



TESL New Brunswick  
October 2020  
Fall Newsletter

# What's Happening?

Dear TESL NB Members,

Fall is now upon us with cool weather, colourful leaves and ripe apples. It is a beautiful time of year, and one that I hope all of you can take some time to enjoy.

This fall has also been a time of many challenges as we try to adapt to a new COVID-19 reality. There is a great deal of chaos as students head back to school, as businesses try to cope, and as we continue to deal with how to keep safe with distancing, hand sanitizing, masks, and bubbles. I hope that each of you have been finding your way safely through this chaos, and are able to be successful with your teaching. I hope that you, like me, are also finding some silver linings in this situation as I have been able to learn to use Zoom and am now in closer contact with my sons in Ontario than ever before.



Donna Hoffman

Despite these challenges I remain optimistic for our future here in New Brunswick. As the saying goes, "this too shall pass". May you have a safe, productive and enjoyable fall and winter season.

Remember to get your flu shot, take care of yourself, and find time to enjoy life.

All the best to all,  
Donna

*"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all." ~ Dale Carnegie*

## TESL CANADA UPDATE

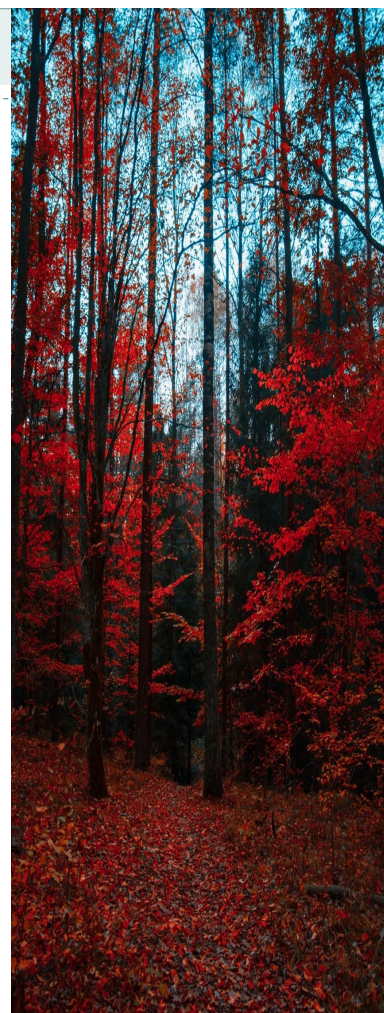
As a member of TESL NB, you are automatically a member of TESL Canada.



Remember to check [www.tesl.ca](http://www.tesl.ca) and @TESLCanada for **updates** on Professional Learning sessions for members, bursary opportunities, updated standards for certification, and more.

The TESL Canada **Annual General Meeting** is coming up on December 3rd at 8 pm AST. Please reach out to [admin@tesl.ca](mailto:admin@tesl.ca) for more information.

The **TESL Canada Journal** (<http://www.teslcanadajournal.ca>) is soliciting proposals from prospective guest editors for the 2021 Special Issue. If interested, read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5gxoc2d>.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Innovative Programming in K-12 .....	2
Get to Know a TESLNB Member .....	3
TESL Atlantic Spring Conference .....	4
Mental Health Corner ...	4
The English Language Programme's Virtual Field Schools .....	5
TESLNB's Annual General Meeting .....	6
Contact Us .....	6

## ADAPTING THROUGH ADVERSITY

~ Tracy Garnett, EAL Lead, Anglophone School District-South (ASD-S)

Never has our need for resilience and adaptability been greater than it is in this moment. Fortunately for us, our newcomer students serve as inspirational role models of this tenacity and motivate us to achieve unconventional solutions to potential barriers to their learning.

In **Anglophone School District-South**, these unpredictable times have prompted a number of initiatives.

At the high school level, educators have identified English language learners working on English literacy skills at an CEFR A1 level and are supporting them so they can attend school daily.

In most cases, the students are assigned to their scheduled classrooms. However, in two high schools, with large numbers of language learners falling into this category, students are being supported with an additional teacher. As well, at these schools, a new position was created to support the Newcomer Support and Transition Plan (NSTP).

In grades 3-8, newly arrived English language learners working on English literacy skills at a CEFR A1 level, are taking part in a **Language Learning Centre** pilot. Students attend classes focused on developing their English literacy and numeracy skills and on how to navigate the “hidden curriculum” (Jackson, 1968) of school in New Brunswick, Canada.



*“Resiliency is the ability to spring back from and successfully adapt to adversity.” - Nan Henderson*

### EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

### NEW WAYS OF DOING

~ Tracy Garnett, ASD-S

Educators and EAL Mentors in ASD-S have been involved in creating online access to curricular content and literacy support for English language learners. Some mentors are now supporting students in rural areas through the online TEAMS platform.

This summer, educator Mallory Cunningham, a teacher at Saint John High School, worked alongside a team of other K-12 EAL educators to complete online course modules for B1.1 and B1.2 level English language learners. Mallory and her colleagues created interactive modules, covering topics such as careers, identity, music, portfolio building and more. Mallory is now able to use these online modules daily in her classroom to guide her teaching. She notes that this has aided in teaching the students about using technology and that the students are really enjoying the themes. “It has been a wonderful resource that I encourage all EAL teachers to check out!” - Mallory

Mallory, pictured here on the left, also worked alongside EECD last spring to deliver online professional learning to educators on supporting multilingual language learners in all learning environments (face to face and online). The recording of the session can be found [here](#). “It was a great opportunity to stop and reflect on what we can do to support our students in these uncertain times.” - Mallory

2



## GET TO KNOW A TESLNB MEMBER!



*Dawn McCluskey, PBLA Lead Teacher,  
YMCA of Greater Saint John*

**Name:** Dawn McCluskey

**Position:** PBLA Lead Teacher, YMCA of Greater Saint John

**My favourite thing about my position** is having the opportunity to both teach and learn. While having the opportunity to present information to my peers, being a Lead Teacher is also a learning process whereby I benefit from the expertise of regional coaches and keep current with best practices.

**Something I recently learned:** Throughout these recent times, I have learned that I have an expanded appreciation for nature and the outdoors.

**Book recommendation:** *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

**I would recommend it for a few reasons**, but what sticks out in my mind is how Kya learned. It illustrates, throughout, the value of real world, experiential learning. While Kya was not educated formally, much of her learning came from the observation and communication with nature around her.

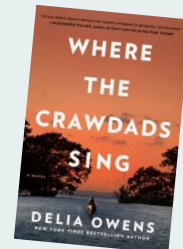
**Favourite Quote:** “*She knew the years of isolation had altered her behavior until she was different from others, but it wasn't her fault she'd been alone. Most of what she knew, she'd learned from the wild. Nature had nurtured, tutored, and protected her when no one else would.*”

**Goal over the next few months:** My goal is to put procrastination on the back burner and make a serious attempt at completing a few outstanding household projects. We'll see how that goes...J

**Something that inspires me:** The benefits that come from lifelong learning encourage me to continue to increase my knowledge on a number of fronts and in a number of ways. So much left to learn.

## BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Dawn recommends  
***Where the Crawdads Sing***  
by  
Delia Owens.



**Do you have a book recommendation for fellow TESLNB members?**

Please let us know via Twitter or email (contacts on last page) by **November 15, 2020**.

By connecting, you ensure that your name will go in a draw for a prize. **Being the Change** by Sara K. Ahmed has been donated by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, and **Access for Success: Making Inclusion Work for Language Learners** by Katy Arnett and Renee Bourgoin has been donated by the Second Language Research Institute of Canada at UNB.





## **GET TO KNOW TWO OF THE TESL ATLANTIC KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

Dr. Xuemei Li, and Dr. Martha Trahey, both working in Newfoundland and Labrador, will share a keynote titled, **Engaging newcomers and empowering K-12 ESL learners in Newfoundland and Labrador: Problems, progress and plans.** This presentation will review the challenges of ESL instruction in such a setting, both from a historical and current perspective, and consider potential future prospects and practices.

## **BURSARIES AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

Three bursaries of **\$200 each** are currently available for members. Visit <https://teslnb.ca/bursaries/teslnb-fall2020-bursaries/> for details. **Deadline to apply is October 30, 2020.**

## **TESL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 30—MAY 1, 2021**

Hello TESL NB community, I hope this message finds you well. As many of you are aware, there has been a TESL Atlantic Conference in the works for quite some time. It was scheduled to happen last spring, but due to the pandemic it had to be postponed. The TESL Atlantic Conference Planning Committee is happy to announce a new Conference date:!

The TESL Atlantic Conference will take place. April 30 - May 1, 2021, and we are planning for two scenarios - virtual and F2F.

As many of the original conference contributors have expressed interest in continued support and participation, we are confident that the Spring 2021 conference will be an

invaluable source of learning and development.

Thank you, to all those who are working tirelessly to make this happen, and we look forward to seeing everyone (virtually or face to face) in the Spring.

- Erica Thomas, TESL Atlantic Conference Planning Committee



## **MENTAL HEALTH CORNER**

As the seasons change, so have our teaching dynamics. Sadly, educators may worry that taking care of themselves will contribute to self-centeredness and distract them from their students. However, self-care is not selfish, despite the misleading title. In fact, your commitment to self-care is in the best interest of everyone in your classroom. Self-care is all about taking care of your well-being and making sure your needs are met, so that you have what you need to succeed as a teacher. Prioritizing your well-being gifts you the energy, perspective, creativity, and patience to truly “show-up” for your students and intern, support their whole being. Below are some helpful links to guide you through beginning your journey towards a better YOU by practicing self-care.

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/for-educators/universal-design-for-learning/practicing-self-care-during-coronavirus-5-tips-for-teachers>

<https://www.wested.org/resources/self-care-strategies-for-educators-covid-19/#>

It has been a year of development and growth in the world of education. With many programs switching to remote learning in 2020, the UNB English Language Programme (ELP) took the opportunity in the paradigm shift to expand their English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) research, curriculum development, and delivery of programming introducing an expanded and new suite of Virtual ELP courses.

ELP has delivered virtual courses, combining synchronous and asynchronous learning, to English Language Learners from New Brunswick, other parts of Canada, and the rest of the world. From business professionals and graduate students to high school and undergraduate students, many have taken advantage of the opportunity to enrich their English language skills with Virtual ELP.

*Highlighting four virtual courses this summer, ELP was pleased to continue their collaboration with the Province of New Brunswick to support young English language learners, as well as with the Shandong University of Finance and Economics (SDUFE).*

Many considerations were necessary in the transition to a remote learning model of delivery. Maintaining quality instruction and delivery were key, while considering other aspects such as: time zones, digital literacy, balancing course load and life pieces, cross-cultural communication, and explicit processes to make the transition as seamless and as rewarding as possible for the students.



Working alongside Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (PETL), Immigrant Settlement Agencies (ISAs) around the province, and the province's Anglophone school districts, ELP accepted twenty students, aged 17-29, to the third year of the province's pathway to employment and post-secondary bursary program - and a first ever in a virtual format. Students took part in a comprehensive four-week program combining interactive face-to-face classes

through Microsoft Teams and asynchronous coursework on D2L Brightspace, all with a focus on labour market training, post-secondary academic preparation, and digital literacy.

In addition, two courses for NB high school students, aged 14-17, were delivered. With a focus on developing English fluency and digital literacy, students met for ten hours a week to practice their communication skills in an interactive virtual learning environment, make new friends from across the province and have some fun.

ELP has been part of the Long-Term Integration Strategy Committee for New Brunswick for several years and continues to work with partners in a complementary approach to programming for newcomers. With a focus on population growth in the province, ELP looks forward to continuing to support NB's vision.

ELP was also delighted to continue their collaboration with graduate students from Shandong University of Finance and Economics (SDUFE), a university in Jinan, China. As a pathway into UNB's graduate studies in Economics, SDUFE students took part in a one-month intensive academic course combining both synchronous and asynchronous classes.

There is no doubt that there will be more growth and development in ELP's suite of virtual courses. With the fuel of having received very positive feedback from students in the variety of formats, this exciting new programming for ELP will serve as a complement to format offerings in the future. It will be exciting to see what the future brings in the evolution of the ever-changing educational landscape.

- Geoff North, English Language Programme

For more on Virtual ELP:

<https://www.unb.ca/cel/elp/virtual-elp/index.html>

## TESL NB

TESL NB is a professional organization affiliated with [TESL Canada](#) that aims to support ESL and EAL teachers and instructors working in a variety of institutions in the province of New Brunswick.

TESL NB provides ESL/EAL educators with a venue for professional networking and professional development opportunities.

We welcome new members. Visit [www.teslnb.ca/join-us/](http://www.teslnb.ca/join-us/) to find out more.

## LET'S CONNECT!

- [www.teslnb.ca](http://www.teslnb.ca)
- Facebook at TESLNB
- Twitter @TESL\_NB
- [teslnewbrunswick@gmail.com](mailto:teslnewbrunswick@gmail.com)

Please reach out if you want to get involved or know more. We believe in the power and importance of professional connections.



## TESL NB'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS HAPPENING VIRTUALLY THIS YEAR

TESL NB's Annual General Meeting is coming up on **November 26th, 2020 at 7 pm**. We would love for all members, including new ones, to join us!



Please also consider offering for position on the Board, if you have interest in offering time and getting involved.

Positions for Vice-President, Newsletter Editor, Social Media, Treasurer and Member-at-Large are all open. Current members are willing to re-offer if needed, but we welcome new interest. Mentorship will be offered.

### The current (2019-2020) TESL NB Board Members are:

President: Donna Hoffman

Past President: Corey Harvey

Co-Secretary/Treasurers: Paula Kristmanson and Darlene Whitehouse-Sheehan

Newsletter Editors: Kathy Whynot and Natalia Nolletti

Social Media: Chantal Lafargue

Members-at-Large: Erica Thomas and Geoff North,

TESOL International Representative: Colleen Meagher

TESL Canada Representative: Andrea Leitch-Blake



Some of the 2019-2020 TESLNB Board Members, shown here in an October 2020 virtual planning meeting



*"Only through our connectedness to others can we really know and enhance the self. And only through working on the self can we begin to enhance our connectedness to others."*

~ Harriet Goldhor Lerner