

TESL ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



TESL
Ontario
CONNECTION • COMMUNITY • EMPOWERMENT



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A Message from the TESL Ontario Board of Directors



On behalf of the TESL Ontario Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to present to you the TESL Ontario Annual Report for 2017-2018. This document outlines the fiscal health of TESL Ontario as well as the contributions made by TESL Ontario staff and volunteers in the running of the organization.

I would like to sincerely thank the volunteers at all levels of TESL Ontario who ensure the organization continues to offer the professional, high-quality services and sense of community for which it is known. The sustained dedication of those volunteering at the conference, at Affiliate Chapters, or on our various working committees continues to be greatly appreciated. Special thanks must go to those working on Affiliate Chapter Executives for their endeavours in providing professional development to our members. Without the combined contributions of our volunteers, TESL Ontario would simply not achieve what it does.

It is important to recognize the tireless work and dedication of TESL Ontario staff who underpin the smooth functioning of the organization. In particular, I would like to extend our respect and gratitude for their work to: Renate Tilson, Executive Director, Eva Csiszar, Operations Manager, Reza Mazloom-Farzaghy, Accreditation Services Manager, Allison Keown, Manager, Member Services and Communications, and Kevin Gamble, Office Manager.

Finally, I wish to thank you, the membership. Our community of educators continually strives toward development. Such development is reflected in your daily efforts in your various work contexts and the impact it has on the lives of others.

This year has been a period of both progress and reflection for TESL Ontario. During this period, the organization has built on the seeds sown in previous

years to return to a position of financial strength. The organization has also responded positively and flexibly to changes in the accreditation landscape with the launch of CTESOL teacher training program accreditation.

This conference also sees the launch of the latest TESL Ontario Strategic Plan, a document that provides a focal point for the direction of the organization over the coming years. The plan outlines strategic priorities of professional development, accreditation standards, organizational excellence, and strategic partnerships which will ensure that TESL Ontario engages locally, nationally and internationally with clarity and confidence.

For those members in attendance at the AGM, thank you for your interest and participation in the governance of your organization.

Sincerely,

David Hazell
Chair, TESL Ontario

TESL Ontario 45th Annual Conference

The 45th Annual TESL Ontario Conference, “Celebrating Success” acknowledged the success of our learners as they embrace a new language and culture; the successful settlement of the many new refugees to Canada, especially those from Syria; the successful implementation of year one of PBLA; and the success of TESL Ontario in supporting ESL professionals for 45 years.

Held on November 2 – 3, 2017 at the Marriott Eaton Centre in Toronto, the new venue provided centrally located breakout rooms in close proximity to the exhibitors and the coffee stations.

Over 890 delegates attended, 250 of whom received conference assistance from Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, and 93 of whom participated in the Program Administrators meeting.

Sponsorship is important to the success of our conference. We are grateful to British Council / IELTS for providing the conference bags and complimentary Wi-Fi; ESL Coin for sponsoring the Welcome Reception; University of Saskatchewan for funding the Registration Area; and to FAST (Fighting Antisemitism Together) for the coffee breaks.

Our Keynote Speaker, Greg Kessler, is Associate Professor of Instructional Technology in Educational Studies at

Ohio University. In his talk on the emergence of social media and the participatory culture that it promotes he shared numerous examples of how technology will inform future authentic, engaging global language learning.

A new addition to this year’s conference was the Career Connections session which was an opportunity for individuals to network with 12 employers and hear from three employers about the screening, interviewing and selection process for their respective organizations.

The focus of the 12th Annual Panel Discussion was “Creating Opportunities for Success”. The audience heard representatives from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada Ontario Region, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, Ontario Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

Best practices and innovative ideas were shared by 140 volunteer presenters through 105 workshops and presentations, many of which focused on PBLA. There were nine poster presentations and five “22 Minutes” video sessions were aired.

Twenty-five exhibitors displayed their goods in the exhibitor hall, providing participants with the opportunity to peruse and purchase the latest ESL resources.

At Thursday’s Welcome Reception the Sparks of Excellence award for contributions to the field of ESL and two Distinguished Contribution Awards were also presented.

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.



“I appreciate TESL Ontario for the support, education and advocacy it provides.”

Conference Survey response

“Fabulous conference. I had the opportunity to hear from a variety of presenters on different topics. They were all well-organized, informative, and had many practical ideas for the classroom. Well done!”

Conference Survey response

“Keep up the good work. It is a huge project but also a huge gift to the profession. Congratulations.”

Conference Survey response

“I find the TESL Ontario conference to be an excellent, well-organized conference. I always learn something, or get confirmation for some of the things I’m doing in my teaching practice, at this conference.”

Conference Survey response

“TESL Ontario Conference is very beneficial and important for my professional development. I always enjoy being there to learn more strategies for my classroom and to meet with other teachers from all over Ontario who share their experiences.”

E. Meleka



Affiliate Chapter Activities

TESL Durham

On October 18, 2017, TESL Durham hosted a fall PD workshop. The main focus of the workshop was teaching pronunciation. Mike Tiittanen spoke on the subject, then participants broke out into table topics to discuss prepared discussion topics. The event also had networking opportunities.

TESL Durham’s spring workshop and AGM was held on April 14, 2018. The event featured two sessions; a session on chair yoga and a session on incorporating indigenous knowledge in education.

TESL Hamilton

TESL Hamilton-Wentworth hosted a trivia night on December 8, 2017. Participants enjoyed games, food and networking during this evening event.

The affiliate chapter held its annual spring conference & AGM on April 21, 2018. The event featured four workshops as well as a keynote presentation and an annual general meeting.

TESL Kingston

TESL Kingston’s fall PD workshop on October 21, 2017 featured a presentation by Amanda Morrison, and Kevin Reed Incorporating Indigenous content into the ESL classroom.

The affiliate chapter held its spring PD workshop and AGM on May 5, 2018. The event featured a presentation by Tim



Westhead titled “Little Victories: How Teachers can Soar”, as well as an annual general meeting.

TESL London

On October 25, 2017, TESL London held its annual Wine, Cheese and Awards event. The event included a presentation by Dr. Stuart Webb, as well as wine and cheese networking session.

The TESL London spring conference: Mastering Materials – Using, Re-using, Creating and Discussing Materials in Adult English Language Classrooms was held on May 5, 2018. The event featured a plenary presentation by Kelly Morrissey, as well as a materials slam challenge in which participants were given 5 minutes to present a resource to conference attendees.

TESL Niagara

TESL Niagara’s Eat, Talk, Learn fall PD event was held on October 20, 2017. The evening event included dinner, networking and a fun TESL trivia component.

The affiliate chapter held its spring conference on May 5, 2018. The event featured two professional development sessions, a panel discussion, an AGM and a hot brunch.

TESL North York / York Region

The TESL North York/York Region fall mini-conference and AGM was held on October 12, 2017. The event included a keynote presentation by Ken Lackman on Big Picture Teaching, dinner and networking.

The affiliate chapter held its spring conference on April 7, 2018. Patrice Palmer presented a keynote address titled “Happiness in the Workplace and Teaching Self Care”. The event also included four workshops, publisher’s displays and an optional IELTS workshop in the afternoon.

TESL Ottawa

TESL Ottawa held its fall PD conference on October 28, 2017. Marijke Wertheim presented “Authentic Speech – Looking Past Accuracy vs. Fluency”. Attendees also participated in an interactive Education Tech Jam session.

The Affiliate Chapter held its annual spring PD and AGM on May 5, 2018. The event featured a keynote presentation by Christina Cole titled “Why Listening is so Difficult to Teach and How to go about it!”. The event also included numerous workshops, and an administrator’s forum.

TESL Peel / Halton / Etobicoke

TESL PHE held its fall PD and AGM on November 16, 2017. The event featured a keynote speaker, a Q & A with the TESL Ontario Accreditation Services Manager, networking and dinner.

TESL Toronto

TESL Toronto’s Punny Bingo and AGM Night was held on October 25, 2017. Participants took part in a fun game of Punny Bingo. The evening also included an AGM and networking.

TESL Toronto held its Networking and Noshing Employment Event on April 11, 2018. The event invited participants to network with employers about hiring trends in the private and public sectors.

TESL Toronto also held its annual spring conference, TOSCON 2018, in May. The conference featured a full day of professional development including plenary presentations, workshops and networking.

TESL Waterloo-Wellington

The TESL WW spring PD and AGM event “Conflict in the Classroom” was held on May 26, 2018. The event featured numerous workshops, an annual general meeting, networking and publisher’s displays.

TESL Windsor

The TESL Winsor fall conference: “Teacher to Teacherpreneur: Dream Beyond the Classroom” was held on October, 20, 2017. The workshop presented by Patrice Palmer, provided attendees practical information about monetizing transferrable skills. The event also included networking opportunities.

TESL Windsor’s spring PD event: “Connecting ESL Communities” was held on April 21, 2018. The event featured a two-hour IELTS information session, as well as networking and lunch.



“The TESL Ontario conference and the Affiliate Chapter conferences are very valuable ways to get new teaching ideas that reinvigorate my teaching and helps me stay informed of resources available to assist me in my teaching.”

Conference Survey response

“I very much appreciate the conference and affiliate chapter conferences. PD is extremely important in our field since there is always something new and it is always changing”

Conference Survey response

Member Services



The association had approximately 4400 active members in 2017 and maintained an 88% member retention rate. 87% of the membership held certificates of accreditation, while 10% of the membership keeps abreast of the language training sector with a standard membership.

TESL Ontario conducted a member survey in the spring of 2017. The results of the survey have been guiding and informing decisions made by the organization over the past year. One new initiative that was a direct response to the survey results was the addition of the first annual Career Connections event at the 2017 TESL Ontario annual conference. The half-day Career Connections event included a forum discussion presentation on employment

related topics, along with the opportunity to network with potential employers; learn about the screening, interviewing and selection process of various organizations, find out about skills requirements and hiring timeframes.

TESL Ontario continues to work towards improving member involvement and increasing the value of membership by further developing member benefit offerings. The TESL Ontario YouTube channel has been improved to include playlists of useful ESL video resources for members. Contact magazine launched an online searchable format, that includes catalogued and archived articles.

The TESL Ontario online social media community continues to grow with more members joining us online this year to gather information, share and communicate with language training professionals and to contribute to our engaging conversations on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, YouTube, Tutela.ca and the TESL Ontario blog. In 2019, TESL Ontario will also begin connecting with members on Instagram.

The TESL Ontario free webinar program has continued to offer members a wide array of professional development on popular topics covering technology, critical thinking, PBLA , e-materials, employment information, mental health and much more. All webinars are initially scheduled as a live event, but a recorded version of the webinar is made available to all members following the live event. Live and recorded webinars provide members with easily accessible professional development for accredited membership renewal requirements.

The TESL Ontario blog has once again seen an increase in readership and popularity among ESL professionals across Canada. The blog continues to publish new articles weekly on a variety of English training topics. In response to member survey results indicating that members want more chances to publish work, the Blog is now continually accepting guest blogger applications through out the year.

TESL Ontario continues to communicate with members in

a variety of ways including regular member emails. Monthly emails on upcoming webinars, new blog posts, and new Contact magazine articles are designed to keep members informed of new professional development and resources available. The quarterly Membership Minute Newsletter provides information about new and existing membership related activities and upcoming PD. In addition to the regular monthly and quarterly emails and newsletters, TESL Ontario makes an effort to keep the membership informed of upcoming affiliate chapter events, new and popular Directory of Best Practices resources, annual conference updates, and volunteer opportunities.



“Thank you for sending TESL Blog monthly review. It is quite interesting with lots of information.”

S. Parasivam

“Being a member of this association brings recognition of professionalism in general society, so that what we are doing as employees or volunteers has more meaning”

Member Survey response

“I love the ability to network with fellow teachers and administrators who are passionate about English language teaching.”

Member Survey response

“TESL Ontario keeps me aware of what’s relevant in the ESL community”

Member Survey response

“I think TESL Ontario is doing an excellent job. It is a vibrant organization that responds to the needs of its members”

Member Survey response



Accreditation Services

OCELT Trade-Mark Certificate of Registration

OCELT (Ontario Certified English Language Teacher) professional designation was approved by the Canadian Intellectual Properties Office. TESL Ontario completed the rest of the registration steps by August 2017 and was granted the OCELT Trade-Mark Certificate of Registration. All TESL Ontario accredited members are entitled to use OCELT as their professional designation. OCELT recognizes the professionalism and integrity of TESL Ontario accredited teachers, and their commitment to the TESL Ontario Code of Ethics and high quality instruction. It helps enhance respect for the TESL profession and signifies that TESL Ontario accredited members have met the TESL Ontario certification standards; have distinct knowledge and skills specific to teaching adult ESL; are qualified to teach in both government-funded and private programs in Canada, and in international settings; strive for excellence through academic inquiry, self-reflection, openness to new ideas and ongoing professional development; and belong to a community of highly educated, responsible and dedicated professionals who seek to further the best interests of the learners.

ICTEAL Certificate of Accreditation

In April 2017, TESL Ontario started the process of developing an international certificate for its accredited members for the first time. There were two reasons for this exciting initiative. First of all, all TESL Ontario accredited members had completed both TESL Part 1 (120 hours) and TESL Part 2 (180 hours), as one integrated program or a two-part program, which qualified them to teach English both in Canada and abroad. Secondly, in late 2016 and early 2017, TESL Ontario received numerous requests from its accredited members for a TESL Ontario international certificate. These members were either teaching English abroad or were planning to apply for jobs in foreign countries. In August, 2017, ICTEAL (International Certificate in Teaching English as an Additional Language) was created and granted to all TESL Ontario accredited members in good standing. ICTEAL is automatically renewed when the TESL Ontario accredited membership is renewed. There is no additional paperwork or cost associated with ICTEAL.

Competency-based PLAR Assessment

In July 2017, in response to the then Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration’s (MCI) call for proposals that supported the Ministry in achieving the objectives of Ontario’s Immigration Strategy, TESL Ontario submitted a proposal for the development of a competency-based prior learning assessment service. This proposal was prepared as per the requirements of MCI’s Ontario Bridge Training Program, through which the Ministry supported the transition of skilled immigrants into Ontario’s labour market at a level commensurate with their skills and experience. In late November 2017, MCI approved the TESL Ontario proposal for funding over a period of four fiscal years. The new process for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for internationally trained adult English as Second Language teachers will replace the TESL Ontario’s existing PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment Recognition) process. RPL will assess both the competencies and the training credits of the applicants. The project team will research primary sources of credit for internationally trained teachers, identify additional applicant groups, and recommend and develop the RPL process to be used by TESL Ontario. The new process will enable qualified individuals to return to their profession as quickly as possible.

Portfolio Based Language Assessment (PBLA)

In June 2017, considering the growing demand for PBLA training, the TESL Ontario Standards Committee, the TESL Ontario Accredited TESL Program Directors, and representatives from the then Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) reviewed the difficulties of incorporating PBLA training in accredited TESL training programs and discussed the potential solutions. Subsequently, in October 2017, the Standards Committee made the decision to change the status of PBLA, as a component of the required TESL training, from “Optional” to “Essential” as of January 2018. The committee also determined that the accredited TESL programs would have until September 2019 to make the necessary changes to make sure PBLA was covered in their training.

Canadian TESOL (CTESOL) Program Accreditation

The TESL Ontario Accreditation Standards Committee carefully monitored the developments regarding the TESL Canada accreditation of Standard 1 certificate programs in late 2017 and early 2018. At the same time, the committee also consulted with the TESL Ontario Accredited TESL Program Directors about the role TESL Ontario could play to provide assistance to the affected programs. In a survey in January 2018, TESL Ontario asked the accredited programs if their organization would be interested in a two-tiered TESL Ontario accreditation system. Almost all of the training providers who participated in the survey said yes. In February and March 2018, TESL Ontario created and shared with the TESL Ontario accredited programs the initial proposal for grandparenting the TESL Canada approved Standard 1 programs into CTESOL Program Accreditation. Then, in late March 2018, the Standards Committee developed the final version of the “TESL Ontario Grandparenting Clause for Standard 1 Certificate Programs” document. Finally, in April 2018, TESL Ontario sent out this document to all Standard 1 programs across Canada. Grandparented programs are awarded CTESOL Accreditation at no cost and without having to make any changes to the content or structure of their training. TESL Ontario has granted CTESOL Accreditation to 11 Standard 1 programs to date. The Grandparenting Clause will remain open to March 2020. TESL Ontario will also start accepting CTESOL accreditation applications from new training programs in fall 2018.

Accreditation Statistics

During this report period, TESL Ontario approved 325 new Adult ESL Teacher Accreditation applications (including 39 accreditation applications through PLAR assessment), 55 accreditation reinstatement applications, 39 TESL trainer/PTCT instructor approval applications, 23 TESL program accreditation renewal applications, 2 new TESL program accreditation applications, and 12 PTCT course approval renewal applications.



2017 Distinguished Contribution Award Recipients

The TESL Ontario Distinguished Contribution Award is designed to recognize and honour particularly significant achievements and/or contributions to the advancement of the profession of English Language educators, the English language training sector and/or TESL Ontario. There can be up to three awards recipients each year, in 2017 the award was presented to Sheila Nicolas and Susan Richarz.



Sheila Nicolas, Program Manager of Adult ESL and LINC programs for the Upper Grand District School Board

Sheila Nicholas is passionate about ensuring that learners learn. She has dedicated her career to providing English language learners with effective and relevant language training in a welcoming, inclusive and compassionate environment.

Sheila has taught a wide variety of levels and specialty classes, and is currently the Program Manager of Adult ESL and LINC programs for the Upper Grand District School Board.

She has served the wider ESL professional community by volunteering on many committees and boards associated

with the field of English language education. Provincially, Sheila has volunteered with TESL Ontario, sitting as Chair of the Board for six years. She also held positions on various committees within the association and TESL Waterloo-Wellington, she contributed to the Association for Continuing Education School Board Administrators (CESBA) ESL/FSL/LINC Committee, and the national settlement language community. Mostly recently she was the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks.



Susan Richarz, Instructor at York Region District School Board (YRDSB)

Susan Richarz’s career as an ESL instructor has spanned more than 25 years. Collaborating with colleagues and supporting new teachers is an important part of Susan’s commitment to the profession and over the years she has mentored several student teachers.

Susan become a PBLA Lead Instructor to support the program and her fellow instructors. She also joined a committee for unionized ESL/LINC instructors that focussed on the impact of PBLA on instructors.

Susan was involved in the successful effort to unionize her workplace and was recently elected as a Member at Large of the OPSEU Boards of Education Executive Committee where she hopes to raise the profile of ESL/LINC instructors within the union.

In the community, Susan has dedicated many years to the TESL North York/York Region affiliate chapter as a part of the executive in many different capacities, including, president. Susan also served under the old TESL Ontario Board as Affiliate Director.

2017 Sparks of Excellence Award Recipient

The TESL Ontario Sparks of Excellence Award is designed to recognize and acknowledge the excellence and commitment of TESL Ontario members. Diane Ramanathan received the award in 2017.



Diane Ramanathan, LINC instructor at the Centre for Education and Training

Diane has dedicated a large part of her career to instructor support and training. Along with teaching LINC with the Centre for Education and Training. She has been a part of the Tutela team since 2012, and is an instructor for the TESL program at Algonquin College. In the community, Diane volunteers with

TESL Ottawa as president of the affiliate chapter. She is also an occasional blogger with TESL Ontario, a LINC Home Study mentor and contributes to the U of M TESL program.

Teachers are often the most enthusiastic learners. Diane’s motivation comes from those instructors who dedicate themselves to continuous learning and professional development.

TESL Ontario Working Committees

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 teach new strategies.
- 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.

In 2017-2018, the TESL Ontario Social Content Committee: Jen Artan, Suma Balagopal, Tamsin Cobb, Jessica Brown, Vanessa Nino, Allison Keown, Irene Walker, Renate Tilson, and Lynn Doherty continued to work on bringing relevant and up-to-date resources through social media platforms and initiatives to the membership.

The number of TESL Ontario LinkedIn group members reached 3497 while the LinkedIn corporate page saw 4970 followers. Facebook likes grew to 2314, and Twitter followers grew to 2281.

TESL Ontario Webinar Series

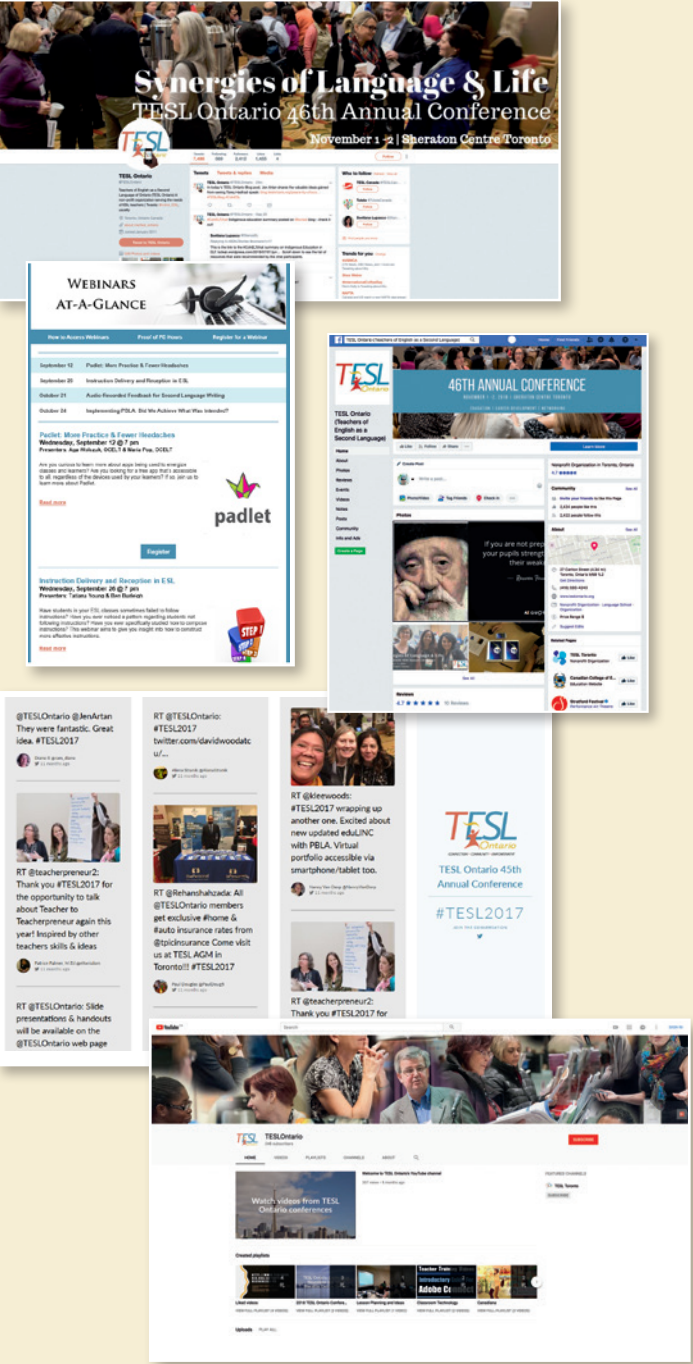
The TESL Ontario Webinar series continued to offer two informative webinar presentations each month that focussed on a wide variety of English language training topics. There was a total of 24 webinars offered in 2017. These presentations attracted 1407 participants, and the average number of attendees per webinar was 59. Consequently, the number of members in the TESL Ontario group on Tutela.ca increased to 1955.

The TESL Ontario Blog

The TESL Ontario Blog had an average of almost 13,000 visitors each month who have enjoyed thought-provoking articles on a wide-range of ESL related topics, and had the opportunity to engage with TESL Ontario bloggers in conversations to enhance our professional community. The TESL Ontario blog team continues to publish new blog posts weekly. The Blog team is continually recruiting bloggers to provide relevant and effective information to our membership.

Pinterest

Pinterest was removed from TESL Ontario’s social media selection due to low traffic.



TESL Ontario YouTube Channel

Looking for other avenues to reach our membership, the Social Content Committee agreed to revive the TESL Ontario YouTube channel to complement our current platforms. The new and improved YouTube channel now features categorized playlists containing relevant video resources for language training professionals. Leading this initiative are Irene Walker and Vinuthini Vigneswara.



The Social Content Committee initiatives are only possible because of the incredible commitment and professionalism of all of its volunteers.

Conference Committee

The planning for our TESL Ontario conference begins immediately following the annual conference. We look at what went well, and consider where we may need to make changes based on feedback from the delegates, the publishers and our own observations. The conference theme is chosen by the committee to reflect trends in the field of ESL. Logistics are handled by TESL Ontario’s conference manager who works closely with the TESL Ontario office team and the conference committee. The committee considers potential keynote speakers whose names may have come from a variety of sources. The work is ongoing with updates shared at our bi-monthly committee meetings.

Under the capable leadership of the Committee Chair, Barb Krukowski, we wish to acknowledge the dedication of committee members Sheila Nicholas, Kevin O’Brien, Anita Jansman and Jennifer Fieldhouse; Conference Manager Rita Plaskett, Executive Director Renate Tilson and the TESL Ontario office team for their hard work throughout the year to make our conference a success.

Accreditation Standards Committee

The Standards Committee’s mandate is to uphold the TESL Ontario professional standards by addressing and advising on accreditation developments and concerns. This committee is

composed of a chairperson; six representation seats for two program managers, two TESL trainers, one LINC teacher, and one adult ESL teacher; TESL Ontario Executive Director; TESL Ontario Adjudicator; and TESL Ontario Accreditation Services Manager. The members of this committee are recruited from the TESL Ontario membership.

During the period of April 2017-March 2018, the Standards Committee held six meetings, including the annual joint meeting with the Accredited TESL Program Directors. During this report period, the committee reviewed and discussed several topics including incorporating PBLA into the required TESL training, changing the status of PBLA from “optional” to “essential”, updating the application process for initial TESL program accreditation, expanding the TESL Ontario accreditation services to foreign countries and collaborating with international TESL organizations, developing the terms and conditions of CTESOL Grandparenting Clause, and granting CTESOL accreditation to approved Standard 1 programs.

Serving on the Standards Committee in the 2017-2018 period were Karen E. Evans (Chair), Robert Courchène, Joan Reynolds, David Wood, Kay Ham, Laura Stoutenburg, Wanda Komorowski, Sven Greve, Marlene Saavedra, Renate Tilson, and Reza Mazloom-Farzaghy.



Contact Magazine

Contact, TESL Ontario’s professional development magazine, was established in 1974, and has evolved over the years to match the changing needs of its evolving audience. The 2017/18 year saw the completion of volume 43 and the beginning of volume 44. You can view individual articles as well as entire issues at <http://contact.teslontario.org/issues>. The first issue each year celebrates the previous year’s annual conference and includes articles based on conference presentations. The other two issues, published in August and



November, carry a wide range of research articles, lesson ideas, book reviews, special features, and profiles of community organizations. 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 solicit these kinds of articles from writers, but we welcome and, indeed, depend on your unsolicited contributions. **Brett Reynolds, editor since 2011.**

Technology

TESL Ontario continues to be a leader in the use of technology in the not-for-profit sector. We have provided and continue to provide easy access to information for our members, as well as an easy portal to navigate and renew memberships, find jobs and understand the accreditation process. We do this while maintaining the highest level of security to protect the member information. Members are offered options to opt out of mailing lists and the communication pieces that they are not interested in.

This past year, TESL Ontario has been involved in numerous projects including the provincial project for Best Practices. As a result of the work of this team, the Directory of Best Practices website was launched, adding yet another online resource for language training professionals. The Directory of Best Practices can be found at bestpractices.teslontario.org.

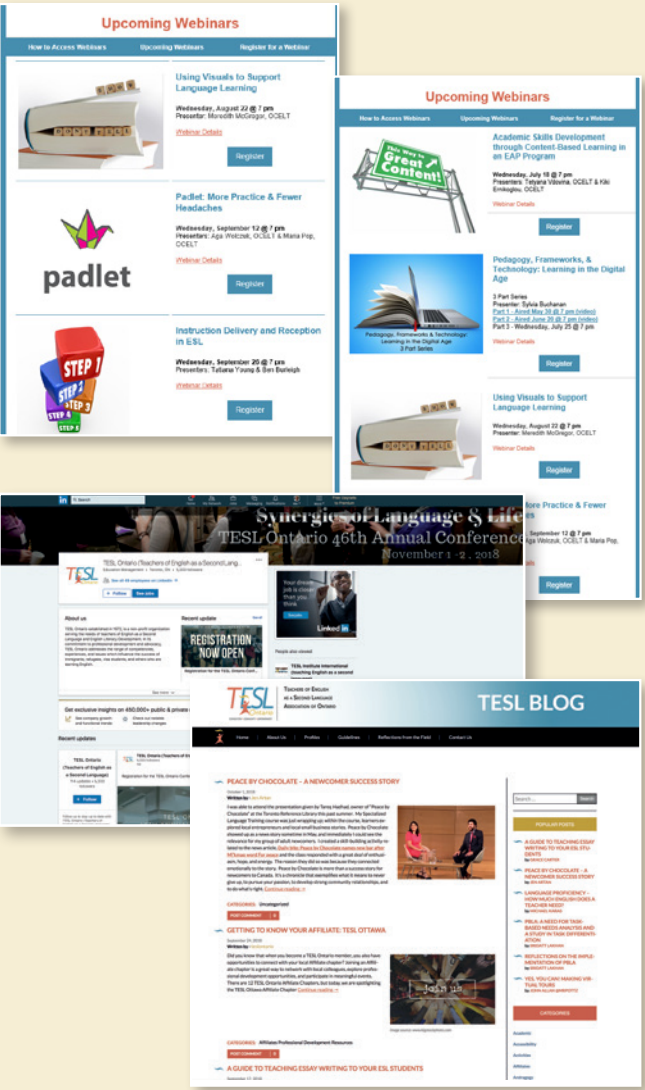
We continue to offer access to CONTACT magazine through the online website contact.teslontario.org for this TESL Ontario publication with an user-friendly search component for members to easily find articles and issues of interest.

We also continue to provide additional information about the field through our blog website found at blog.teslontario.org. The many volunteers that run the blog site and the numerous members that contribute to the blog make this a valuable resource for our membership. This is a remarkable resource where expertise is shared by members to help both new and seasoned teachers navigate the ever-changing landscape of our field.



“This was the first time that I participated in a live webinar and I found it to be very insightful. As I write this email I am searching the website to download the material presented. I will review over the summer and begin implementing in the fall.”

J. Blackman



These websites are maintained by our amazing volunteers who devote their time and expertise to provide valuable resources and information to our members.

TESL Ontario is committed to making communications and membership in our not-for-profit organization as valuable and relevant as possible through the continued effective use of technology. This is certainly true when it comes to our webinar team and again the many talented members who devote their time freely to provide exceptional professional development webinars for our members.

The social media team also makes great use of a wide array of the social media platforms to engage with its members and to both keep our members informed and abreast of the latest information, research and teaching strategies to make our lives easier. These platforms include, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

Operations

TESL Ontario now serves approximately 4,400 members, and a large number of them are TESL Ontario Accredited.

The operations of TESL Ontario are carried out by five full-time staff members:

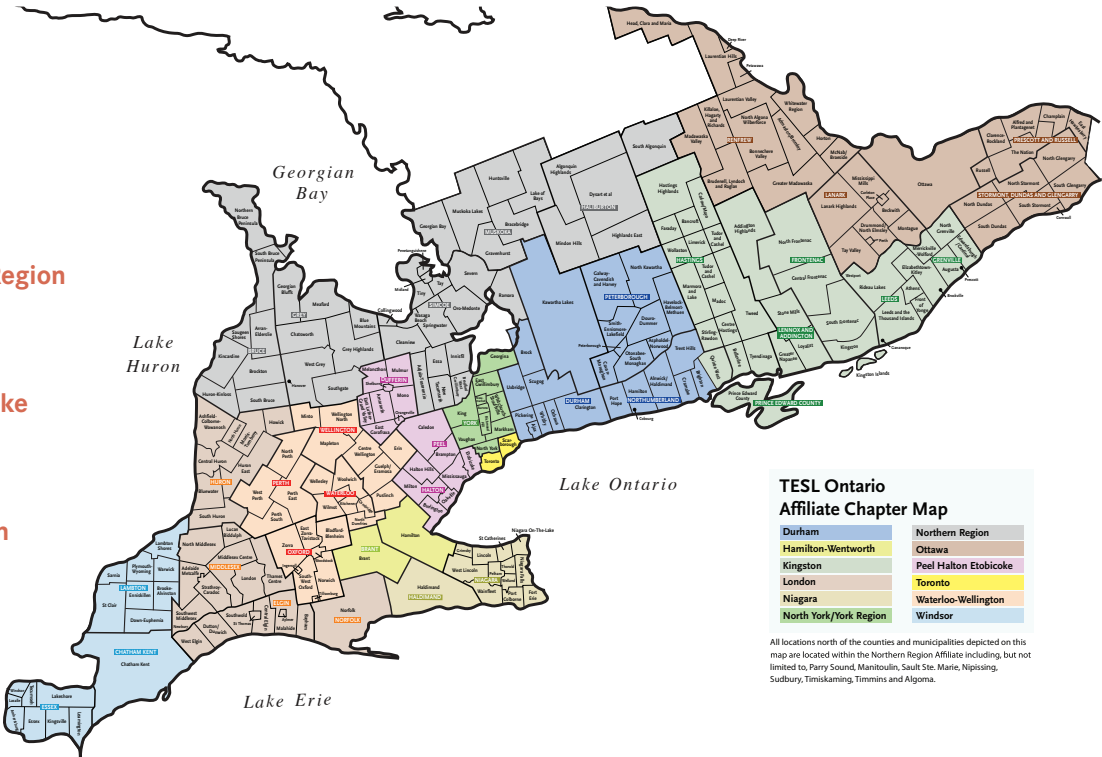
- Renate Tilson, Executive Director
- Eva Csiszar, Operations Manager
- Allison Keown, Manager Member Services and Communications
- Reza Mazloom-Farzaghy, Accreditation Services Manager
- Kevin Gamble, Office Manager

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.

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 Communications Officer, Events Coordinator and Members at Large. Both the Affiliate Chapter Presidents and Affiliate Chapter Representatives meet annually with the TESL Ontario Board of Directors to contribute to the Boards’ 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



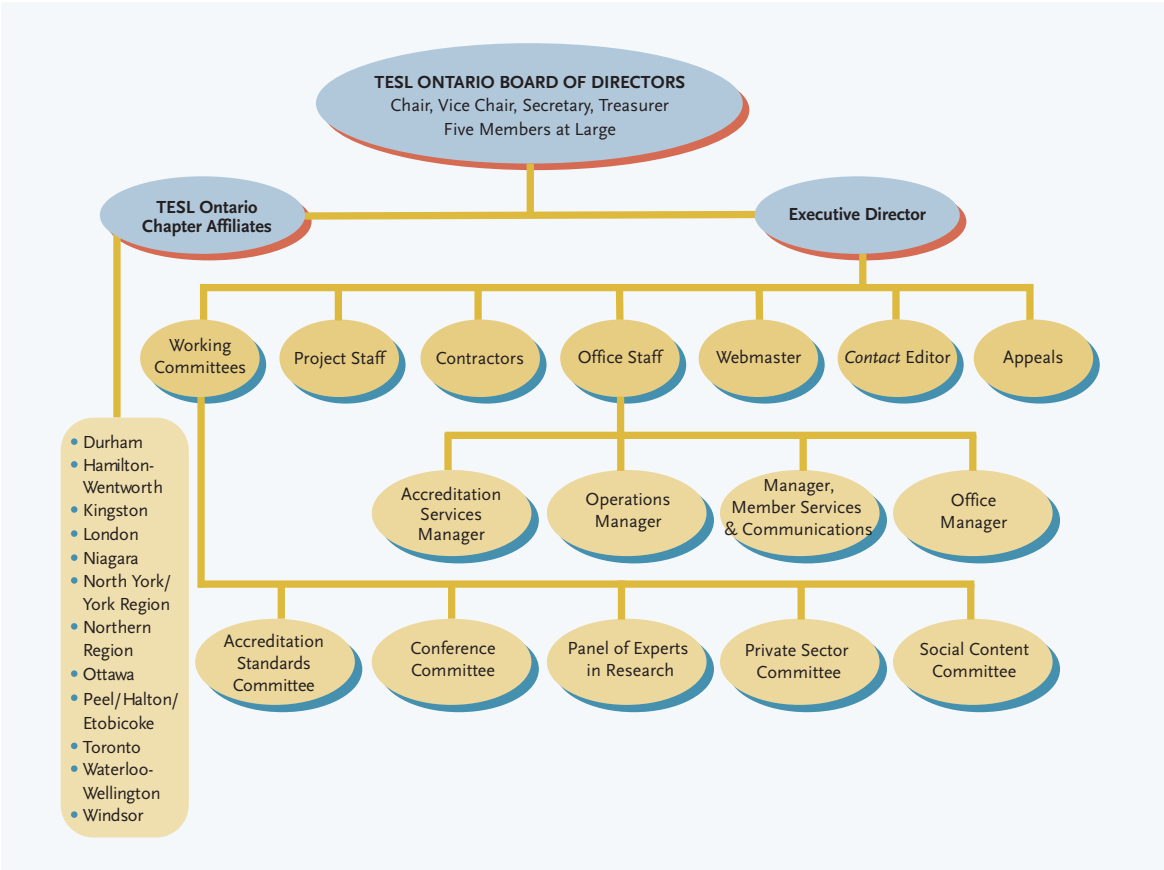
Board of Directors

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.

2017/18 Board of Directors

- ChairDavid Hazell
- Vice-ChairSharon Deng
- TreasurerArt Rekhtin
- SecretaryCheryl Fretz
- Member-at-LargeBrett Basbaum
- Member-at-LargeAlex Harchenko
- Member-at-LargeGeoffrey Lawrence
- Member-at-LargeLara McInnis
- Member-at-LargeAmy Yani



Financial Report

The condensed financial information below represents the abbreviated annual financial statements of TESL Ontario for the year ended March 31, 2018.

Readers of the condensed financial information are cautioned that the information contained may not be appropriate for their purposes and may be misleading without referring to auditors’ report and the information contained in the notes to the financial statements. The independent auditors’ 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.org/publication/annual-report.

Statement of Financial Position

as of March 31, 2018

	2018	2017
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$311,424	\$220,789
Short-term investments	361,155	159,956
Prepays and deposits	24,329	27,371
	\$696,908	\$408,116
Capital Assets	14,836	17,567
Intangible Assets	32,000	32,000
	\$743,744	\$457,683
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$76,589	\$72,349
Deferred contributions	546,512	390,424
	\$623,101	\$462,773
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$120,643	\$(5,090)
	\$743,744	\$457,683

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended March 31, 2018

	2018	2017
REVENUES		
Annual TESL Ontario Conference		
Conference Assistance project - MCI	116,102	114,117
Publisher fees	20,375	23,729
Registration fees	115,228	120,780
Sponsorship	12,000	11,250
Project revenue		
Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI)		
Pay Equity Program	9,259	9,259
Directory of Best Practices & Webinars	129,369	92,759
Customized PLAR for experienced instructors		
in Adult Non-Credit ESL	-	13,844
Competency-and-Credit based PLAR	2,869	-
Membership fees	321,758	337,621
Accreditation fees	382,536	379,672
Affiliate Chapters’ conferences	32,483	35,963
Interest and other income	32,851	29,883
	\$1,174,830	\$1,168,877
EXPENDITURES		
Membership	\$108,843	\$109,894
Accreditation	145,275	137,990
Projects	114,990	87,160
Annual conference	242,831	238,038
Affiliate Chapters’ conferences	48,076	59,132
Office and administration	294,953	288,899
TESOL affiliation	6,840	19,342
Board and committee meetings	28,890	21,294
Occupancy	45,833	45,296
Affiliate chapters’ other professional development events	12,566	15,269
	\$1,049,097	\$1,022,314
Net excess of revenues over expenditures for the year	\$125,733	\$146,563
Net assets, beginning of year	\$(5,090)	\$(151,653)
Net assets, end of year	\$120,643	\$(5,090)

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Teachers of English as a Second Language Association of Ontario