



TEACHERS OF ENGLISH  
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE  
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### RECORD ONTARIO COMMUNITIES PROCLAIM ESL WEEK OCTOBER 20 – 26, 2013

Toronto, September 26, 2013 – To date, a record number of [45 Ontario communities](#) have proclaimed English as a Second Language ([ESL Week](#)) for October 20 – 26 this year. The annual celebration of ESL education and learning will take place throughout the province at this time.

Created by [TESL Ontario \(Teachers of English as a Second Language\)](#), ESL Week involves Ontario communities, thousands of ESL professionals, students of all ages, and many learning institutions and school boards.

For the past several years, [ESL Week](#) continues to raise awareness of the importance of ESL education for Ontarians and newcomers to Canada. According to Renate Tilson, executive director of TESL Ontario, “ESL Week enables us to thank the language training professionals who help new Canadians adapt to our culture. At the same time ESL Week acknowledges the determination of those new to our country to learn English.”

To date, the communities across Ontario that have proclaimed ESL Week celebrations include:

- The Towns of Ajax, Aurora, Aylmer, Bruce Mines, East Gwillimbury, Fort Erie, Fort Frances, Gananoque, Goderich, Georgina, Grimsby, Innisfil, Midland, Milton, New Tecumseth, Oakville, Rainy River, Richmond Hill, Whitchurch-Stouffville
- The Cities of Barrie, Belleville, Dryden, Elliot Lake, Markham, North Bay, Oshawa, Ottawa, Pickering, Quinte West, St. Thomas, Stratford, Temiskaming Shores, Toronto
- The Municipalities of Brighton, Brockton, Clarington, Durham, Port Hope, South Bruce, St. Charles, York
- The Townships of Huron-Kinloss, Loyalist Township, Scugog
- The County of Norfolk

As part of the celebration of ESL education and learning, TESL Ontario held a province-wide creativity contest for both learners and educators, that has grown since 2006 from an annual poster contest for ESL students. Two Grand Prize winners and two Runners-up in each of the Learner and Instructor Divisions have been selected. Their winning submissions can be viewed [here](#).

Highlighting ESL Week is the [annual conference of TESL Ontario](#), taking place this year at the Allstream Centre in Toronto October 24 – 26, 2013. This 41<sup>st</sup> conference, titled: “*Merging and Emerging Pathways through Language*” is the largest conference of its kind in Canada, hosting more than 1,500 delegates. A variety of interactive workshops, presentations, technology labs, panel discussions, research symposia, technology fair and more will be offered to ESL educators from both public and private sectors, academics, researchers, teacher trainers and government representatives.

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](http://www.teslontario.org) and follow us on    