



# What's Happening?

Dear TESL NB Members,

Good news! The TESL Atlantic Conference is coming soon: April 30–May 1, 2021! This interprovincial conference is sure to have something for everyone, with presentations and keynotes offered in four strands:

- English for Academic Purposes (EAP)
- English as an Additional Language (EAL) K-12
- Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)
- General English Language Teaching (ELT)

The conference website is now live at <https://pheedloop.com/teslatlantic/site/home/>.

The TESL NB Board is pleased to announce a greatly reduced conference registration rate of \$25.47 for all TESL NB members. This includes taxes and fees and will cover the full 2-day conference. We are pleased to offer our members this significant savings: approximately \$50 off the regular conference rate of \$75.00.

To access the reduced rate, e-mail [teslnewbrunswick@gmail.com](mailto:teslnewbrunswick@gmail.com) for your promotion code. Once you have the code, please follow the link below to the website and click on Register at the top of the page. An additional bursary has been offered to TESL NB members presenting at the conference. Note, only members with their membership up-to-date will be able to take advantage of this savings.

Please mark the date in your calendar, register soon, and check the website often for updates as new information is added regularly. Keep an eye out for your TESL NB colleagues who are making presentations.

We also encourage you to promote the conference to your co-workers and TESL acquaintances. This is a great opportunity for professional development and networking. Looking forward to seeing you!

## Donna

Donna Hoffman, President of TESL NB



Donna Hoffman

*"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."* ~ John F. Kennedy



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# SPOTLIGHT ON THE MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF SUSSEX (MAS)



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~ by Chelsie Nightingale, Executive Director

The Multicultural Association of Sussex has been adapting to the many COVID phase changes and added challenges over the last year. We have developed new and exciting programs, have streamlined our service delivery, and have overcome the obstacles of operating virtually. We offer a wide range of activities, including conversation circles, language classes, and more thanks to our amazing team, volunteers, and community partners. We are grateful for the overwhelming support we have received, which has allowed us to expand our footprint to better serve the community and our clients.

Until August 2020 our language program was 100% operated by our volunteers, for whom we are forever grateful. In the summer of 2020 MAS received funding from United Way Saint John under the Emergency Community Support Fund which allowed us to hire language instructor, Tim Robichaud, to deliver virtual classes. The need for this type of service remains in high demand. Language training is the cornerstone to settle-

ment. This funding has allowed us to successfully establish a consistent class schedule where 3 different groups each meet 4 times per week. The funding allowed us to purchase laptops to loan to students so they could connect to the classes, and offer other supportive services. Achieving this level of structure and frequency in our language classes is one of our biggest accomplishments as an organization and has been a major benefit to our clients.

Through the addition of our language program, we have celebrated our students' many achievements, like when they successfully secure employment or gain the ability to converse at the grocery store. MAS is proud to measure success in the achievements of each newcomer living in our community.

Our client population is constantly growing, and we continue to welcome new families to the community each month. The amount of growth that MAS has seen in the past year alone is outstanding and we would not be

here without the support of our funders, partners, community members, volunteers, staff, and above all, our clients. We look forward to what the next year has to offer! Please reach out if interested in knowing more about MAS.



**MAS clients thriving in language classes—whether live or on Zoom!**

## GET TO KNOW A TESL NB MEMBER!

**Name:** Karen Spracklin

**Position:** I teach ESL/EFL, Linguistics and B.Ed. ESL teacher training at Université de Moncton (a full load of 7 academic English courses/year). I am also the Language Coordinator in the English Department, a position that involves ensuring the quality of the language instruction there and guiding the part-time faculty in their teaching loads.



*Karen Spracklin, Université de Moncton*

**My favourite thing about my position:** So many things! On the teaching side, the in-depth grammar (the exceptions are more interesting—and maddening—than the rules), building rich vocabulary, demonstrating colloquialisms and the “gonnas” of English, helping our international students adjust to their 3rd/4th/nth language; on the administration side, problem-solving, organizing and planning courses. I also quite like the question “You’re a linguist. What does X mean?”

**Book recommendation for fellow TESL NB members:** The teetering stack of books on my nightstand includes *Monarch* by Robert Lacey. I have also enjoyed linguists Pullman, Deutscher and McWhorter, Simon Winchester’s love letter to the OED, and Margalit Fox’s forensic linguistics books on sign languages and Linear B.

**Goal over the next few months:** I have accumulated three filing-cabinets’ worth of printed articles and chapters from my years of study. That’s going to be gutted this summer. I also plan to refresh our departmental bank of reading assignments to bring them up to date. On the home front, I hope to build some flower beds in my garden, and finish a dress I’ve had cut out for months now. A good work-life balance, I think. I live and die by my To-Do Lists.

**Something that inspires me:** Queen Elizabeth’s longevity and firm sense of duty above all. She’s indefatigable! (See Book rec, above)

**One more thing:** I actually started teaching English to a French Catholic archbishop in the 1980s. He was eager to become conversant, but couldn’t pay cash for the lessons. Instead, he arranged for me to have the latest French cookbooks. After a 20+-year foray into FSL including a PhD in vocabulary acquisition in French Immersion students, I’ve come full circle, teaching English again... and still loving French cooking.

## BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Karen recommends *Monarch* by Robert Lacey:



Karen says: An excellent writer, Lacey allows the modern British Crown (dings and all) to be both regal and fallible. The last page contains a quote by Lord Mountbatten before his death, when asked how long the British monarchy would last: “As long as there are good people doing the job.”

### Would you be willing to share about yourself in the next TESL NB newsletter?

Please contact [kathywhynot@gmail.com](mailto:kathywhynot@gmail.com) by April 1st, if you’d like to share a book recommendation and more!



## TESL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

### GET TO KNOW ONE OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Lisa Herrera** will share a keynote titled, **How to Love What You Do.**

Lisa has a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from UBC and is a CLB Lead Trainer, certified CLBPT assessor, and Portfolio Based Language Assessment (PBLA) Regional Coach for the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks.

Lisa has also worked for the immigrant serving organization ISSofBC for over 27 years, first as a LINC teacher and then as the Lead Instructional Coordinator for LINC.

Lisa also enjoys working as a settlement language and assessment consultant, providing support to projects such as Norquest College's LINC Works, and developing customized presentations such as **How to Love What You Do.**

## TESL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

As Donna noted in her March letter to membership, the **TESL Atlantic Conference** is quickly approaching! English language teaching professionals from across Atlantic Canada, and indeed Canada, will be there. The TESL NB Board is hoping for the opportunity to connect with as many TESL NB members as possible!

Attendees can look forward to:

- 4 synchronous keynotes
- 30+ synchronous concurrent sessions
- General ELT, English for Academic Purposes, K-12, and LINC Streams



- A dynamic virtual networking platform
- Interactive exhibition hall
- Pecha Kucha events

## THE STORIES OF US

*\*excerpts shared with permission from the February 2021 edition of [TESL Canada Connects](#)*

[The Stories of Us](#) is a project by the [Department of Imaginary Affairs](#), a national nonprofit that aims to

seek, collect, and share stories of new Canadians from coast to coast to coast. The [Stories of Us](#) project is focused on building an ESL library of newcomer stories, online and offline, written by newcomers themselves.

TESL Canada recently collaborated on a [Stories of Us](#) project, led by the Settlement Language Learning Network committee. You can see stories from the classes of teachers Rhonda Collis and Heidi Schlack here: [Life and Learning in the Times of COVID-19](#).

Check out the growing [library](#) of printable stories, levelled according to Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB). The stories include follow-up activities Instructors can use with their students.



Image: Department of Imaginary Affairs, 2018

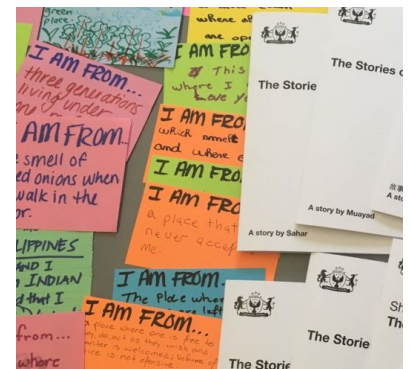


Image: Department of Imaginary Affairs, 2018

## NEW CHALLENGES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

by Tegan Taylor (EAL Lead) and Corey Harvey (Newcomer Support Centre Lead)



This year has brought along challenges but also opportunities for growth. One such silver lining has been a move to online learning for interested school groups and individuals. Connecting remotely has allowed us to zero in on teacher's specific needs and questions, as well as provide small group (targeted) follow-up when needed. These more targeted sessions and check-ins have expanded our reach and allowed us to present PL to more schools than ever before.

This year, Tegan Taylor (ASDW EAL lead) presented PL on vocabulary building and oral interaction and Language Experience Approach. She is also working with a high school team on building interactive word walls in the science classroom. In addition, she has developed a bi-weekly asynchronous PL video series for EAL mentors, which includes and expands on many of the topics listed above. Finally, she was excited to partner with Literacy colleagues to offer a #shelfietalk as part of a district anti-racism initiative. Participants were invited to take part in a virtual book club on Twitter and submit grant applications to fund anti-racist projects in their own classrooms. The shelfie talk selection was the YA novel, *Black Brother, Black Brother* by Jewell Parker Rhodes.

This year, Corey Harvey (ASD-W Newcomer Support Centre Lead) presented PL on assessment practices, cultural competency, linguistic scaffolds, and school registration procedures. Of these initiatives, one particular highlight is the online course, *Linguistically Inclusive Practices*, he facilitated with twenty-four educators working in a variety of positions in ASD-W. A targeted edit of the provincial course, *Culturally and Linguistically Inclusive Schools*, this district-based offering included asynchronous online study and lively discussion-based Teams meetings. The course culminated in each participant completing and submitting a personal action plan for growth. Participants' action plans focused on a host of personal and school-based initiatives including specific classroom supports for learners, newcomer parent information sessions, and many others.

Course feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many participants excited to share their words and learning upon course completion. Rezvan Dehghani (EAL Mentor – Devon Middle School), wrote:

### **How did the course help you grow as an educator?**

*The growth I have observed in myself and my learners' progress after taking the Linguistically Inclusive Schools (LIS) online course is beyond my belief! This course taught me how to make learning more productive and relevant for my EAL learners through "recognizing their home language and culture as ASSETS rather than DEFICITS." It also gave me a better understanding of ANTI-BIASED teaching; something that I had not noticed at all before taking this course. Gaining a deep insight into the Universal Design for Learning approach and its three main principles was another positive aspect of the course which helped me show more flexibility in the way I instruct and present information. I learned that LIS is a mostly student-centered pedagogy which focuses on promoting learners' achievements and sense of well-being through "identifying and nurturing their linguistic/ cultural strengths."*

### **What were your key takeaways?**

- Being more responsive and flexible.
- Giving no instructions in the air (i.e. using multiple supports when delivering instructions).
- Designing and using materials that reflect my learners' background, their learning experiences and also their needs so that all of them can be eagerly involved in the class activities.
- Noticing that "feedback is an assessment FOR learning not OF learning."

### **What effect has your personal action plan had on your practice?**

*In my view, a personal Action Plan is like a shortcut; an accelerated way of achieving goals! "It breaks up the process of learning materials into actionable assignments based on a timeline" which assigns well-defined start and end dates for every single step. This, in turn, minimizes in-class waste of time.*

## 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.



## YOUR NEXT TESL NB MEETING IS IN APRIL!

Please join us at an upcoming (virtual) general meeting on **April 7th at 6:30 pm**. All are welcome! Contact Donna at [teslnewbrunswick@gmail.com](mailto:teslnewbrunswick@gmail.com), for details.

You're Invited



Your Board and members hard at work at the last general meeting

### Riddles for your classes

I'm tall when I'm young, but I'm short when I'm old. What am I?      I make two people out of one. What am I?

*Connect with TESL NB for the answers!*

## YOUR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION



# TESL CANADA

Teachers of English as a Second Language - Canada

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, events, updated standards for certification, and more.

Currently, TESL Canada's Educational Foundation (TCEF) is offering two \$250 bursaries to members who are interested in participating in online professional learning.

**All TESL NB/TESL Canada members are welcome to apply by April 1st, 2021.**

Full details can be found on the TESL Canada Educational Foundation site here: <https://www.tesl.ca/about-us/tesl-canadian-educational-foundation.html>