



TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

MEDIA ALERT

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LONDON RESIDENT RECEIVES [TESL ONTARIO](#) SPARKS OF EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION AWARD DURING [ESL WEEK](#) IN ONTARIO NOVEMBER 8 - 14

Toronto, November 4, 2015 – [Jen Artan](#), an ESL (English as a Second Language) instructor with the Thames Valley District School Board since 2009, has been selected as TESL Ontario's 2015 recipient of the [Sparks of Excellence Recognition Award](#).

This award is designed "to recognize and acknowledge the excellence and commitment of TESL Ontario members who provide outstanding educational experiences to their students or who demonstrate exceptional leadership/mentoring expertise towards their colleagues and student teachers in a manner that goes above and beyond the day to day duties of their job".

And Jen has certainly demonstrated both of these criteria. She currently works in Specialized Language Training (retail, small business), and is exploring how technology in the adult ESL classroom can complement learning and prepare newcomers for the Canadian workplace. She is Communications Chair of the [TESL London Affiliate Chapter](#) and has been involved with TESL Ontario's webinar production team since its inception in the fall of 2014 that has produced more than 24 webinars for members of TESL Ontario. Jen has also been a presenter at several ESL conferences and recently presented her own webinar on "Powtoon" for TESL Ontario.

Jen is passionate about working with both colleagues and learners and says: "I love it. Technology is not going to go away. We still need to explore more ways to teach ESL effectively. The TESL Ontario webinar team has been successful because of teamwork. And the fascinating thing is that I have never met any of my team members in person yet!"

Jen will be presented with her Sparks of Excellence Award at the Welcome Reception of the 2015 [TESL Ontario conference](#) 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    