



Teachers of English as a Second Language Association of Ontario
27 Carlton Street, Suite 405, Toronto, Ontario M5B 1L2
Telephone (416) 593-4243 ext. 203 Fax (416) 593-0164
Email: rtilson@teslontario.org

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The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister
Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
400 University Avenue, 6th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9

Dear Minister Hoskins,

Thank you for meeting with me and our Executive Director yesterday. We were delighted to be able to introduce you to TESL Ontario, the organization that represents 4500 ESL professionals involved in all aspects of teaching English as Second Language in Ontario.

As a fairly long-term service provider and a member of the Ministry's Advisory Committee we are very much looking forward to working with the Ministry on introducing TESL Ontario accreditation as a minimum instructor accreditation standard, and are already meeting internally to discuss the Ministry's request for flexibility to be incorporated in order to address regional challenges in attracting accredited instructors and to ensure continued service delivery. We understand that we will hear very shortly about our Conference Assistance project which subsidizes 200 ESL instructors to attend the TESL Ontario Conference. We work very closely with the Ministry's Language Training Unit in this regard and enjoy the support we receive from the individuals working in the unit.

We were particularly appreciative that you took the time to allow us to speak to you about a number of issues and challenges in our field. These are long-standing issues that we hear about from our membership over and over again.

- Lack of recognition of our profession by the public and employers
- No remuneration for required work done beyond classroom hours, such as the necessary pre-class preparation and increasing reporting requirements. As we mentioned to you, TESL Ontario feels strongly that effective delivery of ESL classes depends upon pre-class preparation and we state that increasing expectations for planning, evaluation and reporting cannot be met without compensation for the work that will be required.

- A rate of pay that generally does not acknowledge qualifications and experience. The proliferation of temporary contract work arrangements in our field, with individuals being considered a "temporary employee" despite having worked for an employer for many years, brings with it hourly pay only and a lack of benefits and pensions.

We are grateful for the opportunity to speak to you personally and hope that the support we have received from your Ministry will continue into the future. We would like to assure you that the Ministry can count on TESL Ontario's cooperation and support with regard to issues involving the teaching of ESL to all learners in Ontario.

Yours sincerely,

Sheila Nicholas,
Chair