



TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

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April 23, 2013

His Worship Mayor Roy Avis
Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON
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Your Worship,

We thank you for taking part in our Ontario wide initiative to raise the awareness of the importance of English language learning opportunities for newcomers to Canada by declaring English as a Second Language (ESL) Week in the Fall of 2012 during the week in which our annual conference took place.

I am writing on behalf of TESL Ontario (Teachers of English as a Second Language) to invite you to again take part in our Province-wide initiative to recognize Ontario's ESL community and declare the week of October 20 - 26, 2013 as "English as a Second Language Week". Given the ever growing diversity of the population of Ontario, we hope you will continue to support our efforts and grant us this request. In 2012, 45 municipalities declared ESL Week and we anticipate that this number will continue to grow, helping the ESL community to celebrate and expand its development.

For 41 years, TESL Ontario has held its Annual Conference to provide professional development for educators, administrators, students and volunteers who make it possible for immigrants, refugees, citizens, and visitors to learn the English language. This year, our conference "Merging and Emerging Pathways through Language" will be held October 24- 26, 2013 and we will be honoured if representatives of your council can participate.

Last year's TESL Ontario conference attracted 1500 registrants. Our members travel from across the province and beyond to attend workshops, research symposia, our technology fair and publishers' displays. For many of us, this annual journey to Toronto marks a time when we can share our experiences, expand our skills, and reaffirm the positive contribution that our province makes to diversity.

Through a set of criteria developed to ensure measurable qualifications among ESL professionals, TESL Ontario demands the best qualifications of our members, as well as the best in training from our teaching programs. As a result, we offer the finest in second language education to our students, who are capable of contributing a wealth of knowledge and experience to Ontario communities.

Attached, please find our suggested wording of the proclamation. If you have any suggestions or comments as to the content of this document, please contact our Executive Director, Renate Tilson, at 416-593-4243 ext. 203.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Sheila Nicholas,
Chair

SUGGESTED WORDING OF PROCLAMATION

Ontario has been the destination of choice for many immigrants who have added to the diversity of the province by bringing their culture, customs and language, even as they endeavour to acquire the ability to communicate in English.

The community of English as a Second Language learners are represented in all aspects of society. They are students in elementary and secondary schools, universities, colleges, public and private schools, adult education students pursuing literacy and basic skills, participants in workplace-training programs, researchers and subjects, volunteers and workers, employees and business owners, labourers and professionals, neighbours and friends.

The professional organization Teachers of English as a Second Language (TESL) Ontario hosts a conference in Toronto each year consisting of workshops, research symposia and a technology fair to maintain and expand the skills and abilities of its members.

NOW THEREFORE, I, _____ on behalf of _____ of _____ Council, do hereby proclaim October 20th to 26th, 2013 as "English as a Second Language Week" in the _____ of _____.