

Volume 2, Issue 2
November 2019
Editor: Celia Logan

TESL Canada Connects

Coming together
is a beginning;
keeping together
is progress;
working together
is success.

Henry Ford



Welcome to the November issue of our TESL Canada Connects newsletter. This issue will be a chance for us to share news about the 2019/2020 TESL Canada board and also the experiences of a recipient of a TCEF professional learning bursary at the recent ATESL conference.

The 2019/2020 TESL Canada Board: Meet our Provincial Representatives

The new board was finalized at the TESL Canada AGM which was held in Calgary on October 19, 2019 generously hosted by Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL) during their annual conference. Here are a few short bios of some of our provincial representatives.

Wendy Chambers, Ph.D., is honored to be appointed as the ATESL – TESL Canada representative (2019-2021). Wendy has been enthusiastically dedicated to the field of English as an additional language in a variety of roles, including teacher educator, researcher, curriculum designer, and instructor. She served on the ATESL board as secretary (2013-2014) before joining the presidential chain (2014-2017). Wendy is currently a board member of the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks. When not volunteering, Wendy is associate chair, Language Training at NorQuest College and adjunct professor, TESL Program at the University of Alberta.

Vicki Schoch is a native of Ontario with more than twenty-five years teaching experience at the post-secondary level. After earning a BA in Psychology from the University of Waterloo and working as a childcare worker for the disabled, she moved to Switzerland and did three years undergrad work in Literature and Linguistics at the University of Zurich, then a MATEFL from University of Reading, England while teaching ESL and Business English at DCT International Hospitality College for approximately ten years and was Department Head of Languages. She has also taught at the Technical College in Luzern, Switzerland. After returning to Canada in 2005, Vicki taught at Sheridan College where she became Lead Teacher for the afternoon LINC program. Vicki joined the ESL program at the University of Regina in January, 2012. Her main areas of interest are reading and writing and she has given workshops on Vocabulary building and reading strategies and done research on EAP reading materials.

*Recommended Reading
from members
of #cdnELTchat*

Because Internet

Gretchen

McCulloch's book

"Because Internet:

Understanding the

New Rules of

Language" gets into

generational

differences in

punctuation (and

other facets of online

communication). It's

super interesting and

important to be

aware of.

Scott Poole attended the University of Manitoba where he completed a Bachelors of Arts in English Literature. He then went on to get a Journalism Diploma at Vancouver Community College, as well as a Bachelors of Education from Lakehead University and a Masters of Education in L2 Language and Literacy from Deakin University. Scott spent most of his teaching career overseas. He spent 6 years in Hong Kong as part of the NET Scheme working in a high school preparing his students for the Hong Kong university entrance exams. Scott then moved to Korea to work at Inha University for 9 years where he became interested in Writing Centre Theory and the use of Peer Conferences to improve writing. Since relocating to Winnipeg in 2013, he has been coordinating and teaching in The University of Winnipeg's ESL Teacher Certificate Program.

A Day at the ATESL Conference by Liz Karra

(Liz Karra was the recipient of a TCEF professional learning bursary to attend the 2019 ATESL Conference.)

My primary interest in attending was to learn more about the use of technology in ESL classrooms and I attended three presentations on this area of focus. The first presentation was **An Open Source Digital Literacy Curriculum for Low Literacy Newcomers** given by Olivia Chen, Christine Do, Jayne Crawford, and Alicia Romero from TIES in Calgary (The Immigrant Education Society). They discussed the creation of an online program (NICO) to develop the CLB 3+ learners' computer skills in preparation for further online classes. You may contact the presenters for more information on NICO ([Newcomer Introduction to Classes Online](#)). The second presentation was **Researching the Effects of the Blended Learning Approach in LINC** presented by Matthias Sturm and Augusta Avram. The project which started in 2017 looked at the goals of blended learning (a combination of online and classroom instruction), how it benefits the students and what the teacher's role is. Details of the project and on the challenges faced with blended learning can be found at the link provided: learnit2teach.ca/wpnew/what-are-the-effects-of-LINC-blended-learning

Jacquelynn Mulyk's presentation on **How to Use and Create Podcasts in the ESL Classroom** dealt with the "what", "how" and "why" of podcasting. A major benefit of their use is that podcasts enable the instructor to focus on the learners' interests rather than predetermined topics found in textbooks. Presenters from NorQuest College (Wendy Chambers, Wendy Illott, and Sara Gnida, as well as two graduates from their new program: Alexandra Marshall and Shelley Andersen shared the workshop **Innovative TEAL Education: Learning and Opportunities from Conceptualization to Delivery**. This was an interesting discussion of the development and first offering of their teacher training program. Ultimately the highlight for me was listening to the stories told from the Shoe Project. These real life stories bring home the reality of what many of our students experience and remind us why we do what we do. Thanks to TESL Canada for the grant I received, making it possible for me to attend ATESL's 40th anniversary conference in Calgary.

TESL Canada Journal

TESL Canada Journal recently put out a call for papers for its 2020 Special Issue: **Corrective Feedback in Language Teaching and Learning: Connecting Research and Practice**. Please follow the link below for more information: <https://teslcanadajournal.ca/index.php/tesl/announcement>