



## TEACHING ENGLISH AS A SUBSEQUENT LANGUAGE SASKATCHEWAN INC.

### TESL SASKATCHEWAN CHAIR'S REPORT 2025

Throughout 2025, the Board remained committed to advancing the goals outlined in our 2022-2025 strategic plan. Our efforts focused on expanding professional development opportunities, enhancing member engagement, and strengthening strategic partnerships at both the provincial and national levels.

TESL Saskatchewan continued to support its members through a range of professional development initiatives, including our annual hy-flex conference, Better Together, held on May 9, 2025. This successful event featured 46 speakers from across Canada and served as a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and the advancement of innovative teaching practices. It also provided a much-appreciated opportunity for in-person connection within our community.

To strengthen partnerships and ensure strong representation for our members, the Board remained actively engaged in provincial and national collaborative initiatives such as TESL Canada Board, interprovincial TESL meetings, TESOL Affiliate Network, and SAISIA-led initiatives.

We are proud of the work accomplished over the past year and remain committed to building on this momentum in service of our members. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to each Board Director for their dedication, professionalism, and ongoing commitment to supporting TESL Saskatchewan and its membership.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our outgoing Board members, Verna Johnson and Brenda Sherring, Arash Alipour for their dedicated service and meaningful contributions to the association.

In closing, I encourage all members to consider volunteering on the Board or one of its committees. Stay engaged with TESL Saskatchewan communications and take part in our professional development and networking opportunities. Your involvement is essential to sustaining and strengthening our association.

*Sincerely,*  
*Tatiana Zotova, M. Ed.*  
*Chair, TESL Saskatchewan*



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### **Finance & Membership Report**

#### **Finances: (in CAD)**

The detailed statements from MWC Chartered Professional Accounts are approved by the Board of Directors on September 11, 2025 for the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. The summary is that by June 30, 2025, the revenue was \$40,537 and the corresponding expenses were \$43,541. There was a net loss of \$3,004.

*The balance in the TESL Sask account as of June 30, 2025, was \$50,579.*

#### **Grants:**

In 2025, TESL Sask received one grant for TESL Conference 2026:

- Multicultural Initiatives Fund of \$12,000.00 (Project only)

#### **Membership Report:**

As of December 31, 2025, TESL Sask had the following numbers of members in good standing in its membership categories:

General & Associate/Life Members: 196

*Jerry Wang*

*Secretary Treasurer-Board Assistant*

*TESL Saskatchewan*



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### **Conference Report**

In October and November of 2025, SK TEAL and TESL SK selected the theme Better Together and set the conference date for Friday, May 9, 2025. The event was hybrid with the in-person held at Briercrest College and online participants held using the Pheedloop platform.

### **2025 Keynote Speaker:**

Dr. Hyunjung Shin was recommended as our keynote speaker in the fall of 2024. In January of 2025, Tatiana Zotova and Ginny McColl met with Dr. Hyunjung Shin to go over what she planned for her keynote address. Her address, “Navigating the future of TESL SK/SKTEAL: antiracism and decolonization in English Language Teaching” was well received and suited for our adult and K-12 participants.

### **Call for Proposals:**

The Call for Proposals went out in late December 2024 and into the spring of 2025. The deadline for proposals was set for March 31 but was later extended to April 15, 2025.

### **2025 Funders & Exhibitors:**

- **Funding Partners: Sask Lotteries, Sask Culture**
- **Publishers/Exhibitors:**
  - **ProLiteracy New Readers Press**
  - **Cambridge University Press**
  - **Pearson Canada**
  - **TESL SK**
  - **SAISIA**
  - **Briercrest -TESOL**
  - **New Language Solutions**
  - **TESL SK**
  - **Foundations Learning**
  - **Tourism Moose Jaw**



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### **2025 Conference Committee Members:**

Gisele Carlson, Conference Committee Co-Chair, SK TEAL

Ginny McColl, Conference Committee Co-Chair, TESL SK

Jerry Wang, TESL SK      Tatiana Zotova, TESL SK      Abigail Lane TESL SK

Arash Alipour, TESL SK      Verna Johnson, TESL SK      Brenda Sherring TESL SK

### **Planning for 2026 Conference:**

Planning for the 2025 conference began in October 2024, with a hybrid format selected to better accommodate the budgets of both participants and presenters. The theme, “Better Together,” was chosen, and May 9, 2025 was set as the conference date.

The search for a keynote speaker took place throughout November and December, with outreach sent to multiple K–12 schools across Saskatchewan. During this process, the committee learned of an international Early Childhood/Years conference scheduled in Moose Jaw from May 7–9.

Dr. Hyunjung Shin quickly emerged as TESL SK’s top choice, and we were pleased to confirm her as our keynote speaker in December 2024.

### **Acknowledgments:**

Special thanks to Dr. Hyunjung Shin for delivering an inspiring keynote at the 2025 conference. We are also grateful to our presenters for sharing their expertise and to all participants for being part of the event. Our sincere appreciation goes to the volunteers whose time and dedication helped create a welcoming and enjoyable experience for everyone. We hope the conference provided meaningful insights and a truly enriching experience.

*Ginny McColl*

*Conference Committee Co-Chair*

*TESL Saskatchewan*



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### **Professional Development Report**

TESL Saskatchewan provided a variety of professional development opportunities for members and non-members throughout the year.

In September, Urbashi Raha led participants through an exploration of translanguaging as an inclusive classroom methodology for supporting bilingual and multilingual learners, with critical reflection on native-speaker ideology and its implications for language teaching.

In November, faculty and teacher trainees from the BA Applied Linguistics: TESOL program at Briercrest College led an interactive session on academic integrity, inviting the audience to examine the topic from linguistic, cultural, and ethical perspectives.

In February, Ali Caszadeh Matakhi presented a pilot framework for embedding AI ethically in the language classroom through scenario-based learning, reflective tasks, and curricular integration.

Though there's been a wide range of uncertainty over the last year within our field, it's encouraging to see the continued desire for excellence within our practices as we gather to learn and discuss. We look forward to many more opportunities to grow and network together in the coming year.

*Abigael Lane*  
*PD Committee Chair*  
*TESL Saskatchewan*



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### **Accreditation Report**

Throughout 2025, the Accreditation Committee continued to support TESL SK members by reviewing accreditation and re-accreditation applications from both new and existing members. In addition to processing submissions, the Committee actively assisted current and prospective members by responding to inquiries regarding accreditation requirements, eligibility criteria, and the application process.

TESL SK is proud to have developed and strengthened a provincial accreditation system that upholds high professional standards and aligns closely with TESL Canada accreditation requirements. Members accredited through TESL SK since 2018 are eligible to apply for TESL Canada accreditation through the streamlined agreement established between TESL Canada and TESL SK.

Members are also reminded of the importance of maintaining active accreditation status. Re-accreditation applications must be submitted every five years. To qualify for re-accreditation, members are required to provide documentation of at least 25 hours of relevant professional development activities completed within the five-year period. This requirement helps ensure that accredited members remain informed about current developments, best practices, and emerging trends in the TESL field.

The Accreditation Committee remains committed to supporting TESL SK's mission by fostering a transparent and rigorous accreditation process. We continue to welcome constructive feedback from members to strengthen our practices and respond to the evolving needs of the sector.

I would like to thank the current members of the Accreditation Committee for their dedication, professionalism, and ongoing commitment to supporting our members throughout the year.

***Tatiana Zotova M.Ed.***

***Accreditation Committee Chair***

***TESL Saskatchewan***