



# TESL ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR  
2007 - 2008

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION STATEMENT .....	3
THE ANNUAL TESL ONTARIO CONFERENCE .....	4
AFFILIATE CONFERENCES .....	8
CONTACT .....	12
STANDARDS & CERTIFICATION .....	14
TESL ONTARIO'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS .....	15
PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ISSUES .....	17
TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH.....	18
TESL ONTARIO ADMINISTRATION .....	20
TESL ONTARIO BOARD .....	20
THANK YOU.....	21
2007/2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS .....	22

**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 35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TESL ONTARIO CONFERENCE**  
**MAKING CONNECTIONS**  
NOVEMBER 22 – 24, 2007 – HOLIDAY INN ON KING

The total number of registrants at the 2007 conference was 1,315 and once again the evaluation feedback received was excellent. Over 120 workshops were offered to all teaching sectors, including elementary/secondary, adult ESL/LINC and college/university. We received conference assistance funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada for LINC instructors, and this was the first year that funding was made available for ESL instructors by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

### **Plenary Speakers**

The 3 plenary speakers were Nina Spada (The Evolution of Communicative Language Teaching: Myths and Reality), Jayme Adelson-Goldstein (A Lexical Feast) and Dave Sperling (The Power of using the Internet). Jayme Adelson-Goldstein was especially well reviewed and all the participants found her plenary informative and entertaining.

### **Second Annual Panel Discussion**

The second annual Panel Discussion was on the topic of Making Connections for a Common Goal. This panel aims to raise the profile of ESL, raise awareness of issues in the field and bring stakeholders together. Our panel presenters were Hanna Cabaj, Coordinator of the Continuing Education Department of Adult Education Programs with the Toronto Catholic District School Board; Cliff Fast with Citizenship and Immigration Canada, who has been involved with the LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) program since 1992; Eleanor Good, Learning Co-ordinator for ESL/ELS, NL with the Thames Valley District School Board; Calum MacKechnie, Director of the York University English Language Institute; Dr. Dennis Mock, President of Nippissing University; and Joan Reynolds, Chair of the Language Studies Department at George Brown College. The panel presenters represented the sectors of Adult ESL, LINC, Elementary/Secondary, Universities, the Private Sector, and Colleges.

### **Research Symposium**

The 8th Annual Research Symposium was held as part of the 35th annual TESL Ontario Conference. Four themes, *Vocabulary*, *Native English Speaking Teachers – Non-Native English Speaking Teachers (NEST-NNEST)*, *Content-based Language Teaching*, and *Literacy in ESL Populations* provided the focus for the four different symposium sessions. Three of the themes were presented in three-hour sessions, one theme was presented in a two-hour session. Time was allocated for symposium participants to ask questions and engage in discussion with the presenters. The presenters in all four themes had graciously agreed to participate in simultaneous web casting, allowing the web audience to send in questions also.

A brief synopsis of each symposium strand follows.

### *VOCABULARY*

Sandra Burger, PhD, University of Ottawa  
Carol Fraser, PhD, Glendon College, York University  
Jeanette Gallina, Young People's Language School of Canada  
Parto Pajooesh, PhD, University of Alberta

The presentations on *Vocabulary* reported on three different studies involving school-age and university-level learners. Burger and Gallina reported on a pilot study designed to measure the vocabulary retention rate in university students who were taught vocabulary from the Academic Word List (AWL) through varied vocabulary exercises and reading. Although the number of participants in the pilot study was small, the researchers are encouraged by the results and will follow up with a larger study. Fraser's study reported on how university-level ESL students received strategy training designed to promote vocabulary learning. The results presented show that the participants' rate of ignoring unfamiliar words decreased while the rate of successful inferencing increased. Pajooesh explored vocabulary learning in Farsi-English bilingual school children. Her study focussed on two decontextualized tasks, word associations and word definition, which are directly related to children's performance on school literacy tasks.

### *NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKING TEACHERS - NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKING TEACHERS (NEST-NNEST)*

Luciana C. de Oliveira, PhD, Purdue University  
Lucie Moussu, PhD, Ryerson University  
Farahnaz Faez, PhD, University of Western Ontario

The three presentations on the *NEST-NNEST* theme explored aspects of the definition of a "native speaker" to show that definitions are rarely complex and involve multiple variables. Moussu argued that program administrators' definition of the term does not match the definition of ESL students and instructors. de Oliveira proposed mentoring in the sense of a transformational, two-way relationship in which both mentee and mentor benefit from the collaboration. Faez, drawing on multiple case studies from linguistically diverse teacher candidates across Canada proposes that from the perspective of socio-cultural orientation, "linguistic identities should be viewed as situated, dynamic, dialogic and multiple".

### *CONTENT-BASED LANGUAGE TEACHING (CBLT)*

Sandra Burger, PhD, University of Ottawa  
Amelia Hope, PhD, University of Ottawa  
Roy Lyster, PhD, McGill University  
Alyse Weinberg, PhD, University of Ottawa  
Joanna L. White, PhD, Concordia University, Montreal

The three presentations on the *Content-Based Language Teaching* theme focussed on the challenges of ensuring primary attention to content while providing rich contexts for second

language learning. Lyster proposed the concept of “interactional feedback” in CBLT. While cautioning that the inherently cultural nature of CBLT classrooms does not permit a prescriptive solution, he described insights from his studies showing how teachers can draw on diverse feedback types to promote language learning among their learners. Weinberg, Burger and Hope described how university-level immersion or CBLT instruction responds to the demands of discipline-specific vocabulary, style and methodological approaches, then presented survey data on the students’ experiences in this type of program. White presented aspects of her work with elementary school intensive ESL teachers in Quebec who deal with the ministry requirement that pedagogical content in French medium schools be taught and evaluated in French only.

### *LITERACY IN ESL POPULATIONS*

Sarah Bukhari, Ontario Literacy Coalition

Jose A. Carmona, PhD, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Diane Hardy, Bow Valley College, Calgary

Luigi Iannacci, PhD, Trent University

The theme of *Literacy In ESL Populations* contained four presentations. Bukhari provided an overview of the literacy issues and challenges adults with limited literacy skills in their first language face when immigrating to Ontario. Carmona explored the development of a literacy course for adult ESL learners from a research perspective. In addition, he presented revealing data on how illiterate students studied in Florida function despite very limited English abilities. Hardy’s presentation addressed the challenges faced by young adult ESL literacy learners leaving high school without a diploma. She discussed a successful transition program that supports such individuals in their quest for additional educational studies or workplace training. Iannacci’s presentation examined literacy practices and events encountered by CLD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) students within early years classrooms. An outline of how the relevant discourses are reflected within literacy served to determine their impact on CLD students. Suggestions for alternative approaches to literacy education for CLD students in the early years concluded the session.

An important part of the Research Symposium is the publication of a special refereed issue of *Contact* (edited by Clayton Graves) based on the proceedings which was produced later in the year. The co-editors of the proceedings were Dr. Hedy McGarrell and Dr. Robert Courchène.

TESL Ontario wishes to thank Citizenship & Immigration Canada and the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (Ontario) for providing funding to organize this Research Symposium.

### **Technology Fair**

Our 2007 Technology Fair featured a wireless lab and offered hands-on sessions using wireless technology and Internet connectivity. The two Tech 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. This year we also provided laptop and data projectors for the symposia sessions, Panel presentation and other conference sessions. The participants were very impressed with the availability of a wireless lab.

The Technology Fair 2007 hosted 22 presentations, 12 hands-on and 10 demo styles. For the first time in years, we turned down presenters due to volume of quality proposals. The TOEFL test and some LINC software demonstrations were housed outside the Tech Fair schedule as the presenters brought their own equipment. This year, the participants enjoyed a wide range of workshops and a high calibre of presentations.

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 Skype, Blogging, collaborative learning, PowerPoint, integrating computer technology, and sessions on activities using Tables.

Other presentations included new educational software, the use of the Internet as a teaching resource, and lab activities for Beginners to Advanced. The Technology Fair sessions were fully booked during the 3-day event.

Because of the wireless lab and the portability of laptops, security became an issue. For this purpose, a volunteer was secured to man the lab during the three days of the conference. He was invaluable to presenters and the team. His duties included watching over the lab, door monitoring, assisting participants with computer related issues, handling evaluation forms and reporting technical problems to the technician. In addition, Kevin O'Brien, Assistant Technology Chair, was available to assume volunteer duties when needed.

The Technology Fair received excellent evaluations.

Our thanks go to our Conference Chair Cheryl Richman, our Research Symposium Co-Chairs Dr. Robert Courchène and Dr. Hedy McGarrell, and to our Technology Fair Chair Sharon Rajabi and Assistant Chair Kevin O'Brien.

## 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 and AGM **ESL Web Resources & Using Media/Video in the Classroom** was held in October 2007. Veronica Vulić, an instructor with the English for Academic Purposes Program at Durham College, presented a workshop on how to use the Internet effectively and how to adapt the web, media and videos to the classroom.

Oxford University Press presented **Get them Talking through Reading Circles**. Reading Circles offer students an opportunity to read, communicate and enjoy English. A further presentation by Oxford **Step Forward Canada** presented new resources that integrate the CLB communicative competencies, critical thinking skills, math and employability skills with many themes and topics found in the ESL and LINC curricula co-authored by Sharon Rajabi.

The TESL Durham Spring 2008 Workshop was held in April 2008. The topics covered were Grammar, Games, Conversation, Field Trips, and Free Stuff. This workshop allowed participants to share their knowledge in each of the above areas. Remarks from the questionnaire indicated that everyone who attended left with some new ideas to use in the class – always the goal of any teaching workshop.

### TESL HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

TESL Hamilton-Wentworth held its AGM in October 2007, featuring Dr. Thomas Farrell.

ESL Week (November 19 – 23, 2007) was celebrated by St. Charles celebrating **Cultural Diversity with an Extravaganza**. Students showcased their diverse culture and displayed their talents. The St. Joseph Immigrant Women's Centre held an **ESL Café**, with learners participating in various conversational, physical, creative and culinary activities. The HWDSB City Centre arranged for an **ESL Amazing Race**, with students solving riddles to find places throughout Jackson Square. The Grade 8 elementary ELLs from feeder schools in south Halton joined the high school ELLs on a great trip to Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto as part of an **Early Life in Canada** unit study.

TESL Hamilton-Wentworth and SISO presented the second Annual LINC/TESL Spring Conference on February 29 and March 1, 2008 at the Hamilton Convention Centre. The keynote speaker was Dr. Lionel Laroche who spoke about the difference in cultural communication between newcomers and potential employers. He outlined the need for soft skills training and gave some example of challenges foreign trained professionals are like to face.

## **TESL KINGSTON**

Fran Marshall presented a workshop on Best Practices from **This Hour Has Only 30 Minutes** on October 20, 2007.

An ESL Day Open House was held at Limestone School of Community Education on November 16 and, to celebrate ESL Week, a Keith Banting Lecture on Multiculturalism and Social Integration in Canada was held at the Kingston Library on November 20, 2007.

Pamela Robinson delivered a lively workshop in January 2008, entitled **Words, Words, Words**. It centred around the teaching of collocations and multi-word units.

Anne Cairns gave a computer skills-based workshop in March 2008, using the computer lab at St. Lawrence College. She focused on useful tips for creating eye-pleasing documents that were fast and easy to produce.

The AGM was held on May 15 at the Immigrant Services for Kingston and Area (ISKA). Sefton Jackson performed a solo dramatic piece called **Change** about his experiences as a new immigrant to Canada.

## **TESL LONDON**

TESL London held its Annual Fall PD Presentation with Publishers' Display in October 2007 at Fanshawe College. Presenters Jane Roy (President of Canadian Aid for Southern Sudan) and husband Glen Parson discussed issues and concerns related to Sudan, such as slavery, Darfur, refugees, education, literacy efforts, economic development, child soldiers and smart aid. This presentation attracted close to 100 London area members and guests.

A Mini-Conference **ESL by Number, Demographics and Trends in London** was held in March 2008. The Plenary **Immigrant Settlement in Canada – What it means for London's Future** was presented by Plenary Speaker Deb Matthews.

## **TESL NIAGARA**

TESL Niagara's annual Spring Conference was once again held at Denis Morris Catholic High School. Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor gave the opening presentation and Fred Wilson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board was on hand to welcome teachers from across Niagara. Sessions such as **Culture in the ESL Classroom; Learning Vocabulary** and **A Wiki for Collaborative Projects** gave registrants the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of workshops. The response to the presentations, the site, and the displays at the conference was extremely positive.

## **TESL NORTH YORK/YORK REGION**

TESL North York/York Region's Fall Conference and AGM took place on October 24, 2007. Among

the sessions featured were **Introduction to the Lexical Approach**, presented by Ken Lackman, describing a revolutionary way of teaching popularized by Michael Lewis. Also featured was **Best Practices to Motivate Multilevel ESL Classes**, presented by Fran Marshall. The workshop comprised best practices for skill-building and skill-using activities for three-segment lessons as reported in an informal cross-Canada survey: 1. Easily prepared openers to overcome common errors and encourage punctuality. 2. Techniques for self-contained story units with separate CLB evaluations. 3. Valuable, fun closing activities – math and word puzzles and quizzes.

This was followed by the Affiliate's Spring Conference in April 2008. The conference featured 10 presentations, including **Using Country and Western Music in the Classroom** by Jennifer Harris from the School of Continuing Studies, ELP; **Pronunciation Teaching At Different CLB Levels** presented by Jinjiang Du from the Toronto District School Board, Continuing Education; **Pronunciation Pegs** by Carolyn Samuels from McGill University; and **Brain Exercises +2**, presented by Edna Santiago-Augustin from the Centre for Information and Community Services.

### **TESL NOTHERN AFFILIATE**

Our small Affiliate in the North held a workshop in October 2007, with members exchanging teaching ideas.

### **TESL OTTAWA**

TESL Ottawa's Spring Conference **Planting the Seeds 2008** was held in April 2008, offering a vast array of workshop presentations. Examples were: **Beyond resumes and cover letters: Helping foreign-trained workers find employment**, presented by Debbie Barclay from Le Creusot Language School; **Keepin' it Simple – Using Computers to Support ESL Teaching** by Mike Barker from Carleton University Centre for Intensive Language Education; a publisher's presentation by Rob Edelman from Cambridge University Press entitled **Ventures: Addressing the challenges of today's adult classrooms**; **The importance of teaching delexicalized words to ESL students** by Anna Kozlowski and Linda Seymour from the Ottawa Catholic School Board; and **Teaching survivors of trauma: ESL and Refugees of War and Domestic Violence** presented by Biljana Vasilevska. Biljana has taught ESL in Canada and abroad, including LINC to adult survivors of trauma. She currently works as an educational and social researcher.

### **TESL PEEL/HALTON/ETOBICOKE**

The Peel/Halton/Etobicoke affiliate held its Fall P.D. Workshops and AGM in October 2007. It featured Keynote speaker Emmanuel Lopez who delivered an informative program to help participants inject enthusiasm and energy back into their career and life. Six workshop sessions were held, amongst them the **The LINC 5-7 Curriculum Guidelines** by Anne Hajer, Anne-Marie Kaskens and Margaret Stasiak; **Technology enhanced Learning: Short Primer to ICT Tools** by Subhadra Ramachandran; and **ESL Classics – Songs for Learning English** presented by Maureen Stewart.

In April 2008 Peel/Halton/Etobicoke offered a **Pizzas, Pitas and PD event**, featuring two workshops: **Scaffold your way into listening: guiding students to become better listeners** by Vesna Nikolic, and **Closing in on a million: A Strategy to review and practice vocabulary** presented by Marg Heidebrecht.

TESL Peel/Halton/Etobicoke's Spring 2008 Professional Development Workshops for ESL and LINC Teachers took place in May 2008. The diverse workshops covered areas such as **Find the "Play" in Role-Play** presented by Second City; **Helping Your Student Writers Find Their "Voice"** by Julia Macdonald; **The Implications of the CITE (Colleges Integrating Immigrants to Employment) project for LINC Teachers**, presented by Erminia Bossio, Christina Bylyna and Stephanie Samboo and **Making Video Work in Your Classroom** by Cheryl Richman and Karen Evans.

## TESL TORONTO

The TESL Toronto Fall Conference, held in October 2007 presented 14 Workshops in addition to keynote speaker Mario Rinvolucri, a noted teacher, author and teacher trainer. His keynote address **Humanistic Teaching – What is it?** looked at the theoretical foundations of humanistic teaching. A small sampling of the workshops follows: **Teaching Vocabulary to Diverse Students** by Beata Piechocinska; **Assessment in the Adult ESL Classroom** by Lisa Kattelus; **Encouraging Accuracy and Automatisation** by Neil Walker; **Tackling T.V. News** presented by Catherine Beckingham, and **Using Podcasts to Promote Listening and Speaking Skills** by Patricia Glogowski.

TESL Toronto held the affiliate AGM at the Spring 2008 Conference. Over 20 publishers participated and the conference featured 13 workshops on a range of topics including teaching writing, vocabulary building, pronunciation games and how to use video effectively in the classroom. At the AGM, we were pleased to provide conference bursaries to 20 TESL Toronto members to help them attend TESL Toronto or the TESL Ontario conference.

## TESL WATERLOO-WELLINGTON

In April 2007, Jim Cummins came to the TESL Waterloo-Wellington AGM and spoke on Multi-literacies.

In February 2008, the TESL Waterloo-Wellington Winter Workshop included presentations featuring **Pronunciation Skills for ESL Learners** by Kathryn Brillinger; **Public Speaking for ESL Students** by Dr. Stefan Rehm; **Vocabulary Building for Academic English** by Lucia Engkent, and **Teaching and Learning Prepositions** by Professor Marjatta Holt. 70 members attended this event.

## TESL WINDSOR

TESL Windsor held A Spring workshop on March 29,2008 featuring **LINC 5-7** by Ann Marie Kaskins and a **TESL Ontario Forum** conducted by Rodica Vasiliu.

The Affiliate's AGM and Workshop was held on Saturday, May 24, 2008 with keynote speaker Dr. Jane Ku on **Issues Faced by Immigrant Women**. Melissa Dalgleish, Marketing and Sales Coordinator, ESL Division, Oxford University Press Canada, also presented.

## 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](http://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.

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 2007/08 (April 07 – March 08) 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 33, No. 2, June 2007, Research Symposium Special Edition.**

This special refereed issue of *Contact*, co-edited by Dr. Hedy McGarrell and Dr. Robert Courchêne, covered the Seventh Annual Research Symposium which was part of the 34<sup>th</sup> annual TESL Ontario Conference held in November 2006. The Research Symposium focused on three themes:

- Writing – Focus on Teacher Feedback
- Evaluation – Focus on Oral Skills
- Language and Settlement

The symposia covered important issues for ESL practitioners and researchers. As in previous years, the themes were selected in consultation with the TESL Ontario membership and in conjunction with the Ontario Regional LINC Advisory Committee (ORLAC) of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (Ontario). They reflect current instructional issues that confront classroom teachers with learners at all levels of subsequent language (L2 development).

### **Volume 33, No. 3, August 2007**

This edition's lead article was a tribute to Elizabeth Gryte, Director of Settlement Programs, Ontario Region, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, who passed away in June 2007. The article chronicled her important contributions to immigrant issues and recognized her exceptional dedication and commitment to the settlement of refugees and immigrants.

Other articles featured:

- Eleanor Cooper, in her article My ESL Exchange in Australia, talked about her year in Adelaide, South Australia on a teacher exchange arranged by the Canadian Education Exchange Foundation. She taught ESL at a state school in an area with a large ESL population, mostly recent refugees from Sudan, Liberia and Afghanistan.
- The issue featured a photo-illustrated retrospective on Margaret Elliott's long career as an ESL instructor. After attaining a university degree at Carleton University at the age of 46, Margaret spent the next thirty years as an ESL instructor to newcomers to Canada as well as teaching overseas.
- Dr. Robert Courchêne, Acting Director of the Second Language Institute in Ottawa, tackled the issue of Teaching Religion in the Schools: Models to Inform the Canadian Context. The theme of religion is rapidly acquiring more prominence in the fields of multicultural and antiracism education and stakeholders are forced to examine what role religion should play within schools and classrooms. In examining the experience of other western countries with large immigrant populations to help us forge a coherent approach to the issue in our country, the writer offered a set of ten proposals as part of the discussion.

### **Volume 33, No. 4, November 2007**

The 2008 fall issue featured Mario Rinvulcri in its lead article Super Mario: He Came, Saw and Conquered. Known by teachers around the world for his many books, the best-selling Grammar Games, for example, this noted British educator and writer spent a week in Toronto this fall, meeting with teachers and presenting two workshops and a keynote address at TESL Toronto's Fall Conference. Other articles covered the following themes:

- What's in a Name – and What Names Are In? Rob McConkey of Seneca College was struck by the westernized names so many of his international students adopted when they came to Canada, and he initiated his own action research project. This led him to a broader study of the subject of names, their cultural significance, and their connection to identity. The universal importance of names is something that anthropologists have long recognized, however much one culture might vary from another in terms of the basis on which names are chosen and the way in which they are given.
- Ray Kanrar reviewed some recent classroom research on cooperative learning and discussed how further consideration and attention by ESL teachers may be needed to make cooperative learning activities work effectively for our students.
- Jangles Report on LINC Literacy. The recent so-called "Jangles Report" prepared for Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Ontario Region LINC Advisory Committee makes important recommendations for dealing with the increasing presence

of literacy learners in LINC program.

### **Volume 34, No. 1, March 2008, Conference Proceedings Issue**

The Conference issue reviewed many of the Conference sessions offered at our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in November 2007, entitled Making Connections. TESL Ontario's 3-day conference is the highlight event of ESL Week, declared in many communities in Ontario.

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

## **STANDARDS & CERTIFICATION**

### **TTIRAC**

Currently there are nineteen TESL training programs recognized as meeting TESL Ontario standards. Between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008, no new TESL training programs applied for TESL Ontario recognition. Six programs originally recognized and due for renewal during this period, applied and were approved. Members of this Committee during this period were: Sheila Nicholas and Vera Beletzan, Chairs, Linda Steinman, Gloria McPherson, Marijke Wertheim and Jeannie Haller.

### **TESL Ontario Certificates**

Between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008, 385 applicants qualified for TESL Ontario Certificates. There have been 4309 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: Karen Evans, Chair, Jennifer Hay and Samantha Banks. The initial review of applications and preparation of TESL Ontario Certificates is now done by the Certification Coordinator; the Certification Review Board is consulted before a decision is made for exceptional cases.

For the same period, 796 TESL Ontario instructors certified from July 2002 to March 2008 inclusive were due to renew their certificates; of these, 445 renewed to 2010. In 2010, TESL Ontario will initiate annual renewal of membership and certification.

### **Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition**

From April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008, 30 applicants have been referred to PLAR, 6 have applied and been adjudicated and 3 have been certified. 42 applicants have had their portfolios adjudicated and 35 of those now have TESL Ontario Certificates.

From its inception in January 2005 to the end of this reporting period, 188 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 63 have applied for PLAR and been

adjudicated and 53 have received 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.

Leslie Sheffer, who served TESL Ontario as Certification Coordinator for many years, retired in April 2008. We welcome Reza Mazloom Farzagh, TESL Ontario's new Certification Coordinator.

## **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 2008/09 year.

In 2007/08 the Ministry also participated in the funding of the annual Research Symposium held at the TESL Ontario Conference and we received conference assistance funding for 200 ESL instructors.

- **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](http://www.teslontario.org) which contains further information on ORLAC as well as Calls for Proposals.

In the 2007/08 year, 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.** 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 Sylvia Bereskin 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

As was the case last year, the PR Committee continued to focus on outreach and member communications. We introduced new activities to the work of the committee, and saw positive results.

ESL Week, an initiative begun in the past, once again presented an excellent opportunity to celebrate the work of ESL learners, instructors, teachers, and other professionals in the field. We advertised the event by listing activities happening in commemoration of the week and enlisted Affiliates across the province to participate by planning events in their local communities. Many communities were actively engaged in the Poster Contest, and the 2007 poster contest winner was Ayat Rashad Zieger from Windsor. We thank the communities who supported the promotion of ESL Week by displaying the winning poster in schools and their workplaces. Our sincere thanks also go to the many municipalities across the province who officially declared 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 writing contests to hosting a multiculturalism day to share cuisine, singing, music, and dancing; and from hosting an open house to organizing art exhibitions and displays, ESL Week 2007 celebrated the importance of ESL teaching and learning in Ontario.

As in the past year, we retained the services of our PR consultant, Shannon Skinner of Comfy Chair Productions, to draft press releases which generated media attention, both for TESL Ontario and our affiliates. We were pleased that our stories were picked up by the local newspapers. In addition, we had interviews by CBC Metro Morning and Here and Now programs, local radio stations, as well as televised interviews by local TV programs in Mississauga and Pickering. Clearly, these events contribute immensely 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 at <http://www.teslontario.org/esl-week/>.

To continue the work of TESL Ontario as a key stakeholder, we hosted the second annual Panel at the 2007 conference. This event provided the stakeholders opportunity to discuss and share common issues. The theme of the panel was “Making Connections for a Common Goal.” Panelists included representatives from Citizenship and Immigration Canada, School boards representing credit and non-credit sector, and colleges and universities. For details, please see the report <http://www.teslontario.org/publications/annual-panel/>.

We continued to send e-bulletins periodically as a means to communicate the events that were of interest to our membership. We have found this to be an excellent communication tool with our members and we appreciate member feedback and support. Through one of the e-bulletins, we sought membership input through a survey for a position paper. We are happy to report that members overwhelmingly supported a paper on “A snapshot of the current employment situation for adult ESL

professionals in Ontario” that TESL Ontario will undertake in the coming year.

For the year ahead, the PR Committee will continue working on the above activities to solidify the progress made thus far, and identify a number of areas to examine further. These include supporting academic research related to the mandate and objectives of the association. For this reason, we have formed a new “Research Committee” to undertake this important initiative.

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 Sharon Rajabi, our P.R. Chair, and all of the P.R. committee members for their hard work throughout the year.

## **TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH**

TESL Ontario has continued to research the developments in technology and to look at the implications for both the TESL Ontario office and the ways in which we can use it to serve the members better. We continue to develop, evolve and use our new mail system as an effective and fast way to communicate important issues to our members and we have used online surveys to get important feedback from our members. We have looked into research areas of particular interest for our membership.

TESL Ontario had continued to upgrade the software and hardware in the office and has researched and purchased a few new items to be able to operate more efficiently in the office. These items were an all in one colour printer, which has also replaced our outdated fax machine, and provides in-house scanning capabilities. We updated our database software and our virus checkers to ensure the latest security and protection of our systems and the member data. We have purchased additional USB data keys to enable us to keep data off site for emergencies. We also continue to back up our computer systems off site, for additional security.

One of the changes as a direct response to a number of members’ requests has been the establishment of our own ESL forum. This is a separate website which is located on its own domain and a link to it is provided on our main website. The forum website is meant for members to pose questions and have their peers reply to these questions. It is also a place to share best practices and achievements and to start and continue discussions on important issues to our members. We hope that our members will embrace this method of communication and sharing of ideas as it provides a method of communicating at the convenience of our members.

Areas of research were explored and discussions held around ways in which TESL Ontario could better serve its members through research projects. It was decided that it would be necessary to poll our membership for information on relevant research that would be useful and important to them. We also looked at areas of research that would be beneficial to the board members and to the affiliate directors.

TESL continues to see the importance of using technologies in both communicating with its members

and the ESL community at large. It also understands the relevance of using the technology for doing business with its many partners and stakeholders in the ESL field. We continue to work hard to make sure we are using the technology both effectively and efficiently while respecting the privacy of our membership.

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

## **TESL ONTARIO ADMINISTRATION**

TESL Ontario now serves close to 4200 members, and we are happy to report that most are TESL Ontario certified. The administration of TESL Ontario is carried out by four full-time staff members:

Executive Director, Renate Tilson  
Membership Coordinator, Eva Csiszar  
Certification Coordinator, Reza Farzaghy  
Office Coordinator, Karen Dwyer

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 Board of Directors of TESL Ontario has undertaken a governance restructure initiative. The new Governance model consists of a Board with 9 members, all designated as Members-at-Large. A Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected from amongst these nine Directors following the November AGM. The Board will meet 5 times a year. Delegate(s) from various organizations, TESL Ontario committees, Affiliate Representatives Group and federal/provincial Ministries, to name a few, will have opportunity to meet with the Board to inform and provide expertise as need warrants.

Affiliate Representatives (elected by their Affiliates) will meet 5 times a year to share ideas and concerns. They will be responsible to the Board and have opportunity to provide input.

Operational committees – Membership, Certification, Public Relations, Research, Conference and others as determined by need - will meet and conduct business exclusive of Board meetings. The Executive Director will serve a pivotal role in communicating committee work to the Board and vice versa. The ED will be guided and governed by Board policies.

A new set of Bylaws to support this Governance Model will be voted upon at the November AGM.

## 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, and we are grateful for their unstinting support and assistance in working on the governance restructure initiative. Their dedication and hard work is very much appreciated.

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.

## **2007/08 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **NON-AFFILIATE DIRECTORS**

President	Sheila Carson
Past President	Sharon Rajabi
Secretary-Treasurer	Namita Aggarwal
Certification Chair	Elaine Armstrong
Membership Secretary	Joanne Hincks
Conference Chair	Barbara Krukowski
Public Relations & Issues Chair	Sharon Rajabi (Acting Chair)
Technology & Research Chair	Kevin O'Brien
TESL Canada Representative	Sharon Rajabi
Member At Large	Jennifer Freudenthal
Member at Large	Marilyn Johnston

### **AFFILIATE DIRECTORS**

Durham	Katherine Sanchez
Hamilton-Wentworth	Maria Crapsi
Kingston	Johanne Mednick Myles
London	Belinda Gorman
Niagara	Wendy Glasgow-Spanos
North York/York Region	Susan Richarz
Ottawa	Salome Atandi
Peel/Halton/Etobicoke	Denise Copland
Northern Region	Georgia Irvine
Toronto	Antonella Valeo
Waterloo-Wellington	Kathryn Brillinger
Windsor	Rodica Vasiliu

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO  
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
MARCH 31, 2008

**JULIUS L. RÉDLY**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT  
Licensed Public Accountant

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO  
INDEX TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
MARCH 31, 2008

Page 1	Auditor's Report
Page 2	Statement of Financial Position
Page 3	Statement of Operations and Net Assets
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, 2008 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, 2008.

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, 2008 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

TORONTO, CANADA  
July 17, 2008

  
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 POSITIONAS AT MARCH 31, 2008

(with comparative figures as at March 31, 2007)

ASSETS

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Current		
Cash on hand and in bank	\$ 114,339	\$ 92,162
Term deposits-including accrued interest	323,282	272,409
Accounts receivable	12,757	48,332
Prepaid expenses	<u>6,760</u>	<u>3,371</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 457,138</u>	<u>\$ 416,274</u>

LIABILITIES

Current		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	<u>\$ 50,777</u>	<u>\$ 14,060</u>

NET ASSETS

Per attached -see page 3	<u>\$ 406,361</u>	<u>\$ 402,214</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, 2008

(with comparative figures for the year ended March 31, 2007)

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Revenue		
Contributions		
Projects - see page 4	\$ 588,789	\$ 494,087
Membership fees	295,806	286,874
Certification fees	37,616	47,451
Others	14,176	8,278
Affiliates' mini conferences	49,208	49,897
Interest	11,005	9,641
Total revenue	<u>\$ 996,600</u>	<u>\$ 896,228</u>
Expenses		
Annual TESL Ontario Conference - see page 5	\$ 310,976	\$ 202,736
Affiliates' mini conferences - see page 5	75,476	71,438
Certification costs	5,367	4,406
Other project expenses	95,252	139,959
Salaries and employee benefits	225,976	213,228
Rent, telephone & utilities	43,740	43,772
Memberships and affiliation expenses	66,160	68,395
Board Governance review	12,993	-
Contact newsletter	6,008	3,600
Meeting expenses	17,088	23,545
Computer & equipment purchase/rental	11,766	11,618
Stationery, supplies, postage & couriers	18,967	15,639
Website costs	27,816	18,108
Office and general	74,868	46,164
Total expenses	<u>\$ 992,453</u>	<u>\$ 862,608</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	\$ 4,147	\$ 33,620
Net assets - opening balance	<u>402,214</u>	<u>368,594</u>
- closing balance	<u>\$ 406,361</u>	<u>\$ 402,214</u>

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIOSCHEDULE OF PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONSFOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

(with comparative figures for the year ended March 31, 2007)

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Project contributions:		
Annual TESL Ontario Conference		
Registration and publishers	\$ 124,909	\$ 122,772
Citizenship and Immigration Canada		
LINC - Conference assistance	292,809	201,384
Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration		
Conference assistance	<u>58,584</u>	<u>-</u>
	\$ 476,302	\$ 324,156
Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration		
Ontario Curriculum Project	56,046	108,849
Research Symposium	-	2,494
Pay Equity Program	9,259	9,259
Citizenship and Immigration Canada		
SNAP	26,641	25,030
ORLAC	<u>20,541</u>	<u>24,299</u>
	<u>\$ 588,789</u>	<u>\$ 494,087</u>

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIOSCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE EXPENSESFOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2008

(with comparative figures for the year ended March 31, 2007)

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Annual TESL Ontario conference		
Conference planning costs	\$ 7,634	\$ 12,618
Conference Assistance - registrants' travel and accommodation	222,713	109,342
Printing, supplies and miscellaneous	39,052	25,463
Rentals	32,534	51,545
Webcasting	<u>9,043</u>	<u>10,968</u>
	<u>\$ 310,976</u>	<u>\$ 209,936</u>
 Affiliate mini-conferences		
Honoraria and salaries	\$ 14,027	\$ 16,349
Printing, supplies and miscellaneous	21,819	16,057
Meeting expenses	<u>39,630</u>	<u>39,032</u>
	<u>\$ 75,476</u>	<u>\$ 71,438</u>

TESL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIONOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTSMARCH 31, 2008

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.
  - c. Financial instruments of TESL Association of Ontario consists of cash in bank, term-deposits, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued charges. The fair value of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values.  
Credit risk for the organization does not exist, as all accounts receivables have been received subsequent to the fiscal year end.
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 rate of Canadian Bank of Commerce's prime rate plus .75%.