

NEWSLETTER



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From The Chair THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIP

A significant part of the work of the board on your behalf is partnering with organizations and agencies which also seek to serve the learners in your classes, whether it be directly in the classroom or outside the classroom. In this spirit, the board has been intentionally seeking ways to explore how and where partnerships need to be developed or strengthened. Here are a few highlights from activities in this regard:

- ☞ I had a very positive and productive meeting with Sylvia Waterer, the Executive Director, and Anthony Olusola, the Project Coordinator, of SAISIA (Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies);

- ☞ Ricardo and I had a very helpful meeting with Tim Helfrich, Manager, Settlement and Language Programs in the Ministry of the Economy to discuss the broader context of funding and needs as viewed by the provincial and federal government;

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TESL Saskatchewan



Darren Gordon
TESL SASK Chair

☞ Ricardo, Lisa, and I met with SK TEAL representatives to work toward a better understanding of the relationship and responsibilities as we partner together, particularly seeking to adopt a conference MOU with a revenue sharing model that reflects attendees' membership and is faithful in using revenue accordingly; the TESL Sask board is looking to establish a PD grant for SK TEAL as a way to offset the restructuring of the MOU and to continue in supporting our sister organization and the work of English language teachers in K-12 sector. Additionally, we have proposed the establishment of a working group comprised of members from both organizations to create space for better communication and exploring potential joint opportunities;

☞ I have initiated and am working toward establishing good communication with IRCC officials, both at the provincial and federal level.

As we continue the work together and with partners, we welcome your views and ideas as well. Please feel free to email me darrenc.teslsask@gmail.com or anyone else on the board—we want to serve you well.

Darren Gordon
Chair, TESL Saskatchewan

ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

We have great news to share regarding the annual conference! The board has affirmed the signing of a 5-year contract with Double Tree by Hilton, Regina and Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon to host the annual conference. Therefore, we now can confirm dates and the location for the annual conference for the next five years:

2018	April 20 – 21	Double Tree by Hilton, Regina
2019	April 26 – 27	Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon
2020	April 24 – 25	Double Tree by Hilton, Regina
2021	April 23 – 24	Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon
2022	April 29 – 30	Double Tree by Hilton, Regina

With this opportunity, the board recognized the substantial advantage of the contract in providing excellent facilities at a significant reduction of cost. The confirmed dates also allow for approved funding ahead of time and reduces the work load for the conference committee. Additionally, this commitment establishes an increased professional image to the annual conference.

However, the board also recognizes that one significant disadvantage in this 5-year agreement is the elimination of any conference being in a rural location. To fulfill our charge to provide access to PD, the board is committed to organizing one day extensive professional development opportunities in locations outside of Regina and Saskatoon. Please be in contact with us regarding your interest and if there are any particular needs that would be highly desired.

TESL Saskatchewan



CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

Call for Conference Committee Members

We are currently looking for volunteers to assist on our Conference Committee. If you are interested in getting involved on any level of time commitment we can find a place for you. If you are interested in assisting please contact Lisa Morhart at teslsask@gmail.com.

TESL Saskatchewan Board of Directors

TESL Saskatchewan is still looking for one (1) Director to represent the Regina District. All expenses are covered for Board Members and the board meets around 4-6 times a year. If you are interested please email Lisa Morhart at teslsask@gmail.com.

TESL SASK BURSARY & PD AWARDS

We would like to remind all our members that TESL Saskatchewan offers Bursaries, Professional Development Opportunities and Awards to deserving members and students within the community.

The upcoming deadline for these Bursaries and Awards is March 31, 2018. If you are in need of funding for an upcoming event, know a student that requires financial assistance or would like to nominate an educator to recognize the work they do for others, please check out our website at:

<http://www.teslsask.com/bursaries-and-awards/>

The following Awards are available:

Jake Kutarna PD Award
 TESL Sask Student Bursaries
 Award of Merit
 Lifetime Award

TESL Sask Awards and Bursary Committee



TESL Saskatchewan Membership Dues

All membership fees were due on September 30, 2017. If you membership fees are not paid by December 1 you will lose your TESL Saskatchewan membership status. Please contact the office if you have any concerns, or questions.

Membership Type	First Time Registration Fee*	Annual Dues October 1-September 30
General Member	\$25	\$65
Re-Accreditation Fee	N/A	\$20
Student Member	N/A	\$30
Late Fee**		\$20

Late Fee: members who have not renewed their membership dues by September 30 are required to pay a late fee.

MEMBERSHIP WITH SK TEAL

If you are working in the K-12 context or have an interest or desire to connect with English language educators in this context, we encourage you to become a member of SK TEAL. Please visit the SK TEAL website (skteal.com) or the membership site (skteal.com/membership/) for more information.

Please note that there is no automatic membership sharing between TESL Sask and SK TEAL. Having a membership with TESL Sask does not provide automatic membership with SK TEAL or vice versa. To become a member of SK TEAL, you need to register directly with them.



TESL SASKATCHEWAN ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE UPDATES

TESL Saskatchewan

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Find us on the Web:
<http://www.teslsask.com/>



NEWLY-ACCREDITED ESL TEACHERS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following people who recently became accredited or re-accredited teachers of English as a Second Language with TESL Saskatchewan!

Angelique Elliott
Arlene Fedorchuk
Anna Dyachenko
Charlene Neumeyer
Dalyce Peterson- Interim Status
Kathy Andvaag

We invite our members to inquire about becoming an accredited ESL teacher. Whether you are beginning the process or wrapping up, you can access information on our website at www.teslsask.com or email your questions to teslsask@gmail.com.

The timing has never been better!

TESL CANADA UPDATE

We would like to thank you again for your patience and support as we thoughtfully deal with TESL Canada's financial situation. We are working diligently to sort through various matters and to focus on priorities- Certification, Teacher Training Program Recognition (TTPR) and the TESL Canada Journal. While the head office is set for closure, we assure you that our dedication to keeping TESL Canada viable and sustainable is at the forefront of everything the board and executive are doing at present.

The Journal is in good financial shape with an extended SSHRC grant and we thank the co-Editors- Drs. Farahnez Faez and Antonella Valeo for their commitment to this quality product.

The TESL Canada Board is in the midst of working to find the best and most feasible solution to TTPR and certification. We are sincerely committed to this endeavor and we hope to have some news on this in the very near future.

In the spirit of transparency, as has been our goal throughout this process, we want to let you know that we are relying on our membership to continue their financial support of TESL Canada. We ask both direct and affiliate members to continue to pay your membership fees, so that TESL Canada is able to continue to provide national level support to ESL/EAL educators and be a voice at important national tables such as NLAB. In fact, TESL Canada volunteers are currently working with IRCC to review the language proficiency level of the document, "*Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship*".

In order to continue, even in a reduced capacity, we need to be able to count on our members for financial support. If the affiliate is in a position to pay membership fees earlier than January 1st, this would be greatly appreciated. If this is not possible, we certainly understand and ask that you confirm that you intend to pay fees in the new year.

As you know, the Board and committees are made up of volunteers who give of their time and expertise to support our operations and certification programs. Keeping this in mind, we would welcome your financial contributions and appreciate your volunteer assistance. As always, we invite your constructive and positive feedback and any questions you may have.

Thank you for your commitment to TESL Canada and for your collegial support moving forward.

TESL Canada Board