



TESL ONTARIO
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR
2005-2006



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TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

MISSION STATEMENT

TESL Ontario provides support and direction to professionals, government bodies and learners involved in English as a Second Language in Ontario.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- To provide opportunities for professional development for all sectors of ESL.
- To ensure excellence in the field of Adult non-credit ESL through TESL Ontario Certification.
- To provide opportunities for linking with other ESL professional organizations, nationally and internationally through various venues such as ***Contact***, the TESL Ontario web-site and the TESL Canada newsletter.
- To provide expertise to local, provincial and national government bodies through consultations, representation on committees, etc.
- To promote the development of materials which are appropriate to the needs and the culture of our client groups.
- To operate in a fiscally responsible manner within standard accounting practices.

October 2002

THE ANNUAL TESL ONTARIO CONFERENCE
OUR VISIONS, OUR VOICES
NOVEMBER 17 - 19, 2005 – HOLIDAY INN ON KING

“Thank you for trying to take people’s comments and manifest them in visible/real improvements. Great job!”

The 2005 TESL Ontario Conference – **Our Visions, Our Voices** – was held November 17 to 19 at the Holiday Inn on King, our third year at this venue. The City of Toronto proclaimed the week of November 13 to 19 to be “English as a Second Language Week”.

For the first time in 12 years Citizenship and Immigration Canada was not able to support our conference due to a budget shortfall. Despite this year’s funding challenge we managed to present the same high-calibre of presentations that we have offered in the past and registrants could choose amongst 131 individual sessions. The quote above was from one of our overall conference evaluation forms and reflected a number of comments about the improvements made to this year’s conference.

Who attended?

We had approximately 750 attendees this year, down from last year at 1138. However, we were quite pleased with attendance taking into consideration that 500 of last year’s attendees were from LINC programs, who did not receive funding this year. Around 80% registered online with very few problems. A group of students from China, organized by the University of Toronto, attended the Saturday sessions. While most of our attendees were from Ontario, we also welcomed presenters/attendees from out of province, a few from the U.S. and one from India. Our thanks for a superb conference go to our 2005 Conference Chair Cheryl Richman, our Volunteer Chair Joyce Iverson, our Conference Coordinator Jean Hamilton and all the many volunteers who so ably assisted us in the smooth running of the Conference.

Feedback on Conference organization from Global Evaluations:

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being excellent, the average for the global evaluation was 4.2.

People indicated the strengths of the conference:

- Much better this year – noticeable improvements
- Overall well planned and organized conference
- This year’s conference felt more homey and less rushed
- Outstanding – well done... budget or no budget!
- Excellent entertainment
- Humour is a good reliever of stress of rushing from workshop to workshop (Did you notice not many got up and left?)
- Very nice variety of topics and presentations
- Lots of choices and plenty of time to get between workshops
- Stimulating 3 days
- Loved the Saturday lunch speaker

- Saturday's luncheon speaker was excellent: really imparted a feeling of support, camaraderie, and much needed shared laughter

Our three Plenary Speakers were Barry Duncan, an award-winning teacher, author, consultant and founder and past president of the Ontario based Association for Media Literacy. He presented **Media Literacy and TESL: Creating, Social, Cultural and Literacy Connections**. Barbara Burnaby has worked as a practitioner, researcher and teachers in the fields of English as a second language for immigrant adults, adult literacy and language in Aboriginal education since the 1960s. Her plenary was entitled **Supporting Immigrants for Life in Globalized Canada: Myths and Realities**. Our third Plenary Speaker, author Antanas Sileika presented **Buying on Time**, a humorous look at growing up in an immigrant family, teaching ESL in the Wild West days of the profession, and turning some of this into a collection of stories that was nominated for the Leacock Medal for humour.

We were fortunate to have the Second City Education Company entertain us at our Friday night dinner. Valli Dilallo was our M.C. and she did an excellent job. Khalil Ramal, representing the Ontario Citizenship and Immigration Minister Michael Colle, gave a moving and heartfelt speech before the entertainment.

Research Symposium:

The 6th Annual Research Symposium was held as part of the annual TESL Ontario Conference. Three themes, *Internationally Educated Professionals*, *Bullying*, and *Literacy* were the focus of the symposia. Each of the three themes was presented in approximately three hour sessions that included time for symposium participants to engage in discussion with the presenters. A brief synopsis of each symposium strand follows.

Internationally Educated Professionals

Bruce Russell; LCRT Consulting, Toronto
 Andrea Strachan; LCRT Consulting, Toronto
 Paulette Blais; College of Nurses of Ontario
 Trish Finn, Employment Help Centre, St. Catharines
 Judith Bond, Workplace Training & Services
 Marni Johnson, Workplace Training & Services

The presenters outlined difficulties professionals whose credentials were earned outside of Canada face as they prepare to pass professional examinations in English. Topics raised included the development of language assessment tools that meet the needs of professionals; the linguistic and training requirements set by the College of Nursing as an example of one of the professional regulatory bodies; the development of effective job search skills and strategies; the role of social and communication skills appropriate for the work culture.

Bullying

J. David Smith, PhD; University of Ottawa
 Tracy Vaillancourt, PhD, McMaster University
 Zopito Marini, PhD, Brock University
 Katherine McKenney, MA, York University

The presenters explored the nature and effectiveness of anti-bullying programs in the schools, identifying factors that should improve outcomes of such programs. Topics covered included the links between aggression and psychopathology with particular focus on bully-victim relations to raise awareness and understanding of the severe impact bullying has on children and youth; the psychosocial risk levels of individuals who have experienced both bullying and victimization, the challenging situations they pose for teachers, and potentially relevant intervention strategies; the findings from a longitudinal study of children's bullying experiences, with a focus on considerations for the prevention and intervention of ethnically-based bullying.

Literacy

Heather Lotherington, PhD, York University

Barbara Burnaby, PhD, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Jim Cummins, PhD, OISE/University of Toronto (with Sarah Cohen, PhD student, and Lisa Leoni, MEd student, OISE/University of Toronto)

The presentations on this topic focused on multi-literacy in theory and practice in the Canadian context. Presenters explored how, in light of Canadian immigration patterns, the roles of literacy in various languages as well as literacy as practised in different cultures now represented in our midst impact on Canada; the exploration of teaching practices that prepare children for the literacy challenges of an increasingly globalized, networked, culturally diverse world.

Part of the research symposium is the publication of a special issue of ***Contact*** based on the proceedings later in the year. This special issue of *Contact* is available to teachers and language professionals throughout the world at the TESL Ontario web site at http://www.teslontario.ca/new/publ/publ_archives.htm

TESL Ontario wishes to thank Dr. Robert Courchêne and Dr. Hedy McGarrell for co-chairing the Research Symposium and the Ministry of Education (Ontario) and Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities for providing funding towards the 2005 Research Symposium.

Technology Fair:

The Technology Fair 2005 held at the Holiday-Inn on King, was the most successful ever and our thanks go to our Technology Fair Project Manager Sharon Rajabi and Project Assistant Kevin O'Brien. As in the previous year, there was no funding to secure equipment rental from private vendors, therefore, we sought partnerships with school boards and asked if they would donate equipment for the conference. The Centre for Language Training and Advancement (CLTA) agreed to donate laptops equipped with wireless network cards and data projectors along with wireless router to setup a wireless lab. As a result, we were able to continue to offer hands-on sessions at the conference using wireless technology and Internet connectivity. CLTA donated a total of 23 computers, 3 data projectors and equipment for networking the lab.

As was the case last year, two Tech Fair rooms, one ballroom, and some other rooms (at presenters' requests) were connected to the Internet. The presentation room which was equipped with a laptop, data projector and Internet connection offered demonstration style presentations and workshops. The operations went smoothly. Hands-on and hotel sessions were well attended. The communication

channels that had been set up between the Tech Fair team, the conference organizer, and the hotel worked smoothly. The technician checked the equipment daily at the beginning of the day and attended to glitches promptly.

The Technology Fair 2005 hosted 18 presentations (9 hands-on and 9 demo styles). Internet-based and professional development related workshops were among the themes of the Technology Fair. The participants attended a myriad of sessions: hands-on workshops as well as research sessions on riding the tech wave, collaborative learning, web design, integrating computer technology, using web logs, and sessions on PowerPoint and Word. It is evident that the web's presence continues to be ubiquitous in CALL research and literature.

Other presentations included new educational software (mostly LINC level), the use of the Internet as a teaching resource, lab activities for Beginners to Advanced, the new TOEFL test and the Automated Reservation System. The Technology Fair sessions were fully booked during the 3-day event. Because of the wireless lab and the portability of laptops, security became an issue. The Conference Chair and Conference Coordinator asked their sons Jesse Fulton and David Hamilton to man the lab during the three days of the conference. They both proved to be invaluable to presenters and the Technology Fair team. Their duties included watching over the lab, door monitoring, assisting participants with computer related issues, handling evaluation forms and reporting technical problems to the technician.

The system did not fail and the Internet connectivity was fast and reliable. A number of presenters expressed gratitude after their presentations went smoothly. The participants enjoyed the fast connections to the Internet and the range of software and workshops available to them. The wireless technology resulted in faster setup time and reliability. The Technology Fair Evaluation Results were very positive. The hands-on sessions received overwhelming response which indicates the much needed professional development in this area.

Exhibits and Publishers:

There were 35 exhibit booths and participants seemed pleased with the layout of tables.

Eventcasting:

This was the third year that TESL Ontario has partnered with Acorn Global EKS. TESL members can now receive one-half hour professional development credit for each hour viewed. Of the 45 who responded to the question on event casting 24 indicated that they would be interested in viewing sessions on-line

AFFILIATE CONFERENCES

TESL Ontario affiliate conferences and workshops are designed to meet the professional development needs of ESL Professionals in their particular geographic areas. Selected highlights of these conferences and workshops are listed below:

TESL DURHAM

TESL Durham's April 22, 2006 Spring Workshop **Pronunciation and the World of Work** featured Kathryn Brillinger who has taught Communications, ESL and Pronunciation for over 20 years. TESL Durham enjoyed its largest attendance for a workshop with this presentation, which covered three key areas related to work (the interview, chatting with co-workers and making suggestions at meetings). It illustrated how a lack of skills in the area of English Prosody (sentence stress, syllable stress and intonation) can disenfranchise a newcomer. Techniques and work sheets that help students incorporate prosodic patterns into their spoken English were provided.

TESL HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

In October 2005, TESL Hamilton-Wentworth held its AGM with guest speaker Dr. Jim Cummins. Jim Cummins teaches in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning at OISE/UT. His research focuses on the challenges and opportunities of teaching in classrooms where cultural and linguistic diversity is the norm. Over 100 members and non-members attended this dinner meeting.

Hamilton-Wentworth's Spring 2006 Conference featured 12 concurrent workshops including Tim Westhead presenting **Picture That! Great Writing Prompts for Students and Learning Games for All Classrooms**. Irene Lardizabal presented **Business Tips for ESL Presentations**. Marjiatta Holt hosted **Making Sense of the Article**. Ruth E. Smith presented **A Literacy Workshop**. There was also a Publishers' Display and a buffet breakfast.

TESL KINGSTON

TESL Kingston held a Health and Wellness Workshop in January 2006. Cheri O'Dette from the Kingston Health Unit gave participants practical tips on how to cope with stress. Hang Nhan, ESL Instructor and Certified Personal Trainer, taught the participants how to incorporate fitness into their daily lives.

TESL LONDON

TESL London's Spring Mini-Conference in April 2006 featured a morning of workshops, meeting colleagues, and the chance to donate or buy used books. A few examples: Marianne Kaye, a Project Manager at the CCLB in Ottawa, presented **Online Essential Skills Resources for ESL Professionals**; Brad Jennings and Matt Bazely from CultureWorks presented **Writing Instructions for Online Learning**. It showed some easy ways to make instructions more inclusive for all types of learners. Patti Trussler has been teaching ESL to adults, secondary, and international students for more than 15 years. She was also involved in teacher training at the University of Western Ontario,

and in her session **Understanding and Teaching English Words** she discussed how the history of English, pronunciation and grammar are all connected and necessary to teach in building vocabulary skills.

TESL NORTH YORK/YORK REGION

TESL North York/York Region's Fall Conference featuring eight workshops, publishers' display and the AGM took place in October 2005. A few examples were the ever popular **This Hour has Thirty Minutes** presentation by Fran Marshall and a presentation by Judith Klie from the Ombudsman Ontario Office Community Education Program, who presented a hands-on participatory workshop to increase skills and confidence in complaining effectively in her presentation **Train the Trainer Workshop – How to Complain Effectively**. Lydia Aiello, from CLTA Brampton, presented **An Overview of an Approach to Pronunciation**, a workshop for all audiences giving an overview of an approach to pronunciation with a multitude of ideas focusing on some of the most important features that students need.

This was followed by the Affiliate's Spring Conference in April 2006 which included a presentation by Fran Marshall on **Best Practices – Motivate, Encourage, Challenge!**, including best practices from Fran's ESL resources and ways to adapt material to suit lower level and multilevel classes. Katarina Ohlsson spoke on **Journal Writing in ESL**, designed to help teachers incorporate the "process approach" to writing into their existing curriculum.

TESL OTTAWA

TESL Ottawa's Spring Conference: Planting the Seeds 2006 was held in May 2006. The workshop schedule included a plethora of 33 presentations. **Managing a Multi-level Basic Literacy Class** by Marguerite Hum; the ever-popular **Teaching English Pronunciation** by Kathryn Brillinger; **Stepping into a Minefield of Idioms** by Sandra Burger & Jeanette Gallina; and an overview of the **Canadian Language Benchmarks National Assessment System** by Pauline McNaughton.

TESL PEEL/HALTON/ETOBICOKE

The Peel/Halton/Etobicoke affiliate of TESL Ontario held its Fall workshops and AGM in October 2005. Approximately 170 members attended this combination event. The presenters included Vicky Khatib – **The Magic of Stories**, Kathryn Brillinger – **Gesture and Pronunciation**, Terri Rivest – **Communicative Activities for Lower Levels 1 – 3** and Bhante Saranapala – **Meditation and Mindfulness for a Tranquil and Stress-free Life**. The keynote speaker was Professor Brian Morgan, Department of Languages, Literature and Linguistics at York University.

TESL Peel/Halton/Etobicoke's Spring 2006 Professional Development Workshops for ESL and LINC Teachers took place in May 2006. The diverse workshops covered areas such as **Anti-Conflict Communications** by Esther Podoliak, featuring strategies in the conflict resolution process used by community agencies in the Greater Toronto Area. **Teaching Your Students Dictionary Skills** by Maureen O'Reilly provides students with the necessary tools to enjoy using dictionaries and guiding

them to shortcuts to find what they are looking for, including stress markers, phrasal verbs and idioms. The presentation **Finding Free Resources on the Internet** by Kevin O'Brien made participants aware of free resources which are available on the Internet; resources that vary from software worth hundreds of dollars to lesson plans and worksheets. The Keynote Speaker Dr. Sudi Devanesen, a family physician, educator and public health activist, teaches at the University of Toronto and practices medicine in Toronto and Mississauga. He spoke on his firm belief that teachers are the first line in educating about health issues and play a vital role in the process.

TESL TORONTO

TESL Toronto's Fall Conference, held in October 2005 featured Broadcast Journalist Bruce Rogers as Keynote Speaker. To wit: *"There's a lot of fun in our language. It lends itself to puns and misunderstandings. For instance, while Chinese has its inflected distinctions, we have some of that plus spelling and pronunciation confusions. The evolution of our language and the ongoing pressure to simplify our expression will be the central theme with lots of digressions added onto that armature. Bruce Rogers."* The 15 sessions offered included **English as an International Language** by Craig Gerow; **Reading and Vocabulary Learning: Current Theory-Practice Links** by Jill Cummings and **Working Toward Developing Successful TSE Skills** by Giovanna Coscarelli.

The May 2006 Spring Conference featured 14 presentations, amongst them **Literacy is in the Eye of the Beholder**, a workshop focusing on students who have a non-Latin scripted language (i.e. Persian) and whose handwriting therefore makes them appear illiterate, presented by Cathy Haghighat. Cathy is an ESL teacher and guidance counsellor and the author of the three volumes, 67 languages "Language Profiles" series. Joanna Warden-Abrahams presented **Writing is like Swimming**, a barrier-busting interactive hands-on exercise, easily adaptable to almost any class level. Susan Allen's presentation **The Arts as a Tool in ESL** shared techniques in teaching and learning ESL through the arts. **Let's Go To The Movies** by teacher trainer and author Irene Lardizabal provided lesson plans, reproducible student worksheets, self-access or independent task activities and all-skills drills for multilevel ESL classes.

TESL WATERLOO-WELLINGTON

In October 2005 TESL Waterloo-Wellington presented Pronunciation Workshops by internationally renowned experts Judy Gilbert and Olle Kjellin. The Focus was on **Quality Repetition and Pronunciation Teaching** and this was an exceptional opportunity to experience this method of teaching and learning pronunciation. Through focused choral repetition, students can gain mastery of a template with which to understand the most crucial concepts for English intelligibility and listening comprehension. Olle Kjellin, a medical doctor and PhD in Basic Physiology/speech Science from the University of Tokyo taught the participants to master a template of Swedish, and then Judy Gilbert, a linguistics professional with special study in acoustic phonetics at U.C. Berkeley and a secondary teaching credential in bilingual education, showed the audience how the same approach can be used to give students ownership in the core elements of English pronunciation.

TESL WINDSOR

TESL Windsor's AGM in May 2006 featured Isabella Kojic-Sabo, Manager, ESL Program,

University of Windsor, who presented **EAP – a Key to Academic Success.**

CONTACT

Contact, TESL Ontario's professional development magazine, was first established in 1974, and has developed into a sophisticated, theme-based publication. It is published online three times a year to meet the needs of various ESL/ELD constituencies. Since its first issue *Contact* has evolved to meet the needs of its readers and the demands of our organization and profession. From its beginnings as a primarily class-room oriented publication when very little support was available for teachers in the field, *Contact* has expanded to include research articles, book reviews, special features and profiles of community organizations.

You may access *Contact* through **Publications** on www.teslontario.org for viewing or printing. Information related to elementary, secondary, university and college, credit, non-credit, adult and LINC programs is conveyed through articles, language profiles, conference proceedings, letters and book reviews in a theme-based format. Settlement and community agencies are profiled on a regular basis, increasing awareness of available services and common issues.

Our exchange of newsletters continues with several community agencies, including the Literacy community for both ESL and Literacy, TESL Affiliates in other provinces and the United States, as well as ESL organizations in Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Venezuela, Cuba and Thailand.

In addition to the three regular issues mentioned above, TESL Ontario also publishes a Special Issue that features the previous year's Research Symposium presentations. The refereed articles are grouped by theme and the Research Symposium issue is available after the TESL Ontario Conference in the New Year.

Four issues of *Contact* have been produced in the 2005/06 (April 05 – March 06) year. Most *Contact* issues feature an organizational profile of a settlement agency and highlight emerging groups or issues on immigrants or refugees. Reader participation and input is encouraged through the "Letter to the Editor" column.

Volume 31, No. 2, Summer 2005.

The 2005 summer issue started with articles of interest for those teaching in the secondary panel. Regarding the Revisions of the ESL/ELD Curriculum (9-12), Ivan Kocmarek made several suggestions for the betterment of these programs. Then, in the article **One Place, Many Languages**, Claudia Ancuta showed us an example of one Toronto School which seemed to already be practicing some of these suggestions.

This was followed by articles of interest to those teaching foreign-trained professionals, specifically foreign-trained teachers and pharmacists. Li Zhang and Liying Cheng explored the challenges immigrant teachers in a program at Queen's University face through their writing and Michael Galle reviewed the Language Prior Learning Assessment in a University of Toronto program for foreign-trained pharmacists.

We then moved on to practical classroom strategies for learners. Karen Bond wrote on how we can get our shy learners to speak and Judy Pollard Smith shared three successful strategies for teaching her adult learners.

A further article talked about TESL Ontario's nomination of Dr. David Mendelsohn for a lifetime TESL Canada Honourary membership for his long-time contribution to our profession

Volume 31, No. 2, Special Issue 2005, Special Research Symposium Issue

This special issue is a refereed issue of *Contact*, and the 71 page document chronicles the TESL Ontario Conference 2004 Research Symposium presentations. This was the Fifth Annual Research Symposium and covered the following themes:

Vocabulary and Technology
Teach Knowledge – Teacher Practice
The Canadian Language Benchmarks: A Critical Evaluation

Volume 31, No. 3, Fall 2005, 30th Anniversary Issue

Our Anniversary Issue was edited by Robert Courchène and Hedy McGarrell. In this special issue we paid tribute to Brigid Kelso who, after 10 years of dedicated service, was leaving as the Editor of *Contact*. At the same time we welcomed Clayton Graves as our new Editor. The following articles were included in this Anniversary Issue:

- Shailja Verma described the beginnings of ESL in Ottawa
- Roberta Rodenhizer provided us with a brief history of the TESL Hamilton-Wentworth Affiliate
- In their contribution, Laura Stoutenburg and Kathryn Brillinger identified two important issues facing TESL Ontario – providing in-service training for instructors who need to prepare internationally-educated professionals for the workforce and who need to prepare immigrants for the ever changing Canadian Society.
- Robert Courchène looked at the role that methods have played in L2 teaching as he focused on what we have learned from 30 years of experimentation.
- As part of the ongoing series on schools with a special vocation for ESL students, Cathy Haghighat presented an overview of Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute in Toronto.

Volume 32, No. 1, February 2006, Conference Proceedings Issue

The 2005 Conference Proceedings Issue was produced very quickly after the Conference and its 81 pages highlighted many of the sessions offered at our 33rd annual conference in November 2005. We also took our first steps towards a more professional and user-friendly layout and design, and have continued to refine the magazine in this regards thanks to Clayton Graves' expertise.

STANDARDS & CERTIFICATION

TTIRAC

Currently there are eighteen TESL training programs recognized as meeting TESL Ontario standards. Between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006, no new TESL training programs applied and were recognized as meeting TESL Ontario standards, but ten programs originally recognized in 2000 and 2001 applied for renewal of their TESL Ontario recognition and were approved. Current members of this Committee are Vera Beletzan, Chair, Antonella Valeo, Linda Steinman and Gloria McPherson.

TESL ONTARIO CERTIFICATES

Between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006, 361 new applicants qualified for TESL Ontario Certificates. There have been 3326 initial certificates issued from the inception of the certification process to the end of this reporting period. Current members of the Certification Review Board are Marion Chang, Jyotsna Imandar, Dianna Poupore, Karen Evans, Jennifer Hay and Theresa McDonald.

For the same period, 920 TESL Ontario instructors certified from July 2000 to March 2001 inclusive, were due to renew their certificates; of these, 758 renewed to 2010. In 2010, TESL Ontario will initiate annual renewal of membership and certification.

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION

Since its inception in January 2005, 127 applicants with a significant background in linguistics and second language teaching methodology from other than one of the TESL Ontario recognized programs, have been given the option of applying for Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition (PLAR) of their credentials, if all other requirements for TESL Ontario certification have been met. To date, 25 applicants have had their portfolios adjudicated and 20 of those now have TESL Ontario Certificates.

APPEALS PROCESS

Any program or instructor denied TESL Ontario recognition or certification may appeal the decision to the Appeals Committee within two months of the initial decision. The Appeals Committee renders a decision within the eight weeks following receipt of the appeal.

TESL ONTARIO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- **MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION** – TESL Ontario was invited to participate in the Ministry's ESL/FLS Advisory Committee which was established after the Ministry assumed responsibility for adult non-credit English as a Second Language (ESL) and French as a Second Language (FSL) training. We have been serving on this Committee since March 2006.
- **ONTARIO REGIONAL LINC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ORLAC) – CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION CANADA.** We continue to provide professional advice in regard to LINC delivery systems through representation at the Ontario Regional LINC Advisory Committee, which operates under the auspices of the Settlement Directorate, Ontario Region, Citizenship & Immigration Canada. Please refer to the LINC section on our website www.teslontario.org which contains further information on ORLAC as well as Calls for Proposals.

In 2005/06, we have worked together with CIC on a number of projects involving LINC which are administered and coordinated through the TESL Ontario office:

- **SNAP/NEO (Settlement Newsletter Across The Province)**, the Citizenship & Immigration Canada Settlement Newsletter which is published in English and French.
- **ORLAC** - we continue to facilitate the administration of regular meetings for the Ontario Regional LINC Advisory Committee.
- **LINC CONFERENCE ASSISTANCE** – as mentioned earlier, funding for professional development was not available in the 2005/06 year but has resumed for the 2006/07 year.
- **CENTRE FOR CANADIAN LANGUAGE BENCHMARKS – CCLB.** The Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks was established to promote the coherence, effectiveness and consistency of English as a Second Language Instruction, so that adult learners can become full participants in all aspects of Canadian society. TESL Ontario is represented on the Board of CCLB to provide leadership and support as the major provider of professional development to practitioners of ESL in Ontario <http://www.language.ca>.
- **ESL/ELD RESOURCE GROUP OF ONTARIO (ERGO).** A representative from ERGO attends our Board meetings and exchanges information.
- **CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATORS (CESBA).** Information exchange takes place through having a CESBA representative attend our Board meetings.
- **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND MINISTRY OF TRAINING, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.** A representative from the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat of the

Ministry of Education sits on our Board and keeps us informed of changes and issues related to ESL. The Ministry of Education funds a portion of the Research Symposium project.

We would also like to thank the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities which assisted in funding towards the Research Symposium in the 2005/06 year. The papers presented at the symposium were again published in a special refereed issue of *Contact*.

- **TESL CANADA FEDERATION.** The TESL Canada Federation Representative position represents TESL Ontario on the TESL Canada Board.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ISSUES

The Public Relations Committee focused on lobbying, outreach, and growth this year.

In lobbying, the goal was to introduce our organization to key government ministries, and to establish contacts within those offices. We wanted to increase the recognition of our association at the provincial level, to communicate the needs and interests of our membership and the field. As ESL is becoming a more relevant and familiar issue to the public at large, this is an important time for TESL Ontario to be accepted as a player in this arena.

For outreach, our goal was to improve our marketing and promotion with our membership and within the larger community of ESL professionals. This is important both for communicating our activities to our current members, and for attracting new ones. It is important that our presence be seen at key events and activities related to the field both in the province, and across Canada.

For growth, we identified the need for a larger public relations role for the organization. TESL Ontario continues to grow—we now represent over 3800 dedicated ESL professionals from elementary, secondary, and private schools, as well as colleges, universities, and LINC and ESL sites across the province. We have developed expertise in areas of teacher certification, professional development, and curriculum development. This demands a greater presence and stronger external communications. It is critical that TESL Ontario be recognized as a key stakeholder in the field so that we are included and consulted where decisions affect our members and the field in which they work.

Lobbying

TESL Ontario made great strides in relation to the government of Ontario this year. We initiated correspondence with the new provincial Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI), Mike Colle, and Deputy Minister Joan Andrew, to provide them with an introduction to our organization and express our willingness to assist in any way possible with the transfer of adult non-credit ESL to their Ministry. As a result, TESL Ontario was invited to participate in the Ministry's ESL/FSL Advisory Committee.

Following the federal change in government, we sent a letter of introduction to Monte Solberg, the new Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). As a result, our Past President and Executive Director represented TESL Ontario at Minister Solberg's Stakeholders Meeting which was held shortly after the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement was announced.

TESL Ontario developed an online petition requesting the mandating of ESL in Ontario Schools and expressing concern that funds earmarked for ESL in Ontario schools are in fact not spent on ESL. The petition collected 1162 signatures, and was sent to the Minister of Education Sandra Pupatello.

In the 2005/06 year funding for LINC teachers to attend our annual conference was not available, nor was partial federal CIC funding of our Research Symposium, and TESL Ontario sent correspondence to Citizenship and Immigration Canada expressing our concern about the withdrawal of professional development funding.

In light of the federal funding cuts, Renate Tilson and Bob Courchène met with Dr. Sylvia Bereskin at the Ministry of Education and received a \$5,000 contribution towards the Research Symposium. We also received a further \$2,000 contribution towards the Research Symposium from the Access to Professions and Trades unit of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Outreach

TESL Ontario applied for the recognition of ESL Week in Toronto. As such, ESL Week 2005 was proclaimed in the City of Toronto and York Region for the week of November 13-19. The week was celebrated by TESL Ontario at our annual conference and AGM.

TESL Ontario worked to reach out to potential members and promote our association among elementary and secondary school teachers. To do so, conference sessions focusing on elementary/secondary issues were selected, and the annual Research Symposium topics included Bullying, Literacy, and Foreign Trained Professionals, which were relevant to members from this sector. TESL Ontario was also represented at the 2005 OISE/TDSB Diversity Conference.

TESL Ontario sponsored a coffee break at the annual TESL Canada Conference held in Ottawa, to assist in raising our profile nationally among the attendees.

The TESL Ontario banner was used for a number of events, including conferences held by other organizations and by our affiliates. Promotional items, including tri-highlighters and pens bearing our logo were also handed out to attendees at a number of affiliate conferences.

Member communications were limited this year, and have been identified as an area to improve upon for the future. An email to all members was sent out to explain the conference funding cuts, and to communicate that the conference would still be presented as usual. The conference was also marketed more aggressively to boards of education, TESL training institutions, and ESL providers to promote its benefits.

Growth

The Chair of the Public Relations Committee, the President, the Executive Director, and the Past President met with a PR professional to consult about increasing our presence and gaining recognition as a key stakeholder in the field.

As a result of this meeting, we set a strategy for raising our profile with our members, the community, and government, which will be implemented over the coming year. Plans include publishing an E-bulletin to members to keep them informed about the work of TESL Ontario; developing a media communications package to respond to media requests and stories; and examining the idea of hosting a panel of stakeholders from the field at our next conference.

Important to this growth, in January the committee began meeting monthly, by teleconference in order to have more time to work together and put our goals into action.

TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH

The past year has been a busy one in keeping up with the ever changing technology and its uses and components. We constantly evaluate these changes and new components to see which ones are relevant and can be incorporated into the TESL Ontario website to make it a better and friendlier place for our members. We look at the emerging technologies and assess the implications in relationship to our members and their need.

Issues which were of paramount importance this year were TESL Ontario branding and protecting our name. We looked into this matter and we took all the necessary steps to ensure that we could protect our name digitally in as many ways as possible. We were successful in protecting our name and having its unauthorized use stopped.

TESL Ontario continues to host some of the affiliate websites and we will continue to work with the affiliates who are in need of this type of assistance. We have continued to maintain the affiliates' events on the Calendar of Events for the members to plan for important events or days in their areas. These are posted in the Affiliates section of the website.

We have continued to partner with Acorn Global to offer Event casting with selections from the previous three TESL Ontario provincial conferences and future ones as well. Many members continue to take advantage of the archived formats on the Internet both for professional development and for personal interest. We will continue to provide these materials from the conference to the TESL Ontario membership. We also will be adding to the materials this year by including new streams from the TESL Ontario 2006 Conference.

TESL ONTARIO ADMINISTRATION

TESL Ontario now serves close to 3800 members, most of whom are TESL Ontario certified. The administration of TESL Ontario is carried out by two full-time and two part-time staff members:

Executive Director, Renate Tilson
Membership Coordinator, Eva Csiszar
Office/Conference Coordinator, Jean Hamilton (p.t.)
Certification Coordinator, Leslie Sheffer (p.t.)

Under the direction of the Board of Directors, and supervision of the Executive Director, the office carries out the functions of office administration, membership support, financial management, project and contract administration, liaison function with Ministries, other agencies and the public, coordination of the TESL Ontario Conference, and of course TESL Ontario Certification. In addition, TESL Ontario relies heavily on the services of our Webmaster, Kevin O'Brien and our *Contact* Editor, Clayton Graves.

TESL ONTARIO BOARD

The volunteer Board of Directors of TESL Ontario is comprised of the core executive members and TESL Ontario's affiliate directors, representing the executive of each of our twelve Affiliates, as well as a representative from the Ministry of Education. In addition, we have representatives from ERGO (ESL/ELD Resource Group of Ontario) and CESBA who attend part of our Board meetings for information-sharing purposes with the two organizations. We have five Board meetings per year, and a portion of each Board meeting day is devoted to Working Committees in the areas of Certification, Conference, Website and Public Relations.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all those funders whose support allows us to carry out our mandate to the best of our abilities:

- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
- Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

TESL Ontario also wishes to thank its affiliates who over the year have continued to work hard at providing conferences in their respective areas and representing their members' concerns at Board meetings.

We receive ongoing support from our Auditor Julius Rédly and wish to thank Allan Reynolds for his

time and patience in advising us on P.R. matters.

A special thank you to the numerous Volunteers who have contributed their time and expertise to areas such as ***Contact***, the website and the annual Conference over the last year.

Last but not least, thank you to our membership for your continued support.

2005/2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NON-AFFILIATE DIRECTORS

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| President | Sharon Rajabi |
| Past President | Barbara Krukowski |
| Secretary-Treasurer | Namita Aggarwal |
| Certification Chair | Sheila Nicholas |
| Membership Secretary | Cathy Haghighat |
| Conference Chair | Cheryl Richmond |
| Public Relations & Issues Chair | Bob Courchêne |
| Technology & Research Chair | Kevin O'Brien |
| TESL Canada Representative | Barbara Krukowski |
| Member At Large | Abai Coker |
| Member at Large | Joyce Ivison |

AFFILIATE DIRECTORS

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Durham | Veronica Vulić |
| Hamilton-Wentworth | Colleen McGraw |
| Kingston | Elaine Armstrong |
| London | Sheila Carson |
| Niagara | Anastassios Spanos |
| North York/York Region | Linda Cooper |
| Ottawa | Cara Vandale |
| Peel/Halton/Etobicoke | Denise Copland |
| Sudbury | Joanne Elvy |
| Toronto | Saskia Stille |
| Waterloo-Wellington | Laura Stoutenburg |
| Windsor | Dianne Bryon |

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2006

JULIUS L. RÉDLY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO
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MARCH 31, 2005

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| Page 5 | Schedule of Conference Expenses |
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Julius L. Rédly

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

79 Truman Road

North York, Ontario; M2L 2L7

Telephone (416) 443-0990 * Fax (416) 447-2410

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of
TESL Association of Ontario

I have audited the statement of financial position of TESL Association of Ontario as at March 31, 2006 and the statement of operations and net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the association's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements.

I conducted an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many non-profit organizations, TESL Association of Ontario derives part of its revenue contributions from the general public in the form of project administrations, membership fees, certification fees, conferences and meetings which are not susceptible to complete audit verification. Accordingly, my examination was limited to the examination of banking transactions for those activities for the year ended March 31, 2006.

In my opinion, except for the effect of the adjustments, if any, had project administrations, membership fees, certification fees, newsletters, conferences and meetings been susceptible to complete audit verification, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at March 31, 2006 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

TORONTO, CANADA
August 10, 2006


Chartered Accountant

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

Incorporated without share capital under the Laws of the
Province of Ontario as a non-profit organization.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITIONAS AT MARCH 31, 2006

(with comparative figures as at March 31, 2005)

ASSETS

| | <u>2006</u> | <u>2005</u> |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Current | | |
| Cash on hand and in bank | \$ 66,231 | \$ 72,626 |
| Term deposits-including accrued interest | 293,635 | 334,571 |
| Accounts receivable | 20,161 | 38,365 |
| Prepaid expenses | <u>9,023</u> | <u>7,871</u> |
| Total assets | <u>\$ 389,050</u> | <u>\$ 453,433</u> |

LIABILITIES

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Current | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued charges | \$ 20,456 | \$ 53,503 |
| Revenue received in advance | <u>-</u> | <u>10,618</u> |
| Total liabilities | <u>\$ 20,456</u> | <u>\$ 64,121</u> |

NET ASSETS

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Per attached -see page 3 | <u>\$ 368,594</u> | <u>\$ 389,312</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

The attached notes form an integral part of these financial statements!

Approved: _____

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

(with comparative figures for the year ended March 31, 2005)

| | <u>2006</u> | <u>2005</u> |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Contributions | | |
| Projects - see page 4 | \$ 172,221 | \$ 359,981 |
| Membership fees | 276,098 | 241,742 |
| Certification fees | 78,922 | 21,654 |
| Others | 7,792 | 4,332 |
| Affiliates' mini conferences | 38,865 | 42,715 |
| Interest | <u>8,107</u> | <u>2,048</u> |
| Total revenue | <u>\$ 582,005</u> | <u>\$ 672,472</u> |
| Expenses | | |
| Annual TESL Ontario Conference - see page 5 | \$ 95,019 | \$ 162,117 |
| Affiliates' mini conferences - see page 5 | 55,558 | 50,681 |
| Certification costs | 2,257 | 11,689 |
| Other project expenses | 34,785 | 63,169 |
| Salaries and employee benefits | 189,650 | 146,729 |
| Rent, telephone & utilities | 42,032 | 24,406 |
| Memberships and affiliation expenses | 62,770 | 57,603 |
| Contact newsletter | 7,255 | 6,347 |
| Meeting expenses | 21,955 | 32,883 |
| Computer & equipment purchase/rental | 16,415 | 21,269 |
| Stationery, supplies, postage & couriers | 14,996 | 14,806 |
| Website costs | 17,619 | 18,485 |
| Office and general | <u>42,412</u> | <u>47,987</u> |
| Total expenses | <u>\$ 602,723</u> | <u>\$ 658,171</u> |
| Excess of revenue over expenses for the year | | \$ 14,301 |
| Excess of expenses over revenue for the year | \$ (20,718) | |
| Net assets - opening balance | <u>389,312</u> | <u>375,011</u> |
| - closing balance | <u>\$ 368,594</u> | <u>\$ 389,312</u> |

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIOSCHEDULE OF PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONSFOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

(with comparative figures for the year ended March 31, 2005)

| | <u>2006</u> | <u>2005</u> |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Project contributions: | | |
| Annual TESL Ontario Conference | | |
| Registration and publishers | \$ 121,065 | \$ 123,664 |
| Citizenship and Immigration Canada | | |
| LINC - Conference Assistance | - | 144,106 |
| - Research Symposium | <u>-</u> | <u>32,772</u> |
| | \$ 121,065 | \$ 300,542 |
| Ministry of Citizenship, Pay Equity Program | 9,259 | 9,259 |
| Ministry of Education Research Symposium | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Citizenship and Immigration Canada | | |
| LINC - UP (SNAP) | 24,319 | 23,040 |
| ORLAC | <u>12,578</u> | <u>22,140</u> |
| | <u>\$ 172,221</u> | <u>\$ 359,981</u> |

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIOSCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE EXPENSESFOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

(with comparative figures for the year ended March 31, 2005)

| | <u>2006</u> | <u>2005</u> |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Annual TESL Ontario conference | | |
| Planners' fees | \$ 10,523 | \$ 28,363 |
| Conference Assistance - registrants' travel and accommodation | - | 56,217 |
| Printing, supplies and miscellaneous | 41,102 | 26,896 |
| Rentals | <u>43,394</u> | <u>50,641</u> |
| | <u>\$ 95,019</u> | <u>\$ 162,117</u> |
| Affiliate mini-conferences | | |
| Honoraria and salaries | \$ 11,843 | \$ 9,851 |
| Printing, supplies and miscellaneous | 15,776 | 15,489 |
| Meeting expenses | <u>27,939</u> | <u>25,341</u> |
| | <u>\$ 55,558</u> | <u>\$ 50,681</u> |

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2006

1. TESL Association of Ontario was established in 1972 as a not-for-profit organization serving the needs of teachers of English as a Second Language. In its commitment to professional development and advocacy, TESL Association of Ontario addresses the range of competencies, experiences and issues which influence the success of immigrants, refugees, visa students and others who learn English.
- 2.a. Significant accounting policies:

TESL Association of Ontario uses the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable. Interest income is recognized as earned, based on the accrual method.
- b. Capital assets are expensed as purchased.
3. These financial statements include the revenue and expenses of the following Affiliates:

| | |
|----------|------------------------|
| Durham | Hamilton-Wentworth |
| Kingston | London |
| Niagara | North York-York Region |
| Ottawa | Peel/Halton/Etobicoke |
| Sudbury | Waterloo-Wellington |
| Toronto | Windsor |
4. No statement of cash flows is presented as it would not add to the disclosure of these financial statements.
5. TESL Association of Ontario is exempt from income taxes due to its not-for-profit status under the Income Tax Act.
6. TESL Association of Ontario has entered into a new five year lease, commencing April 1, 2006, paying a monthly rent of \$ 3,150 plus occupancy cost.
7. The operations of TESL Association of Ontario is dependent on the income generated by the project revenues as provided by various Government agencies as well as on membership and certification fees.