



TESL ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT

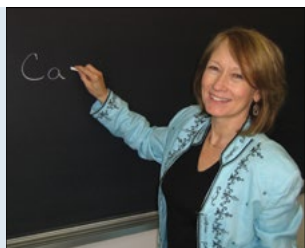
For the year 2013-2014

CONTENTS

Message from the TESL Ontario Board of Directors	1
41st Annual Conference	2
Affiliate Chapter Activities	4
Membership Services	7
Accreditation Services	9
Communications Advisory Committee	10
Social Content Committee	11
Contact Magazine	12
Research	12
Technology	13
Operations	14
Affiliate Chapters	14
Board of Directors	15
Financial Report	16



Message from the TESL Ontario Board of Directors



We are proud to present to you TESL Ontario's Annual Report for 2013-2014. In the Annual Report you will see the thousands of volunteer hours given by TESL Ontario members for the benefit of TESL Ontario members, and for the profession as a whole. To those who volunteer at local Affiliate Chapter workshops or the annual TESL Ontario conference, sit on the Affiliate Chapter executives, the TESL Ontario Working Committees, special project teams and the TESL Ontario Board of Directors, I thank you for your generosity, commitment and professional leadership. You exemplify the spirit of the TESL Ontario vision of a supportive community of English language educators.

In the past year, the TESL Ontario Board of Directors has held its annual meeting with the presidents of the Affiliate Chapters to discuss the impact that the new provincial regulations for the Not-for-Profit sector will have on TESL Ontario. The TESL Ontario provincial office has also conducted a survey of the members of the Affiliate Chapter Executives to learn more about governance issues at the local level. Together, the TESL Ontario provincial office and the Affiliate Chapters are working towards improving all aspects of organizational governance.

In February, the TESL Ontario Board of Directors met with the Affiliate Chapter Representatives to hear directly about the successes as well as the challenges facing members. The Board has also continued its work on developing a new three-year Strategic Plan which addresses the changes in the environment of immigration and English language education in Ontario.

As we near the end of our first three-year Strategic Plan, the success we have achieved in meeting our Strategic Priorities is due in large part to the professional staff at the TESL Ontario provincial office – Renate Tilson, Executive Director, Eva Csiszar, Operations Manager, Reza Mazloom-Farzaghy, Accreditation Services Manager, Allison Keown, Member Services Manager, Diane Hipkin, Accreditation Coordinator and Kevin Gamble, Office Coordinator. On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to thank each of you for your dedication to doing the best for TESL Ontario members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sheila Nicholas'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheila Nicholas
Chair

Thank You For Your Support

TESL Ontario wishes to thank our members for their continued support and feedback. We continue to work diligently on your behalf and strive to provide you with the best possible service.

TESL Ontario also wishes to thank its Affiliate Chapter Executives who over the year have committed their time and energy to provide appropriate professional development opportunities in their respective areas.

We would also like to say a special thank you to all the many volunteers who have contributed their time, expertise and good will on working committees and at professional development events.

Finally, we wish to thank Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade whose partnerships with TESL Ontario assist us with our mandate.



TESL Ontario's 41st Annual Conference

The 41st Annual TESL Ontario Conference, *"Merging and Emerging Pathways through Language"* was held from October 24th to 26th, 2013. While accommodations and the Friday evening dinner remained at the Sheraton Centre Toronto, Allstream Centre at Exhibition Place was the actual site of the conference, including the Welcome Reception. The spacious environment at Allstream was appreciated by delegates, presenters and exhibitors.

Over 1400 delegates attended, 743 of whom were LINC and ELT personnel who received conference assistance from Citizenship and Immigration Canada. An additional 248 ESL delegates were supported by Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

Keynote Speakers

Thanks go to Oxford University Press for sponsoring our first keynote speaker, Scott Roy Douglas. Dr. Douglas, an assistant professor at the University of British Columbia, spoke on "Production: Exploring Lexical Thresholds in Speaking and Writing". TESL Ontario is grateful to Cambridge University Press for sponsoring Friday's keynote speaker, Dr. Martin Hewings, a noted researcher and author of a number of textbooks. Dr. Hewings' topic was "Using Authentic Language in ESL Materials Development: The (Rocky) Road from Research to Application". Saturday's featured speaker, Dr. Deep Saini, vice-president of the University of Toronto spoke on "Professional Immigration and Nation Building".

Research Symposia

The delegates' conference experience was further enriched by three research symposia. The first, "Blending Technology with Traditional Classroom Techniques for Learning and Teaching" presented findings from Iryna Kozlova, Carleton University, and Geoff Lawrence, York University. In the second symposia, Scott Roy Douglas, University of British Columbia, and Kim McDonough, Concordia University shared their views on "Task-Based Language Learning." "Canadian Language Benchmarks and Assessment" was the final symposia. In it, Janna Fox, Wendy Fraser and Aparna Chandrasekaran from Carleton University, Carla Hall and Amelia K. Hope from University of Ottawa, and Gail Stewart from Assessment Consulting Services shared their opinions.

Panel Discussion

At the 8th Annual Panel Discussion, *"Integrating Pathways to Language Learning"*, delegates heard representatives from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities, and Ontario Ministry of Education share updates and discuss new initiatives relevant to the ESL profession in Ontario.

Over two hundred individuals volunteered their time to share their insights, best practices and innovative ideas with other ESL professionals in over 200 workshops and presentations. Participants were also able to enhance their knowledge regarding technology in the classroom.

The more spacious exhibitors' area proved popular and provided participants an opportunity to examine and purchase the latest ESL resources.

This year's "Going to the Theatre" option included the ever popular "Les Miserables" or "I Love Lucy" and was an opportunity to enjoy one aspect of Toronto's night life.

ESL Week, which was recognized across Ontario by 53 municipalities, was celebrated at Thursday's Welcome Reception and ESL week contest winners were recognized. The Friday evening dinner and entertainment provided an opportunity to relax. Two individuals were presented with Sparks of Excellence awards for their contributions to the field of ESL and the Distinguished Contribution Award was also presented. During dinner greetings were brought from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, and acrobatic

entertainment was provided by A2D2. Following dinner, the crowd enjoyed dancing to by a DJ.

The success of the conference depends largely on the volunteers who present, monitor doors or staff the registration desk. The conference could not exist without their commitment and effort; the conference committee is most appreciative of their dedication to our profession.



The conference was very well organized and I appreciate the possibility to participate and have a good chance of networking. Thanks!

Conference Evaluation Survey response

The quality of the presenters was excellent and related closely to the work I do. I look forward to watching the videos of the sessions I could not attend.

Conference Evaluation Survey response

It was great to have the publishers so accessible and where we could pop in during the lunch times.

John A.

The workshops and information at this year's conference was most helpful.

Conference Evaluation Survey response

Thank you for everything. It was a great event and I am very pleased that my team and I attended.

Hamdane A.



Affiliate Chapter Activities

TESL Durham

TESL Durham's Fall workshop was held November 14, 2013 and it showcased the tech tools that are available to enrich participants' knowledge of technology in the classroom. The workshop featured presenter Paula Ogg, Professor and Instructional Designer with the Centre for Teaching and Learning.

TESL Durham's Spring professional development workshop and annual general meeting was held on April 26, 2014. The event featured two local TESL professionals, who shared their expertise and experiences with attendees. A local publisher was also on hand with practical resources for the classroom.

TESL Hamilton-Wentworth

TESL Hamilton-Wentworth held its Fall Annual General Meeting on November 1, 2013. The event featured a presentation by TESL Ontario staff about new PD requirements and Post TESL Certificate Training (PTCT) courses and funding options. The TESL Hamilton 25th Annual Spring Conference was held on May 3, 2014 and featured workshops, publisher's display, networking and the Annual General Meeting.

TESL Kingston

TESL Kingston's September 28th, 2013 Fall workshop featured a presentation by Larry Iveson, Sue Bourdreau and Catherine Hodgins titled "Happiness is a Good Rubric". The presentation offered participants a thorough understanding of the importance of rubrics and how they can be used to assess all levels of the CLB competencies.

In April 2014 the Affiliate Chapter held its Spring workshop and Annual General Meeting, "Integration into the Canadian Workplace: Keys to Success" featuring a presentation that

covered all areas of the soft and hard skills a newcomer would need to successfully find and sustain employment in Canada. Areas that were covered were attitudes about workplace cultures that newcomers bring with them from their countries and how those attitudes could be transferred and learned in Canadian workplace culture. This included communication, time management, problem solving, initiative, responsibility, team work versus working independently, work ethic and attitude.

TESL London

On February 12, 2014 TESL London held a mini PD event titled "Winter Work / Life Balance Workshop" that featured a presentation by professional life coaches, Tammie K. Ross and Margarita Ibbott.

TESL London held its Spring Conference, Annual General Meeting and Awards Banquet on May 3, 2014. The conference, titled, "Learning the ABC's" combined a half day conference and Spring Fling awards banquet and offered a variety of break-out sessions, the Annual General Meeting, a publisher's display and the awards banquet.

TESL Niagara

TESL Niagara's Fall Workshop was held on November 2, 2013. The event featured a presentation by a TESL Ontario staff member on the updated PD requirements, PTCT opportunities and TESL trainer approval applications.

The Affiliate Chapter held its Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting on April 26, 2014. The half-day conference featured a keynote address by Judy Thompson who presented "English is Stupid, Students are Not". The event also featured several workshops and Jennifer Hay was presented with the TESL Niagara Affiliate Chapter Award.

TESL Northern Region

In October 2013 TESL Northern Region held a Meet and Greet at the annual TESL Ontario Conference for its members. The breakfast get-together was attended by a number of TESL Northern Region members who enjoyed the opportunity for networking.

TESL North York / York Region

The TESL North York / York Region Fall Conference and Annual General Meeting were held on September 26, 2013. The event features a keynote address by Sylvia Fung, M.Ed who presented

“An ESL Perspective on Improving Skills through Toastmasters.”

The Affiliate Chapter’s full-day Spring Conference, held April 26, 2014, featured a keynote address by Ken Lackman titled “Adapting English Language Teaching for an Uncertain Future”. The event also featured morning and afternoon workshops, networking and a publisher’s display.

TESL Ottawa

TESL Ottawa held its Winter Conference on February 8, 2014. The conference featured David Wood’s plenary presentation titled “Formulaic Language and Speech Fluency.” In addition to the plenary presentation, 4 workshops were offered to attendees.

The Affiliate Chapter held its Spring PD event and Annual General Meeting on May 10, 2014. The half day event offered a keynote address by Dr. Eva Kartchava titled “Language Acquisition and Error Correction”.

TESL Peel Halton Etobicoke

TESL Peel Halton Etobicoke offered a Fall Professional Development and Annual General Meeting on November 21, 2013 that featured presentations by Ken Lackman titled “Adapting English Language Teaching for an Uncertain Future” and Vesna Nikolic who presented “Good Teaching Practices for the 21st Century”.

The TESL Peel Halton Etobicoke Spring *i3 (inform, inspire interact)* Conference was held on May 3, 2014. The event featured Dick O’Brien’s plenary presentation titled “Personal Resiliency in Challenging Times”. In addition to the plenary presentation, there were 15 workshops and presentations for attendees to choose from.

TESL Toronto

TESL Toronto offered a series of professional development opportunities throughout the winter and spring:

- *Drinks and Bites* Annual General Meeting featuring a presentation by Katherine Barber, Canada’s Word Lady. (September 2013)
- *Tech Knowledge 4 Teachers*, an event that featured 3 tech sessions, and 22 workshops. (January 18, 2014)
- *Thinking and Talking about Language Teacher PD*, an event that featured speakers Antonella Valeo and Farahnaz Faez who led a discussion on the purpose of teacher professional development. (February 27, 2014)

- *Market Yourself to Employment* offered a presentation by Jessica Webster who offered insights into personal branding, social media presence, and employment marketing. A small panel of industry experts also spoke about how they use social media in the hiring process. (April 17, 2014)

TESL Toronto also held its Spring Conference, TOSCON 2014, in May. The conference featured two days of professional development including plenary presentations, workshops and networking.

Affiliate Chapter Activities *continues on page 6*



TESL Hamilton



TESL London



TESL Durham



TESL Ottawa



TESL Peel/Halton/Etobicoke



TESL Toronto



TESL Waterloo Wellington

TESL Waterloo-Wellington

TESL Waterloo-Wellington held its Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting on May 24, 2014. The conference featured keynote speaker, Katherine Barber, Canada's Word Lady and founding editor of the Canadian Oxford Dictionary who presented "Why the English Language is so Wacky", a fun look at how our language has evolved. The event also featured six workshops.

TESL Windsor

The Spring Workshop and Annual General Meeting for TESL Windsor were held on April 25, 2014. The event featured a presentation by Kelly Morrissey titled "A Classroom Blog for Beginners". The presentation provided attendees with the theory and practice of creating a classroom blog as a teaching tool with students.



Volunteering with my local affiliate has been a fantastic experience. When you're with a school board, or any one place, you tend to forget that there are different experiences out there. Jumped in feet first last June, and am looking forward to doing some work with TESL Ontario as one of the Webinar admins.

Jennifer A.

I'm really pleased to work with so many wonderful volunteers on the TESL Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter Affiliate executive committee, and it's been great to connect with other volunteers from around the province at TESL Ontario conferences over the years.

Audrey B.

The highlight of my volunteer experience has been the opportunity to get to know other TESL London members, especially those with whom I don't work directly. I have had the opportunity to explore the world of TESL London through my fellow executive members, to learn from them what their experience of teaching and working has been like (in ESL/LINC) in this community.

Jennifer A.

Membership Services

With 497 new members joining TESL Ontario in 2013, the association is now almost 4700 members strong. Approximately 85% of the membership are accredited members, while 15% hold standard memberships.

TESL Ontario continues to work towards improving member involvement, and increasing the value of membership by further developing the member benefit offerings. Over the past year, we have worked hard on several new initiatives that were brought forward by members in various ways including to provide input on a number of TESL Ontario surveys.

TESL Ontario Blog Project

In January 2014, TESL Ontario began work on the development of a TESL Ontario blog. This project is in response to member feedback from the 2012 member survey, in which members expressed interest about the creation of a TESL Ontario blog, as well as an increase in methods of sharing practical teaching knowledge.

The focus of the TESL Ontario blog will be on practical classroom techniques, teaching strategies, practical uses for technology in the classroom and in-class activities spanning all areas of language training in Ontario.

Two volunteer blog administrators have taken on the responsibility of developing the TESL Ontario blog and it will feature 6 volunteer guest bloggers, who will each write on different areas of expertise in the language training field. The blog will officially be launched in mid-September 2014.

Webinar Project

In early 2014, TESL Ontario began working on a large webinar project that would allow us to offer two webinars a month to all TESL Ontario members free of charge. The purpose of this project has been to offer additional professional development options to members in all areas of language training. Two webinar streams are being offered: General ESL Topics and Technology for Beginners.

The webinar project is an impressive community effort that includes a team of three volunteer webinar administrators who are managing the project, six volunteer webinar moderators who will run the webinars and a host of volunteer presenters sharing their knowledge and expertise with their peers. The



webinar series will officially be launched in Mid-September 2014.

Volunteer Job Board

In November 2013, TESL Ontario introduced the Volunteer Job Board. The Volunteer Job Board was developed as a result of feedback from new members struggling to get into the job market.

Volunteer opportunities play an important role in the career development of new teachers, helping them gain valuable experience and build peer networks.

In addition, volunteering is a great way for retirees, and other language training professionals to contribute to their communities in their spare time.

Surveys

TESL Ontario is continually consulting the membership for feedback and direction. This year, two surveys provided invaluable information to the association to help guide the development and direction of some ongoing projects.

In February 2014, a technology survey was sent out to the members to help determine the average comfort level with

technology among the membership and to determine where deficits lie and in what areas TESL Ontario might be able to provide support to our members. The results of the survey have led to the addition of a technology for beginners webinar series that offers technology training geared to beginner users.

In May 2014, a webinar survey was released that asked members to provide input on webinar topics, timing and formats. The results of this survey were used to determine the direction of the webinar project, ensuring presentations on the most pressing topics are offered at the times most convenient to the membership.

Member feedback is important to the success of all new initiatives at TESL Ontario.

Affiliate Chapter Service Awards

In the spring of 2014, TESL Ontario worked closely with the 12 Affiliate Chapters to develop award nominations guidelines for the new Affiliate Chapter Service award. The award was initiated to further recognize the dedicated volunteers throughout the entire TESL Ontario organization and will be managed wholly by the individual affiliate chapters.



I am really enjoying helping to get the project (TESL Ontario Webinar series) off the ground. It is exciting to be involved in planning something this extensive and which will benefit so many members. It is also great to be working as a team with Jen, Francine, Allison and Lynn. I like that being involved in this kind of a project forces you to push the envelope in terms of your own learning. You can't come up with any excuses to say that you don't have enough time. You just have to jump in with both feet. It definitely supports personal and professional growth.

Christina C.

While acting as Affiliate Representative, I met the most amazing people from all over Ontario who were on the larger TESL O Board at that time. I was able to see what other affiliates were

doing, learn from those people while make lasting friendships with them as well.

Veronica V.

It is so great to have these professional resources available to us with these webinars. I am looking forward to accessing the webinars from home.

Ron G.

The highlight of presenting is having a member tell me that my workshop inspired her to try something new and take a risk with her lesson plan!

Irena G.



Accreditation Services

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, TESL Ontario approved 309 new language instructor accreditation applications (including 58 PLAR assessment applications), 54 accreditation reinstatement applications, 48 TESL trainer/PTCT instructor approval applications, 4 PTCT course approval applications, 1 TESL training program accreditation application, 10 PTCT course annual reports, and 22 TESL training program annual reports.

To more strongly reflect the relevance of professional development to classroom practice by qualified instructors, in April 2013, the TESL Ontario Accreditation Standards Committee approved an increase of 5 hours to the yearly PD requirement as of January 2014. Therefore, accredited members were required to engage in a minimum of 10 PD hours per accreditation year from their renewal month in 2014.

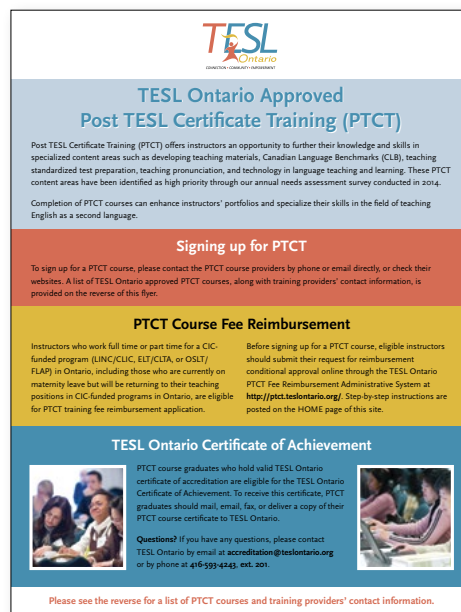
TESL Training Standards Project

In May 2013, TESL Ontario set up a task force and funded the development of outcome-based training standards for programs accredited by TESL Ontario. This project was completed in June 2014. The training standards provide a distinctive framework to guide TESL program curriculum development towards further consistency as we address evolving trends. They are guidelines that accredited TESL programs might use in the ongoing development of their own program or course outcomes and have been written to ensure optimal flexibility in applying them to current program curriculum and syllabuses.

TESL Ontario Registry of Approved Mentors

During this report period, the application requirements and standards for mentor approval were set, and the work on the creation of the TESL Ontario Registry of Approved Mentors

continued. We hope to launch this Registry and start accepting mentor approval applications in early 2015.



Post TESL Certificate Training (PTCT)

The 2013-2014 period saw the expansion of Post TESL Certificate Training (PTCT). PTCT was promoted through presentations at TESL Ontario, TESL Ontario Affiliate Chapters, and TESL Canada Conferences; presentations at Ontario Region Community Partnership Committee meetings; distribution of flyers and info sheets; and creation of a video for Tutela. Also, during this period, four curricula were adapted or developed for delivery as PTCT.

Furthermore, the PTCT Fee Reimbursement Administrative System went through several upgrades to further streamline both the reimbursement application steps and the application review process. Between October 2013 and March 2014, 58 PTCT graduates were reimbursed.

In December 2013, the second PTCT needs assessment survey was developed and distributed to language training stakeholders in Ontario. In addition, the PTCT course completion surveys were reviewed and a summary report prepared, which reflects the profile of PTCT participants and their level of satisfaction with PTCT. The results of these surveys provided TESL Ontario with valuable information about the current and future needs for PTCT.

Communications Advisory Committee

The Communications Advisory Committee aligns its objectives with the strategic priorities set by the TESL Ontario Board of Directors. Its role is to enhance communication with all stakeholders by providing key information in a timely and accessible manner. The committee oversees e-mail communications to members on key messages and activities as well as creation of news releases and media handling.

The committee has continued its efforts to help generate new members for TESL Ontario and sparked new media interest in the organization's activities through an online Media Corner, launched in September 2013 on TESL Ontario's website.

The past year was also one of transition as longtime former committee chair Sharon Rajabi retired in December 2013 after many years of dedicated volunteer service. Brian Porter took over as chair in the fall of 2013. Also serving on the committee were Lynn Doherty, Sheila Nicholas, Lynn McGregor, Allison Keown and Renate Tilson.

Communications Specialist Lynn McGregor continued efforts to increase TESL Ontario's presence during ESL Week and the 41st Annual Conference in October 2013. Her activities included a Media Plan, which was designed to help increase awareness of the importance of English language learning opportunities in Ontario, to build brand recognition, to communicate the celebration of efforts by English language learners, instructors and administrators via the ESL Week Creativity contest, to spotlight the 2013 ESL Week contest winners and their success journeys.

TESL ONTARIO NEWS BRIEF

The TESL Ontario News Brief is an informative e-news publication that provides content relevant to the field of language training. The publication is designed to help members stay informed of news that may affect their profession and also contains a special "In the Classroom" section that provides related articles to help members build on classroom techniques.

SPARKS OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Sparks of Excellence Award is designed to recognize and acknowledge the excellence and commitment of TESL Ontario members.

Congratulations to the 2013 Recipients of the Sparks of Excellence Award:



• **Anne MacGregor-O'Neill**,
an instructor at the Toronto Catholic
District School Board



• **Marg Heidebrecht**,
an instructor at Mohawk College

DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION AWARD

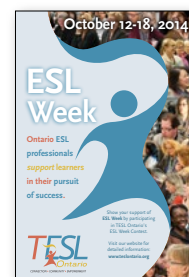
Each year TESL Ontario is proud to present a Distinguished Contribution Award to individuals who have made a long term commitment to the advancement of the English Language Training Profession.



Congratulations to **Sharon Rajabi**, of the
Toronto Catholic District School Board, who
was presented with the Distinguished
Contribution Award in 2013.

ESL WEEK POSTER

The annual TESL Ontario poster design is selected by the members to help promote ESL Week across Ontario.



ESL WEEK CREATIVITY CONTEST 2014

Each year, in recognition of ESL Week, TESL Ontario hosts an annual creativity contest designed to showcase the hard work of all English language learners, instructors and administrators.

The unique works of art and literature created by our talented contest participants clearly depict the successful efforts and dedication of language training professionals in Ontario, as well as highlight how language learning opportunities make a difference.

The contest includes a diverse set of activities that is designed to allow individuals with various creative strengths to participate. Activities include a range of writing, photo and video entry categories. The contest is managed in the following categories by Allison Keown, Member Services Manager, for learners and instructors:

- | | | |
|---------------|----------|---------------|
| • Short story | • Poetry | • Photo & |
| • Essay | • Video | photo collage |

SOCIAL MEDIA

Our social media presence continued to evolve over the last year with significant activity over the major platforms. The number of members following TESL Ontario on LinkedIn doubled over the previous year while more than 1,000 Likes were

registered on our Facebook site. Interest continued to grow both on Twitter and Pinterest.



Social Content Committee

TESL Ontario's Social Content Committee's mandate is

- to provide TESL Ontario members with an online professional community in which they can connect with their peers, obtain and share relevant resources, and teaching strategies; and
- to develop and provide direction, planning and execution of a social media strategy and practices for TESL Ontario that would result in a professional community for its members.

The Social Content Committee was represented at the TESL Ontario 2013 Conference with two presentations, "Join the TESL Ontario Social Media Community!" and "TESL Ontario Members using Tutela.ca ESL Repository/Community". Both sessions were aimed at increasing member awareness of social media options at TESL Ontario.

Early this year, the Social Content Committee embarked on two new initiatives, the TESL Ontario Webinar Series and the TESL Ontario Blog. These initiatives will be launched September 2014.

• **TESL Ontario Webinar Series**

The focus of the TESL Ontario webinar series will be to expand on the professional development options being offered to TESL Ontario members. The webinars will be offered free of charge exclusively to TESL Ontario members through Tutela.ca. Two webinars will be offered each month, one for general language teaching practices and the other a Technology for Beginners session. A Technology Survey went to the TESL Ontario membership requiring a response as to webinar topics/content.

Special thanks to Christina Cole, Francine Kalogris and Jennifer Artan, three volunteers, who were recruited to administer the webinar series. In addition, six volunteer moderators were recruited to work with the presenters. In collaboration with Tutela.ca, the administrators set up a training schedule for the moderators to assist the webinar presenters.

• **TESL Ontario Blog (WordPress)**

The focus of the TESL Ontario blog will be on practical classroom techniques, teaching strategies, practical uses for technology in the classroom and in-class activities spanning all areas of language training in Ontario. The Blog will also offer Reflections from the Field, an area for bloggers to share their stories.

Special thanks to Tamsin Cobb and Nancy Van Dorp, two volunteers, who were recruited to design, create and administer the blog. Working with six volunteer guest bloggers, the administrators will schedule, edit and post selected blogs on a by-monthly rotation.

Committee members continue to maintain TESL Ontario's Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Pinterest accounts to provide TESL Ontario members with theme-based collections of resources on professional development, in class activities and online interactive activities, career search and advice.

The Social Content Committee has accomplished a tremendous amount of work this year, which would not be possible without the efforts of the dedicated members of the committee including Committee Chair, Lynn Doherty and committee members Jessica Webster, John Allan, Lorraine Hudson, Suma Balagopal and Allison Keown.

Contact Magazine



Contact, TESL Ontario's quarterly professional development magazine, was established in 1974, and has developed over the years to match the changing needs of its evolving audience. The 2013/14 year saw the completion of volume 39 and the beginning of volume 40, taking us into our fifth decade of publication. The first issue each year celebrates the previous year's annual conference and includes articles based on conference presentations. The second is a special refereed issue featuring the previous year's Research Symposium presentations. The last two issues carry a wide range of research articles, lesson ideas, book reviews, special features and profiles of community organizations. *Contact* is available through the 'Publications' page on www.teslontario.org for viewing or printing.



Brett Reynolds continues as editor, a position he has held since 2011. Hedy McGarrell and David Wood continue to oversee the research symposium at the conference and to edit each year's resulting refereed issue.

In choosing articles to publish, we strive to prioritize practical teaching information, techniques and methods, lesson plans and classroom tools, and career advice. We continue to soliciting these kinds of articles from writers, but we welcome and, indeed, depend on your unsolicited contributions.

Research

This past year has been very active for the Research Committee. We have continued to collaborate with the Conference Committee to promote and review research papers and poster presentations for this year's TESL Ontario conference. We have also been contributing to discussions about the development of a set of professional ethics for our members.

As part of our mandate to connect research and practice, we provided ethics review for a study being carried out at Carleton University; TESL Ontario members were invited to participate in research investigating ESL teachers' beliefs about the use of digital technology in the classroom. We will have a report available to you on the website early next year.

In addition to participating in research, the committee recognizes that teachers are well-positioned to carry out valuable research in their own classrooms. This year we have started examining ways to provide support for teachers interested in

carrying out classroom-based research. We are presenting a session designed to engage members who are interested in carrying out research in their classrooms and inform them about support available to teacher-researchers. This session will help us move forward with other ideas and we welcome input from our members.

Research committee members contribute their experience and expertise in research-related matters. They work with teachers and learners in a range of contexts and come from organizations across Ontario. The current committee has the following members: Antonella Valeo (Chair), York University; Bob Courchene, University of Ottawa; Farahanz Faez, Western University; Geoff Lawrence, York University; Ranya Khan, Sheridan College; Hedy McGarrell, Brock University; Gloria McPherson, Seneca College; Dmitri Priven, Algonquin College.



is encouraging to see the contributions members are making to discussions or information being shared through these Web 2.0 tools.

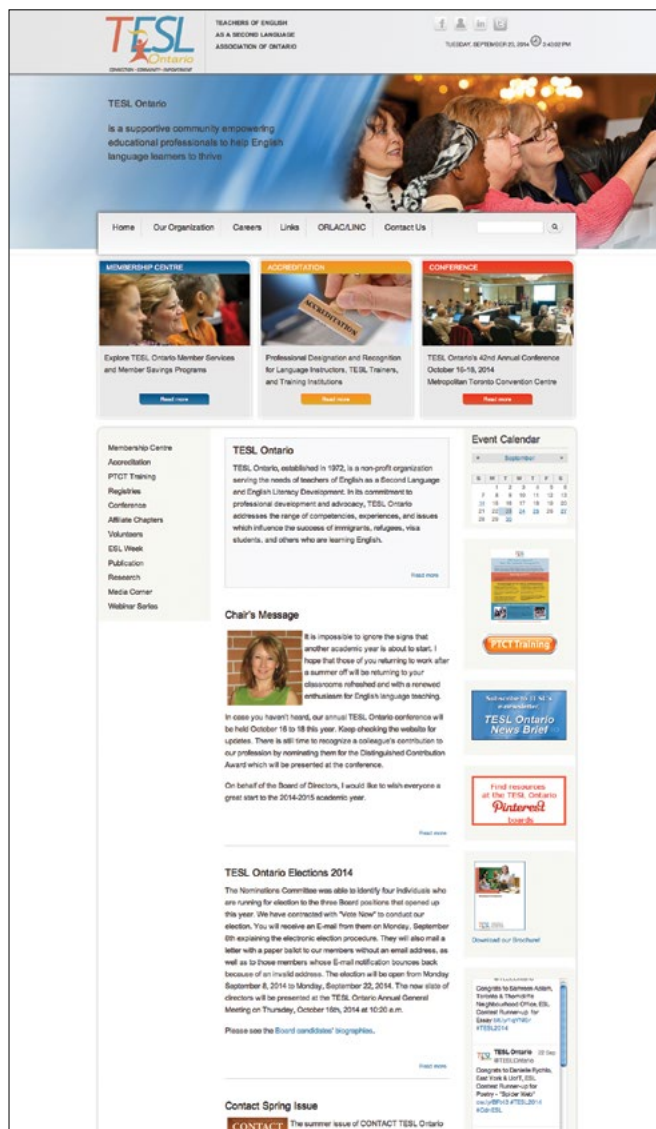
TESL Ontario continues to look into ways of improving the effective use of technology to provide the membership with the best possible service and to meet their needs in an ever changing world. TESL Ontario continues to ensure that membership data is protected and kept secure and to provide the most secure and safe online procedures and options when doing business with TESL Ontario.

Technology

Technology has become an integral part of TESL Ontario's arsenal of tools used to function and communicate in today's world. It is used not only to communicate and provide a myriad of services to the membership but also to do business with funders and companies that help us to continue to provide the high level of services to our membership. In this endeavor, TESL Ontario continues to research the latest developments in the uses of emerging technologies to assess the appropriateness of incorporating them into the process of meeting the mandate to effectively service the membership.

Over the past year, improvements have been made to many of the online tools used by TESL Ontario. These tools help TESL Ontario to either communicate with our membership or to receive feedback from our membership. The improvements in these tools also necessitate additional training and learning on the part of the TESL Ontario staff to effectively use these tools with our membership. The TESL Ontario staff undertakes the task of learning about the changes to these online tools and how to appropriately integrate the new features into the use of the tools. TESL Ontario continuously provides opportunities to the staff to take additional training in using technology and a variety of the tools to ensure they are used effectively and efficiently and that the staff is comfortable with the use in their day-to-day needs.

Over the past year the use of social media by TESL Ontario has steadily increased to provide many avenues for the membership to be informed about new trends and ideas as well as events relevant to their professional lives. As more and more of our members become comfortable with these social media tools it



Operations

TESL Ontario now serves over 4,700 members, and a large number of members are TESL Ontario Accredited. The operations of TESL Ontario are carried out by six full-time staff members:

- Executive Director, Renate Tilson
- Operations Manager, Eva Csiszar
- Member Services Manager, Allison Keown
- Accreditation Services Manager, Reza Mazloom-Farzaghy
- Accreditation Coordinator, Diane Hipkin
- Office Coordinator, Kevin Gamble

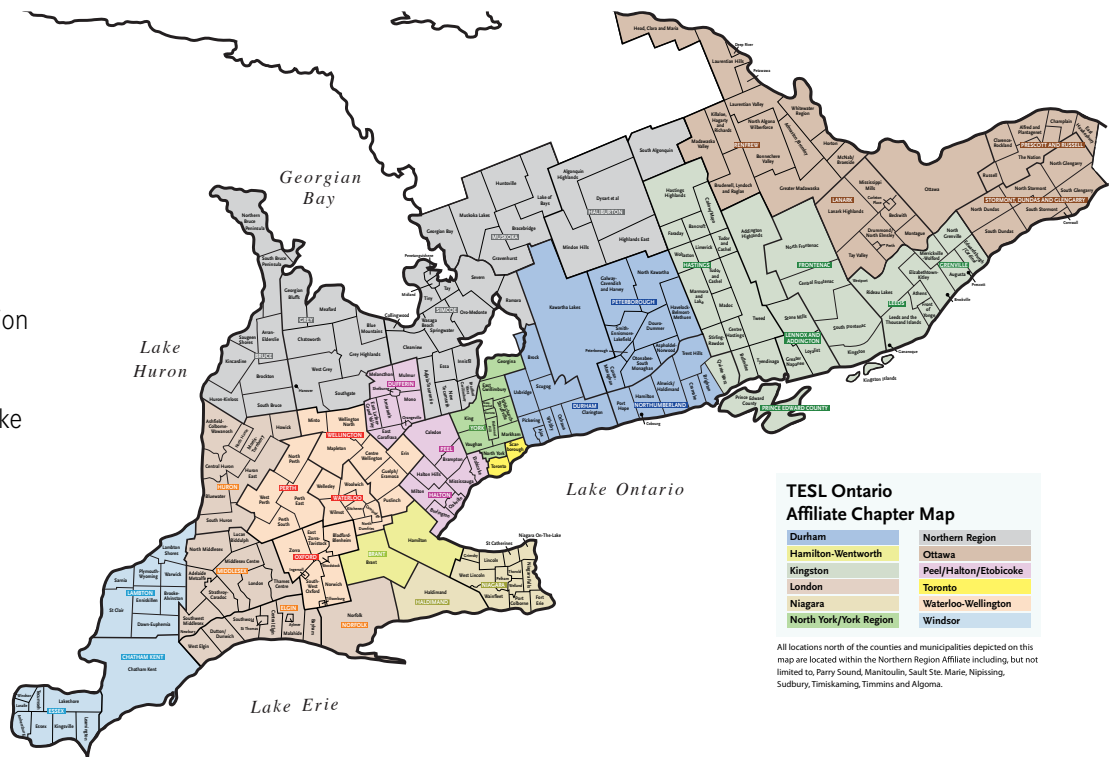
Under the direction of the Board of Directors, and supervision of the Executive Director, the office carries out the functions of Membership Support, TESL Ontario Accreditation, which includes TESL Ontario's PLAR service, Financial Management, Project and Contract Administration, Office Administration, Liaison Function with Ministries, other agencies and the public and, of course, the delivery of our large TESL Ontario Conference.

In addition, TESL Ontario relies heavily on the services of our Webmaster, Kevin O'Brien.

Affiliate Chapters

Each of the 12 TESL Ontario Affiliate Chapters has an executive body consisting of a President, Affiliate Chapter Representative, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, but may also include other positions such as Newsletter Editor, Communications Officer and Members-at-Large. Both the Affiliate Chapter Membership Secretaries and the Treasurers meet regularly with their counterparts at the TESL Ontario conference. The Affiliate Chapter Representatives also meet on a regular basis to share best practices and additionally meet once a year with the Board of Directors to contribute to the Board's awareness of the strategic issues of their members.

TESL Durham
TESL Hamilton-Wentworth
TESL Kingston
TESL London
TESL Niagara
TESL Northern Region
TESL North York/York Region
TESL Ottawa
TESL Peel/Halton/Etobicoke
TESL Toronto
TESL Waterloo-Wellington
TESL Windsor



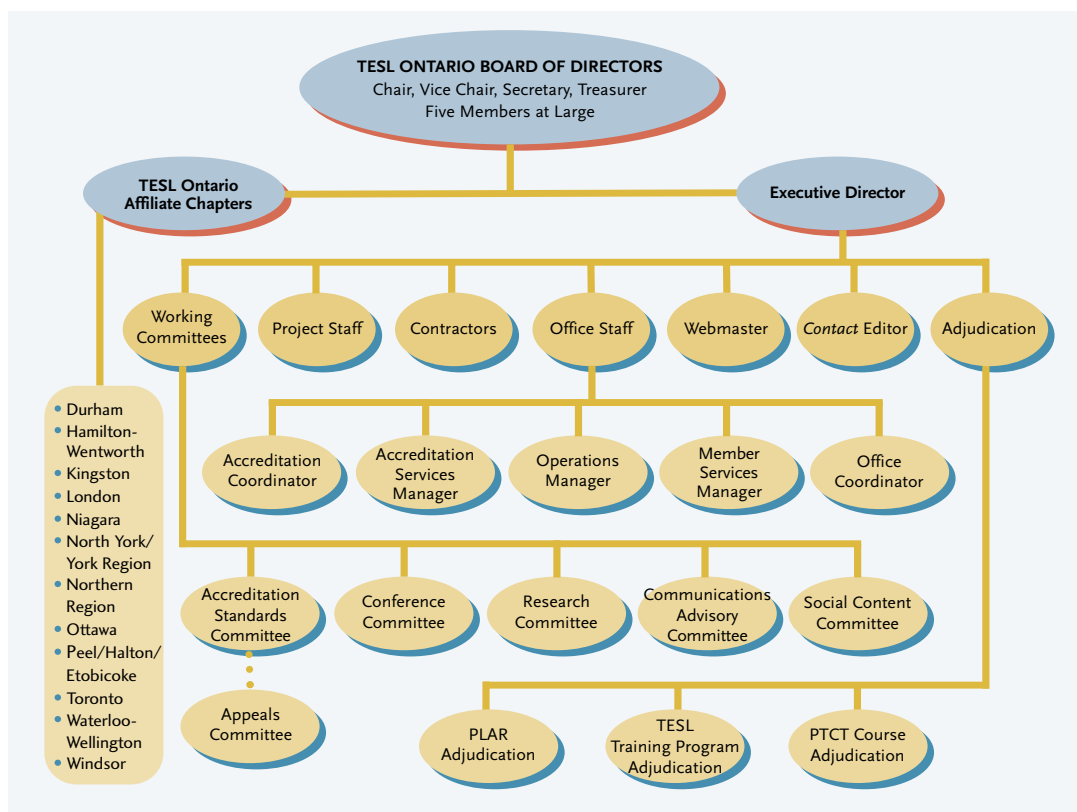
Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of TESL Ontario is comprised of nine members, all designated Members-at-Large. A Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are elected each year from amongst these nine Directors following the Annual General Meeting. The Board meets a minimum of five times per year. Operational matters of the association are managed by the Executive Director. The ED is guided and governed by Board policies and serves a pivotal role in the organization.

The TESL Ontario Board uses a policy governance model as its “operating system”. Policy Governance enables the Board to focus on the larger issues, to delegate with clarity, to control operation’s job without interference, to rigorously evaluate the accomplishment of the organization: to truly lead the association. The Board’s job is to decide, through strategic planning, the kind of “Targets” the association is to produce. It relies on the Executive Director to interpret and work with staff, paid and voluntary, to achieve the means to meet those targets.

2013/14 Board of Directors

Chair	Sheila Nicholas
Vice-Chair	Phil Wachel
Treasurer	Dan Cornish
Secretary	Art Rekhtin
Member-at-Large	Cheryl Fretz
Member-at-Large	Bernice Klassen
Member-at-Large	Irene Kosmas
Member-at-Large	James Papple
Member-at-Large	Melita Vrakela



Financial Report

The condensed financial information below represents the abbreviated annual financial statements of TESL Ontario for the year ended March 31, 2014.

The independent auditor's report and complete audited financial statements, which include notes and more detailed supplementary financial information, are available on the TESL Ontario website at www.teslontario.net/publication/annual-report.

Statement of Financial Position

as of March 31, 2014

	2014	2013
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$251,906	\$243,592
Short-term investments	262,460	605,859
Project funding receivable	79,034	160,503
Prepaid expenses and other assets	40,835	38,065
H.S.T. receivable	5,930	15,320
	\$640,165	\$1,063,339
Capital Assets	32,720	29,273
	\$672,885	\$1,092,612
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$52,685	\$198,371
Deferred contributions	332,416	298,359
	\$385,101	\$496,730
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$287,784	\$595,882
	\$672,885	\$1,092,612

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended March 31, 2014

	2014	2013
REVENUE		
Annual TESL Ontario Conference		
Conference Assistance project - CIC	\$251,582	\$450,738
Conference Assistance project - MCI	133,670	137,126
Publisher fees	36,886	41,220
Registration fees	101,252	101,311
Sponsorship	12,000	5,000
Project revenue		
Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration		
Pay Equity Program	9,259	9,259
CLARS	187,615	-
Citizenship and Immigration Canada		
PTCT	121,032	127,784
CLARS	-	177,637
ORLAC	-	2,300
Membership fees	326,191	338,280
Accreditation fees	314,623	330,991
Affiliates' conferences	47,382	32,810
Other	24,757	18,616
Interest	4,318	9,817
	\$1,570,567	\$1,782,889
EXPENDITURES		
Membership	\$87,348	\$94,223
Accreditation	213,708	200,927
Projects	277,324	267,582
Annual conference	696,122	700,820
Affiliate Chapters' conferences	89,937	78,432
Office and administration	313,555	225,801
TESL Canada and TESOL affiliation	86,635	87,489
Board and committee meetings	55,451	56,872
Occupancy	39,189	41,550
	\$1,859,269	\$1,753,696
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures before other items	\$(288,702)	\$29,193
Repayment of prior year conference assistance	(19,396)	(144,477)
Net excess(deficiency) of revenues over expenditures for the year	\$(308,098)	\$(115,284)
Net assets at beginning of year	\$595,882	\$711,166
Net assets, end of year	\$287,784	\$595,882



CONNECTION • COMMUNITY • EMPOWERMENT

**TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO**



27 Carlton Street, Suite 405, Toronto, Ontario M5B 1L2
T: 416-593-4243 *F:* 416-593-0164 *TF:* 1-800-327-4827

www.teslontario.org