



TEACHERS OF ENGLISH
AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO



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August 24, 2017

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 previously 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 your community during the weeks in years past when 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 29 to November 4, 2017 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 2016, several dozen municipalities declared ESL Week and we hope that this number will continue to grow, helping the ESL community to celebrate and expand its development.

For 44 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 "Celebrating Success" will be held November 2 & 3, 2017 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 900 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 our province makes to diversity.

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,

James Papple,
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 29th to November 4th, 2017 as "English as a Second Language Week" in the _____ of _____.