

TESL New Brunswick Newsletter February 2025

What's Happening?



Hello TESL NB members,

Happy 2025!

The year is in full swing and so is TESL NB. I would like to begin by recognizing our Newsletter Editor Dawn McCluskey for her hard work putting together another fabulous newsletter. Thank you, Dawn!

You may recall that in Fall 2024 TESL NB offered two \$500 bursaries for professional learning in the EAL field. We are pleased to announce that Raya Khedheri and Kathy

Whynot are our bursary recipients. Stay tuned for highlights and insights from their respective events in upcoming TESL newsletters.

We have also launched our first competition of 2025. The competition is geared toward EAL learners and is an opportunity for them to share with us who they are as a learner. If you know someone who would like to share their story in a creative way check out page two for full competition details.

Planning is also underway for our spring professional learning event. Keep **April 26th** free for what's sure to be an extraordinary session in Saint John.

We've hit the ground running in 2025 and hope to keep this momentum going for a great year!

**Kind regards,
Erica Thomas
TESL NB President**



Kennebecasis River, N.B.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the TESL NB president..... 1

TESL New Brunswick Competition.....2

A Newcomer's Story of Giving Back.....3

Get to Know a TESL Member.....4

Geoff's Teaching Tip.....5

AGM Update.....5

Spring Professional Learning Event.....6

Additional Spring Conferences.....6

Your National Organization.....7

Contact Us.....7

Attention!

Read all about TESL NB's exciting competition for NB Language Learners:



TESL NB

TESL New Brunswick Competition

Celebrate the Learning

Who are you as an English Language Learner? TESL NB wants to acknowledge and celebrate you and your language learning journey. We invite you to share your experience by creating something (see below) that represents you as a language learner.

Ideas to consider for your submission:

- Explain why learning English has been important to you.
- What have your successes been?
- What have your challenges been?
- How is language important in your everyday life?
- How might your experience help others as language learners?

Submission Guidelines

- You can express yourself through the media format of your choice: creative writing, poetry, digital poster, video, etc.
- The contest is open to English Language Learners living in New Brunswick of all age groups:
 - Elementary School (Grades 3-5)
 - Middle School (Grades 6-8)
 - High School (Grades 9-12)
 - Adult Learners
- Submission deadline: **March 14th, 2025**
- For more information and submission form: <https://teslnb.ca/category/events/>
- Submit your entry and submission form to: teslnewbrunswick@gmail.com

Prizes

The winner from each age category will receive:

- Elementary School: \$50
- Middle School: \$100
- High School: \$150
- Adult Learners: \$200

Winners will be honoured, and invited to showcase their work, at TESL NB's spring professional learning event in April.

Any questions?
Please contact:
 teslnewbrunswick@gmail.com

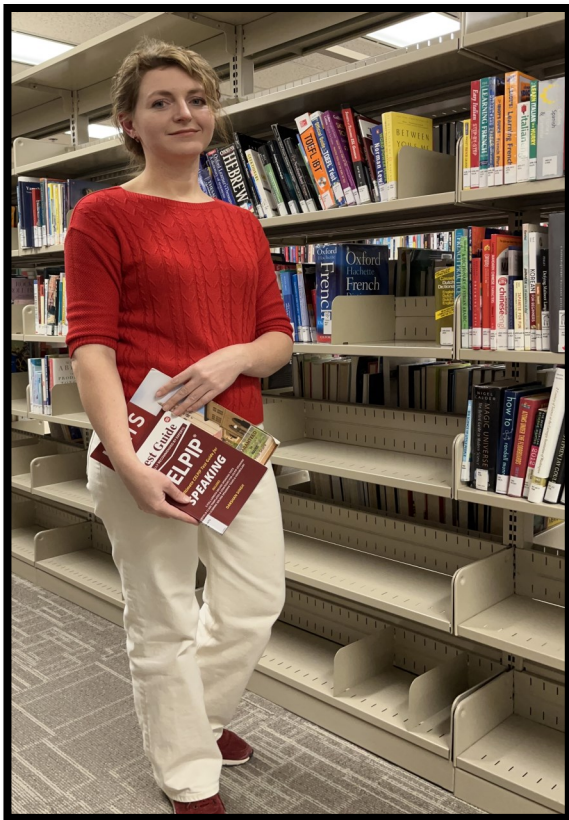
You can also find the competition information and registration form at

<https://teslnb.ca/category/events/>

From Stranger to Supporter: A Newcomer's Story of Giving Back

Starting over in a new country is no small task. It is a journey full of challenges and surprises. Less than a year ago, I moved to Canada, ready to embrace both work and volunteer opportunities. With my background as an ESL teacher, the path seemed clear. Six months ago, I started volunteering as a facilitator for the English Speaking Club at the Moncton Public Library, and shortly after, I joined the ASD-E teaching community. Yahoo!

I must take a moment to express my admiration



for the library community. The energy there is unmatched, with activities for everyone, from language clubs to creative workshops. Speaking of language, the library already had volunteer facilitators for French and Spanish clubs and two more for English—proof that this place is a buzzing hub of learning and connection. The passion of the staff and volunteers is truly inspiring.

The English Speaking Club itself is a welcoming space for newcomers—a place to practice English, share stories, and feel heard. There is no need to sign up or commit; it is as casual as it is supportive. We start each session with introductions, where participants share their names, countries of origin, how long they have been in Canada, and anything else they feel comfortable discussing. This sets the tone for deeper conversations.

Our topics are as diverse as the group itself—favourite spots in Moncton, seasonal activities, traditions, memorable gifts, handy apps, and even the best purchases since arriving. These chats are not just about practising English; they are about building connections.

My favourite part of our sessions is the “revision round.” After a few participants share, we see how much we can remember about each other's stories. These moments encourage attentive listening, spark deeper discussions, and bring some fun as occasional amusing mistakes often happen.

There is something magical about seeing new faces join the group and familiar ones return week after week. And when someone stops attending, I choose to celebrate—it usually means they have secured a job or taken a significant step forward in their life. That is what we hope for, after all.

For me, volunteering is not solely about helping others; it is a mutually enriching experience. Meeting people from around the world, hearing their stories, and witnessing their progress is endlessly rewarding. Now, as an EAL Tutor, I am thrilled to continue facilitating the club. It is my way of giving back to a community that has already given me so much. And honestly, where else could I hear so many incredible stories in one place?

Submitted by Olena Umanets

Get to Know a TESL Member

Submitted by Mallory Cunningham

Current Position: EST-EAL/ SPR of English and EAL at Saint John High School



I have been fortunate enough to work in the world of EAL since the very first year of my career, almost 14 years ago! In my role as Educational Support Teacher for English as an Additional Language, I get to work with students on developing their language skills and with teachers on creating culturally and linguistically inclusive lessons in a variety of subject areas. I also aid in making our school more welcoming and open to all languages and cultures. Before my current role as EST-EAL, I held the role of EAL classroom teacher and spent my first three years of teaching abroad in Guizhou, China. Most recently, I graduated from my M. Ed at UNB with a specialization in bilingual and multilingual education. I am also very excited to say, I am the newest member of the TESL NB executive!

Scaffolding for MLLs in High School:

One fun part of my current role is working with content teachers to make their classrooms more culturally and linguistically inclusive through scaffolds like word walls, sentence frames, adding visuals, translanguaging, simplifying instructions and so much more. It has been exciting to see the progress our teachers have been making in this area. We were also fortunate enough to have Dr. Carol Salva visit our school for several days of professional learning on this topic. It is very exciting when a student meets success and can finally show what they know!

Why teach EAL?

Though my job poses many challenges, it is also incredibly rewarding. I think teaching EAL in high school is particularly rewarding, because often we welcome students at an older age (18-21) who have large gaps in their education. Highschool is often the last option for these students to gain language that will enable them to seek employment, help support their families and pursue their hopes and dreams. We can very quickly see the fruits of our labour as students quickly gain language and move through the CEFR levels. It can be very rare in high school to see students make large gains, but it happens everyday in EAL. I also get many opportunities to help students, and their families connect with the community and make plans for their future. Watching students walk across the stage after years of hard work is an incredible feeling. Not only is the job rewarding, but the EAL teaching community is like no other. I feel that it draws community minded, team focused educators who care for and support one another. Sometimes students with complex backgrounds and trauma can be challenging and overwhelming, but it is so much easier when we work alongside one another offering support and comradery. I truly can't imagine teaching in any other subject area and feel I have found my passion and purpose.

Current interest/focus:

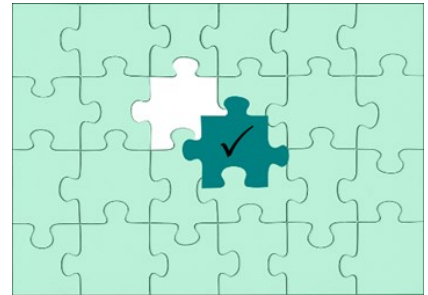
Over the last few years, I have been interested in ways we can prepare students for the world outside of high school. Many of our students' parents are also language learners who may not yet understand the world of work and post-secondary education here in Canada. Year after year, students leave high school without direction and I wanted to find ways to equip them with the skills they require, not just English. As a result of this, we started a new program called *Elevate*, based on Dr. Michael Ungar's work that supports multilingual learners in building resilience through discovering their "rugged qualities" within themselves and connecting them to the "resources" they need to face adversity. It is our hope that combining Dr. Ungar's curriculum with cultural and linguistic scaffolding will help prepare students for the future through building resilience. Part of the program involves students being matched with a mentor from the community who can follow up with them as they navigate post-secondary education, job searches and life's challenges. We are about halfway through our three-year project, and I am hopeful that we will see the benefit of this work through the success of our students.

TESL NB's Teaching Tip

Submitted by Geoff

Encourage the use of complete sentences

When your students are answering questions or talking in class, insist that they use complete sentences. By doing this, it will help strengthen awareness of correct grammatical structures. As facilitators of the language, we know which words are missing in a phrase, whereas a learner may not. Encouraging complete sentence use consistently is a very important step in the language learning process.



To help with this, simply make it a habit for everyone in the class. After a short time, it will start to become natural for students to use complete sentences and, in turn, you should start hearing improvement in their grammar when they speak. For beginners, you may need to write example sentences or the desired response to a prompt on the board or word wall. Having a scaffold like this will help your students who may need more guidance.

2024 TESL NB AGM Executive Meeting

Our annual TESL NB AGM meeting was held on November 28, 2024. Executive members for the year 2025 are as follows:

President: Erica Thomas

Past President: Donna Hoffman

Co-Treasurers: Darlene Whitehouse-Sheehan and Paula Kristmanson

Co-Secretaries: Darlene Whitehouse-Sheehan and Paula Kristmanson

Co-Social Media & PR: Geoff North

Co-Social Media & PR: Mallory Cunningham

Newsletter editor: Dawn McCluskey

TESL Canada Rep.: Jean Charlebois

Member-at-Large: (TESOL Rep): Karen Spracklin

Member-at-large: Kathy Whynot

Member-at-Large: Chantal Lafargue

More TESL NB News!



SAVE THE DATE!

April 26th, 2025

**TESL NB SPRING
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
EVENT**

Saint John,
New Brunswick

Other Upcoming Spring Conferences

★ **TESOL 2025 International Convention & Expo (in-person)**

Date: March 18-21 Long Beach California

★ **TESL Sask/Sask TEAL 2025 Annual Conference: Better Together Conference**
(virtual and in-person)

Date: May 9, 2025



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
- X@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

TESL Canada Membership

Just a reminder that all ATESL, TESL SK, TESL MB, TESL NB, TESL NS, and TEAL NL members are automatically TESL Canada members and that a portion of your provincial association membership fee (\$16/member) also gives you a TESL Canada membership.

In addition, please note that TESL Canada is the only national certification endorsed by these provincial affiliates. You can find out more about TESL Canada certification here: <https://tesl.ca/certification/tesl-canada-professional-certification.html>

If you have any questions about TESL Canada certification, please email admin@tesl.ca

Source: TESL Canada website [About Membership - TESL Canada](#)

For more information about TESL Canada conferences, publications, jobs and more, please check out the TESL Canada website @ <https://www.tesl.ca>



Copyright © 2021 *TESL Canada, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

TESL Canada

PO Box 30001 Prospect Plaza
Fredericton, NB E3B 0H8
Canada