

August 17, 2018

His Worship Mayor Roy Avis
The Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 3P9



Your Worship,

We thank you and your community for taking part in our Ontario wide initiative to raise 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 2017, and in previous years, 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 to this year declare the week of October 28th to November 3rd, 2018 as "English as a Second Language Week" in your community. 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 2017, over 40 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 45 years, TESL Ontario has held its Annual Conference to provide professional development for the ESL educators, administrators, students and volunteers who make it possible for immigrants, refugees, citizens, and visitors to learn the English language. This year our conference, "Synergies of Language and Life", will be held November 1st & 2nd, 2018 and we would be honoured if representatives of your Council could participate in our conference, which is held in Downtown Toronto. If you, or any member of your Council, are interested in participating please contact our Office Manager, Kevin Gamble, at administration@teslontario.org for further details.

Last year's TESL Ontario Conference attracted more than 800 attendees. Our members travel from across the province and beyond to attend workshops, research symposia, a 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 diversity makes to our province.

Through a set of criteria developed to ensure measurable qualifications among ESL professionals, TESL Ontario demands the best of qualifications from our members, as well as the best of training from the TESL training programs accredited by TESL Ontario. 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,

David Hazell,
Chair

SUGGESTED WORDING FOR ESL WEEK PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has welcomed many peoples from around the world who have chosen this province as the place to start a new life in Canada, now as much as any other time in its history, and many of these immigrants undertake to learn English in order to communicate with their fellow Ontarians, allowing them to start the process of building productive and rewarding lives in their new country.

AND WHEREAS this diverse and multifaceted group of learners of English as a Second Language can be found throughout all levels of society in Ontario, whether they are students in school, at any level, teachers, researchers, caregivers, volunteers and workers, business owners and employees, professionals and labourers, all benefit from instruction in English as a Second Language and use that new knowledge to contribute to this province on an ongoing basis.

AND WHEREAS our professional organization, TESL (Teachers of English as a Second Language) Ontario, hosts a conference each fall in downtown Toronto that features professional development in the form of workshops, keynote speakers and diverse presentations for teachers of English as a Second Language to develop, update and expand their knowledge base, skills and abilities to aid newcomers to our province in their efforts to acquire English language skills.

NOW THEREFORE, I, _____ on behalf of _____ of _____ Council, do hereby proclaim October 28th to November 3rd, 2018 as "English as a Second Language Week" in the _____ of _____.