



TESL New Brunswick Fall Newsletter October 2022

What's Happening?

Message from our President

Hello TESL NB members,

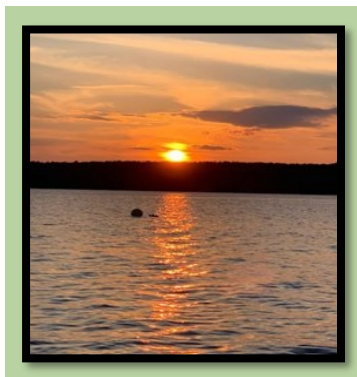
I hope you all had a sensational summer! For those of you who are wondering: No, I didn't achieve my goal of biking from Oromocto to Fredericton but there's always next year. As always summer seemed too short, and our warm weather has quickly changed to chilly fall days. There are, however, many things to love about fall, the beautiful colours, warming up with a hot drink, putting on your favorite fuzzy socks, the list goes on.

Not only is Fall time for another awesome newsletter but it is also back into conference season! Just as our students are learning new things, if you would like to learn something new or network with like-minded people check out page 7 of this newsletter for upcoming conferences and exciting TESL NB bursary opportunities.

I hope you are settling into the swing of things with whatever your adventure is this year, and I wish you all the best in the 2022-2023 academic year.

Kind Regards,
Erica Thomas
President of TESL NB inc.

Photo submitted by
Paula Kristmanson



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the TESL NB president..... 1

TESL NS Spring Conference:2

Saint John's Growing LINC Program.....3

Inclusivity in the EAL Classroom.....4, 5

Teaching Tip.....6

TESL NB Photo Contest6

TESL NB Bursaries....7

Your National Organization.....8



Spring 2022 Conference

Hello TESL NB members,

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful summer. For me it has been a much-needed time of relaxing and enjoying the slower pace of summer. Although we have had some hot, humid weather all in all it's been a great summer. I hope the temperatures have been reasonable for you too.

I started the summer by attending the TESL NS Spring 2022 Conference in person at Acadia University in Wolfville, NS. The conference was a hybrid model with virtual attendance also offered. I enjoyed attending in person, sitting in presentations, meeting people, and feeling more connected. I find it isn't the same attending a conference virtually.

The theme of the conference was *Taking Action in ELT: Pedagogy for Social Justice & Inclusion*. The conference included a keynote speaker, presentations, workshops, and discussion sessions. There were sessions that focused on topics geared for LINC, EAP, Employment, K-12, international students, and general ELT. There were also opportunities for impromptu discussions during the breaks.

The conference included a keynote speaker, concurrent sessions, discussion and networking opportunities and a catered box lunch. The sessions ranged from hands-on activities and tools; information sessions, research presentations, and using technology in the classroom. A couple of sessions focused on special needs learners too. I attended a grammar presentation which I thoroughly enjoyed - I'm one of those people who can never get enough grammar ☐.

I also attended presentations related to the theme of the conference. I found the sessions on anti-racism and social awareness thought provoking. There is always room for improvement in our teachings and materials. I took many notes and look forward to my next class where I can implement some changes.

The conference was well organized, well attended, and with the variety of speakers and topics a very worthwhile weekend. I'm looking forward to attending more conferences in person in Atlantic Canada and the rest of Canada too. I hope you are able to take advantage of conferences sponsored by your organization and keep abreast of important topics in ESL. Have a wonderful last few weeks of summer.

Donna Hoffman

Donna is Past-President of TESL NB.

Saint John's Growing LINC Program

Submitted by Sue Hemmings, Supervisor of the LINC Program at the YMCA of Greater Saint John



Hello TESLNB members and supporters! My name is Sue Hemmings, and I am the Language Program Supervisor at YMCA Newcomer Connections in Saint John. I oversee the LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) program, and I want to share a little about who we are and how we do what we do. We are part of the YMCA of Greater Saint John and were established thirty years ago. The first language class was taught at our centre in 1983. We now offer 3 Stages of LINC: Literacy, including a Pre-CLB Literacy level class, Stage 1, and Stage 2. Our Literacy classes make up the largest portion of our program with 37% of our clients attending literacy classes.

We have been occupied this year welcoming an unprecedented number of newcomers into our community. That means that our programming is growing! Since June, we have added 4 classes and we will be adding two more classes in the New Year. We now have sixteen full and part-time language instructors teaching 24 classes in the morning, afternoon, and evening. It's so nice to have the energy of students in classes and in the halls again!

Our program is structured differently than most LINC programs across the country. We follow a term structure rather than continuous intake. Our LINC program has four 3-month terms per year. We welcome new and promoted students into the classes during the first and fifth week of each term. We generally give promotions to those who have fulfilled the portfolio requirements at the end of each term. We have found this to give us a good balance of consistent learning, instruction and movement through the levels for our clients. We also have a full-time digital literacy instructor who teaches all of the students in the Literacy and Stage 1 programs.

We teach 12 different themes over the course of one year. This month clients are learning about the environment and weather. The Newcomer Connections Settlement Trainers also organize Information & Orientation Sessions and site visits that help students learn about our theme in real-world ways. Many of our classes joined a virtual session about Canadian Culture in the fall recently, where they learned about Thanksgiving, how to have a safe and fun Hallowe'en, and hunting season in New Brunswick. We partnered with ACAP Saint John for a virtual presentation on Finding Solutions to Local Environmental Problems for our evening classes which are CLB 4-8. In addition, we had field trips to Rockwood Park, Tin Can Beach, and the Crane Mountain landfill education center to learn why it is important to reduce, reuse and recycle.

All of this happens because of the dedicated and enthusiastic teachers, classroom volunteers, and support staff that make up the LINC team at Newcomer Connections in Saint John.

Inclusivity in the EAL Classroom

With reference to Elizabeth Chen's keynote speech (TESL NS Conference 2022) and Alex Marshall's *Brave Conversations* (TESL Canada webinar)

Submitted by Jamie Shannon

This spring I had the opportunity to participate in several webinars and conferences, both online and in person. It was so refreshing and inspiring to see professionals in my field share knowledge and expertise. One reoccurring theme was the continued importance of inclusivity in the EAL classroom. While many presentations included this topic, two sessions I found particularly enlightening were by Elizabeth Chen, keynote speaker at TESL NS Conference, and Alex Marshall, presenter of a webinar entitled "Brave Conversations". Both presentations focused on the inclusion of minority groups within our classrooms while at the same time incorporating students into the dominant culture.

Elizabeth Chen is an associate professor and TESOL international association board member. As an Asian American growing up in the southern United States, she reflected on what inclusivity has meant to her as a student and teacher. She began by discussing how rare it was to see people like her represented in mainstream media while growing up. This left her feeling as though she was not represented or included in the dominant culture. Therefore, she stressed that as teachers, we need to make efforts to find diverse materials that represent more than just the dominant culture, or cultures, of our area. One simple way to do this in the language classroom is to include a variety of different faces and races in our visual examples. With image searching readily available at our fingertips, finding visual examples of a

diverse array of subjects is easier than ever. These types of pictures include the minority



culture into the classroom while also showing examples of how groups can participate in everyday life. For example, including a photo of a minority woman working in a traditionally male-dominated career can be a powerful representation. In some cultures, this career choice may not have been offered or acceptable for women, so including it not only increases student representation in the classroom but also introduces them to Canadian values of equal opportunity.

This concept of classroom representations stretching into real life was also echoed in TESL Canada's "Brave Conversations" webinar. Speaker **Alex Marshall** is an English instructor to newcomers as well as a CLB assessor. Her presentation focused on increasing inclusivity in the EAL classroom for 2SLGBTQ+ students. Like Chen, Marshall also pressed on the importance of including visuals and other representations of people from a variety of walks of life. However, Marshall also stressed the importance of including 2SLGBTQ+ representation to expose students to these groups. As we know, the world is not consistent in its interpretation and overall acceptance of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. We are lucky to live in a country that is taking steps to foster a safe and accepting home for our 2SLGBTQ+ citizens.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 3

As teachers, and at times cultural mentors, we need to present diverse groups of people to our students so that they can react and ask questions in a safe zone. We need to remember that as our students leave the classrooms, they are making their way into a world where they can easily be judged and even lose opportunities due to perceived intolerance. While we are not in the classroom to convince students what is morally right and wrong, we can help them to navigate these "brave conversations" and prepare them for how certain views may be perceived by Canadians.



While our small New Brunswick cities may not be the most diverse, although this is quickly changing, it is still important for students to be exposed to the diversity present within our nation and continent. I have tried to take these ideas into my classroom over the summer and I must say, it has led to some interesting and candid conversations that have not always been easy but have always been beneficial. In a multicultural classroom, these types of representations will lead to disagreement and debate, but just like a difficult grammar structure, we do not always need to teach these concepts explicitly. The incorporation of mindfully inclusive content can be done in small, yet meaningful chunks. As mentioned before, the classroom should be a safe place to learn and try out language, so why not create the types of difficult conversations students may be faced with in their futures so that they can practice and learn in a safe environment.



Jamie Shannon is a LINC Instructor and Stage 1 Team Lead at Newcomer Connections, YMCA of Greater Saint John.

TESL NB's Teaching Tip



"I Can" versus "I Can't"

It is important to recognize and value what your students can do in the language. Focusing on your students' strengths and using positive can-do language will be much more motivating to your students than focusing on a deficit model of what they cannot do in the language.



Putting a focus on what students can do also provides a chance for students to "observe" that their language is indeed changing in what can be a challenging world of language learning.

To help with this, have students complete self-assessments throughout their time with you. Ask them what they can now do in the language that they couldn't do before. Have students identify the progress they are making, acknowledge their achievements, and, of course, celebrate the learning!

Submitted by Geoff North

Congratulations to our Photo Contest Winner!

Erin Hippard is the winner of a \$25.00 gift card for her photograph of the tallest lighthouse in Nova Scotia, located on Cape Sable, Nova Scotia.



A huge thanks to all of you who engaged in the contest by submitting photos.

Each of the following members will receive a \$10.00 gift card:

Michelle Parker

Ruth Murray

Angela Shea



TESL NB is pleased to offer four \$200 bursaries to attend a Fall conference or professional learning opportunity!



You can find bursary information and an application form on our website at <https://teslnb.ca/>

Did you know?

Bursary applications may be submitted for a Fall 2022 conference/PL opportunity even after you have attended! Just be prepared to provide a valid receipt.

Here are just a few of the upcoming conferences:

October 14 - October 15
ATESL Virtual Conference
Refresh, Recharge, and Refocus

October 18 - October 19
TESOL Virtual Conference
Elevate

October 26 - October 28
TESL Ontario Virtual Conference
Celebrating 50 Years of Community, Leadership and Innovation

November 4 - November 5
TEAL NL (formerly TESL NL) Hybrid Conference
Teaching ESL through the Pandemic: Reflections and New Realities
(Free Virtual Registration)



Mount Carleton Provincial Park
Photo submitted by Bryna Dickson
Photo Credit to Craig Roper



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/ to find out more.

LET'S CONNECT!

- www.teslnb.ca
- Facebook at TESLNB
- Twitter @TESL_NB
- 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 NATIONAL ORGANIZATION



TESL CANADA

Teachers of English as a Second Language - Canada

Hello TESL Canada Members,

As our November 19th AGM approaches, **we are once again encouraging members to consider joining the TESL Canada board.** The TESL Canada board is an open, inclusive and supportive environment, and the board welcomes all new members to bring their perspectives and experience. If you have an interest in getting involved and helping shape the direction of TESL Canada, we welcome your application. Please look over the attached documents and consider where your interests and talents may best contribute. While not everyone who applies will assume a board position (because of the number of applications), we encourage you to put your name forward so we can become acquainted and determine if other roles may be suitable for those not elected at the Nov.19 AGM. There are always opportunities for members to join national committees even if not assuming a board position.

Nominee Consent Form

https://mcusercontent.com/7d66c5f319c9217e9b0d2bd99/files/a70c065c-6fef-6b1c-051d-500e909c246b/2022_23_Nominee_Consent_Form_.pdf

Call for Nominations

https://mcusercontent.com/7d66c5f319c9217e9b0d2bd99/files/975d7ed5-1432-f5f5-8e1e-68e9250027a8/Call_for_Nominations_for_TESL_Canada_Board_2022_23.pdf

While some of the current board members will be returning for another term and others are reoffering, **there are several board positions open for nominations** (please see attached PDF for details). We ask you to consider offering your time and talents to your national professional association. If you wish to serve in this way, please consult <https://www.tesl.ca/about-us/by-laws-policies-disclaimers/nominations.html> and then **complete the nomination form before October 28th**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the nominating committee pkristma@unb.ca.

Thank you, The TESL Canada Nominating Committee