

# TESL NS Newsletter

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## Editorial

*Antisthenes says that in a certain faraway land the cold is so intense that words freeze as soon as they are uttered, and after some time then thaw and become audible, so that words spoken in winter go unheard until summer.*

Plutarch, Moralia

Could it be that Antisthenes knew of a cold spell like the one we had not long ago? Let us hope that, if words spoken then should have frozen or might freeze even now we won't have to wait till summer for them thaw again.

Usually I bite "my truant pen" for something to say when I set out to write another editorial. This time, there is so much to say I don't know where to begin.

Since the last edition of our Newsletter, we had another very successful TESL Conference and also have our newly-elected TESL NS

Executive Officers:

President: Jayne Geldart

Vice-President: Carol Derby

Treasurer: Ellen Pilon

Recording Secretary: Derek Hann

Membership Secretary: Sandee Thompson

Newsletter Editor: Fe Leonor Baculi

TESL Canada Rep: Norma MacSween

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Evelyn Jones

David Juteau  
Darlene MacInnis  
Sheila Nunn  
Maureen Sargent



We have also said farewell to a year and ushered in a new one. May the new year, barely begun, bring to each of us what we most wish for. We have celebrated another Valentine's. And soon, we finish another school term and look forward to more conferences. Truly, the current edition of our Newsletter was supposed to be out before Valentine's, but events, one of them the horrid cold spell, so crowded us, that we had to put the publication of it off for a week or two. Here is hoping that all of you had the happiest of Valentine's all the same.

The recent great cold brought in its wake trouble untold: cars would not start, water pipes burst, apartments and houses refused to get warm enough for their tenants to feel comfortable. In a building where friends of mine live, the furnace went no, not fully on strike, but on work-to-rule. The best they could hope for, while the cold lasted, was 15 C; one morning they woke to a chilly 10. Many schools were closed.

After the deadly cold came days so mild they seemed harbingers of an early spring. But the cold was not ready to let go. Just after Valentine's, it reached back for us once more. And this second cold spell was barely over when the epic snow storm came upon us, a storm we will be telling our great-grandchildren about. It brought so much snow that our beloved city, for the first time in its history, had to declare a state of emergency and, another first, saw fit to proclaim a curfew for two nights

in a row! Not only cars and other vehicles but even pedestrians were to stay off the streets so as not to interfere with rescue operations and snow ploughing. Even now, many streets of Halifax have had only one lane ploughed, hardly wide enough for two cars to get past each other. I shudder to think of the people marooned in the snow in their cars, of people who had medical emergencies without hope of getting to a hospital, of people who had to sit through much of the storm without power; and I feel sorry for the home owners who had to slave hours shoveling their driveways out not once, in many cases, but again and again as the snowploughs pushed new masses of snow into them. I feel a little sorry for myself too, for

while it' s true  
that, owing to the storm,  
I had, like the rest of you,  
a day off out of the way of  
driving snow and harm,  
I was bed-bound with the flu  
while you had joy, you had fun  
building snowmen in the sun. :)

Time I wind down. Once again, a big thank you to Ellen Pilon, our layout wizard, and to the beautiful people who contributed to this issue. And here is an appeal to other members of TESL NS to think of something to say in the next issue. Would that your contributions were as numerous as the snow flakes that brought us the big snow. And, if this grimmest of winter threatens to get us down, we may find comfort - again- in Shelley' s,

Be through my lips to unawaken' d earth  
The trumpet of a prophecy! O Wind,  
If Winter comes, can Spring be far  
behind?

Okay! So let us all go back then to teaching with much, much , much "springy" anticipation.:

*Fe Leonor Baculi*  
(TESL-SMU)

## President's Message:

As February slips by I find myself dreaming of tulips and fresh spring winds. The days are getting longer and warm weather is on the way!

I can' t believe it' s been 3 months since I attended the TESL Canada 2003 Conference in Burnaby, B.C. What a pleasure and an honor it was to participate in the conference as a delegate of the National Network. If you haven' t heard of this organization please check out their website at <http://www.tesl.ca/eslnewcomer> The Thursday before the conference started was set aside to discuss LINC, ELSA, MIIP-ESL issues across the country. The day' s results are written up in the winter newsletter at the address above. You will also find articles written by the delegates on conference workshops. My article is on progress and exit tests administered by ELSA in B.C. Please do read up on the National Network.

I would also like to give another very valuable website I got during the "Best Practices" portion of the symposium. This website was designed around the B.C. Newcomer' s Guide. You will find theme-based activities that are easy to print off and use - very practical and well organized. The website is [www.elsanet.org/education](http://www.elsanet.org/education)

We will be having another spring mini-conference in April 2004. This year we will focus on standardized language testing. We will give an overview, with speakers further detailing specific tests. Look for the information on our website as well as an e-mail coming to our members soon.

We are currently recruiting a speaker for our TESL NS 2004 Conference. Preparations began early as we want to provide another dynamic conference. There will be a few changes with regards to registration this year - please keep an eye out for these changes posted on our website. We are also trying to ensure that an adequate number of publishers be present at this year' s conference.

We are thrilled to announce an increase in our membership to 86! This is the largest number since I've been involved with TESL NS, so it especially pleases me. We are working hard to provide you, our membership, with quality representation and opportunities for learning and growing in the ESL/EFL field.

We are encouraging our members to apply for the project opportunity monies to fund a worthwhile project for our ESL/EFL community. For more information on the project opportunity, please see our website. The MISA Employment Services' video is now available to our members at various locations. For more information on the locations, please contact me at [jayne@eastlink.ca](mailto:jayne@eastlink.ca)

I hope you enjoy the rest of your winter and I look forward to seeing you all at the mini-conference in the near future.

*Jayne Geldart*  
President TESL NS

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## TESL Canada Contest

TESL Canada is looking for a brand new cover design for the TESL Canada Journal. There is a contest for ESL students to design a cover, and win a prize! Deadline is June 30, 2004. Check out the website: <http://www.tesl.ca/contest.htm>

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## Introducing TESL Canada Federation

### *Purpose:*

TESL Canada was founded in 1978 to: promote communication among the various jurisdictions across Canada where language training takes place; to develop, establish, encourage and promote associations where none exist; to advocate on behalf of those who require assistance with regards to language or

settlement issues; to foster scholarship, research and regular exchange of ideas among those involved in the field; to foster organizational, technological and pedagogical support for language training programs; to work cooperatively with like-minded organizations and to represent national interests and concerns in the international arena. TESL Canada was incorporated in 1984 as TESL Canada Federation. The head office is in Burnaby, British Columbia and is run by the Executive Director, Carol May.

### *Structure:*

A Board of Directors manages The TESL Canada Federation's affairs. This board is comprised of one provincial member from each province in Canada as well as one from the Yukon and an associate member from the North West Territories. In addition, there is a President, Past President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Executive Director and five members at large. There must be a minimum of 12 members on the board at any one given time and they must be a minimum of 21 years of age. Members are elected to their positions.

There are also a number of committees that board members can be appointed to, for example, the Standards Committee, the Nominations Committee, The Policy and Action Committee and the CCLB Standing Committee. The Board of Directors meets every 18 months, although if a venue arises before that time that is convenient for most members, an interim meeting will be held. Other meetings are held via email or conference call.

### *TESL Canada Journal:*

The TESL Canada Federation promotes professional development among its membership and puts out and distributes its TESL Canada Journal biannually to its membership. Each provincial member has its own newsletter and/or website and is managed internally.

*Membership:*

The TESL Canada Federation provincial members are: B.C. Teal, ATESL, Manitoba, SCENES, TESL Ontario, TESL New Brunswick, TESL Nova Scotia, TESL PEI, TESL Newfoundland/Labrador and TESL Yukon. Each province follows the TESL Canada Federation's mandate and members who join are automatically TESL Canada Federation members. According to statistics from 2002, TESL Ontario has the largest membership (3015) and TESL PEI has the lowest (3). Membership that year totaled 4396. TESL Canada also recognizes members with its "Life Member Award". This award is given to members who have been nominated. These members have not less than 20 years in the field and have provided outstanding service during that time.

*Conferences:*

The first TESL Canada conference was held in 1979 in Montreal, Quebec. Every 18 months, an affiliate member of TESL Canada organizes, promotes and runs the TESL Canada Conference. This year, the conference was held in Burnaby, British Columbia from November 14th and 15th. Board members met on the 12th and plenary sessions were held on the 13th. TESL Ottawa will host the next TESL Canada conference in the spring of 2005. TESL Canada tries to promote equality among the provinces so the conference travels from west to east with regularity.



Association (MISA) utilized the \$1000 project opportunity monies from TESL NS to assist in subsidizing the video project entitled, "Ask an Employer-Advice to New Canadians/ Part One-Job Search."

*The beginning*

ESU's objective was to create an educational video that represents New Canadians, diversity, and pre-employment information related to job search. Conference Board of Canada material addressing specific traits and transferable skills which North American employers want in a new employee was also integrated into the content. MISA's primary use of the video will be in New Beginnings Program pre-employment workshops.

Additional uses of the video include: use in immigrant serving organizations and communities, community outreach, public education, funding applications to profile New Canadians and their needs, and municipal, provincial and national conferences to profile New Canadians need for pre-employment information.

ESU started the process of structuring the three-month video project in late August 2003. ESU assessed and structured the content, format and layout of "Ask an Employer-Advice to New Canadians/ Part One-Job Search." Content was based around a series of frequently asked job search questions that had been posed and addressed in previous New Beginnings Program workshops. The video consists of key job search questions being posed by New Canadians and addressed by a Human Resources Specialist. Kim Squires, Human Resources Manager, St. Mary's University was contacted in summer 2003 and agreed to donate her time in-kind for the project. Ms. Squires had been a regular guest speaker with the New Beginnings Program but due to work commitments was unable to continue her guest speaking spots on a regular basis.

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## **From Projects Report on Use of TESL NS Money**

*TESL NS –Project Opportunities Report  
Employment Services Unit  
Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association*

The Employment Services Unit (ESU),  
Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement

*The technical side*

Research into video production and selection of a videotaper resulted in the hiring of Marie Koehler. Marie has a documented interest in issues around diversity and immigration. She was also able and willing to work within the confines of our budget and timeline. Marie consulted with freelance colleagues Dominique Gusset, cameraperson and Lis Berkel, sound engineer and obtained a reduced rate for the shoot. The Employment Services Unit, MISA obtained an annual membership with the Centre for Art Tapes. The majority of the editing and production was undertaken at the Centre. Membership allowed MISA to obtain a reduced rate for using the editing suites and additional equipment needed for the shoot.

*Partners and participants*

In early October 2003, the Employment Services Unit actively recruited past New Beginnings Program participants and MISA clients to be involved in the video project. In total, thirteen newcomer clients, Kim Squires, ESU and MISA staff member, Ljiljana Connellan, agreed to contribute their time in-kind.

*The shoot*

The five hour videotaping process took place on October 19th, 2003 at MISA. It was an wonderful opportunity for newcomer clients to be actively involved in the creation of resource material. The video project was also an excellent collective partnership of Saint Mary's University, the Centre for Art Tapes, MISA, ESU clients, ESU staff, Marie Koehler and the freelance technical people with a specific interest in newcomers and job search issues.

*Post- shoot- the editing*

Extensive editing was done by Marie Koehler at the Centre for Art Tapes from October 20th until mid- November. There were regular consultations with ESU staff regarding editing, video layout, production and packaging throughout this process.

*The outcome*

Ask an Employer: Advice to New Canadians/ Part One-Job Search was premiered at the TESLNS conference November 22, 2003. ESU will present the video at the NATCON conference in Ottawa January 26, 2004. NATCON is a national conference for employment counselors, academics and individuals involved in pre-employment and employment training programs. ESU plans to sell the video in and outside Nova Scotia to recoup costs and make funds to create other video projects. In total, the video cost approximately \$4000.00 from inception to production. The video will be for sale at the University of Ottawa table at NATCON. Ask an Employer: Advice to New Canadians/ Part One - Job Search will be integrated into the New Beginnings Program curriculum and used in the next Job Search workshop scheduled for February 2004. ESU also plans to use the video for a number of upcoming career counseling conferences, learner's expos and workshops in HRM.

*The follow-up:*

Copyright for Ask an Employer: Advice to New Canadians/ Part One- Job Search will belong to MISA. Five copies will be given to TESLNS. Four copies will be distributed and one will be placed in the TESLNS archive. Interested individuals may contact TESLNS to borrow a copy of the video.

For further information regarding purchasing "Ask an Employer: Advice to New Canadians/ Part One- Job Search." contact Jan Sheppard Kutcher, Manager of Employment Services Unit at MISA. Contact information can be found on the MISA website- [www.misa.ns.ca](http://www.misa.ns.ca)

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## **From Learners Conference attendee**

TESL Canada Learners' Conference  
Burnaby, B. C. -- November, 2003  
Submitted by: *Lucien Kabongo*

It was for me a privilege to represent Nova Scotia at the annual TESL Canada Learners' Conference in Burnaby, British Columbia the weekend of November 13 – 16. After winning a short essay competition, I became the N.S. delegate. It was my responsibility to submit a report to TESL Nova Scotia after the conference.

As a newcomer in Canada, I was proud to be involved with the conference to help improve the quality of life of newcomers to Canada by developing a pilot project that encourages local involvement and the integration process.

In connecting communities, inspirations and aspirations, we started working in groups to explore some of the key issues in settlement and integration and some promising ways of addressing them, in poster format, to the delegates who were in the main conference.

After acknowledging the often unsuccessful adaptation, integration and acceptance of newcomers into the community, we all agreed to focus on three main topics to ameliorate our concerns.

- A. Language training
- B. Job search strategies
- C. Family

#### *Language Training*

Learning to use a second language correctly and effectively is not an easy task for newcomers. It requires much effort to reach the goals. Presently in our schools there are many problems such as irregular attendance and a lack of technology. To ameliorate the situation we must review our attendance rules and introduce a stricter attendance policy. As we live in a technologically advanced age, it would be a good idea to have well-equipped language labs in our schools as in most private school and universities.

#### *Job Search Strategies*

It seems like a lie when immigrants are having interviews before coming to Canada telling them that they will easily find a job. However all the professional newcomers can't find jobs in their areas just because they don't have Canadian experience or their diplomas aren't recognized. On behalf of all refugees and immigrants, we are asking to have an organization which can, for the pilot project, train professional newcomers in their fields for six months and be in touch with companies and unions, instead of requiring Canadian experience to find a job. We can have six months of probation period. During that period salary issues will be negotiated and the government pays 50% and the company pays the other 50%.

For the non-professionals, training is important during the six months in the community college to get the knowledge of labour markets and interview skills. Then the process will be the same as the professionals.

#### *Family*

To help those who have children and can't go out look for jobs, creating a child day care centre will enable the parents to go out to look for jobs.

#### ***Message from your Webmaster:***

Did you notice our new look? Elegant but cool? And did you check out the Web Fun page? OK, now why don't you send me some of your favourite websites and include a little annotation! Each month we'll put on some new sites to enjoy. With your help, this will be a fun and useful page!

[webmaster@teslins.ca](mailto:webmaster@teslins.ca)