

2019/2020 Annual Report





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Message from the TESL Ontario Board of Directors

2019—2020 has been a busy and fruitful year for TESL Ontario. As we conclude the first year of our Strategic Plan, the Board laid the groundwork necessary to build upon for future success. Continued networking with like-minded organizations over the past year has further raised our profile and strengthened our voice in the ESL community. One strategic priority in particular, Professional Development, came into sharp focus as the year ended and COVID-19 changed our personal and professional worlds. With key goals identified, and a firm foundation built over this past year, the Board has great confidence in moving forward with our successes.

I wish to heartily thank our many volunteers in all parts of our large organization. Were it not for the dedication of our board members, TESL Ontario’s impact and footprint in ESL would not be as big. Two Board members ended their term: Brett Basbaum and Cheryl Fretz. We wish them the very best in their future adventures. We welcomed Jennifer Allore and Paula Ogg, and Alex Harchenko, serving his second term. The Board represents a range of different voices and perspectives, which is both energizing and inspiring to the work that we do.

Finally, it is with great pride that the Board recognizes the incredible team of TESL Ontario staff, whose work has steadily grown over the years. Their dedication to the profession remains unwavering and their ability to adapt and change within a moment’s notice has been remarkable. The stability of TESL Ontario, both in terms of finance and governance, is our hard-earned strength.

Sharon Deng
Chair, TESL Ontario



TESL Ontario 47th Annual Conference

The 47th Annual TESL Ontario conference, “Cultivating Innovation and Inclusion” acknowledged how English language teaching is continuing to change and was reflected in the wide range of presentations.

Held at the Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre in Toronto on December 5th and 6th, we welcomed just under 1000 attendees, the highest number we have had in several years. TESL Ontario is grateful for the conference assistance from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services for enabling 250 delegates to attend the conference. Many of these were among the 118 individuals who attended the Friday afternoon joint administrators’ session.

Dorothy Zemach, presented an entertaining and informative keynote on ‘The (Dis)comfort Zone’, giving the audience plenty to think about in terms of online culture and the effect it has on us. Our second keynote was a remote presentation by Gavin Dudeney whose topic ‘Technology in Language Teaching: What Works, What Doesn’t’ ultimately focused on mobile phones as the key technology to be used in our programs. Christien Lee’s keynote was sponsored by National Geographic Learning. In discussing ‘Food for Thought’, Christien emphasised ways to foster innovation and inclusivity in our classes.

This year’s Techknow session featured 12 tech-related topics, in which participants circulated throughout the room to learn more about various aspects of technology. The focus on technology continued with three additional remote sessions available.

The theme of the 14th Annual Panel Discussion was “Shifting Perspectives”. The audience heard updates from Yves Saint-Germain, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada; Yvonne Ferrer from Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services; Joanne Prior Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development; and Pauline McNaughton from Ontario Ministry of Education. As always, the delegates appreciated the opportunity to ask questions of the panelists.

“
I want to thank Stefanie, TESL Ontario staff, and the many volunteers who work so hard to make the conference so interesting and such a valuable resource.
”

Conference Survey Response

“
Thank you for all the hard work you do. This conference is extremely valuable!
”

Conference Survey Response



“
The conferences were really helpful with professional development and staying engaged in the ideas and theories of language teaching, which I really enjoyed.
”

Survey Response



Our third annual Career Connections segment provided attendees with an opportunity to hear advice and relevant information from a panel of employers, after which they could connect with representatives from 23 organizations that were in quest of potential staff.

Best practices and innovative ideas were shared by 191 volunteer presenters through 120 workshops and presentations. In addition, there were 15 poster presentations, an increase over previous years.

A new addition to our conference also involved incorporating technology! The Sched App which was a free download for delegates was accessed by 163 delegates, of whom 156 created their personal schedules using the App.

Thirty-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 awards for contributions to the field of ESL and the Distinguished Contribution Award were also presented. We continue to be grateful for, and inspired by, the dedication and hard work of our members.

A conference of this size is due in part to the generosity of our sponsors who contribute to our success. We are most appreciative of the support of British Council – IELTS, ESL Coin, National Geographic Learning, New Language Solutions, CELPIP CAEL by Paragon, The Retired Teachers of Ontario and University of Saskatchewan.

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



Affiliate Chapter Activities

“Events such as online activities hosted by the affiliate chapter are a crucial way to stay in touch with colleagues and to stay informed about the latest TESL approaches.”

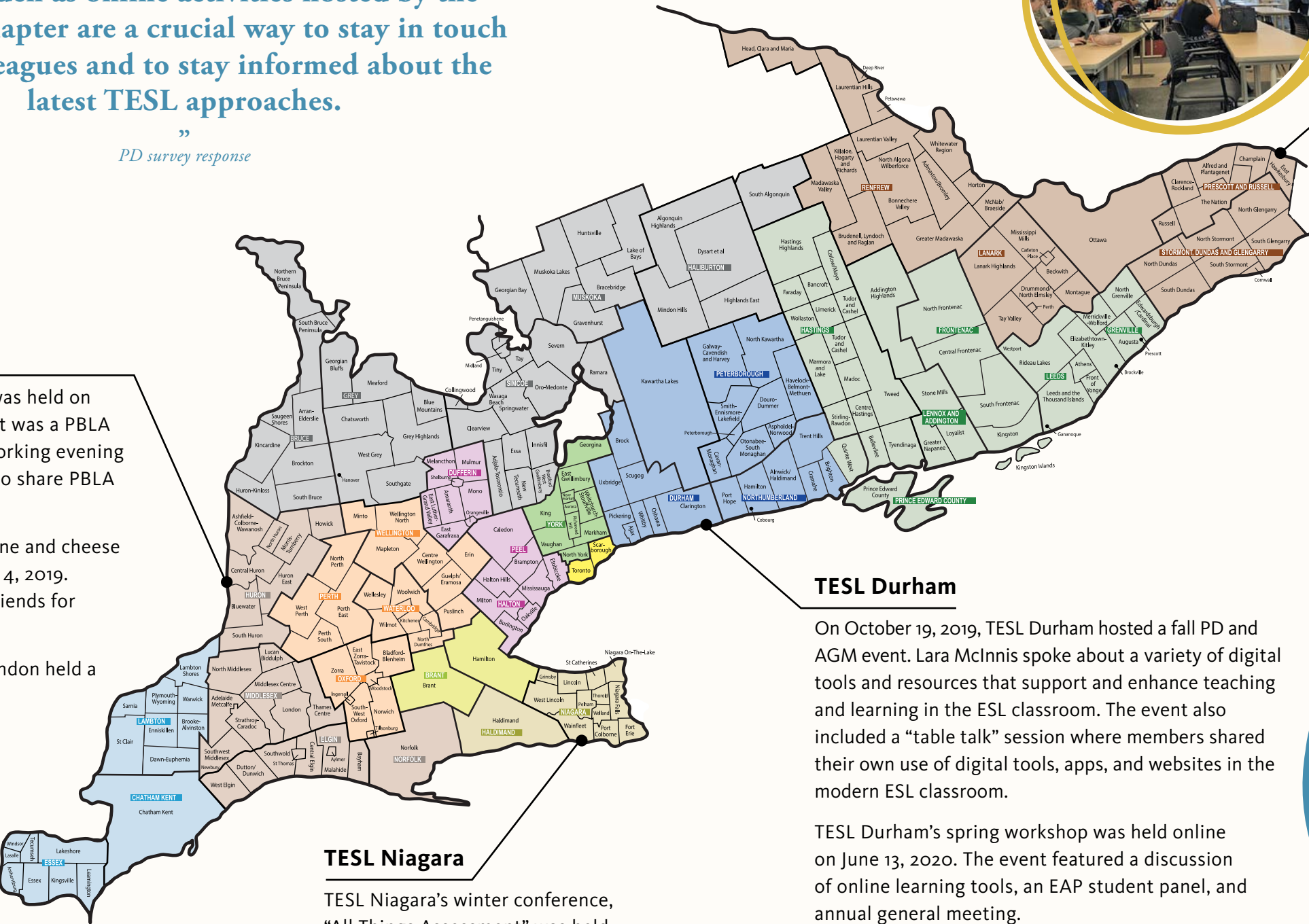
PD survey response

TESL London

TESL London’s fall PD event was held on September 27, 2019. The event was a PBLA Materials Slam Night, a networking evening designed to allow attendees to share PBLA materials.

The affiliate chapter held a wine and cheese networking event on October 4, 2019. Kim Cechetto spoke about “Friends for Language: Friends for Life”.

On February 17, 2020 TESL London held a networking paint night event.



TESL Niagara

TESL Niagara’s winter conference, “All Things Assessment” was held on February 8, 2020. The conference featured a full day of sessions featuring assessment workshops for PBLA and EAP.

TESL Durham

On October 19, 2019, TESL Durham hosted a fall PD and AGM event. Lara McInnis spoke about a variety of digital tools and resources that support and enhance teaching and learning in the ESL classroom. The event also included a “table talk” session where members shared their own use of digital tools, apps, and websites in the modern ESL classroom.

TESL Durham’s spring workshop was held online on June 13, 2020. The event featured a discussion of online learning tools, an EAP student panel, and annual general meeting.



TESL Ottawa

TESL Ottawa held its Fall PD event on November 16, 2019. Nikolay Slavkov presented two workshops “Creating a Linguistic Risk-Taking Initiative” and “Navigating the Ottawa Mental Health Landscape: A Teacher’s Guide”.

The affiliate chapter held its winter conference, “Vocabulary acquisition and teaching”, on February 8, 2020. The event featured a full day of educational sessions including two plenary presentations, four workshops, and a publisher’s display.

TESL Ottawa held a spring PD event online on Saturday, May 9, 2020. The event featured a plenary presentation by Beverly Baker on language assessment, and two workshops.



TESL Durham

Continued

TESL Peel Halton Etobicoke

TESL PHE held its fall conference and AGM on November 21, 2019. The keynote speaker was Carlos Medina, author of “Brampton Stories 1” a book that explores the dynamics within immigrant families and between immigrant and “non-immigrant” Canadians.

The affiliate chapter’s spring PD session, held online on June 21, 2020, featured two webinar sessions including “ZOOMing Ahead – Tips and Tricks” presented by Catherine (Kate) Maven and “Mindfulness - An Approach to Relaxation” presented by Anjum Karimi.

TESL Windsor

The TESL Winsor fall PD event was held on October 25, 2019. The event featured a keynote presentation by Jennifer McMullen, three workshops, and networking.

TESL Windsor’s spring PD event was held online on July 18, 2020. The event featured two webinar sessions including “English and Nature - Making Your Classroom Fly” presented by Nancy Pancheshan, and “Horticultural Therapy in ESL Lesson Planning” presented by Christina Klein.

TESL
Windsor

TESL
Kingston

TESL Kingston

TESL Kingston’s fall PD workshop was held on November 9, 2019. Mohammad Hashemi presented a workshop titled “The Art of Learning: What does science tell us about effective learning strategies.”

The affiliate chapter held its winter workshop on February 29, 2020. The event featured a presentation by Rasha Fahim and Yu Jier Ku titled “Art Therapy and Play Wellness: Techniques for the ESL Classroom”.

TESL Toronto

TESL Toronto held an AGM and round table event on October 2, 2019. The event featured 3 round table discussion sessions led by guest speakers on pre-determined topics.

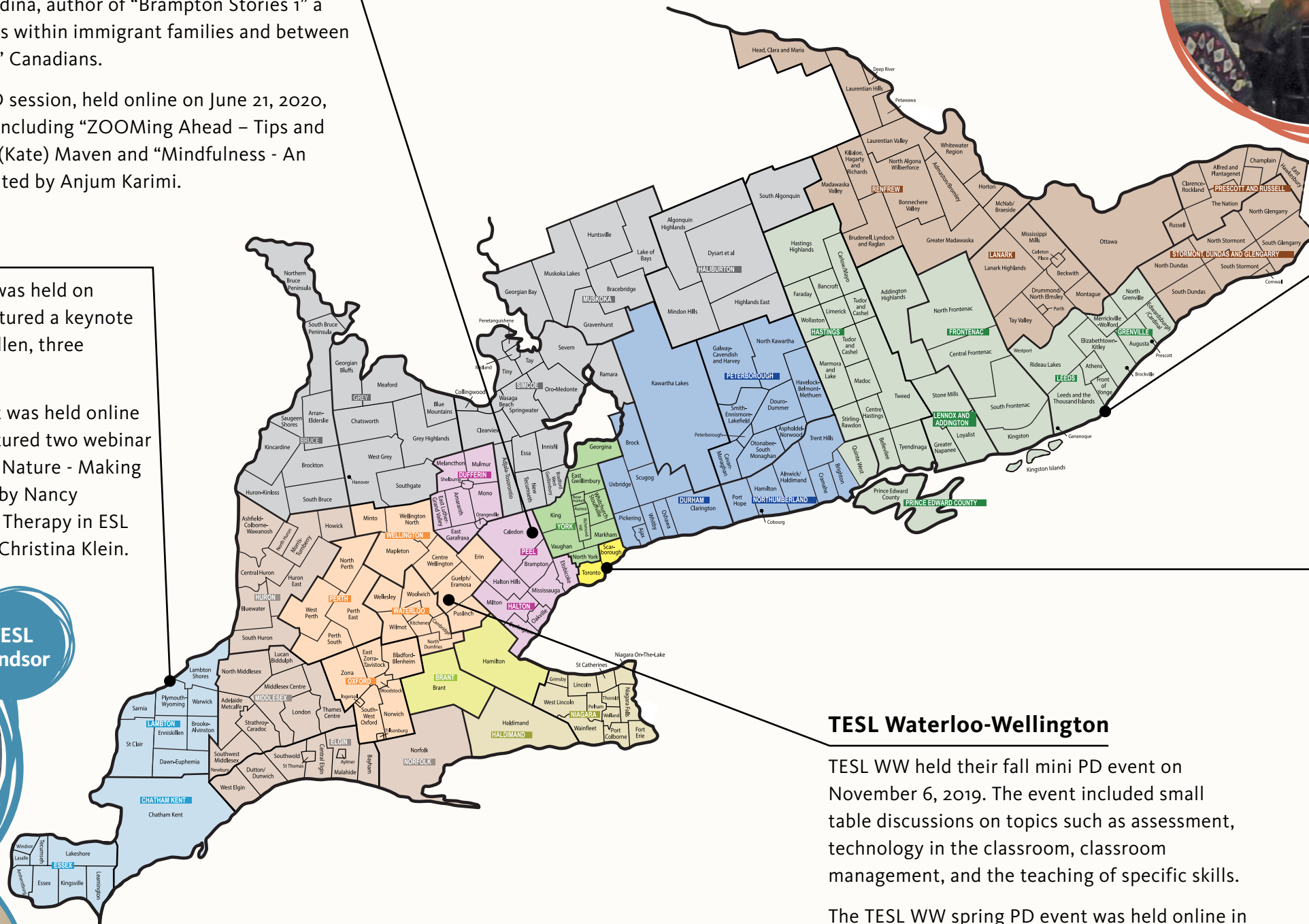
On February 1, 2020 TESL Toronto hosted their annual Technology for Teachers (T4T) event that included 12 technology-themed presentations and a networking session.

TESL Toronto held a mini version of their annual conference, TOSCON 2020, online on June 6, 2020. The event featured two webinar sessions including “Overcoming Learners’ Affective Barriers with Asynchronous Information Communication Technology” presented by Katina Deichsel and “Intercultural and Plurilingual Language Teaching: What, Why, and How” presented by Alanna Carter & Rebecca Schmor.

TESL Waterloo-Wellington

TESL WW held their fall mini PD event on November 6, 2019. The event included small table discussions on topics such as assessment, technology in the classroom, classroom management, and the teaching of specific skills.

The TESL WW spring PD event was held online in June 2020. The event featured two webinar sessions including, “Understanding Newcomers’ Mental Health” presented by Elizabeth Akenyemi and “We Need to Talk!” presented by Maryam Elshafei.



Member Services

The association had approximately 4550 active members in 2019. Eighty-seven per cent of the membership hold certificates of accreditation, while 9% keeps abreast of the language training sector with a standard membership.

TESL Ontario continues to focus on building member communities and expanding professional development opportunities and member resources. In the previous year, the webinar team developed 24 live webinars and three direct-to-video webinars. In addition, new resources were added to the TESL Ontario YouTube Channel, and the Directory of Best Practices. The TESL Ontario Career Connections event was expanded again in 2019 with more employers and a focused forum discussion to assist members with their job search, networking, and career development.

The TESL Ontario social media community continues to grow, with more members joining us online this year to gather information, to share and communicate with language training professionals, and to contribute to engaging conversations on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and the TESL Ontario blog.

The TESL Ontario webinar program switched to the Zoom webinar platform in 2019 to accommodate larger audiences. The webinar series offered a wide array of professional development on popular topics covering technology, assessment, PBLA, multi-level classes, self-care, mental health, and much more. All webinars are initially scheduled as a live event, with a recorded version of the webinar 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 continues to be a popular resource among ESL professionals across Canada. The blog publishes new articles weekly on a variety of English training topics. In response to member survey results indicating that members want more opportunities to publish work, the blog is now continuously accepting blogger applications throughout the year.

“
It is my great pleasure to thank everybody
working hard at TESL Ontario and to
acknowledge that I am very honored to be a part
of your amazing organization.”

Sara H.

“
I am so grateful for
TESL Ontario and
its support to its
members during
pandemic crisis.”

PD survey response



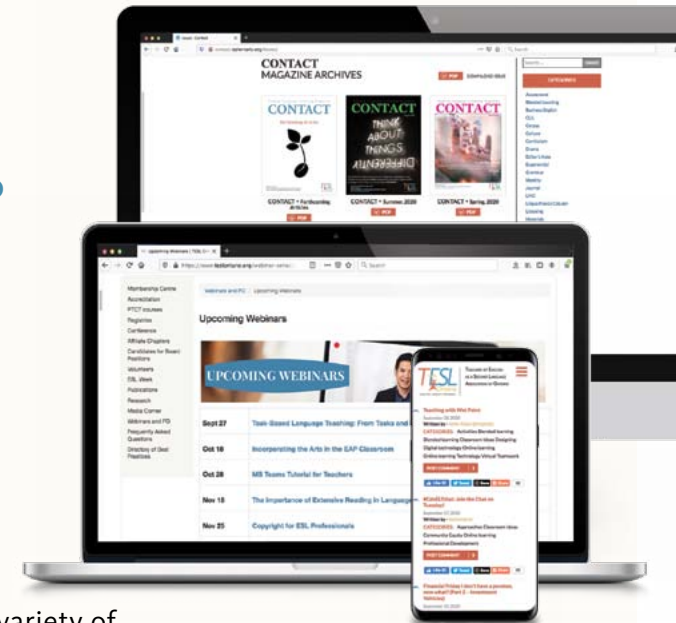
“
I appreciate all the effort TESL Ontario
is putting in to make online teaching
more user friendly and providing all
the necessary resources to make online
teaching more effectively.”

Webinar Survey Response

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 available resources. The quarterly Membership Minute Newsletter provides information about new and existing membership related activities and upcoming PD events. 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.

More than 50 volunteers make it possible for TESL Ontario to deliver key member benefits such as relevant webinars, new blog posts, social media communities, YouTube resources, and the annual conference. These volunteers bring enthusiasm, dedication, commitment, and innovative ideas to the table every day, and TESL Ontario wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of our volunteers.

Looking ahead, TESL Ontario is busy developing two new PD streams that will become available to members in the fall of 2020.



Accreditation Services

Between November 2018 and August 2019 the standards and application process steps for CTESOL (Canadian Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages) Certificate of Accreditation and Professional Designation were developed. Therefore, as of August 2019, TESL Ontario started offering its Adult ESL Teacher Accreditation at two levels: CTESOL (for graduates of the accredited 120-hour programs) and OCELT (Ontario Certified English Language Teacher - for graduates of the accredited 300-hour programs). The CTESOL Certificate of Accreditation and Professional Designation acknowledges that a certificate holder has the knowledge and skills required for teaching English to adult learners in non-publicly funded programs in Ontario, in both private and publicly funded programs in other Canadian provinces and territories, and in a variety of contexts abroad. The OCELT Certificate of Accreditation and Professional Designation recognizes that a certificate holder has the knowledge and skills required for teaching English to adult learners in all publicly funded and private programs in Ontario, other Canadian provinces and territories, and abroad. CTESOL applicants are required to hold a university degree and meet the English language proficiency standard. CTESOL accreditation renewal is contingent on maintaining membership with one of the provincial TESL organizations and completing 10 hours of professional development per year.

The 8th annual joint meeting of the TESL Ontario Standards Committee and the accredited training providers was held at Metro Hall on June 10, 2019. Thirty-one training program representatives and committee members, two presenters from the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB), two presenters from the TESL Ontario Competency and Credit-based PLAR project team, and three adult ESL teacher employers from YCDSB, YRDSB, and TCET participated in the joint meeting. The major agenda topics included updates on the PLAR project, update on PBLA, employers’ concerns and suggestions, accredited teachers’ English language proficiency, and CTESOL accreditation for graduates of accredited 120-hour programs.

In early 2018, TESL Ontario had applied to the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) for the registration of CTESOL and ICTEAL (International Certificate in Teaching English as an Additional Language) as trademarks. CIPO started examining the CTESOL application in late 2019, and the ICTEAL application in early 2020. We hope that both applications will be approved by the end of 2020.

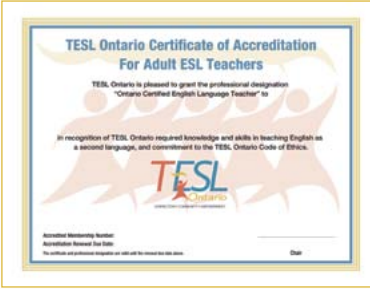
In early 2020, a survey was conducted about English language proficiency (ELP) level of the adult ESL teachers who had been accredited by TESL Ontario between 2016 and 2020. The survey was sent to English instruction providers in Ontario school boards, colleges, universities, private language

schools, and the Ontario settlement agencies. Ninety-five per cent of the respondents agreed that the TESL Ontario accredited teachers’ ELP was adequate or mostly adequate. Based on the survey results and additional input from the accredited teacher training providers, it was decided that no changes to the ELP standard were warranted.

TESL Ontario has consistently monitored the impact of the unprecedented challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic on accredited training providers and TESL students. In March 2020, TESL Ontario surveyed the accredited training providers on the status of their practicum course and the complexities caused by school closures (practicum hosts) due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Next, acknowledging the academic integrity of all accredited training providers and appreciating their efforts to observe the TESL Ontario practicum requirements to the best of their ability, in spite of the difficulties caused by the pandemic, TESL Ontario considered each training provider’s specific situation separately and supported their contingency plan. This approach allowed every program to find their own practical and resourceful solution to the dilemmas they were encountering. It also allowed TESL Ontario to offer any necessary guidance and assistance.

During this report period, TESL Ontario approved 356 new Adult ESL Teacher Accreditation applications (including 46 PLAR applications), 58 accreditation reinstatement applications, 47 TESL trainer/PTCT instructor approval applications, and two new TESL program accreditation applications. All TESL Ontario accredited training providers renewed their accreditation in 2019. Also, TESL Ontario received and approved four PTCT course renewal applications: two from Canadian College of Educators for Advanced Pedagogical Grammar and Teaching Pronunciation courses, and two from New Language Solutions Inc. for Online/Blended Language Training Using Moodle - LearnIT2teach Stage 3 and Developing e-Materials for Language Training - LearnIT2teach Stage 4.

By the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year there were 27 accredited OCELT programs, 12 accredited CTESOL programs, and four approved PTCT courses.





Recognition Award Recipients

2019 Distinguished Contribution Award Recipient

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. In 2019 the award was presented to Antonella Valeo.

Antonella Valeo

Antonella Valeo has been working with ESL learners and teachers for over 25 years. She is currently an Associate Professor at York University where she teaches graduate courses in applied linguistics, TESOL, and ESL to undergraduate students. As a researcher, her focus is on classroom interaction and language teacher development.

Over the years, her work with TESL Ontario has both inspired and reflected these interests. She joined TESL Toronto as membership secretary, and later served as President, Conference Chair, and Affiliate Representative. Her work with TESL Ontario has been diverse and has included involvement in the early development of TESL training institutional accreditation, and local co-chair when TESL Ontario hosted the TESOL Convention in 2015. TESL Ontario welcomed her contributions as Research Committee Chair and called on her to work with the team that developed the framework for Post-TESL certificate training.

Throughout her time in the field, whether as instructor, curriculum developer, language teacher trainer, administrator, or researcher, her engagement with TESL Ontario has served as an anchor and reminded her of the community that continues to inspire her today.



Antonella
Valeo

2019 Sparks of Excellence Award Recipients

The TESL Ontario Sparks of Excellence Award is designed to recognize and acknowledge the excellence and commitment of TESL Ontario members. In 2019 the award was presented to Catherine Porter, Alizon Thuot, and Susan Webb.

Catherine Porter

Catherine Porter has been a LINC CLB 1 classroom instructor, with a focus on literacy, for 23 years with the Toronto District School Board, teaching learners from 64 countries, most of whom are refugees from areas of conflict. In 2014, Catherine applied her distance education teaching experience to her personalized Edulinc platform, creating a tool to promote digital literacy. She has shared her Edulinc teaching tools by presenting at conferences and webinars. Since 2015, Catherine has been a member of a PBLA Lead Instructor team and has worked collaboratively on researching, developing, and presenting workshops and discussion papers. She has developed instructional materials on domestic abuse, legal assistance, and sexual health. Catherine has provided mentorship to teachers-in-training considering this diverse, challenging, and rewarding career.

Catherine strives to make daily classes interactive, experiential, and a safe learning experience for learners adapting to life in a technology-rich urban environment. As much in awe today by the resolve, determination, and fortitude of her students, Catherine encourages each one to recognize every incremental acquisition of settlement independence and English skill, to foster confidence in learning. Catherine has shared her classroom with Seneca College teachers-in-training, providing mentorship to instructors considering this diverse, challenging and rewarding level.

Alizon Thuot

Alizon Thuot has taught adult ESL in Ottawa since 2002. In 2006, she taught their first LINC class dedicated to foundational literacy. Her experience with this unique group of learners, who were not used to traditional classroom teaching methods, led her to pursue an MA in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies at Carleton University, focusing on literacy as well as best practices for a creative, task-based approach. In her final course at Carleton, she developed a webinar for Tutela on Project-Based Teaching for Adult ESL Literacy Learners. She then taught Literacy at Algonquin College's TESL program, an applied setting where she combined academic theory with theme-based classroom projects.

With the support of her co-workers, management, and volunteers, Alizon's many diverse projects include weekly volunteering at the local Salvation Army, reading and singing with students' children, building an



Catherine
Porter



Alizon
Thuot

Continued

outdoor vegetable garden from scratch, maintaining an indoor hydroponic tower garden, and using the produce from the gardens to create healthy recipes. She enjoys documenting the projects with photographs and capturing the moments as they happen, moments that foster language development and increase self-esteem through shared experience and working together.

Susan Webb

Susan Webb became an English language teacher with the Toronto District School Board in 1995, where she helped newcomers to Toronto, teaching everything from settlement to workplace ESL classes. In 2009 she became involved in the board's project for LINC 5-7 content, COSTI's English Training in the Workplace curriculum, and LearnIT2teach. In 2015, Susan joined the Centre for Education & Training as its coordinator of Language Curriculum Training Services. Teachers join webinars led by Susan once or twice per month, to benefit from her own or from guest-presented sessions. They enjoy meeting and sharing their teaching tips and ideas with colleagues.

Susan goes to great lengths to help her participants interact, stay engaged, and increase their technology skills in the webinar environment via clear, concise documentation on how to use the webinar conferencing software, a range of energetic audience participation activities, and useful technology applications. Susan finds pleasure in serving the teachers of Ontario's language training sector. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature with a Minor in Italian Language, a TESL Certificate from George Brown College and an Honours Diploma in Technical Communication from Seneca College.

TESL Ontario Working Committees**Social Content Committee**

The Social Content Committee has a mandate to:

- provide TESL Ontario members with an online professional community in which they can connect with their peers, and obtain and share relevant resources and teaching strategies;
- 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.

From April 2019 to March 2020, the committee consisted of the following members:

Anna Bartosik (Chair), Jen Artan (Webinars – Tutela), Suma Balagopal (Facebook), Tamsin Cobb (Blog), Rajmonda Deliallisi (LinkedIn), Vanessa Nino (Twitter), Patrick Chan (Instagram), Renate Tilson (Executive Director), and Allison Keown (Manager, Member Services and Communications). Colleen Taylor joined the TESL Ontario staff in June 2020 as the Coordinator, Social Media and Professional Development.

The Social Content Committee has been the driving force of the online member communities at TESL Ontario. The committee encourages member engagement on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram. In addition to the communities on social media platforms, the committee delivers professional development and resources including webinars, the TESL Blog, and YouTube videos.

Some highlights from the past year on TESL Ontario's social media:

- Likes, follows, and members are some of the ways the committee measures its success. Across all platforms, there was a discernible increase in engagement.

These numbers don't provide a complete picture*. In support, here are some of the details that drive the increased interactions on social media.

- The TESL Ontario webinar team saw a significant increase in the average number of attendees at each webinar, from 95 (Apr. 2018 to Mar 2019) to 109 (Apr 2019 to Mar 2020). A contributing factor to that increase was the record number of attendees at the following webinars:

1. Coping with COVID-19 Using Online Instruction — 224
2. The BlendSync Approach to Teaching ESL: Pedagogy and Technology — 182
3. Slipping in Slang — 163
4. Dealing With Multi-Level ESL/EFL Classes — 159
5. Using ESL Students as Instructional Resources — 153

- The YouTube channel saw its most watched videos, which include the following views:

1. Coping With Covid-19 Using Online Instruction — 1467
2. Best Practices TBL (Task Based Learning) — 424
3. 2019 TESL Ontario Awards Nominations — 191

Some highlights from the past year on TESL Ontario's social media*

From April 2019 to March 2020



Increased followers from 274 to 406



Webinar group on Tutela increased from 2366 to 2707 members

TESL Ontario Blog Averaged 14,780 monthly reads in 2019 and 14,186 in 2020



Lifetime likes increased from 2548 to 2799



Company page: rose from 6175 to 8159 followers

Group: increased members from 3534 to 3635



Followers rose from 2621 to 2798



Increased from 144 to 218 (launched in December 2018)

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- The TESL Ontario Blog team publishes weekly blog posts, with a regular blog team, guest bloggers, and occasional bloggers contributing to the content. Some of the most popular posts include:
 1. Student-Led Discussions — 18,046
 2. Trauma + Second Language Learning = Alternative Pedagogy — 8,988
 3. PBLA: Can I See the Curriculum Please? — 8,908
 4. Choosing an App for Your Lessons with the Pedagogy Wheel — 7,011
 5. A Meaningful Handicraft Project: Collaboration, Learning and So Much More! — 6,635

What's next?

The social content committee has expanded to include volunteers who will be bringing the membership new and exciting professional development, including original YouTube video content, and virtual roundtable discussions.

None of these successes would be possible without the volunteers who ensure the Social Content Committee produces relevant content, and the TESL Ontario members who continue to support these platforms.

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 and innovations 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, Patrick Chan and Taybeh Shalmani; Conference Manager Stefanie Wolf, Executive Director Renate Tilson and the TESL Ontario office team for their commitment to making our conference a success.



Blog: blog.teslontario.org



Facebook: [TESLOntario](https://www.facebook.com/TESLOntario)

Accreditation Standards Committee

The Accreditation Standards Committee's mandate is to uphold the TESL Ontario professional standards by addressing and advising on accreditation criteria and initiatives. This committee is composed of a chairperson, seven representation seats (three program managers, two TESL trainers, one LINC teacher, and one adult ESL teacher), the TESL Ontario Executive Director, the TESL Ontario Adjudicator; and the TESL Ontario Accreditation Services Manager. The members of this committee are recruited from the TESL Ontario membership.

During the period of April 2019 to March 2020, the Standards Committee held five meetings, including the 8th annual joint meeting with the accredited training providers. The major topics reviewed included CTESOL accreditation, English language proficiency standard, competency-based PLAR, easier access to PBLA training, reaching out to private sector ESL teachers, competency framework for adult ESL teachers, temporary changes to practicum requirement due to COVID-19 lockdown, and accredited training providers' contingency plans for the duration of the pandemic.

Serving on the Standards Committee in the 2019-2020 fiscal year were Karen E. Evans (Chair), Joan Reynolds, David Wood, Kay Ham, Sven Greve, Marlene Saavedra, Claudia Maria Petrescu, Angela Meyer Sterzik, Paula Ogg, Renate Tilson, and Reza Mazloom-Farzaghy.

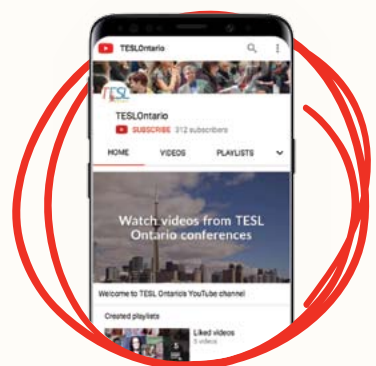
Colleges and Universities Committee

TESL Ontario's Colleges and Universities Committee continued to meet four times per year and had a successful second year examining how TESL Ontario can effectively support members working in the rapidly changing and growing post-secondary ESL/EAL/EAP sector throughout Ontario.

The committee facilitated a productive panel at the 2019 TESL Ontario conference engaging TESL Ontario members in a discussion of the committee's focus, the status of the post-secondary EAP sector, and defining the needs of EAP college/university members that can be supported through TESL Ontario. A number of priorities emerged that included the need for EAP-specific professional development and career support, along with increased representation of research-informed post-secondary EAP program design and teaching approaches within TESL Ontario and its annual conference. In the spring of 2020, the rapid online migration of EAP courses prompted the committee to strengthen its priority towards training around technology integration/design, as well as discussions of career pathways in post-secondary ELT for TESL graduates and interested members.



Instagram: [@TESLOntario](https://www.instagram.com/teslontario)



YouTube: [TESLOntario](https://www.youtube.com/TESLOntario)

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Over the year the committee continued to expand on its work in two key areas: finalizing strategic directions for the committee that complement strategic priorities articulated in TESL Ontario's Strategic Plan, 2019-2021; the continued development of outreach strategies to expand services within TESL Ontario for members in this growing post-secondary sector. In that regard, the committee will be facilitating a second panel discussion with TESL Ontario members about the committee's work at the TESL Ontario 2020 conference. The committee will also be featuring speakers at the University of Toronto International Foundation Program Inaugural EAP Conference in May, 2021.

Private Sector Committee

The mandate of the Private Sector Committee is to develop a coherent voice and focus for professional development and practice for ESL educators working in private post-secondary institutions.

In the early months of 2020, the Private Sector Committee continued to align its work with the TESL Ontario Strategic Plan by focussing on professional development, accreditation, and organizational excellence.

In the area of professional development, the committee continued its work to inform educators in the private sector about professional development opportunities through regular email updates. In addition, the committee delivered its first panel discussion at the TESL Ontario Annual Conference. The topic focused on skills gaps that exist for novice teachers when transitioning from TESL programs to their first teaching positions in private language schools. The committee was able to repeat the panel presentation at the 2020 Languages Canada Annual Conference in February.

In the area of accreditation, the committee created the 'What does TESL Ontario membership get you?' flyer, a concise explanation of the benefits of accredited membership. This document was distributed to TESL Ontario Affiliate Chapter Executives for their use and to the membership at TESL Ontario events.

Being reliant on continuous student intake and the ability of international students to travel, the coronavirus pandemic significantly impacted enrollment at private sector institutions from January. The ensuing lockdown and restrictions on international travel saw an immediate transition to remote teaching and learning from most private sector institutions. However, in an already highly competitive environment, the pandemic has led to school closures and significant reductions in teaching staff at many institutions. As the Private Sector Committee is formed of academic administrators, the committee has been on hiatus while its members focus on navigating their individual institutions through these very challenging times.



Twitter: @TESLOntario



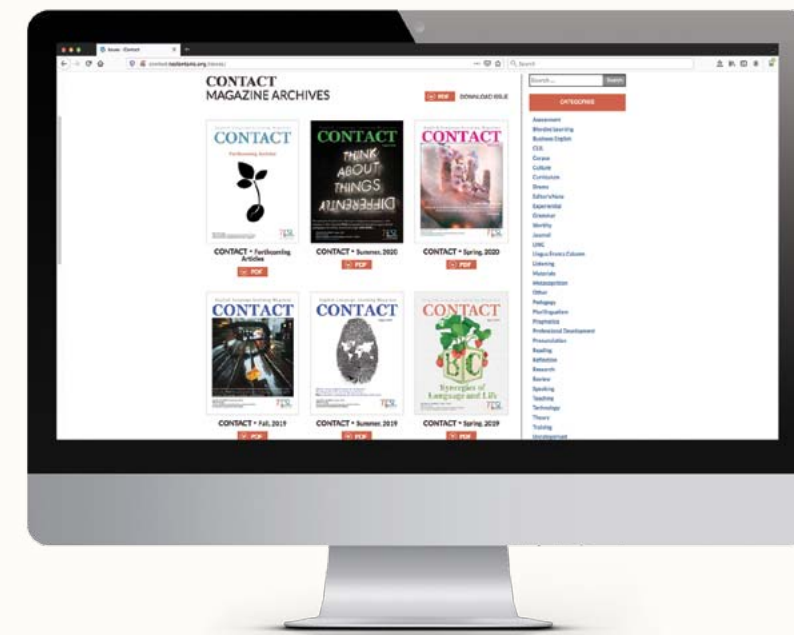
LinkedIn: TESLOntario

The committee functions due to the hard work and dedication of its members: David Hazell (Chair), John Friel, Kangxian Zhao, Paula Medina, Tetyana Vdovina. Thank you so much to all members for their contributions to the committee.

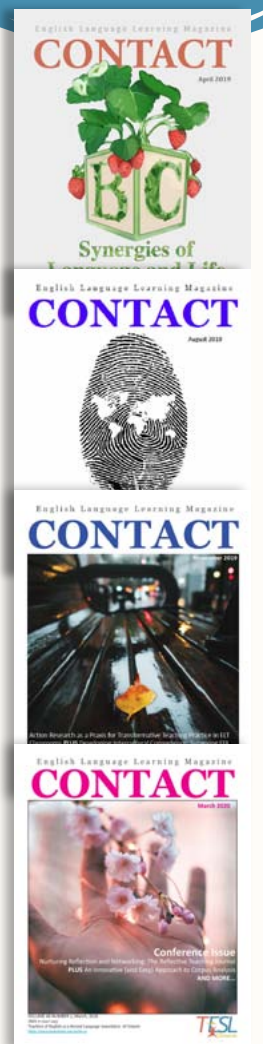
Contact Magazine

Contact, TESL Ontario's professional development magazine, was established in 1974 and has evolved over the years to match the changing needs of its audience. The 2019/2020 year saw the completion of volume 45 and the beginning of volume 46. Individual articles and entire issues can be viewed at contact.teslontario.org/issues

The first issue each year, published in March, typically incorporates the works of presenters and researchers from the previous year's annual conference. The second issue (August) and third issue (November) carry a wide range of research articles, lesson ideas, special features, and profiles of community organizations. *Contact* saw an overwhelming support from its writers during the 2019-2020 season. As such, we always strive to serve our readership with practical teaching information, theory and methodology, and lesson plans and classroom tools. Our writers' contributions provide an opportunity for readers to stay current and to learn more about concepts in English language teaching. Contributions to the magazine are appreciated for the continued success of *Contact*.



Individual articles and entire issues can be viewed at contact.teslontario.org/issues



Technology

TESL Ontario has been using technology for over 25 years and has had a website since the 1990s. Over the years TESL Ontario has worked hard to improve its use of technology to benefit the membership and to ensure communication with the membership is efficient and meaningful for the members. The evolution of the website went from a simple site which provided members with relevant information about membership and the general information about the field, to a fully interactive website allowing members to renew memberships online, request certificates automatically, and opt-out of different types of communication from the organization, as well as continually providing the latest information happenings in the profession. We provide information and links to local, provincial, national and international conferences and workshops. We provide information on provincial and national projects and put out calls for presentations, papers, and poster sessions for our annual conference. TESL Ontario has strived to meet members needs in a fast, efficient, and cost-effective manner through its careful use of technology.

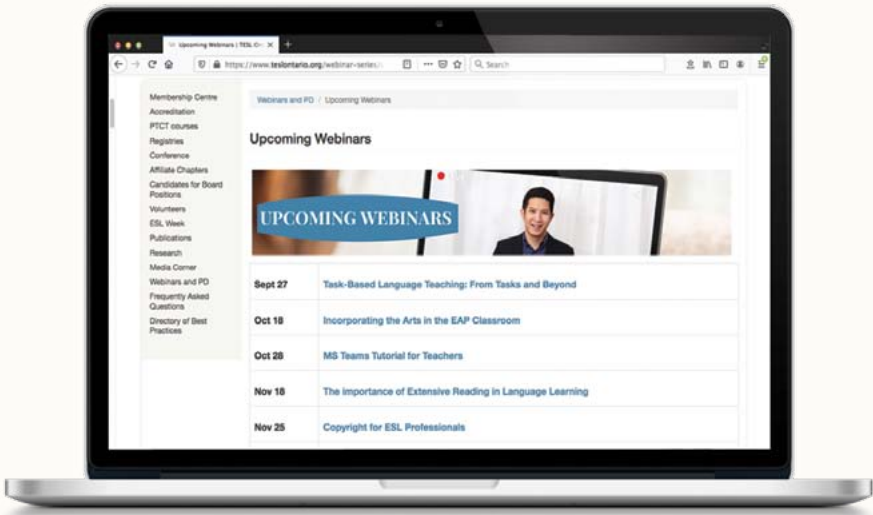
None of this would have been possible without the tireless contributions of the many volunteers who have worked on the different teams, utilizing technology to help provide so much to the membership. In all cases they drew on their own experiences and desire to share and improve the experiences of the membership, and to help share their experiences and expertise with the membership. These teams include the blog team and the many guest bloggers, and the social media team, which has harnessed social media to provide the modern avenues of communication to our members. It also involves the webinar team and the many incredible members and guests who have taken their time to learn something new and to be able to share their experiences and expertise with our membership. It also includes the many volunteers who helped TESL Ontario use technology effectively at the annual conference and also at the local affiliate conferences and workshops.

Often the success of these teams and their contributions to the field could not have happened without the amazing organization and research carried out by the TESL Ontario staff members who help build, guide, train, and support these teams throughout the process. As any of the teams will tell you the staff members were always there to train and support, and provide the solid framework so the volunteers could be successful in each and every endeavor they undertook. The staff members always listened and responded to the needs and the advice of the volunteers as to what would help them be more successful in their duties.

TESL Ontario has continued to work to update the technology, both hardware and software, the websites, and the security of information flowing from TESL Ontario to its membership, to provide the most efficient and cost-effective

“
Love the webinars!
”
Webinar Survey Response

solutions for the membership. The volunteer teams and members continue to post blogs, host regular webinars, and work on other national and provincial projects that often are comprised of technology components. TESL Ontario works hard to ensure that the latest tools are evaluated and considered, if they promise to be beneficial to the membership.



“
**I like the webinars.
TESL Ontario has a
good variety of them.
Keep up your good
work!**
”
PD Survey Response

Operations

TESL Ontario now serves approximately 4,500 members, a large number of whom are TESL Ontario accredited.

The operations of TESL Ontario are carried out by six 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,
- Colleen Taylor, Social Media and Professional Development Coordinator.

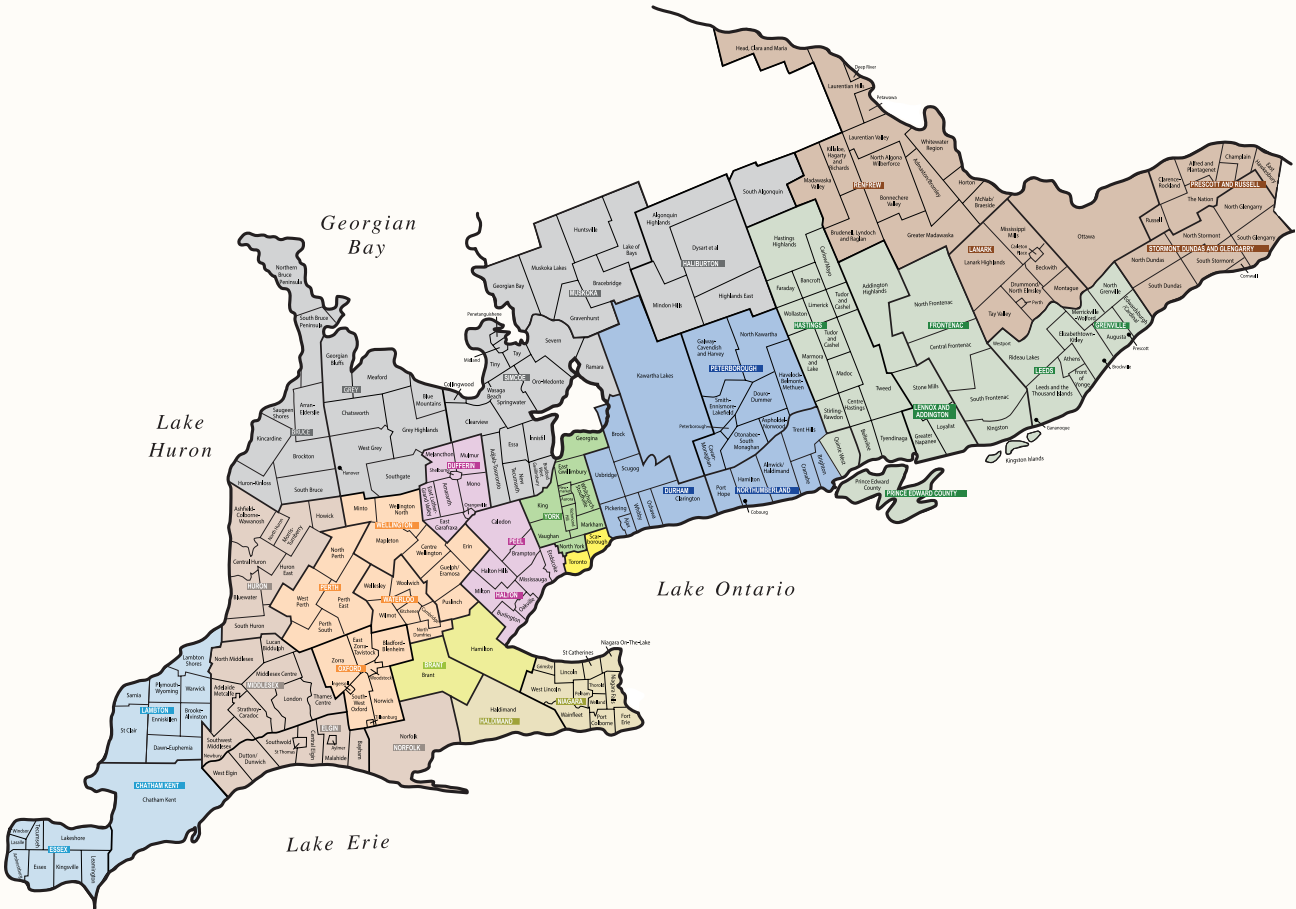
Under the direction of the Board of Directors, and supervision of the Executive Director, the office staff carry out the functions of membership support, including membership benefits, webinars and social media, TESL Ontario accreditation, which includes TESL Ontario’s PLAR service, financial management, project and contract administration, office administration, liaison function with ministries, other agencies and the public and, of course, the delivery of our significant 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 Event Chair, Communications Officer, 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 Board’s awareness of the strategic issues of their members.

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

All locations north of the counties and municipalities depicted on this map are located within the Northern Region Affiliate including, but not limited to, Parry Sound, Manitoulin, Sault Ste. Marie, Nipissing, Sudbury, Timiskaming, Timmins and Algoma.



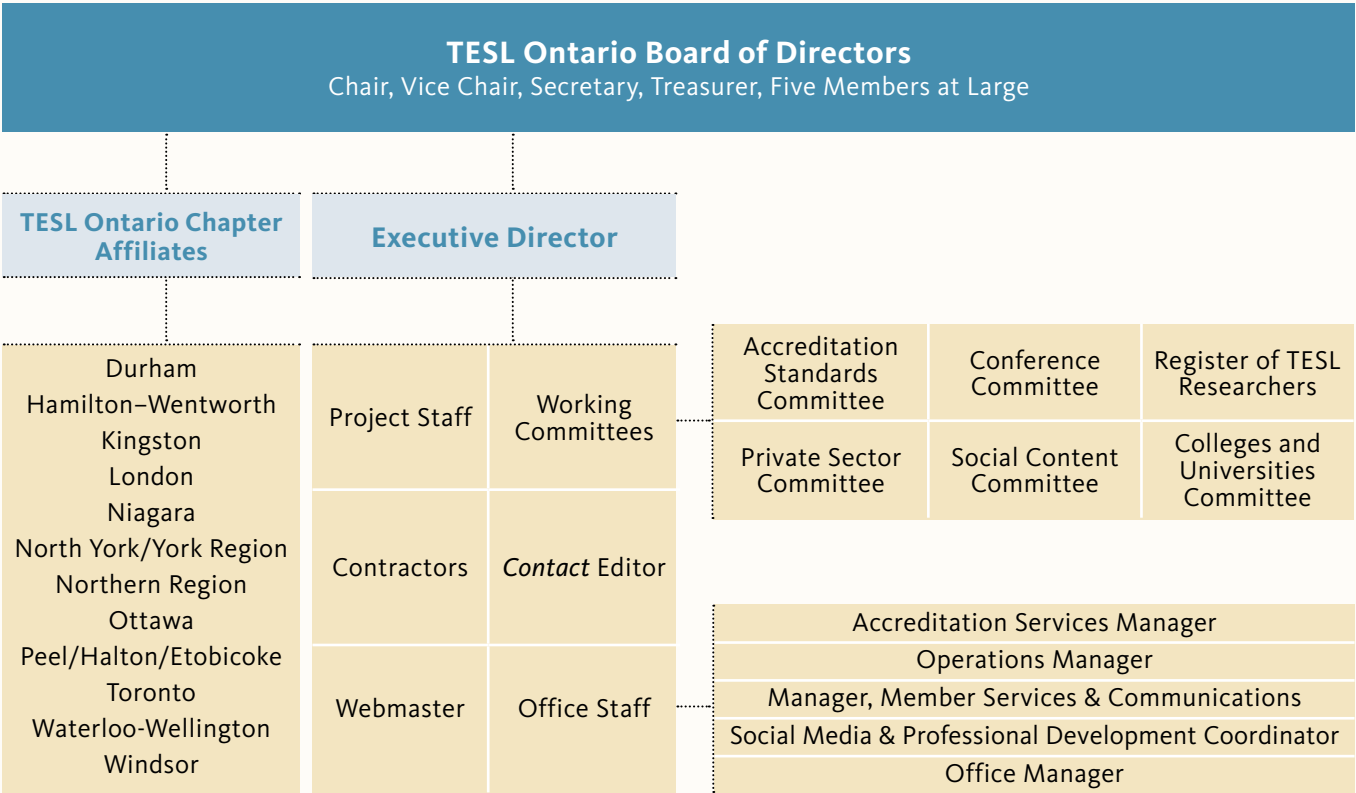
Board of Directors

The Board of Directors 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 executive director 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 job of the board’s directors 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.

2019-2020 Board of Directors

- Chair**
Sharon Deng
- Vice-Chair**
David Hazell
- Treasurer**
Art Rekhtin
- Secretary**
Amy Yani
- Member-at-Large**
Jennifer Allore
- Member-at-Large**
Alex Harchenko
- Member-at-Large**
Lara McInnis
- Member-at-Large**
Paula Ogg
- Member-at-Large**
David Wood



Financial Reports

The condensed financial information below represents the abbreviated annual financial statements of TESL Ontario for the year ended March 31, 2020

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, 2020

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 329,696 | \$ 190,879 |
| Short-term investments | 527,933 | 517,423 |
| Accounts receivable | 14,660 | — |
| Prepays and deposits | 15,319 | 9,545 |
| HST receivable | 11,222 | — |
| | \$ 898,830 | \$ 717,847 |
| Capital Assets | 11,638 | 13,175 |
| Intangible Assets | 10,000 | 25,000 |
| | \$ 920,468 | \$ 756,022 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 124,138 | \$ 67,166 |
| Deferred contributions | 340,000 | 390,841 |
| | \$ 464,138 | \$ 458,007 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Unrestricted | \$ 456,330 | \$ 298,015 |
| | \$ 920,468 | \$ 756,022 |

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended March 31, 2020

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| REVENUES | | |
| Annual TESL Ontario Conference | | |
| Conference Assistance project – MCCSS | \$ 123,893 | \$ 131,606 |
| Publisher fees | 33,756 | 25,311 |
| Registration fees | 135,137 | 133,745 |
| Sponsorship | 9,000 | 12,000 |
| Project revenue | | |
| Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) | | |
| Pay Equity Program | 9,259 | 9,259 |
| Directory of Best Practices & Webinars | — | 55,131 |
| Ontario's Directory of Best Practices - Moving Forward | 27,592 | 19,331 |
| Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development | | |
| Competency-and-Credit based PLAR | 192,168 | 180,032 |
| Membership fees | 328,509 | 321,520 |
| Accreditation fees | 391,972 | 389,188 |
| Interest and other income | 32,658 | 32,463 |
| | \$ 1,283,944 | \$ 1,309,586 |
| EXPENDITURES | | |
| Membership | 120,350 | 109,452 |
| Accreditation | 139,270 | 143,959 |
| Projects | 191,096 | 221,299 |
| Annual conference | 244,345 | 254,879 |
| Affiliate Chapters' operations | 35,264 | 36,539 |
| Office and administration | 319,170 | 284,016 |
| TESOL affiliation | 4,191 | 9,154 |
| Board and committee meetings | 23,096 | 25,508 |
| Occupancy | 48,847 | 47,408 |
| | \$ 1,125,629 | \$ 1,132,214 |
| Net excess of revenues over expenditures for the year | \$ 158,315 | \$ 177,372 |
| Net assets, beginning of year | \$ 298,015 | \$ 120,643 |
| Net assets, end of year | \$ 456,330 | \$ 298,015 |

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[**www.teslontario.org**](http://www.teslontario.org)

[Facebook](#) [YouTube](#) [LinkedIn](#)



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