

Volume 2, Issue 1  
September 2019  
Editor: Celia Logan

# TESL Canada Connects

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*“True scholarship consists in knowing not what things exist but what they mean; it is not memory but judgement”*  
*James Russell Lowell*

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*Welcome to the second volume of our TESL Canada Connects newsletter. We hope that these newsletters are a chance for us to share news from our provinces, from our language programs, from our teacher training programs as well as professional learning ideas. Please consider submitting an item for next time to [admin@tesl.ca](mailto:admin@tesl.ca)*

## **Online Digital Literacy and Computer Skills Training - (submitted by Brian Lorraine)**

A team from Red River College's Language Training Centre, in Winnipeg, has undertaken work on an IRCC-funded Service Delivery Improvement project to research and develop a competency-based digital literacy curriculum, and to evaluate the design and delivery of some of the online modules the course will be comprised of. The user-testing of the fully online modules will be conducted in a series of pilot projects for newcomers in CLB 3-8 English Language Programs. The 3-year project is planned in yearly phases, with pilots projected to be run locally, regionally, and then nationally.



The main objective of this project will be to create an online courseware that will not only build among English-language learners the digital literacy and computer skills necessary to succeed in professional environments, but also boost the capacity of IRCC-funded organizations that provide language training services online. The scope of the project entails identifying and addressing the digital literacy development needs of newcomers to assist in their integration into the Canadian workplace, which often involves a pathway through post-secondary education and credential transfer or upgrading. The project approach is incorporating Competency-based Education principles in order to offer the flexibility and customization of targeting the development of the knowledge, skills, and abilities particular to individual learner digital literacy needs.

Ultimately, the aim is to promote the development of digital literacy and computer skills necessary for education, training, and employment. Once the user-experience pilots have been run, and the design and delivery of the online modules have been evaluated, the results of the training will be compared to that of face-to-face digital literacy training programs. If deemed to be successful as an improved delivery of service, the product would be made available as an open-source tool for IRCC-funded organizations.

*Brian Lorraine is an English for Academic Purposes instructor and Project Lead passionate about best practices in the use of learning technologies.*

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Recommended  
by Brian  
Lorraine -  
*Teaching in  
a Digital Age*  
by Tony Bates  
is an essential  
resource,  
relevant for  
teachers and  
administrators  
alike, that  
comprehensivel  
y addresses a  
range of issues  
faced by all  
sectors of  
education  
dealing with  
disruptive  
change brought  
on by  
technology. It is  
an open text  
available free  
here:  
<https://opentextbc.ca/teachinginadigitalage/>

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## The TESL Canadian Educational Foundation (TCEF) Conference Participation Grant

TESL Canada is happy to announce the **Fall 2019 TCEF Conference Participation Grant (\$250)** to support five TESL Canada members to attend a professional development conference, to be held in any Canadian province in Fall 2019 or Spring 2020.

Applicants must submit their letter of interest (PDF document) before **September 16th, 2019** to [admin@tesl.ca](mailto:admin@tesl.ca) and [payant.caroline@uqam.ca](mailto:payant.caroline@uqam.ca)  
Use the subject line: **TCEF Conference Participation Grant**

### Selection criteria: The applicant will

- Demonstrate a clear connection between the target conference in relation to their professional goals;
- Demonstrate a need for financial support;
- Demonstrate involvement within a local/provincial association and/or within English language learning community (service, volunteer);
- Write a brief report for TESL Canada's newsletter after the conference.

**Apply today for a \$250 TCEF Conference Participation Grant!**

### Favourite teaching Websites from Nilay Thomas, Youth in Transition instructor, Bow Valley College:

- Busy Teacher: ready to go <https://busyteacher.org/>
- English Club: short and sweet <https://www.englishclub.com/>
- ESL Lab: abundant listening practice <https://www.esl-lab.com/>
- Many Things: pronunciation, self-awareness <http://www.manythings.org/pp/>
- CBC Learning English: New and improved! CLB based level appropriate news recap <https://www.cbc.ca/learning-english>
- Breaking News English: a classic <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/index.html>
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### Upcoming conferences:

#### Fall 2019

ATESL – Calgary - October 18-19 <https://www.atesl.ca/conference/welcome/>

TEAM and TEAL Manitoba – Winnipeg – October 25 <https://teammanitoba.org/conference/>

TESL NS Fall Conference - Halifax - November 15-16 <https://teslns.com/conference/>

TESL Ontario Fall Conference-Toronto- December 5-6 <https://www.teslontario.org/conference>

#### Spring 2020

BC TEAL Spring Conference – New Westminster – April 23-25

[https://www.bctéal.org/bctéal\\_event/bc-teal-2020-annual-conference-image-conference/](https://www.bctéal.org/bctéal_event/bc-teal-2020-annual-conference-image-conference/)

TESOL International Convention- Denver, Colorado - March 31 – April 3

<https://www.tesol.org/convention-2020>