



ALBERTA TEACHERS
OF ENGLISH AS
A SECOND LANGUAGE

**Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language
Annual General Meeting
Friday, October 17, 2025
Online - Aspen Room
4:00 – 5:30 PM**

Minutes – Unapproved

- 1. Call to order: 4:08**
- 2. Establishment of quorum - 75** (require 52 members – as of Oct.3.25)
- 3. Approval of 2025 AGM Agenda**
Motion to approve the 2025 Annual General Meeting as Distributed.
MOVED: Bonnie Nicholas
SECOND: Dora DiLullo-Patten
Opposed: 0
Abstentions: 1
IN FAVOUR: 61/62
CARRIED
- 4. Approval of 2024 AGM minutes**

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2024 AGM MINUTES AS Distributed
Moved: Elizabeth Abraham
Second: Rosalia Dela Cruz
Opposed: 0
Abstentions: 3
IN FAVOUR: 54/57
Motion is CARRIED
- 5. Reports of Officers**
President's Report
Treasurer's Report
- 6. Reports of Committees**
Calgary Local
Central Alberta Local
Edmonton Local

Bursary Committee
Advocacy Committee
TESL Canada
Alberta Routes
Communications Committee

MOTION: To approve the ATESL Annual Reports as distributed at the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

MOVED: Alana Johnson

2ND: Debbie Severinsen

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 3

IN FAVOUR: 51/54

Motion is CARRIED

Motions before the membership

7. Approval of the 2026 -2028 Strategic Plan

MOTION: To approve the ATESL 2026-2028 Strategic Plan as presented.

MOVED: Donna Seitz

2ND: Elizabeth Abraham

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 1

IN FAVOUR: 54/55

Motion is CARRIED

8. Approval of the 2024 Audited Financial Statement

Per the review of the treasurer, we would like to move the following:

MOVED: Bonnie Nicholas

2ND: Nura Mohamed

Opposed: 1

Abstentions: 3

IN FAVOUR: 48/52

Motion is CARRIED

9. Approval of Auditor

Discussion:

Kamala Pepper: Regarding Agenda #9 - what is the cost of the audit?

Irene: It's about \$8000, but we're not accountants, and in order to meet our requirements for the government and be transparent and responsible, we need to have properly audited books. This is for ATESL's protection.

We've investigated other accountants and auditors and MNP are on par with costs. We've had them for years and they're very thorough and go through every piece of info. In Irene's opinion it's in the organization's best interest to have our books professionally audited. If anyone has suggestions for other, more affordable accountants, please send our way.

On the recommendation of the ATESL Board we would like to move the following:

MOTION: Move that ATESL contract MNP Chartered Accountants to audit the financial statements of the Association of Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language for the year ending December 31, 2025.

MOVED: Wynne Bugatan

2ND: Jani Krulc

Opposed: 1

Abstentions: 1

IN FAVOUR: 48/50

Motion is CARRIED

10. Appointment of Local Co-chairs and Board Members at Large

The Following ATESL Members have been approved by acclamation to their Local Chapters as Co-Chairs, or as Board members at large:

- Calgary Local Co-chair – Holly Sadowsky
- Edmonton Local Co-chair – Bahareh Karkheiran Khouzani
- Advocacy Chair – Herly Cervera
- TESL Canada Representative – Sofia Elgueta Duplancic

11. Ratification of President Elect

Motion to ratify the 2024-2025 President-Elect, Johnson Kunnel who was appointed by the Board after the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

MOVED: Rosalia dela Cruz

2ND: Sofia Elgueta

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 4

IN FAVOUR: 48/52

Motion is CARRIED

12. Election of Officers for 2024-2025

ACTION: There were no nominations for President Elect received by October 13. The ATESL Board will put out a call for 2025-2026 President Elect to our membership.

13. Bylaw Amendments

Prior to reviewing the bylaw amendments I would like to remind all attendees that all bylaw amendments require 75% of members in attendance to approve them in order to pass.

We remind all non members that they cannot vote.

I will ask for a mover and seconder, and Irene will launch the poll.

Bylaw	Current	Proposed Amendment
II, 2	A member shall cease to be a member if he fails to pay the annual membership fee on the due date.	A member shall cease to be a member if they fail to pay the annual membership fee on the due date.
IV, 14	The President shall be the presiding director of the Association, the Chairman of the Board and a member, ex-officio, of all committees appointed by the Board of Directors. S/He shall have general supervision of all matters and affairs of the Association. The President shall, as an alternate signer, have the same signing authority as the Secretary as described below in IV.17.	The President shall be the presiding director of the Association, the Chairman of the Board and a member, ex-officio, of all committees appointed by the Board of Directors. They shall have general supervision of all matters and affairs of the Association. The President shall, as an alternate signer, have the same signing authority as the Secretary as described below in IV.17.
IV, 15	The President-Elect shall generally assist the President and shall, in the event of the absence or disability of the President, perform his/her duties and possess his/her authority.	The President-Elect shall generally assist the President and shall, in the event of the absence or disability of the President, perform their duties and possess their authority.
IV, 17	The Secretary shall have charge of all archives of the Association, shall prepare or cause to be prepared and preserved a record of all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors and shall sign and execute all instruments in the name of the Association when authorized to do so by the Board of Directors. S/He shall be the legal custodian of all property of the Association.	The Secretary shall prepare or cause to be prepared and preserved a record of all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors.

IV, 18	The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all monies of the Association and shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, same in such bank as shall be designated by the Board of Directors. S/He shall keep or cause to be kept a proper set of books of account of the Association and shall exhibit the same to the Board of Directors when required. S/He shall submit at the Annual Meeting a report of the accounts of the financial condition of the Association and of all monies received and expended by him/her. S/He shall arrange, or cause to be arranged, an annual audit of the Association and file an annual financial report with the Registrar of Companies in compliance with the Societies Act.	The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all monies of the Association and shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, same in such bank as shall be designated by the Board of Directors. They shall keep or cause to be kept a proper set of books of account of the Association and shall exhibit the same to the Board of Directors when required. They shall submit at the Annual Meeting a report of the accounts of the financial condition of the Association and of all monies received and expended by them. They shall arrange, or cause to be arranged, an annual audit of the Association and file an annual financial report with the Registrar of Companies in compliance with the Societies Act.
VIII.	VIII ALTERING BYLAWS	VII ALTERING BYLAWS
IX	IX. MAINTENANCE OF MINUTES AND OTHER BOOKS AND RECORDS	VIII MAINTENANCE OF MINUTES AND OTHER BOOKS AND RECORDS
X	X INSPECTION OF RECORDS OF THE ASSOCIATION	IX INSPECTION OF RECORDS OF THE ASSOCIATION
XI	XI BRANCHES OF ATESL	X BRANCHES OF ATESL
XII	XII ATESL BURSARY	XI ATESL BURSARY
XII.	ATESL Conference Co-chairs	ATESL Conference Managers

XII, 1	The Board will recruit and appoint Conference Co-chairs to oversee the planning of the ATESL Conference. The co-chairs are accountable to the Board...	The Board will recruit and appoint Conference Managers to oversee the planning of the ATESL Conference. The managers are accountable to the Board....
Foundational Documents		
Aim statement	Increase the number of ATESL-accredited professionals.	Increase the number of accredited professionals.

MOTION: to approve the ATESL Bylaw amendments as presented.

MOVED: Sara Gnida

2ND: Bonnie Nicholas

Kent Lee comment: The referent may be Board of Directors so 'they' may be confusing (not referring to the treasurer). Suggested changing 'they' for 'the treasurer' shall... 4,18 (3 times). The President (instead of 'they') in 4.14.

MOTION: to approve the ATESL Bylaw amendments as amended.

MOVED: Carolyn Dieleman

Second: Elizabeth Abraham

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 4

IN FAVOUR: 49 (+2 movers)/ (49 on poll, 4 in favour in chat, 2 movers)

Motion is CARRIED

item: iv 14, change THEY to the the President, and in iv 18: They to treasurer

Motion to approve the atesl bylaw amendments as amended

(65 members still in attendance)

in favour: 49

Oppose: 4

Abstain: 0

carried

14. a) ATESL Name Change

Reviewed the fact that the administrative costs to make the name change are less than \$500 – including website reversioning.

Prior to the motion.

We will move the motion, we require a mover, a seconder, and then there will be discussion prior to launching a poll.

We ask that if you have issues, questions, concerns, to please type them into the chat, and we will address them one at a time.

If there are amendments to the motion, we will make them, and then ask for another mover, and seconder.

I will remind attendees again that this votes requires 75% of members in attendance to approve them in order to pass.

I now request a mover, and a seconder. IF the motion does not pass, we immediately skip 14B and move to item 15.

Discussion:

Zohra Rahim: How does the name change impact previous certifications?

Irene: It would not have an impact on your accreditation status

Comment: Unknown: TESL Canada; TESL Ontario still remain the same.

May: yes, they do and they may change in the future. There are also other organizations that have changed.

Irene: BC TEAL changed the name about 10 years ago. The Board is invested in this and we'd like to bring it to the whole membership

Carolyn Dieleman: I am concerned from 2 perspectives. Number 1. In all the years that I met with newcomers, no one asked for more EAL, they always asked for ESL. This change feels like it may be appealing to teachers who are aware of and sensitive to the number of newcomers who come with multiple languages. Have you polled newcomers as to what they are comfortable with?

Irene: We have not polled newcomers. We were concerned that most of our learners speak more than two languages and this name change would represent them better.

May: this process began last year. The name has not changed since 1979. This name is proposed to be more inclusive, many organizations have updated their name, NAIT, Norquest, the Gov of Alberta, etc. We also used EAL in ATESL's MARG project

Dora Di Lullo: I'm happy to see the change. I would have liked to have seen it done years ago, like BC TEAL

Lia Delacruz: Using EAL is an opportunity to make even learners aware of the limitation of "ESL"

Bonnie Nicholas: This is our professional association, and having a more inclusive name is important IMO.

Carolyn Dieleman: Number 2 - The other concern I have is with respect to a much smaller group, ESL Literacy learners - they have such fragile first language skills, and so this move feels a bit unaware or insensitive of their challenges.

Irene: It's an association name change; we're not forcing the change onto any other organization

Asma Afreen: I agree with Irene and appreciate the change. I was a BCTEAL member and did not notice any confusion about the terminology.

Nura Mohamed: I'm happy to see the change!

MOTION: To approve that ATESL change its name from the Association of Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language to the Association of Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language effective January 1, 2026.

MOVED: Dora DiLullo Patton

2ND: Bonnie Nicholas

65 (members in attendance)

Opposed-4

Abstentions-3

IN FAVOUR-44

CARRIED

b) Additional Bylaw Amendments

Bylaw	Current	Proposed
Title	Bylaws of the Association of Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL)	Bylaws of the Association of Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language (ATEAL)
I.	Any person interested in English as a Second Language education in Alberta may apply for membership.... The Board has the discretion to accept or reject an application for membership in the Association that fails to meet the objectives of ATESL....	Any person interested in English as an Additional Language education in Alberta may apply for membership.... The Board has the discretion to accept or reject an application for membership in the Association that fails to meet the objectives of ATEAL....

IV, 1. c)	ATESL Local Chairpersons as per ARTICLE XI	ATEAL Local Chairpersons as per ARTICLE XI
X	BRANCHES OF ATESL	BRANCHES OF ATEAL
X, 1	Provincial members within a given geographical area to be determined by the Board of Directors may apply for local association status within ATESL by making application to the Board of Directors.....	Provincial members within a given geographical area to be determined by the Board of Directors may apply for local association status within ATEAL by making application to the Board of Directors.....
X, 4	Each local association shall have a local Executive, consisting of two Chairpersons, Secretary, Treasurer and whatever other officers are decided upon by the local Association and subject to ratification by the ATESL Board.	Each local association shall have a local Executive, consisting of two Chairpersons, Secretary, Treasurer and whatever other officers are decided upon by the local Association and subject to ratification by the ATEAL Board.
X, 6	In the event that any local association fails to maintain a membership of at least eight (8) members of ATESL , that association shall be deemed to have been dissolved	In the event that any local association fails to maintain a membership of at least eight (8) members of ATEAL , that association shall be deemed to have been dissolved
XI	ATESL Bursary	ATEAL Bursary
XI, 1	The Board of Directors shall have the power to award a bursary or bursaries annually to ATESL members who are interested in pursuing further studies in ESL .	The Board of Directors shall have the power to award a bursary or bursaries annually to ATEAL members who are interested in pursuing further studies in EAL/ESL .
XI, 2	Applications must be made in writing to the Secretary of ATESL . The Board of Directors shall set a deadline for applications and a schedule for determining and announcing results.	Applications must be made in writing to the Secretary of ATEAL . The Board of Directors shall set a closing date for applications and a schedule for determining and announcing results.

XI, 3	Selection of the bursary recipient will be based on the following: a) length of ATESL membership b) involvement with ESL at the local or provincial level c) expected benefit to the ESL profession in Alberta	Selection of the bursary recipient will be based on the following: a) length of ATEAL membership b) involvement with EAL at the local or provincial level c) expected benefit to the EAL profession in Alberta
XI, 4	All members of ATESL are eligible to apply for the bursary, provided that a) they have been a member of ATESL for at least two years b) they have not received a bursary from ATESL in the past two years	All members of ATEAL are eligible to apply for the bursary, provided that a) they have been a member of ATEAL for at least two years b) they have not received a bursary from ATEAL in the past two years
XII.	ATESL Conference Managers	ATEAL Conference Managers
XII, 1	The Board will recruit and appoint Conference Managers to oversee the planning of the ATESL Conference.	The Board will recruit and appoint Conference Managers to oversee the planning of the ATEAL Conference.
Foundational Documents:		
Belief Statement	The Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL) believes that it is vital to assist learners whose first language is other than English by providing them with the necessary language training and skills to achieve their goals in an English speaking society. Furthermore, we believe that ESL practitioners act in a manner that maintains the honour and dignity of the profession.	The Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language (ATEAL) believes that it is vital to assist learners whose first language is other than English by providing them with the necessary language training and skills to achieve their goals in an English speaking society. Furthermore, we believe that EAL practitioners act in a manner that maintains the honour and dignity of the profession.
Vision	Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language will be regarded as essential and credible professionals duly respected and supported by the society at large.	Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language will be regarded as essential and credible professionals duly respected and supported by the society at large.

Mission Statement	As the professional organization Teachers of English as a Second Language in Alberta, ATESL's mission is to promote the highest standards of teaching and provision of English Language programs for learners in Alberta whose first language is other than English. Overseeing an ESL teacher accreditation process which encourages high standards of teacher preparation and performance. promoting the rights of immigrant learners and their unique identities (backgrounds, sexual orientations, genders, etc.) and by fostering understanding, acceptance, and inclusion by ESL instructors and the larger community	As the professional organization for Teachers of English as an Additional Language in Alberta, ATEAL's mission is to promote the highest standards of teaching and provision of English Language programs for learners in Alberta whose first language is other than English. Overseeing an EAL teacher accreditation process which encourages high standards of teacher preparation and performance. promoting the rights of immigrant learners and their unique identities (backgrounds, sexual orientations, genders, etc.) and by fostering understanding, acceptance, and inclusion by EAL instructors and the larger community
Target	The organization is designed to serve: · Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL) members	The organization is designed to serve: · Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language (ATEAL) members
Aim Statements	· Work with government, and community stakeholders to recognize English proficiency as an essential requirement for both basic academic achievement and meaningful social, cultural, political and economic integration of ESL learners into Canadian society. · Gain recognition of the professionalism of ESL teachers in Alberta	· Work with government, and community stakeholders to recognize English proficiency as an essential requirement for both basic academic achievement and meaningful social, cultural, political and economic integration of EAL learners into Canadian society. · Gain recognition of the professionalism of EAL teachers in Alberta

MOVED: Jani Krulc

2ND: Debbie Severinsen

65 members in attendance.

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 2

IN FAVOUR: 44
Motion is CARRIED

15. Acknowledgements of Retiring Board Members

Calgary Local Co-chair – Jeffrey Robinson
Edmonton Local Co-chair – Indira Cevallos Novillo
Advocacy Chair– Hyeyung Park
TESL Canada Representative – Mehdi Soleimani
Past President – Sofia Elgueta

16. Passing of the gavel

It is with great pleasure and honor that I pass the gavel to Johnson Kunnel. Please join me in welcoming Johnson to his new role as ATESL President

17. Adjournment: 5:44 PM

Prize giveaways: NOTE WHO WON THE PRIZES.

\$25 Gift Card for Indigo - Joyous Vamosi

- **\$25 Gift Card for Indigo - Holly Sadowsky**
 - **\$25 Gift Cards for Indigo - Mona Mazloomi**
 - **\$25 Gift Card for Indigo - Dora DiLullo-Patten**
- **\$50 Gift Card for Lush - Pamela Ndumbi**
- **\$50 Gift Soap Package from Mother Earth Essentials - Alexandra M. Benitez**
- **\$100 Gift Card for the Keg - Alana Johnson**
 - **2026 Conference Registration - Irina Krasnikova**