



TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

MEDIA ALERT

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HAMILTON AREA RESIDENT RECEIVES [TESL ONTARIO](#) DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION AWARD DURING [ESL WEEK](#) IN ONTARIO NOVEMBER 8 - 14

Toronto, November 4, 2015 – The 2015 winner of TESL Ontario’s [Distinguished Contribution Award](#) is Hamilton resident Jim Jones. Since 1972, Jim has been involved in the teaching of ESL (English as a Second Language). A Mohawk College administrator for close to 40 years, he began his career delivering English language programs and was soon pioneering new programs such as the bridging to employment and workplace programming.

At the upcoming [annual conference](#) of [TESL Ontario](#), a highlight of [ESL Week](#), Jim will be awarded the [Distinguished Contribution Award](#) for his significant long-term achievements and contributions to the advancement of English Language educators, the English Language training sector and TESL Ontario.

Upon reflecting on his most important contribution to the ESL profession Jim says: “It is seeing the positive impact of the learners you’ve influenced over the years that is most satisfying. Here in the community of Hamilton, I still run into former students who have become successful as a result of the initial help they received as new immigrants in getting established through our ESL programs.”

Jim’s achievements in serving the ESL profession are many. To highlight just a few, he was founding president of the [TESL Hamilton Affiliate Chapter](#), president of TESL Ontario, and was on the board of the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks from 2001-2014 first as secretary-treasurer then as chairman. Locally and in support of newcomers to Canada, Jim is a founding member and current chair of the [Circle of Friends for Newcomers \(Hamilton\)](#) and is also involved with the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council. Throughout his career, Jim was a presenter at numerous local, provincial and national ESL conferences.

Jim will be recognized at the conference Welcome Reception on November 12.

The 43rd [annual conference](#) of TESL Ontario [#TESL2015](#) titled: "***Expanding Horizons: Drawing on Experience and Knowledge***", takes place at the Sheraton Centre Toronto, November 12 - 13, 2015. It is perhaps the largest conference of its kind in Canada, hosting close to 800 delegates. A variety of [interactive workshops](#), presentations, [technology labs](#), research symposia, a panel discussion and more will be offered to language training professionals from public and private sectors, academics, researchers and government representatives.

Created by TESL Ontario, [ESL Week November 8 - 14, 2015](#), is an [annual celebration of ESL](#) education and learning to help raise awareness of the importance of English language learning opportunities in Canada. ESL Week is [endorsed throughout Ontario](#) by more than 30 communities, thousands of ESL educators, students of all ages, and many learning institutions and school boards.

[TESL Ontario](#), established in 1972, is a non-profit organization serving the needs of teachers of English as a Second Language. It represents more than 4,600 language training professionals working in immigrant serving agencies, school boards, publicly funded sites across Ontario, colleges/universities, elementary/secondary and private language training schools. TESL Ontario's expertise is in teaching, advocacy, accreditation and professional development. The organization is instrumental in influencing the success of many thousands of English language learners throughout the province.

For more information visit www.teslontario.org and follow us on

