A Message from our President

Happy 2023!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and you’ve hit the ground running in 2023. For the first time in a long time, I have made a New Year’s resolution. This year I have made a promise to myself to stay connected. All too often we get caught up in work and the daily grind and the connections that we value so much get neglected. This year I’m going to change that.

Speaking of connections. Don’t miss out on a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with colleagues or perhaps make some new connections. Take a look on page four of the newsletter for information on an upcoming, TESL NB hosted, in-person, professional learning session!

I wish you all the best in 2023 and best of luck to those of you who have made New Year’s resolutions!

Kind regards,
Erica Thomas
President of TESL NB Inc.
Get To Know A TESL Member

Submitted by Yulia Roherty

**Current Position:** LINC and Literacy Instructor, Newcomer Connections, YMCA of Greater Saint John

I have been teaching English as an additional language for almost 25 years, both in Canada and abroad, 12 of which have been at Saint John Y. Before I started teaching at the YMCA in 2010, I taught English for Academic Purposes at Saint John College (English and academic preparatory college). At the same time, I completed my TESL certification through UNB.

**What is ESL Literacy?**

At our language school we believe that every newcomer deserves a chance for formal education, regardless of their background, age or level of ability. That is why we offer language instruction in two separate streams. We have regular LINC classes, and Literacy classes – for those refugee clients who were displaced due to a war and whose education was interrupted, incomplete or non-existent. A lot of such clients were born and raised in refugee camps, having to survive, and without any hope for education. Some of them would not know how to hold a pencil, what to bring to class or how to learn. Imagine, you are 65 years old and today is your first day at school. How would you feel? Needless to say, learning will be a long process with a lot of obstacles.

**Why is my job rewarding?**

I have been working with refugees and literacy learners since my very first assignment at the YMCA in the LINC Program. Over the years, I have taken special courses, in order to understand my learners better and use the right strategies, teaching methods and approaches with them. My job is not easy, but it is extremely rewarding. I look at my students holistically, and I teach each and every one of them from my heart. I put myself in their shoes every day of the week. Love, patience and compassion are important qualities for a literacy teacher. My students have a wealth of worldly knowledge which is humbling to me. Their stories of survival will break and enrich your heart at the same time. They have so much respect for their teacher, and I want them to succeed. We work together at achieving this goal.

**What is my personal goal?**

In the past few months I have been pondering one question: what will it take to establish world peace for all? While we welcome more and more new refugees into our country and give them our best efforts, it is a never-ending “human river”, or so it seems. There are millions of displaced people in the world who are grateful for our kindness, but they want to return home, to the life they used to have. But if they choose to stay, how can we keep them happy here, in this foreign land?

One book I have recently read and would like to recommend is “The Boy on the Beach” by Tima (Fatima) Kurdi, an immigrant to Canada who tells a saga of her family’s escape from Syria. It is an incredible story of strife and survival. It has expanded my knowledge of the middle-eastern culture, and I’ve even learned a few Arabic words! This book has helped me understand my students better, their feelings, dreams and aspirations. Here’s a quote from the book:

"War destroys lives. It leaves behind terrible wounds that turn into scars – on the flesh and in the mind. It also steals pride and dignity. And it steals the most from the people who can afford it the least."

Being an immigrant myself and having experienced the challenge of adapting to a foreign culture, I would like to be the kind of teacher that can guide her students along the path of their new beginnings and new hopes.
Use It or Lose It

When it comes to vocabulary acquisition and retention, one must use a new word to not lose it. In other words, vocabulary is retained the more students interact with it. When students are learning new vocabulary, take time to review and use the words in various ways with them. By saying, hearing, reading, and writing newly learned vocabulary, students are more likely to remember it, and as a language learner’s vocabulary grows, so does their fluency in, and comprehension of, the language.

To help with this, have students keep track of their new words in a separate section of their binder or notebook - like their own personal dictionary. Depending on their proficiency, encourage them to avoid translation and instead write their own English definitions of the words. Encourage them to also write the words in sentences in order to give them context and show how they are used grammatically. Encourage them to draw picture representations of the words and try to make personal connections to them. The more they do with the new word, the more likely the word will stay and become part of their ever-growing lexicon. Explain to them that they will need to use it, or they will lose it.

Submitted by Geoff North
Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

TESL NB invites you to...

DIY PD: A Guide to Self-Directed Learning for Educators of Multilingual Learners

May 6, 2023
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM, followed by lunch
Université de Moncton

S25 members
S60 non-members

FEE INCLUDES A COPY OF THE BOOK AND LUNCH

Register now
https://tinyurl.com/2p85p68f

Purchase tickets through Eventbrite:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-guide-to-self-directed-learning-for-educators-of-multilingual-learners-tickets-547698048607
Dear TESL Members

We are pleased to be able to offer a webinar entitled, Harnessing the Transformative Power of AI in English Language Teaching. The webinar will take place on Saturday February 18, 2023 (1:00 – 2:00 AST) and will be presented by Ismail Fayed, who is the TESL NB representative to TESL Canada and the Project Director for Educational Technology & Assessment at Yorkville University. To register, please contact info@tesl.ca and you will be sent a zoom link. Additionally, all attendees will be sent a digital PD certificate for their professional portfolios.

Thank you,
Erica Thomas, President TESL NB
More Professional Development Opportunities

TESL Ontario

Check out these Winter events @ www.teslontario.org

**Wednesday, February 22** – Multi-Sensory Learning in an Online Context
7:00-8:00 PM ET

**Saturday, February 25** – Elevate Your Game Through Communities of Practice
10:30-11:30 AM ET

**Tuesday, March 7** – Online Learning from a Learner’s Point of View
7:00 PM-8:30 PM ET

**Wednesday, March 22** – From Task-Based to Action-Oriented Learning
7:00-8:00 PM ET

**Sunday, March 26** – Lifting Poetry Off the Page
3:00-4:00 PM ET

TESOL International Conferences

https://www.tesol.org/tesol-convention
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

February 8, 2023

Dear TESL Canada Members,

Please find below the link to vote in TESL Canada's 2023-2028 strategic plan approval process:

https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/TDVCZ8R

Background Information:

We have completed the strategic planning process and would like to ask for your approval of the 2023-2028 strategic plan. Our committee started with brainstorming strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in January 2022 and from those we asked which values stem from each point raised. From there, we combined the set of values we had determined with the values of the 2015-2018 strategic plan and asked membership to rate their top choices. After membership voted on the most important values, we asked which goals would be able to enact these values and once again asked membership to vote on the most important goals. Resulting from this, we now have the strategic plan you see in front of you, linked below. We want TESL Canada to be the most democratic it can be, so we ask you to vote for whether you approve or reject this strategic plan, along with any feedback you have.

https://mcusercontent.com/7d66c5f319c9217e9b0d2bd99/files/a846723c-2924-efaa-64f3-4684c0719dd9/TESLCanadaStrategicPlan2023.pdf

Donald Moen, Ed.D. | President
TESL Canada

From TESL Connects, February 2023