



TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

ARTICLE #1

CHANGING NEWCOMERS' LIVES IN ONTARIO

"I was sure that I would have no trouble communicating in English in my new home. I had no clue how different reality would be!

... the LINC (Language Instruction to Newcomers to Canada) program is a true blessing for all newcomers to Canada. It not only provides quality language instruction in contexts that match the needs of new immigrants, but also gives us hope for building a good future in Canada. It gives us a reason to wake up every morning with a sense of purpose, to work towards a goal ...

... my dream of making a happy and successful life for my family and myself looks more attainable ... I used to think that I was good for nothing but now my outlook has changed. I believe in myself now."

These excerpts from Samreen Aslam's [award-winning essay](#) for the 2014 [ESL Week Creativity Contest](#) exemplify the influence that [TESL Ontario](#) (Teachers of English as a Second Language of Ontario) has had not only on the success of Samreen, but also on the success of many thousands of English language learners throughout the province each year who attend a variety of ESL (English as a Second Language) classes.

But it is clearly not just the English language that learners are taught. Their instructors are very often the first contacts that newcomers to Canada make.

And what do these instructors need to know in addition to English language and grammar teaching skills? Just about EVERYTHING! From immigration laws, job applications, legal rights, how to apply for a driver's license and Canadian citizenship, community services and support, cultural differences in how and when various ethnic groups learn best, changes in government-funded training and assessment programs - to ... the latest technology aids for the electronic classroom, current research papers, new classroom tools and strategies for making learning fun, coaching, networking, screenplay writing, music, improvisation, personal health and nutrition, life/work balance. And the list goes on.

TESL Ontario's [annual conference](#), the largest conference of its kind in Canada that takes place each fall, is where more than 1,000 English language training professionals from public and private sectors, academics, researchers and government representatives gather to participate in more than 160 interactive workshops, presentations, technology labs, panel discussions, research symposia, and more.

The Conference is the highlight of [ESL Week October 12-18](#) celebrating ESL education and learning throughout Ontario.

It is through major events like this conference hosted by TESL Ontario that its 4,600 members dedicated to and passionate about teaching ESL are able to upgrade their skills, become accredited, earn professional development hours and provide such valuable resources for newcomers to Canada just like Samreen.

[TESL Ontario](#), established in 1972, is a non-profit organization serving the needs of teachers of English as a Second Language. It represents more than 4,600 language training professionals working in immigrant serving agencies, school boards, publicly funded sites across Ontario, colleges/universities, elementary/secondary and private language training schools. TESL Ontario's expertise is in teaching, advocacy, accreditation and professional development. The organization is instrumental in influencing the success of many thousands of English language learners throughout the province.

For more information visit www.teslontario.org and follow us on

