



TEACHERS OF ENGLISH  
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE  
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

## MEDIA ALERT

Contact: Lynn McGregor  
416.487.2971  
[pr@teslontario.ca](mailto:pr@teslontario.ca)  
Renate Tilson  
416.593.4243 Ext.203  
[rtilson@teslontario.org](mailto:rtilson@teslontario.org)

### NIAGARA AREA RESIDENT RECEIVES [TESL ONTARIO](#) DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION AWARD DURING [ESL WEEK](#) IN ONTARIO OCTOBER 12 - 18

Toronto, October 9, 2014 – Since 1990, Niagara resident [Velma Lang](#), has been immersed in the world of English language training for newcomers to the Niagara region, most recently with the YMCA of Niagara.

At the upcoming annual conference of [TESL Ontario](#) which highlights [ESL Week](#) (October 12 – 18) in the province, Velma will be awarded the [Distinguished Contribution Award](#) for her significant long-term achievements and contributions to the advancement of English Language educators, the English Language training sector and TESL Ontario.

Velma, who recently retired, earned this recognition through her work as a LINC/ESL (Language Instruction to Newcomers to Canada/English as a Second Language) teacher, program coordinator, language assessor, CLARS (Coordinated Language and Assessment Referral System) Coordinator and Newcomer Information Centre in the Niagara Region. She has also been active in the TESL Niagara Chapter as Affiliate representative and president, and involved with professional development, advisory and conference committees, with the goal of strengthening teaching and learning in the ESL community.

-----

ESL Week October 12 – 18, 2014, is an annual event created by TESL Ontario to celebrate Ontario's ESL educators and learners and to help raise awareness of the importance of English language learning opportunities in Canada. To date, 50 Ontario communities including the Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie have [officially proclaimed](#) October 12-18 as ESL Week.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> [annual conference](#) (#TESL2014) of TESL Ontario takes place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre October 16 – 18, 2014. It is the largest conference of its kind in Canada, hosting more than 1,000 delegates. A variety of interactive workshops, presentations, technology labs, panel discussions, research symposia, technology fair and more will be offered to language training professionals from public and private sectors, academics, researchers and government representatives.

[TESL Ontario](http://www.teslontario.org), 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](http://www.teslontario.org) and follow us on    