

SUMMER 2026



ATEAL



TOGETHER WE
FLOURISH.
TOGETHER WE
CREATE
RIPPLES.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear ATEAL Members,

As we transition into the warmer months, I am thrilled to share several key developments from ATEAL, reflecting a period of intense activity and growth.

The energy and high turnout at our recent in-person symposia in Calgary and Edmonton were truly inspiring. The Calgary Symposium, *Flourish: Wellness in EAL*, took place on May 2nd, and the Edmonton Symposium, *Creating Ripples: Teaching, Learning, and Care*, followed on May 22nd. The strong participation reinforces the value our members place on connecting face-to-face. Congratulations to the symposium managers (Holly Sadowsky and Jani Krulc for Calgary, and Sofia Elgueta and Barbara Edmondson for Edmonton) and their committees. Your excellent work and dedication made these events a resounding success.

We believe this blended approach - continuing with in-person symposia alongside our annual online conference - will be key to ATEAL's future as it allows us to maximize both local connection and broad accessibility. The annual conference committee is already actively engaged in planning our virtual event, *What's Next? Embracing the Changes in EAL*, scheduled for October 16th and 17th. Keep an eye on your inbox in the coming days for the official call for proposals and information on how you can get involved.

We are also excited to announce the successful completion and public launch of the *Developing Intercultural Competence through Narrative Métissage* project. This comprehensive resource, which includes a facilitator guide and a mini documentary, is now publicly accessible on the ATEAL website. We extend our deepest thanks to Project Coordinator Haimei Wang, Resource Developer Amy Abe, and Workshop Facilitator Judy Sillito for their exceptional leadership on this crucial initiative.

Finally, our Strategic Action Plan remains a core priority, focused on Building Connections, Expanding Opportunities, and Strengthening Professional Voice. Our central goal is to ensure every EAL practitioner is connected to ATEAL and fully benefits from what the organization offers, primarily through expanding the variety and reach of our professional development opportunities. This comprehensive approach includes offerings year-round PD opportunities and encouraging members to actively give back by sharing their expertise and leading sessions for the EAL community. To strengthen and expand our community, we are launching a planned membership drive aimed at recruiting new members from all corners of the EAL sector. This outreach ties into our plan to expand the scope of our local chapters, ensuring we include members from every organization to enhance local engagement and enable easy mobilization across the community.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restorative spring and summer season!

Sincerely,
Johnson Kunnel
ATEAL President

PRESIDENT ELECT'S MESSAGE



DEAR ATEAL MEMBERS,

My connection to this work began long before I joined the Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language Board. I grew up watching my parents build a life in Canada as newcomers.

One of my clearest memories is coming home from elementary school while my mom, still in her scrubs, rushed to make corned beef and rice before returning to work. We'd eat while watching *Pippi Longstocking* as she hurried around the kitchen, already thinking about going back to her shift.

Like so many newcomers, my parents carried enormous responsibility—working while going to school and taking care of a large family—all while holding tightly to the hope of education and opportunity for their children. That experience shaped how I understand resilience, dignity, and community, and why I choose to work alongside newcomers and English language learners.

Over the past two years, it has been a privilege to support ATEAL through co-chairing, writing the newsletters, and assisting in both the annual symposiums and conferences. More importantly, it has allowed me to witness the generosity and creativity within this community.

This spring, our symposia reminded me of what makes ATEAL special: educators who continue showing up for one another with ideas, encouragement, and hope. Together, we flourish. Together, we create ripples.

As President-Elect, I look forward to continuing these conversations and helping build inclusive spaces for educators and learners across Alberta.

Thank you for being part of this community.

Pamela Ndumbi
(DOOM-bee)

President-Elect, ATEAL

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Pamela Ndumbi, President Elect

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FLOURISH

WELLNESS IN EAL



EFFECTIVE
PRACTICES,
COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS,
AND CREATIVE
APPROACHES



FLOURISH: *WELLNESS IN EAL*



On May 2, 2026, ATEAL hosted its inaugural YYC Symposium. Forty ATEAL members attended the one-day event, held at SAIT. The theme for the Symposium was Flourish: *Wellness in EAL*, reflecting the community's ability to thrive despite challenging conditions.

The Symposium celebrated educators and their learners by focusing on the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of both communities.

Symposium co-managers Holly Sadowsky and Jani Krulc asked Dr. Tiffany Harper, an Indigenous leader, TCM practitioner, and herbalist, to open the day with a land acknowledgement and talk on Indigenous perspectives of wellness.

Jeff Lichty, a well-respected yoga and pranayama instructor, then presented a grounding session, speaking about mindfulness and leading a breathing session.

Nine sessions were held over the course of the day, including Narrative Metissage, Hope Ally Training for suicide prevention, and strategies for dealing with stress and trauma.

The event was sponsored by 7 local businesses and organizations who donated door prizes totaling over \$1000.

**JANI KRULC AND
HOLLY SADOWSKY,
CALGARY SYMPOSIUM
MANAGERS**

MEANINGFUL
CHANGE,
EDUCATIONAL
TRANSFORMATION,
AND INCLUSIVITY

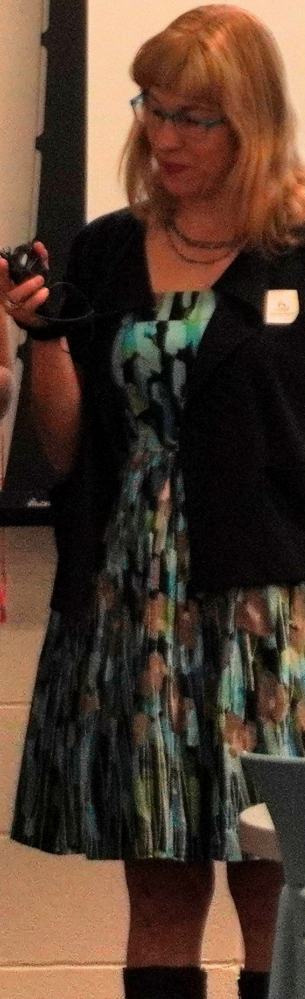
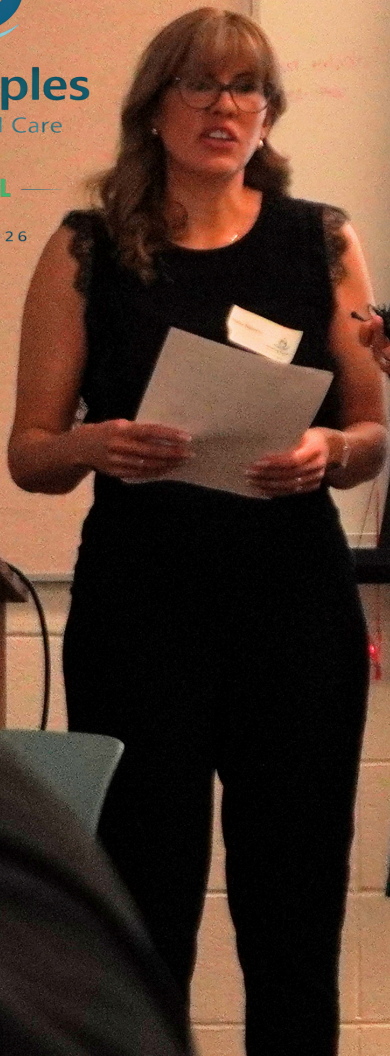


Creating Ripples

Teaching, Learning, and Care

Hosted by **ATEAL**

YEG SYMPOSIUM 2026





CREATING RIPPLES TOGETHER: REFLECTIONS ON THE 2026 ATEAL EDMONTON SYMPOSIUM



On May 22, 2026, ATEAL welcomed 88 attendees to the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta for the second Edmonton one-day symposium. Under the theme *Creating Ripples: Teaching, Learning, and Care*, educators from across Alberta gathered for a day of professional learning, networking, and community building.

The symposium featured a keynote address, presentations, workshops, and lightning talks, with a total of 20 sessions delivered by 27 speakers. Topics ranged from classroom practice and learner engagement to technology, artificial intelligence, wellness, research, and professional growth.

While the sessions were excellent, what many attendees valued most was the opportunity to reconnect in person. Throughout the day, there was a palpable sense of positive energy, collaboration, and support. Colleagues renewed old connections, made new ones, exchanged ideas, and shared experiences in a welcoming and encouraging environment

The keynote presentation, delivered by Dr. Jennifer Foote, inspired attendees to think differently about inclusion and belonging in our classrooms. The session was engaging, practical, and very well received.

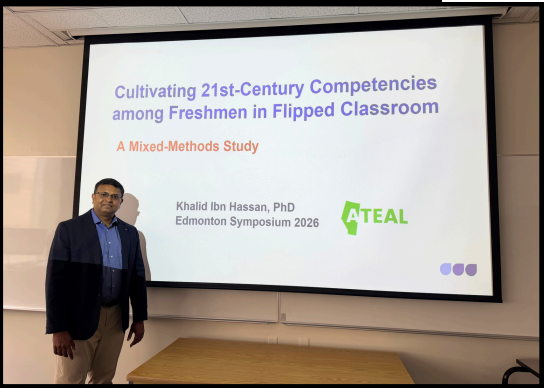
A unique feature of this year's symposium was the Flow Room, a dedicated space for reflection, creativity, and wellbeing.

Attendees enjoyed activities such as chair yoga, guided crochet, contemplative art, table games, and mindfulness activities, reinforcing the symposium's emphasis on care and community.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive with many attendees appreciating the quality and diversity of the sessions, the welcoming atmosphere, and the opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the province. Many expressed a strong interest in attending future in-person ATEAL events. The success of the symposium would not have been possible without the contributions of our presenters, volunteers, organizing committee members, sponsors, and attendees. Thank you to everyone who helped create ripples of learning, connection, and care throughout the day. We look forward to seeing you at future ATEAL events and continuing to create ripples together.

**BARBARA EDMONDSON AND
SOFIA ELGUETA DUPLANCIC,
EDMONTON SYMPOSIUM
MANAGERS**

THANK YOU PRESENTERS!





AND THERE WERE MANY OF YOU!



Adam Skalzub
Photography

reformed

THANK YOU
SPONSORS!



CAMBRIDGE



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA



UNTIL NEXT YEAR!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Your conference team is excited to announce that the 2026 Conference call for proposals & registration are now open!

Join us online on October 16 & 17 for the 2026 ATEAL Conference - *What's Next? Embracing the Changes in EAL* for two days of sharing and learning.

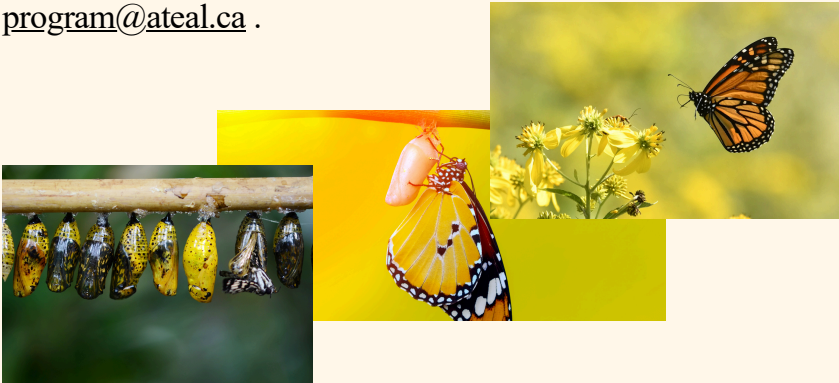
Would you like to present or know someone that should? This is your chance!

Please share this information with your colleagues.

Presentation ideas can be across various streams and structured in a number of formats including panel presentation, workshop, panel discussion or lightning talk.

Submissions will be accepted until **Friday, July 10th**.

If you have questions about submissions, please email program@ateal.ca .



MICROCREDENTIAL

Alberta Routes is thrilled to announce and share information about our new EAL Community Educator Microcredential!

Microcredentials are short, flexible learning opportunities that focus on building practical, job-ready skills and are recognized through digital badges that showcase your learning. Offered free through NorQuest College's Alberta Routes Initiative, this microcredential equips tutors and instructors with hands-on strategies to support adult English language learners in speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

The EAL Community Educator Microcredential requires 25 hours of training, including 5 required workshops plus additional complementary sessions. Workshops are typically 2–3 hours long and are offered online, with custom delivery available for organizations upon request.

Participants earn a digital badge after successfully completing a knowledge check following each workshop. The knowledge check allows participants to demonstrate their understanding of essential concepts and skills from the training. Badges are shareable on LinkedIn, resumes, and digital portfolios, making learning visible and verifiable to employers, funders, and organizations.

To learn more, visit the NorQuest College or Alberta Routes webpages or contact the Alberta Routes Manager:

Alana.Johnson@norquest.ca.

We encourage you to share this opportunity with tutors and instructors - or consider signing up for this valuable free professional development yourself!

NARRATIVE MÉTISSAGE

Narrative Métissage is a way of learning together through story. By its nature, it doesn't fit neatly into a single category or definition. It draws from storytelling, life writing, performance, and the symbolic act of weaving or braiding.



In practice, Narrative Métissage brings together short personal stories and placing them side by side so they can speak to one another. These stories might be shared as written text, spoken aloud, or offered in a mix of forms. Sometimes images, sound, or movement are included. Sometimes the process stays very simple and text based. What matters is not the medium, but the act of weaving voices together.

When Narrative Métissage is shared aloud, it often resembles a simple form of reader's theatre. Participants read from their own stories or segments of them, usually with minimal attention to performance, staging, or polish. The focus is on listening, witnessing, and meaning-making rather than presentation. Hearing the stories aloud, especially when they are interwoven, often brings new insights that are not visible on the page.

At its simplest, Narrative Métissage involves a small group, often three to five people, each creating a short personal story. These stories may respond to the same prompt, but they do not need to match in topic or tone. Participants usually write or prepare their stories independently, then come together to share them.

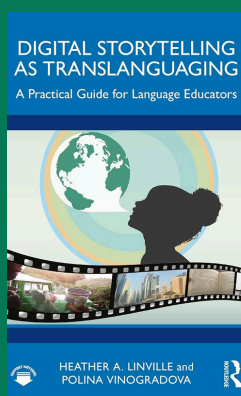
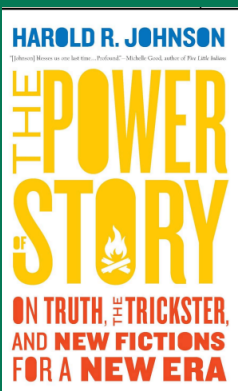
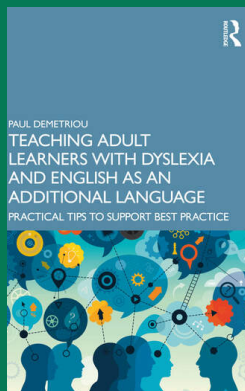
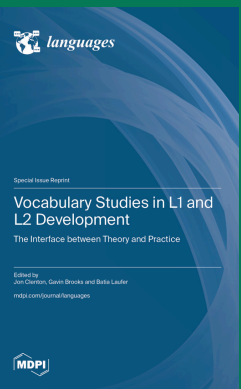
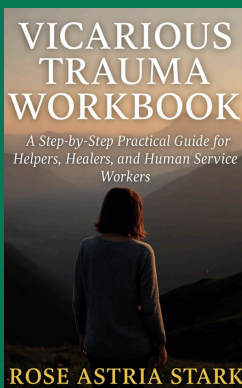
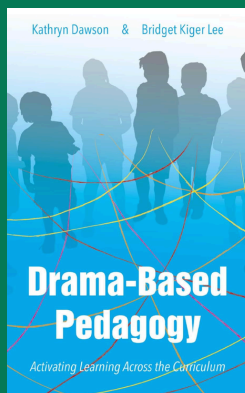
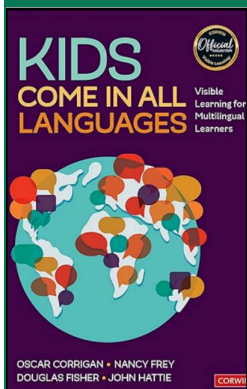
The stories are then divided into shorter pieces, such as sentences, moments, or brief vignettes. Participants take turns reading these segments aloud, moving back and forth between voices. One person shares a short section, then another, then another, before returning to the first voice again. The order of these segments can be decided together or shaped by a facilitator.



*A HUGE
CONGRATULATIONS TO
UOFA'S 2026
TESL GRADS!*

SUMMER READING LIST

ATEAL BOARD PICKS



AND ON BEHALF OF ATEAL,

We wish you all a wonderful summer!

Created by Pamela Ndumbi and May Yeung with contributions from the ATEAL membership