



November 7, 2017

#### Message from Acting President

Thank you for your continued patience and support of TESL Canada during this time of transition. I want to take this opportunity to assure you that it is our **top priority to maintain TESL Canada as an organization** despite the closure of the head office. In order to support our members, teachers who currently hold TESL Canada Teacher Certification, institutions who hold Teacher Training Program Recognition (TTPR), and to continue the publication of the TESL Canada Journal, we are focused on preserving TESL Canada. **Please be assured that all current TESL Canada teacher certifications and TTPR accreditations remain valid. Current participants in TTPR courses are still graduating from nationally accredited teacher training programs.** Moving forward, we are working to put viable systems into place to continue these functions.

We have been transparent in disclosing our financial challenges and we have sent a letter to members to ask that they please continue to support the organization. **With the backing of members, the organization can remain viable.** Of course, the opposite is also true. However, we are not focusing on the latter scenario and are counting on members to continue their memberships.

We will continue to provide up-to-date information as soon as it is available. We are trying to keep our **FAQs current** and to respond to inquiries as much as humanly possible. We are in the midst of several different meetings with potential partners in order to, not only to maintain, but also to continue some services.

I want to take this opportunity to thank volunteer members of the executive and the board of TESL Canada who have been stalwart and dedicated beyond the call of duty during this challenging time. In particular, I would like to thank Joy Lin Salzberg, who has recently taken medical leave, for her unwavering commitment to TESL Canada. Also, our treasurer, Brian Courtney, has been, and continues to be, invaluable colleague during this process. Past presidents, Judy Sillito and Ron Thompson's crucial advising and supporting roles cannot be overstated. Board members like Dmitri Priven have stepped up to deal judiciously with the issues around certification. Farahnez Faez and Antonella Valeo have been diligently marching forward with the journal, a fact for which we are also grateful. In addition, we have received supportive letters from provincial reps that have meant a great deal in the past few weeks in terms of moral support. Finally, despite the situation, the hard work of Jessica Tomlin and Veronica Sanchez at the head office must be recognized. Although we sincerely want to keep a full-time employee, with the resources we have at the present time, this is not feasible in the short term.



**I want you to feel free to contact me with questions or feedback-** [president@tesl.ca](mailto:president@tesl.ca). Although I may not be able to respond individually to each of these, I want you to know that I will be reading all messages and sharing helpful input with the board. There have been and continue to be important meetings in the next two weeks and will be holding a board meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your support, feedback, and patience.

Paula Kristmanson

Acting President

TESL Canada Federation