the largest convention of its kind in Canada and will host over 1600 delegates. The conference offers a

variety of workshops, plenary speakers, research symposia and a panel discussion on a current ESL topic.

TESL Ontario is the association and certifying body for non-credit adult ESL instructors in Ontario. TESL Ontario represents more than 4,400 ESL professionals working in elementary and secondary schools; colleges and universities; private schools; and LINC and ESL sites across the province. The organization has developed expertise in areas of teacher certification, and professional and curriculum development. For more information, visit [www.teslontario.org](http://www.teslontario.org).

- 30 -

For information, contact:

Shannon Skinner

Public Relations TESL Ontario

416-576-8809

[shannon@comfychairproductions.com](mailto:shannon@comfychairproductions.com)

Renate Tilson

Executive Director, TESL Ontario

416-593-4243 ext. 4

[rtilson@teslontario.org](mailto:rtilson@teslontario.org)