



TESL ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR
2006 - 2007

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TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

MISSION STATEMENT

TESL Ontario provides support and direction to professionals, government bodies and learners involved in English as a Second Language in Ontario.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- To provide opportunities for professional development for all sectors of ESL.
- To ensure excellence in the field of Adult non-credit ESL through TESL Ontario Certification.
- To provide opportunities for linking with other ESL professional organizations, nationally and internationally through various venues such as *Contact*, the TESL Ontario web-site and the TESL Canada newsletter.
- To provide expertise to local, provincial and national government bodies through consultations, representation on committees, etc.
- To promote the development of materials which are appropriate to the needs and the culture of our client groups.
- To operate in a fiscally responsible manner within standard accounting practices.

October 2002

THE 34th ANNUAL TESL ONTARIO CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 16 - 18, 2006 – HOLIDAY INN ON KING

Our 2006 Conference attracted 1,236 registrants and received excellent evaluation feedback from participants. Also, due to the hard work of our PR Committee, the conference, which was held during ESL Week in Ontario, received a great deal of media attention including numerous interviews with the CBC Radio 1 and OMNI TV.

- Conference assistance funding was reinstated in 2006 which resulted in 600 LINC registrants.
- A new initiative for the 2006 conference was a prize draw for conference overall evaluation forms handed in. This resulted in 331 forms, approximately three times the number from past conferences. Overall, the conference was rated at 4.1 out of a possible 5. The highest rating was for the Friday plenary 4.7 (Judy Gilbert) but most of the sessions were rated at 4+. The TESL office received many positive emails and phone messages and many said that the conference had the best selection of presentations ever!
- The panel, “Talking Together: Challenges and Solutions in English as a Second Language Delivery” which ran for the first time this year, was a success and hopefully will become an annual event at the conference. It was an opportunity for providers and experts in the field of ESL to share ideas as well as identify issues and best practices.
- The changes to the schedule with the sessions being 1 hour and 2 hours long seemed to be well received.
- Attendance at the research symposia (evaluation, language and settlement, and writing) increased dramatically from last year and the overall feedback was very positive
- One of the highlights of the conference was the band Maderaz. There were lots of people up dancing to the Latin music after the Friday night dinner.

Our thanks go to Conference Chair Cheryl Richmond, her Conference Committee, and all of the Conference volunteers for all of their hard work in putting on another successful conference. A special thank you goes to our in-house Conference Coordinator Jean Hamilton. We also wish to extend our thanks to all of our funders. Citizenship and Immigration Canada funded Conference Assistance for 600 registrants along with the major costs of the Research Symposium, and the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration participated in the Research Symposium funding process. Your continued support allows professionals in the field of ESL the opportunity to view the latest in research and practice in the field, participate in symposia and workshop sessions, and network with colleagues.

Research Symposium

The 7th Annual Research Symposium was held as part of the 34th annual TESL Ontario Conference. Three themes, Evaluation (focus on oral language), Language and Settlement, and Writing (focus on teacher feedback) were the focus of the symposia. Each of the three themes was presented in three-hour sessions that included time for symposium participants to ask questions and engage in discussion with the presenters. A brief synopsis of each symposium strand follows.

Evaluation (focus on oral skills)

Kathryn Brillinger, MEd (TESL) – Conestoga College

David Wood, PhD – Carleton University

Jeremy Harmer, MA – Anglia Polytechnic University (UK)

The presenters examined challenges in the evaluation of language, in particular spoken language. J. Harmer's starting point was the observation that two people may view the same reality quite differently. If they agree on a standard, the focus of evaluation will shift from the observed phenomenon to the standard. K. Brillinger questioned whether ESL teacher training includes sufficient skill development to allow spoken L2 (subsequent language) learner language. She proposed teacher training that includes rubrics and descriptors that encourage learners and teachers to discuss negotiated learning goals that will be assessed. D. Wood reported on a recent study that explored the relationship between the use of formulaic sequences and L2 speech fluency. His results suggest learners' use of formulaic sequences may be linked to gains in speech fluency.

Language and Settlement

Mehrunnisa Ali, PhD – Ryerson Technical University

Sutama Ghosh, PhD – York University

Lee Gunderson, PhD - University of British Columbia

The presenters in the Language and Settlement theme of the Research Symposium focused on different newcomer to Canada groups to highlight. L. Gunderson discussed findings from work with high-school students in the Vancouver area showing that immigrant students tend to disappear from academic classes after grade 8 and achievement decreases as ESL support is withdrawn. M. Ali discussed the different expectations newcomer parents and their children's teachers have. She argued that specific structural and cultural barriers in newcomer parent-teacher interactions present obstacles to communication and proposed ways to improve this communication. S. Gosh presented findings from her case study of the migration and settlement experiences of two south Asian subgroups in Toronto, Indian Bengalis and Bangladeshis. Her work shows how the two groups expressed and retained their cultural identity, in particular language and religion, through settlement patterns and housing trajectories.

Writing (focus on teacher feedback)

Jill Cummings, PhD candidate – OISE/University of Toronto

Usman Erösy, PhD – Carleton University

Ilona Leki, PhD – University of Tennessee

I. Leki reviewed various techniques teachers use to guide L2 learners toward increased writing ability and proposed that teachers' responses to actual draft writing from their students is likely the most effective technique. Based on her review of recent research she proposed tentative conclusions on best practices for responding to different aspects of L2 writer texts. U. Erdösy drew on his study of writing assessment practices in an undergraduate Sinology course to highlight differences between the assessment and feedback practices of content-area and ESL teachers. In addition, he argued that writing assessment in undergraduate courses needs to include the entire dialogue between content teacher and ESL writer. J. Cummings explored the questions of "what content" and "how to develop content" in the teaching of writing for diverse ESL learners based on the practices of her study of the

practices of experienced English for Academic Purposes (EAP) teachers. In her comparison of EAP concerns with those arising in other ESL contexts she highlighted the need for alternative models to accommodate the diverse background and needs of ESL learners.

Part of the research symposium was the publication of a special refereed issue of *Contact* with the proceedings in May of 2007. It is available to teachers and language professionals throughout the world through the TESL Ontario web site. Our thanks go to our Research Symposium Co-Chairs Dr. Robert Courchène and Dr. Hedy McGarrell.

Technology Fair

We held a most successful Technology Fair in 2006. The decision to rent lap tops equipped with wireless network cards and data projectors allowed us to set up a wireless lab and also offer hands-on sessions at the conference using wireless technology and Internet connectivity. We rented a total of 28 laptops (an increase from 23 last year), 5 data projectors and cables, routers, and cords for networking the lab.

Two Technology Fair rooms, the symposia sessions, the panel, and some other rooms (at presenters' requests) were connected to the Internet. The presentation room which was equipped with a laptop, data projector and Internet connection offered demonstration style presentations and workshops. The on-site technician recruited from CLTA, ensured that glitches were dealt with promptly and did not interfere with the presentations. Two other sets of laptops and data projectors were made available to float in between rooms and symposia sessions that needed the equipment. Hands-on and presentation style sessions were well attended. The communication channels that had been set up between the Tech Fair team, the conference organizer, and the hotel worked smoothly. The technician checked the equipment daily at the beginning of the day and attended to glitches promptly.

The Conference Book and Tech Fair sessions were posted simultaneously with the mailing of the book to all members. In addition, session changes were updated daily during November on the TESL Ontario web site. Other information such as directions to the hotel and web casting was also posted. As sessions became full, they were closed and became unavailable to on-line registrants. Due to the size of the lab, the hands-on sessions were full by mid October.

The Technology Fair 2006 hosted 16 presentations (10 hands-on and 6 demo styles). Internet-based and professional development related workshops were among the themes of the Technology Fair. The participants attended a myriad of sessions: hands-on workshops as well as research sessions on Skypes, Blogging, collaborative learning, PowerPoint, integrating computer technology, and sessions on activities using Word. It is evident that the web's presence continues to be ubiquitous in CALL research and literature. Other presentations included new educational software, the use of the Internet as a teaching resource, lab activities for Beginners to Advanced, and the new TOEFL test. The Technology Fair sessions were fully booked during the 3-day event.

The Technology Fair results were very positive. The hands-on sessions received overwhelming response which indicates the much needed professional development in this area. We wish to thank our Technology Fair Project Manager Sharon Rajabi and the Project Assistant Kevin O'Brien for another successful Technology Fair.

AFFILIATE CONFERENCES

TESL Ontario affiliate conferences and workshops are designed to meet the professional development needs of ESL Professionals in their particular geographic areas. Selected highlights of these conferences and workshops are listed below:

TESL DURHAM

TESL Durham's Fall Workshop **Time Management in the ESL Classroom – The Key to Success** was held in October 2006, featuring Fran Marshall. Fran talked about changes in ESL, ten ways to achieve the bottom line and Time Management – The Key to Success. She discussed best practices to develop “skill-using” opening and closing activities, and presented other techniques and strategies from “Thirty Minutes to Review” and “More than Just a Story”.

The April 2007 Spring Workshop **Conversation and Games in the Classroom** with presenter Karen Thomson reviewed the basics of 3 or 4 card games and discussed how to adapt them to the ESL classroom.

TESL HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

TESL Hamilton-Wentworth held its AGM in October 2006, featuring the ever popular guest speaker Katherine Barber.

ESL week was celebrated by many Adult Centres in the Hamilton-Wentworth area. Some examples: Within the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board a site developed a Recipe book, a Writing Project **Experiences Learning English in Canada** was carried out at another location, and there were Writings of the Pioneer Sisters in Ontario. The Circle of Friends held a Multi-Cultural Fashion Show, representing 17 different countries, and at the St. Joseph Immigrant Women's Centre students worked together throughout the week to create flags, write poems, practice songs, and prepare debates and roundtable discussions.

TESL Hamilton-Wentworth and SISO presented the 1st Annual LINC/TESL Spring Conference on March 30-31, 2007 at the Hamilton Convention Centre. This was made possible with funding by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The Conference featured a variety of workshops, including **Applying Articulatory Phonetics in the ESL/LINC Classroom**, presented by Germes Danilo Orellana; **Blogging** by Diane Elliott and Irene Walker; **Integrating Internationally Educated Professionals/Tradespeople into the Labour Force**, presented by Aurelia Tokaci, and **Developing Mathematical Literacy** by Sonia Ellison.

TESL KINGSTON

In October 2006 TESL Kingston hosted **Tuned in to Sentence Rhythm** with presenter Lorena Jessop who drew on her linguistic background to demonstrate a novel way of using popular music, poetry and a collection of exercises to teach sentence rhythm in the classroom.

The **ESL Day Open House** held at Limestone School of Community Education was celebrated by ESL teachers and students on November 16, 2006. It was a wonderful opportunity for ESL students from different countries to share their culture with each other and the community at large.

In January 2007 TESL Kingston presented **Semantic Mapping and Games for the ESL classroom** with presenter Pat Davis. Registrants enjoyed playing games such as “Sentence Detectives” and explored “Semantic mapping in a unit on Health”.

TESL Kingston was very pleased to host two workshops by Kathryn Brillinger in March 2007. The first was entitled **Helping Students Build Vocabulary Quickly: Using Pronunciation as a Pegging Device**, and the afternoon workshop focused on **Helping Our Pacific Rim Students Succeed**. The excellent handouts ensure that every participant would be able to start putting her techniques into practice immediately.

The audience was spellbound by the panel of speakers at TESL Kingston’s May 2007 AGM. The speakers were learners from three different ESL programs in the Kingston area, and each spoke from a different perspective. Their stories were moving, and their determination and achievements inspiring. The meeting was enhanced by the displays of hand-crafted jewellery by two talented artisans from local ESL programs.

TESL LONDON

TESL London’s Spring Conference in March 2007 had the intriguing title of “Language Teaching: Handle with Care!” Plenary speaker Professor David Mendelsohn from York University spoke **On Being a Good Educator**. Sessions included **A New Look at Written Error Correction**, presented by Julia Williams; **Literacy Awareness Workshop** by Ann Marie Curtin; **Using Multiple Intelligences Theory to Enhance Student Engagement and Learning**, presented by Sheila Chick, and **How Do You Teach Vocabulary?** presented by Eleanor Good. The Conference also included an Employment Panel entitled **Access to Employment: Creating Opportunities for Internationally Trained Individuals**. Community and business leaders discussed current initiatives geared to improving access to employment suitable for newcomers’ education, experience and skills, and proposed strategies for the future.

TESL NIAGARA

TESL Niagara held its annual conference in March 2007. Presenters included Kathryn Brillinger, Liset Rieger, and publishers’ presentations and displays which covered various areas of ESL and LINC.

TESL NORTH YORK/YORK REGION

TESL North York/York Region’s Fall Conference and AGM took place on October 4, 2006 celebrating the Affiliate’s 30th anniversary. Among the sessions featured were **Holidays Galore**, presented by Irene Lardizabal. This presentation explored 14 strategies or tips in using holidays to teach ESL in a multilevel setting, focusing on 12 holidays. A presentation entitled **Grammar to Go introduced** the manuscript for Mike Tiittanen’s new book by the same name, an ESL grammar activity book intended for intermediate students.

This was followed by the Affiliate's Spring Conference in April 2007. The conference featured 10 presentations, including **The Power of the Written Word: Creating a Student Anthology** by Mary Jane Walker and Momoye Sugiman; **The Ins and Outs of Prepositions** by Marjatta Holt; **Demystifying ESL Interviews** by Stefan Pasztor and Grant Reimer, and Lesline Smikle presented **Keep Clicking!**, a workshop providing ready-to-use, theme-based and teacher-tested computer activities that can be used in the LINC/ESL computer classroom at the beginner and intermediate stages.

TESL OTTAWA

TESL Ottawa's Spring Conference: Planting the Seeds 2007 was held in May 2007. Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien officially opened the Conference, and the plenary speaker Vicky Khatib explored the theme of multi-method teaching techniques. The Conference also featured a Learners' Conference. Examples of the large number of sessions were: **The Supply Teacher's Survival Kit** by Carolyn Wood; **A Holistic Approach to the Teaching of Writing** by Glynis Saylor-Stokes and Donna Dowley-Joy; **Diversity Training Workshop** by Margaret Banaszekiewicz; **Assisting L2 Students in ESP Classrooms with Specialized Vocabulary Acquisition Skills** presented by Rebecca Ranjan, and **Best Practices to Motivate and Challenge ESL Classes** presented by Fran Marshall.

The Conference also featured a Learners' Conference with the mandate to allow ESL teachers to share their best practices, to allow learners to learn about resources in the community, and to help learners to improve their English and improve their skills to prepare for the job market.

TESL PEEL/HALTON/ETOBICOKE

The Peel/Halton/Etobicoke affiliate held its Fall P.D. Workshops and AGM in October 2006. It featured Keynote Speaker Dan Yashinsky, a storyteller, author, editor and community organizer. The 7 presentations included "**Slangman**" **Real Speak for the Classroom** by Anesh Daya; **Communicative Competence for the Workplace** presented by Donna Abs, and **Interviewing for TESL Jobs** by Joan Bartel.

TESL Peel/Halton/Etobicoke's Spring 2007 Professional Development Workshops for ESL and LINC Teachers took place in May 2007. The diverse workshops covered areas such as **Introduction to the Lexical Approach** by Ken Lackman; **Hot off the Tongue** by Pratima Singh, and **Good Teacher/Bad Teacher: You Be the Judge** by Estelle Cohen and Karen Evans. The Keynote Speaker Kathryn Brillinger led a plenary entitled **Helping our CHC (Confusion Heritage Cultures) Students Succeed**.

TESL TORONTO

In March 2006 TESL Toronto hosted an Employment Information Session for ESL Professionals. This event included a round table discussion with invited guests from a School Board, College, Private School and an Immigrant Service Agency. There was also a presentation on interview skills. The response to this Information Session was overwhelming.

TESL Toronto hosted its Fall Conference in October 2006. The Conference included 15 workshops, a Publishers' Display, a plenary speaker and attracted over 200 registrants. Workshop selections

included a diversity of topics such as **From Term Plan to Lesson Plan; Communication Disorders: Impact on Learning L2**, and **Laugh or Go Bananas**.

TESL Toronto's Spring Conference took place in May 2007 and featured 15 workshops, two workshop sessions and a Publishers' Book display. A small sampling of the workshops follows: **ESL Through the Arts** presented by Susan Allen; **Cheers, Tears & Fears of Inviting a Guest Speaker** by Reshma Lakdawalla, and a **Diversity Training Workshop** presented by Margaret Banaszekiewicz. This workshop aimed at increasing the awareness, knowledge and skills of all those working in a multicultural environment.

TESL Toronto also celebrated its 30th birthday this year. The event was marked at the Spring Conference and was also featured in the Affiliate's winter newsletter.

TESL WATERLOO-WELLINGTON

TESL Waterloo-Wellington held an Assessment Workshop in October 2006 featuring Dr. Janna Fox and Dr. Liying Cheng.

In February 2007, the TESL Waterloo-Wellington Winter Workshop featured workshops by Kathryn Brillinger, Julia Williams, Dara Lane, and Maggie Heaney.

This was followed by the Spring AGM in April 2007 with presenter Dr. James Cummins.

TESL WINDSOR

The TESL Windsor Spring Conference and AGM was held in May 2007. The guest speaker Dr. Kara Smith, a member of the Faculty of Education at the University of Windsor, spoke on **Women: The Language Carriers**.

CONTACT

Contact, TESL Ontario's professional development magazine, was first established in 1974, and has developed into a sophisticated, theme-based publication. It is published online three times a year to meet the needs of various ESL/ELD constituencies. Since its first issue *Contact* has evolved to meet the needs of its readers and the demands of our organization and profession. From its beginnings as a primarily class-room oriented publication when very little support was available for teachers in the field, *Contact* has expanded to include research articles, book reviews, special features and profiles of community organizations.

You may access *Contact* through **Publications** on www.teslontario.org for viewing or printing. Information related to elementary, secondary, university and college, credit, non-credit, adult and LINC programs is conveyed through articles, language profiles, conference proceedings, letters and book reviews in a theme-based format. Settlement and community agencies are profiled on a regular basis, increasing awareness of available services and common issues.

Our exchange of newsletters continues with several community agencies, including the Literacy community for both ESL and Literacy, TESL Affiliates in other provinces and the United States, as well as ESL organizations in Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Venezuela, Cuba and Thailand.

In addition to the three regular issues mentioned above, TESL Ontario also publishes a Special Issue that features the previous year's Research Symposium presentations. The refereed articles are grouped by theme and the Research Symposium issue is available after the TESL Ontario Conference in the New Year.

Three issues of *Contact* have been produced in the 2006/07 (April 06 – March 07) year. Most *Contact* issues feature an organizational profile of a settlement agency and highlight emerging groups or issues on immigrants or refugees. Reader participation and input is encouraged through the "Letter to the Editor" column.

Volume 32, No. 2, Summer 2006, Research Symposium Special Edition

This special refereed issue of *Contact* was an extremely large issue of over 100 pages. It was co-edited by Dr. Hedy McGarrell and Dr. Robert Curchène. The document chronicled the TESL Ontario Conference 2005 Research Symposium presentation. This was the Sixth Annual Research Symposium and covered the following themes:

Bullying in the ESL Classroom
Literacy
Internationally Educated Professionals

Volume 32, No. 3, Fall 2006

This edition's lead article featured Kathleen Wynne, Ontario's new Minister of Education. Other articles featured:

- A Dynamic Perspective on Grammar, by Karen Grunow-Hårste of Brock University. In her article she reminded the reader that language is organic, it grows and changes, and we as teachers are well-advised to attend to the nature and processes of such change.
- The Challenges of Preparing a One-Size-Fits-All Test by Robert Curchène, Second Language Institute, University of Ottawa. In this research report Bob Curchène documented the ups and downs of developing reliable language assessment instruments.
- Zulfikar Mulji in her article Teaching English as a Second Language in China shared her personal reflections about teaching in China, a useful tool for those who contemplate teaching ESL abroad.

Volume 33, No. 1, February 2006, Conference Proceedings Issue

Once again, we were able to review many of the conference sessions offered at our 34th annual conference in November 2006 just a few weeks after the Conference took place. TESL Ontario's First Annual ESL Panel discussion brought together six of the most important stakeholders in ESL to share ideas, describe their mandates, and identify some of their recent challenges and solutions in the delivery of ESL across the province. We included a book review session in this issue which featured Azar Nafisi's best-selling teacher's memoir entitled *Reading Lolita in Tehran*. And for the first time we presented the work of two ESL student writers from Marc Garneau Collegiate in East York.

We wish to thank our *Contact* Editor Clayton Graves for his outstanding work. Clayton may be contacted at editor@teslontario.org.

STANDARDS & CERTIFICATION

TTIRAC (TESL Training Institution Recognition Committee)

Currently there are twenty TESL training programs recognized as meeting TESL Ontario standards. Between April 1, 2006 and March 31, 2007, two additional TESL training programs applied and were recognized as meeting TESL Ontario standards. Three programs originally recognized from 2001 to 2003 applied for renewal of their TESL Ontario recognition and were approved. Members of this Committee during this period were: Vera Beletzan, Chair, Antonella Valeo, Linda Steinman and Gloria McPherson.

TESL Ontario Certificates

Between April 1, 2006 and March 31, 2007, 334 applicants qualified for TESL Ontario Certificates. There have been 3660 initial certificates issued from the inception of the certification process to the end of this reporting period. Members of the Certification Review Board during this period were: Marion Chang, Jyotsna Inamdar, Dianna Poupore, Karen Evans, Jennifer Hay and Theresa McDonald.

For the same period, 489 TESL Ontario instructors certified from July 2001 to March 2007 inclusive were due to renew their certificates; of these, 319 renewed to 2010. In 2010, TESL Ontario will initiate annual renewal of membership and certification.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

From its inception in January 2005 to the end of this reporting period, 157 TESL Ontario Certificate instructor applicants with a significant background in linguistics and second language teaching methodology from other than one of the TESL Ontario recognized programs have been given the option of applying for Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition (PLAR) of their credentials, if all other requirements for TESL Ontario certification have been met. To March 31, 2007, 42 applicants have had their portfolios adjudicated and 35 of those now have TESL Ontario Certificates.

Appeals Process

Any program or instructor denied TESL Ontario recognition or certification may appeal the decision to the Appeals Committee within two months of the initial decision. The Appeals Committee renders a decision within the eight weeks following receipt of the appeal. TESL Ontario wishes to acknowledge the contribution to this process by our Board Certification Chair Sheila Nicholas, all members of the Certification Working Committee, and our staff member Leslie Sheffer, who carries out the duties of Certification Coordinator.

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TESL ONTARIO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- **MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION** – TESL Ontario is participating in the Ministry's ESL/FLS Advisory Committee which was established after the Ministry assumed responsibility for adult non-credit English as a Second Language (ESL) and French as a Second Language (FSL) training. We have been serving on this Committee since March 2006.

In the 2006/07 year we received funding from the Ministry to develop a Citizenship Curriculum Project for Citizenship and Language Classes in Adult Non-Credit ESL/EFL Continuing Programs in Ontario. Phase I, the development of the English language project, was finalized, and Phase 2, production of the French document and printing and distribution of both, will take place during the 2007/08 year.

In 2006/07 the Ministry also participated in the funding of the annual Research Symposium held at the TESL Ontario Conference.

- **ONTARIO REGION LINC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ORLAC) – CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION CANADA.** We continue to provide professional advice in regard to LINC delivery systems through representation at the Ontario Regional LINC Advisory Committee, which operates under the auspices of the Settlement Directorate, Ontario Region, Citizenship & Immigration Canada. Please refer to the LINC section on our website www.teslontario.org which contains further information on ORLAC as well as Calls for Proposals.

In the 2006/07, we have worked together with Citizenship and Immigration Canada on the following projects involving LINC which are administered and coordinated through the TESL Ontario office:

- **SNAP/NEO (Settlement Newsletter Across The Province)**, the Citizenship & Immigration Canada Settlement Newsletter which is published in English and French.
- **ORLAC** - we continue to facilitate the administration of regular meetings for the Ontario Regional LINC Advisory Committee.
- **LINC Conference Assistance.** We received funding to allow LINC Coordinators, Supervisors and Instructors to attend the annual TESL Ontario Conference.
- **Research Symposium.** We received funding for our Research Symposium held at the Annual TESL Ontario Conference. The papers presented at the Research Symposium were again published in a special refereed issue of **Contact**.

- **OISE MODERN LANGUAGE CENTRE (MLC).** We continue to represent TESL Ontario on the annual advisory committee to bring the perspectives of Teachers of English as a Second Language on Second Language Acquisition (SLA), implications of teaching ESL to adults and school children, and learn the latest in research, theory and implications of theory in practice.
- **CENTRE FOR CANADIAN LANGUAGE BENCHMARKS – CCLB.** The Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks was established to promote the coherence, effectiveness and consistency of English as a Second Language Instruction, so that adult learners can become full participants in all aspects of Canadian society. TESL Ontario is represented on the Board of CCLB to provide leadership and support as the major provider of professional development to practitioners of ESL in Ontario <http://www.language.ca>.
- **ESL/ELD RESOURCE GROUP OF ONTARIO (ERGO).** A representative from ERGO attends our Board meetings and exchanges information.
- **CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATORS (CESBA).** Information exchange takes place through having a CESBA representative attend our Board meetings.
- **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND MINISTRY OF TRAINING, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.** A representative from the Ministry of Education sits on our Board and keeps us informed of changes and issues related to ESL. We would like to thank Elizabeth Coelho for serving as our Board contact.
- **TESL CANADA FEDERATION.** The TESL Canada Federation Representative position represents TESL Ontario on the TESL Canada Board.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ISSUES

This year, the PR Committee focused on the areas of growth, outreach, and member communications. We introduced new activities to the work of the committee, and saw positive results.

In deciding to focus on Growth, the committee made the decision to focus on expanding the activities and recognition of ESL Week, and the establishment of an annual panel of stakeholders to be run at the conference.

ESL Week was an initiative begun in the past, which presented an excellent opportunity to celebrate the work of ESL learners, teachers, and other professionals in the field. To capitalize on this opportunity, we created a web presence for ESL Week, both advertising the event and listing activities happening in commemoration of the week; we enlisted Affiliates across the province to participate by planning events in their local communities; we selected an official poster from the Peel/Halton/Etobicoke Affiliate poster contest to use in our promotion of ESL Week; and we asked municipalities across the province to officially declare ESL Week.

To bring our message to people working in the field, we sent e-mail blasts and letters to members, school boards, LINC centres, language schools, and colleges and universities. We were pleased with

the response that we received, and teachers and students marked the occasion in a variety of ways. From international film festivals to writing contests, and from international cookbooks to art projects, ESL Week 2006 saw schools and classrooms celebrate the importance of ESL teaching and learning in Ontario.

To give notice of these events, we contracted a PR consultant, Shannon Skinner of Comfy Chair Productions, to draft press releases which were sent out to Canada News Wire during the week. As a result, we garnered media attention, both for TESL Ontario and our affiliates. Stories and reports were featured in Sing Tao, the Toronto Star and the Globe and Mail, and interviews were broadcast by CBC Metro Morning and local radio stations in Niagara, Peel/Halton/Etobicoke, and Windsor, and televised by OMNI. These opportunities go a long way toward raising our profile within the province, and especially in the communities where we work.

We would like to give a special thank you to all those who took time from their busy schedules to plan activities to celebrate ESL Week. For more information about how to participate, please check out the TESL Ontario website www.teslontario.org/new/conference/2007/eslweek/ESLWeek2007.htm

In the area of outreach, we worked to raise awareness of issues in the field and increase the recognition of TESL Ontario as a key stakeholder. To this end, we launched the first annual Panel at the 2006 conference. This event was designed to reach out to stakeholders in the field, bringing them together to discuss common issues. We identified a need for this type of activity because there are many best practices, new approaches, and innovative ideas being carried out in organizations that support and/or deliver ESL teaching and teacher training, and there are few opportunities to share and learn.

The theme of the panel was “Talking Together: Challenges and Solutions in English as a Second Language Delivery.” Panelists included representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Education, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, the ESL/ELD Resource Group of Ontario, the Ontario Association of Adult and Continuing Education School Board Administrators, and TESL Ontario. Following the panel, a report summarizing the findings was published and is available online at www.teslontario.org/new/conference/2007/ChallengesandSolutions.pdf

Another aspect of outreach was improving Member Communications. We wanted to make more information available to our membership about what is happening at TESL Ontario, together with news and information in the field. We launched the e-bulletin this year as a mechanism for communicating this information, and it is emailed to members five times per year, after each board meeting. This being the first year, the e-bulletin is a work in progress, and we are continuing to work on making this an important tool for linking the organization and our membership.

For the year ahead, the PR Committee will continue working on the above activities to solidify the progress made thus far, and we have identified a number of areas to examine further. These include expanding TESL Ontario presence at important conferences and events in the field, examining the feasibility of drafting position papers for use in lobbying and public relations, and supporting academic research related to the mandate and objectives of the association.

We are grateful for your support of our activities, and welcome feedback from the membership about what we do.

TESL Ontario would like to thank Saskia Stille, our Public Relations Chair, and all of the P.R. working committee members for their hard work throughout the year in introducing many new activities.

TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH

TESL Ontario has continued to keep abreast of changes and the new possibilities and features that emerge in the field of technology. Research into these changes and the practical application for TESL Ontario are explored on an ongoing basis. We assess the needs of both the TESL office and the TESL membership at large when we look at integrating or embracing new technology and the maintaining of existing technology.

This year upgrades to the computers and to the software used in the TESL Ontario office was addressed with the knowledge that there would be a new operating system being released sometime later in the calendar year. This meant we would need machines that could be updated or were sufficiently equipped to run the new operating system and any new software we might need for the daily office needs.

Another issue which surfaced was the use of a more sophisticated email solution which ensures the privacy of all TESL Ontario members. Research was conducted and a service was found which could meet our requirements and specifications. This service was purchased and training on the use of the service completed. This new service provides us with the type of email service which ensures privacy for our members with the opt out or opt in options as well as the statistical back end which helps us understand the success or failure of our communication efforts. This service has provided us with an excellent tool that meets all our email demands as a communications tool to our members.

Another issue which we addressed was the issue of 'backups'. As with any company or organization security of information and the need for a secure backup 'off site' solution is a high priority. Again research was conducted and options assessed for possible backup systems that would provide us with the solution which best suited our needs. A solution was found and implemented which provides us with the security that we have an appropriate backup system for TESL Ontario in place.

Our thanks go to Kevin O'Brien, our Technology and Research Chair, and the members of his Committee.

TESL ONTARIO ADMINISTRATION

TESL Ontario now serves 4000 members, and we are happy to report that most are TESL Ontario certified. The administration of TESL Ontario is carried out by two full-time and two part-time staff members:

Executive Director, Renate Tilson
Membership Coordinator, Eva Csiszar
Office/Conference Coordinator, Jean Hamilton (p.t.)
Certification Coordinator, Leslie Sheffer (p.t.)

Under the direction of the Board of Directors, and supervision of the Executive Director, the office carries out the functions of office administration, membership support, financial management, project and contract administration, liaison function with Ministries, other agencies and the public, coordination of the TESL Ontario Conference, and of course TESL Ontario Certification. In addition, TESL Ontario relies heavily on the services of our Webmaster, Kevin O'Brien and our *Contact* Editor, Clayton Graves.

TESL ONTARIO BOARD

The volunteer Board of Directors of TESL Ontario is comprised of the core executive members and TESL Ontario's affiliate directors, representing the executive of each of our twelve Affiliates, as well as a representative from the Ministry of Education. In addition, we have representatives from ERGO (ESL/ELD Resource Group of Ontario) and CESBA who attend part of our Board meetings for information-sharing purposes with the two organizations. We have five Board meetings per year, and a portion of each Board meeting day is devoted to Working Committees in the areas of Certification, Conference, Website and Public Relations.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank our funders whose support allows us to carry out our mandate to the best of our abilities:

- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration

TESL Ontario also wishes to thank its affiliates who over the year have continued to work hard at providing conferences in their respective areas and representing their members' concerns at Board meetings.

We are very grateful for the time and effort our Board members contribute to our organization. They not only govern the organization but also spend numerous hours on Board working committees. It would not have been possible to carry out many of the activities listed in this report without their dedication and hard work.

We receive ongoing support from our Auditor Julius Rédly and wish to thank Allan Reynolds for his time and patience in advising us on P.R. matters.

A special thank you to the numerous Volunteers who have contributed their time and expertise to areas such as *Contact*, the website and the annual Conference over the last year.

Last but not least, thank you to our membership for your continued support.

2006/2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NON-AFFILIATE DIRECTORS

President	Sharon Rajabi
President-Elect	Sheila Carson
Secretary-Treasurer	Namita Aggarwal
Certification Chair	Sheila Nicholas
Membership Secretary	Cathy Haghghat
Conference Chair	Cheryl Richmond
Public Relations & Issues Chair	Saskia Stille
Technology & Research Chair	Kevin O'Brien
TESL Canada Representative	Barbara Krukowski
Member At Large	Jennifer Freudenthal
Member at Large	Marilyn Johnston

AFFILIATE DIRECTORS

Durham	Katherine Sanchez
Hamilton-Wentworth	Colleen McGraw
Kingston	Johanne Mednick Myles
London	Belinda Gorman
Niagara	Anastassios Spanos
North York/York Region	Linda Cooper
Ottawa	Lisa Slaney Mitchell
Peel/Halton/Etobicoke	Denise Copland
Sudbury - renamed to Northern Region	Georgia Irvine
Toronto	Joanne Hincks
Waterloo-Wellington	Laura Stoutenburg
Windsor	Rodica Vasiliu

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2007

JULIUS L. RÉDLY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
Licensed Public Accountant

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO
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MARCH 31, 2007

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Page 4	Schedule of Project Contributions
Page 5	Schedule of Conference Expenses
Page 6	Notes to the Financial Statements

Julius L. Rédly

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Licensed Public Accountant

79 Truman Road

North York, Ontario; M2L 2L7

Telephone (416) 443-0990 * Fax (416) 447-2410

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of
TESL Association of Ontario

I have audited the statement of financial position of TESL Association of Ontario as at March 31, 2007 and the statement of operations and net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the association's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements.

I conducted an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many non-profit organizations, TESL Association of Ontario derives part of its revenue contributions from the general public in the form of project administration fees, membership fees, certification fees, conferences and meetings which are not susceptible to complete audit verification. Accordingly, my examination was limited to the examination of banking transactions for those activities for the year ended March 31, 2007.

In my opinion, except for the effect of the adjustments, if any, had project administration fees, membership fees, certification fees, newsletters, conferences and meetings been susceptible to complete audit verification, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at March 31, 2007 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

TORONTO, CANADA
September 5, 2007


Chartered Accountant

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

Incorporated without share capital under the Laws of the Province of Ontario as a non-profit organization.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2007

(with comparative figures as at March 31, 2006)

ASSETS

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Current		
Cash on hand and in bank	\$ 92,162	\$ 66,231
Term deposits-including accrued interest	272,409	293,635
Accounts receivable	48,332	20,161
Prepaid expenses	<u>3,371</u>	<u>9,023</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 416,274</u>	<u>\$ 389,050</u>

LIABILITIES

Current		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	<u>\$ 14,060</u>	<u>\$ 20,456</u>

NET ASSETS

Per attached -see page 3	<u>\$ 402,214</u>	<u>\$ 368,594</u>
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The attached notes form an integral part of these financial statements!

Approved: _____

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIOSTATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETSFOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

(with comparative figures for the year ended March 31, 2006)

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Revenue		
Contributions		
Projects - see page 4	\$ 494,087	\$ 172,221
Membership fees	286,874	276,098
Certification fees	47,451	78,922
Others	8,278	7,792
Affiliates' mini conferences	49,897	39,985
Interest	<u>9,641</u>	<u>8,107</u>
Total revenue	<u>\$ 896,228</u>	<u>\$ 583,125</u>
Expenses		
Annual TESL Ontario Conference - see page 5	\$ 202,736	\$ 96,139
Affiliates' mini conferences - see page 5	71,438	55,558
Certification costs	4,406	2,257
Other project expenses	139,959	34,785
Salaries and employee benefits	213,228	189,650
Rent, telephone & utilities	43,772	42,032
Memberships and affiliation expenses	68,395	62,770
Contact newsletter	3,600	7,255
Meeting expenses	23,545	21,955
Computer & equipment purchase/rental	11,618	16,415
Stationery, supplies, postage & couriers	15,639	14,996
Website costs	18,108	17,619
Office and general	<u>46,164</u>	<u>42,412</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$ 862,608</u>	<u>\$ 603,843</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	\$ 33,620	
Excess of expenses over revenue for the year		\$ (20,718)
Net assets - opening balance	<u>368,594</u>	<u>389,312</u>
- closing balance	<u>\$ 402,214</u>	<u>\$ 368,594</u>

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIOSCHEDULE OF PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONSFOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

(with comparative figures for the year ended March 31, 2006)

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Project contributions:		
Annual TESL Ontario Conference		
Registration and publishers	\$ 122,772	\$ 121,065
Citizenship and Immigration Canada		
LINC - Conference assistance	<u>201,384</u>	<u>-</u>
	\$ 324,156	\$ 121,065
Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration		
Ontario Curriculum Project	108,849	-
Research Symposium	2,494	-
Pay Equity Program	9,259	9,259
Ministry of Education - Research Symposium	-	5,000
Citizenship and Immigration Canada		
SNAP	25,030	24,319
ORLAC	<u>24,299</u>	<u>12,578</u>
	<u>\$ 494,087</u>	<u>\$ 172,221</u>

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIOSCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE EXPENSESFOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

(with comparative figures for the year ended March 31, 2006)

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Annual TESL Ontario conference		
Conference planning costs	\$ 12,618	\$ 10,523
Conference Assistance - registrants' travel and accommodation	109,342	-
Printing, supplies and miscellaneous	25,463	41,102
Rentals	51,545	43,394
Webcasting	<u>10,968</u>	<u>1,120</u>
	<u>\$ 209,936</u>	<u>\$ 96,139</u>
 Affiliate mini-conferences		
Honoraria and salaries	\$ 16,349	\$ 11,843
Printing, supplies and miscellaneous	16,057	15,776
Meeting expenses	<u>39,032</u>	<u>27,939</u>
	<u>\$ 71,438</u>	<u>\$ 55,558</u>

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIONOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTSMARCH 31, 2007

1. TESL Association of Ontario was established in 1972 as a not-for-profit organization serving the needs of teachers of English as a Second Language. In its commitment to professional development and advocacy, TESL Association of Ontario addresses the range of competencies, experiences and issues which influence the success of immigrants, refugees, visa students and others who learn English.
- 2.a. Significant accounting policies:

TESL Association of Ontario uses the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable. Interest income is recognized as earned, based on the accrual method.
- b. Capital assets are expensed as purchased.
3. These financial statements include the revenue and expenses of the following Affiliates:

Durham	Hamilton-Wentworth
Kingston	London
Niagara	North York-York Region
Ottawa	Peel/Halton/Etobicoke
Northern Region	Waterloo-Wellington
Toronto	Windsor
4. No statement of cash flows is presented as it would not add to the disclosure of these financial statements.
5. TESL Association of Ontario is exempt from income taxes due to its not-for-profit status under the Income Tax Act.
6. TESL Association of Ontario has entered into a new five year lease, commencing April 1, 2005, paying a monthly rent of \$ 3,150 plus occupancy cost.
7. The operation of TESL Association of Ontario is dependent on the income generated by the project revenues as provided by various Government agencies as well as on membership and certification fees.
8. TESL Association of Ontario has \$ 10,000 revolving overdraft protection credit with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. If and when this credit is used, interest is charged at prime plus .75%.