



ALBERTA TEACHERS
OF ENGLISH AS
AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

**Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language
Annual General Meeting
Friday, October 16, 2026
Online
4:00 – 5:30 PM**

AGENDA

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Establishment of quorum** (require 51 members – as of Oct.2.26)
- 3. Approval of 2026 AGM Agenda**
- 4. Approval of 2025 AGM minutes**
- 5. Reports of Officers**
 - President's Report
 - Treasurer's Report
- 6. Reports of Committees**
 - Calgary Local
 - Central Alberta Local
 - Edmonton Local
 - Southern Alberta Local
 - Bursary Committee
 - Advocacy Committee
 - TESL Canada
 - Alberta Routes
 - Communications Committee

MOTION: To approve the ATEAL Annual Reports as distributed at the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

- 7. Presentation of Awards**
 - Lifetime Membership - Dora DiLullo Patten
 - Carolyn Dieleman Award - Amy Abe

Motions before the membership

8. Approval of the 2025 Audited Financial Statement

9. Approval of Auditor

MOTION: Move that ATEAL contract Kennedy Chartered Professional Accountants to audit the financial statements of the Association of Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language for the year ending December 31, 2026.

10. Ratification of President Elect

Motion to ratify the 2025-2026 President-Elect, Pamela Ndumbi who was appointed by the Board after the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

11. Election of Officers for 2026-2027

Secretary

Treasurer

12. Bylaw Amendment

Bylaw	Current	Proposed Amendment
III. 8	All persons granted membership under ARTICLE I shall have voting rights.	All persons granted membership under ARTICLE I shall have voting rights at General and Special meetings. Votes must be made in person by show of hands, or by electronic polling means if the meeting is held virtually. No member may vote by proxy.

MOTION: to approve the amendment to ATEAL Bylaw III.8 as presented.

13. Fee Increase

14. Acknowledgements of Retiring Board Members

15. Passing of the gavel

16. Adjournment

Prize giveaways:

- **2027 Conference Registration**
- **\$100 Gift Card for the Keg**
- **\$50 Gift Soap Package from Mother Earth Essentials**
- **4 - \$25 Gift Cards for Indigo**

Reports of Officers:

President's Annual Report: Respectfully Submitted by Johnson Kunnel, ATEAL President

Introduction

This President's Annual Report summarizes ATEAL's activities, achievements, and priorities for 2025-2026. The year was marked by transition, renewal, and purposeful action. On January 1, 2026, the association officially became the Alberta Teachers of English as an Additional Language (ATEAL), following approval of the name change by the membership at the 2025 AGM. The new name more accurately reflects the multilingual identities of the learners and educators served by the association and affirms ATEAL's commitment to inclusive, contemporary language education across Alberta.

Throughout the year, the Board worked to turn transition into momentum by strengthening governance, expanding professional learning, increasing outreach to service provider organizations, advancing advocacy, completing a major intercultural learning resource, and preparing for long-term financial and organizational sustainability. This work took place during a difficult period for the EAL field, marked by funding pressures, program uncertainty, rapid technological change, and growing concern for newcomer inclusion. In this context, ATEAL continued to affirm its mission: promoting high standards of teaching and English-language program provision for learners in Alberta whose first language is other than English.

Professional Learning and Member Engagement

A major priority this year was the creation of accessible, relevant opportunities for members to learn and reconnect. ATEAL hosted two in-person spring symposia. The Calgary symposium, *Flourish: Wellness in EAL*, was held at SAIT on May 2 and focused on practical approaches to educator and learner well-being. This first symposium in over a decade was attended by 37 participants and included nine presentations. The Edmonton symposium, *Creating Ripples: Teaching, Learning, and Care*, was held at the University of Alberta on May 22. It welcomed 88 participants and featured 20 sessions delivered by 27 speakers. Together, these events demonstrated the continued value of local leadership, in-person professional connection, and programming responsive to the realities of the EAL field.

ATEAL also launched a year-round events calendar to make professional development across the province easier to find and plan for. Local chapters continued to organize learning

opportunities. Calgary Local, led by Holly Sadowsky and Jani Krulc with treasurer Nura Mohamed, delivered four online PD sessions, two socials, and the YYC Symposium.

Edmonton co-chairs Bahareh Karkheiran Khouzani and Zhuo Zhang coordinated four PD sessions and two socials, while Southern Alberta chairs Amanda Fontaine and Susanna Gonsalvez hosted two online sessions and a Lethbridge social. We are delighted to welcome LaRae Stephan as Chair of the Alberta Central Chapter and grateful for her diligent work to expand ATEAL's reach in central Alberta.

We would also like to thank Donna Clarke and her team at the TIES Literacy Centre of Expertise for hosting excellent online monthly professional development sessions in the Let's Talk About series. We are so thankful for their ongoing contributions to the field.

The bursary committee received 4 applications this year, and awarded a total of \$1750. Recipients were awarded funds to support: AAAL online Conference Registration and annual membership, a 2026 LESLLA in person conference attendance, a presentation at Alberta Services for Students Conference (ASSC), and attendance at the Second Language Research Forum (SLRF). There were also six \$100 first time presenter awards given to members who will be presenting for the first time at this year's conference. ATEAL is proud of our professional development support, and we encourage members to utilize this valuable member service. Congratulations to all bursary recipients.

The 2026 online conference, *What's Next? Embracing the Changes in EAL*, takes place October 16 and 17 on the vFairs platform. Its program addresses changing pedagogy, policy, technology, and professional practice. New international registration categories were introduced to broaden participation and strengthen global connections, while sponsorship outreach was sought to generate additional support for the event. The contributions of Conference Managers Jessica Cheong and Rigvi Kumar, presenters, reviewers, committees, volunteers, sponsors, the technical team, and Business Manager Irene Wood were essential to the development of this event. Zuzana Buchanan also sustained regular social media communications, updated ATEAL's branding and account information, and promoted the symposia, conference, bursaries, and Member Recognition Awards.

Resources, Inclusion, and Professional Standards

One of the year's most significant achievements was the completion and launch of *Developing Intercultural Competence through Narrative Métissage*. This train-the-trainer resource includes a facilitator guide and companion mini-documentary. Rooted in Indigenous ways of learning, it supports EAL educators in weaving diverse personal stories to foster connection, reflection, intercultural competence, and more inclusive learning environments. Information sessions and symposium workshops helped introduce the resource to members, and the positive response affirmed its relevance. The project was made possible through the contributions of the project team, workshop participants, advisors, and the Government of Alberta's Ethnocultural Grant Program.

The Board developed clearer guidance for the ethical vetting of AI-related professional development. This work supports thoughtful, transparent, and pedagogically sound use of new

tools while respecting intellectual property, equity, learner agency, and the central importance of human relationships in language education.

The Board also established a Complaints Process Subcommittee to develop a fair, confidential, and transparent process for concerns connected to member conduct. This work strengthens accountability while protecting respectful participation. In parallel, updated policies were reviewed to support more consistent onboarding and decision-making across the Board.

Advocacy and Sector Relationships

ATEAL's Advocacy Committee continued to represent members and learners on issues affecting the profession. We acknowledge the timely and ongoing support from the committee chair Herly Cervera and committee members Yuji Abe, Elizabeth Abraham, Johnson Kunnel, Daniel Ling, Maria MacMinn Varvos, Pamela Ndumbi, and Bukola Oluyinka-Ojo.

Funding reductions, including cuts affecting LINC programming, have contributed to program closures, job insecurity, and reduced access for learners. ATEAL raised these concerns with decision makers and continued to encourage coordinated advocacy across provincial associations. Dialogue was also maintained through the Calgary Language Assessment and Referral Centre Advisory Committee (CLARC), Language Assessment, Referral, and Counselling Centre (LARCC) in Edmonton, and interprovincial meetings, where associations shared concerns about funding, organizational sustainability, and the changing national landscape.

During a period of increasingly negative public discourse about newcomers, the Board with input from the Advocacy Committee issued a statement of solidarity grounded in ATEAL's Ethical Guidelines, EDI Safer Space Policy, mission, and Best Practices. ATEAL also joined the Canadian Council for Refugees' *We're Better Together* campaign as a partner organization. These actions reaffirmed that support for newcomers, equity, diversity, and justice is central to ATEAL's professional responsibility.

Relationship-building remained equally important. ATEAL connected with service provider organizations to better understand their priorities and conducted outreach visits to programs in Edmonton and Calgary. Links with Alberta Routes, SAHLA, AAISA, post-secondary institutions, and other community partners were strengthened. Rosalia Dela Cruz kept the Board connected to Alberta Routes, whose free support includes monthly webinars, customized workshops, study groups, mentorship, classroom visits, and online resources. Alberta Routes launched the EAL Community Educator Micro-credentials in April and planned two additional micro credentials for October, along with new workshops on storytelling and digital skills.

Sofia Elgueta Duplancic represented ATEAL with TESL Canada. ATEAL membership continues to include TESL Canada membership benefits, and 31 ATEAL members applied for TESL Canada professional certification in 2025, with another 20 applying in 2026. TESL Canada delivered three professional development sessions in 2026 and arranged conference representation to answer member questions. The Board is reviewing ATEAL's relationship with TESL Canada. Given the financial significance of the current arrangement and evolving national structures, this conversation should continue carefully, transparently, and with meaningful consultation before any future decision is made.

Governance, Operations, and Sustainability

The name change required extensive operational follow-through, including consultation with Alberta Registries, updated email addresses, web materials, and public communications. Kalob Taulien was welcomed as Website Administrator, and Nigel Fletton of Blue Hut, was recognized for his many years of service upon retirement at the end of 2025.

After the 2025 Annual General Meeting, MNP, the accounting firm approved to complete ATEAL's 2025 audited financial statement, notified the Board that it was no longer issuing audited financial statements. The Board investigated other options and, in January, approved Kennedy CPA as auditor. Kennedy CPA completed the 2025 audit process and prepared the audited financial statements for submission to members at this AGM.

Financial sustainability remains a serious priority. The 2026 budget projected a shortfall of approximately \$20,000, reflecting cost pressures and the limits of current revenue streams. The Board explored sponsorship, international conference registration, membership growth, and more efficient operations. Treasurer Doug Vantour is completing two years of service, during which his careful financial oversight has supported the Board's budgeting, audit, and sustainability work. A 2% membership fee increase, effective January 1, 2027, is being presented for consideration at this AGM, consistent with the annual review approach approved in 2024. Although modest, the proposed increase forms part of a broader effort to protect essential member services and ATEAL's long-term viability.

Plans were advanced for a transition to fully electronic records, supported by secure cloud storage and redundant backups. This shift is intended to reduce physical storage costs, improve continuity, and make organizational records easier to manage.

Secretary, Desiree Pomerleau supported the Board's governance work through accurate records, meeting documentation, and organizational continuity.

Per the request of Alberta Registries, a bylaw amendment is being submitted for consideration at the AGM. The amendment clarifies member voting rights, by including show of hand or electronic polling, and confirms that proxy voting is not permitted.

Strategic Direction

In concert with the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan, the Board launched a comprehensive strategic direction project to realign our organization's focus with the evolving needs of our membership. This initiative was designed to ensure that ATEAL remains both resilient and responsive by grounding our future growth in clear, actionable priorities. The following summary outlines the key pillars of this work.

Broadening Professional Development. ATEAL will expand professional learning by offering flexible, inclusive, and relevant opportunities for EAL educators across Alberta. In-person, online, hybrid, and recorded sessions will improve access for members in urban, rural, and remote communities. Programming will reflect current needs, including artificial intelligence, task-based learning, CLB-informed practice, intercultural competence, inclusion, and educator

well-being. Member-led workshops, regional events, and support for new presenters will encourage practical knowledge sharing.

Strengthening the Value of Membership. Membership will be strengthened through clear, relevant benefits that support members throughout their careers. Year-round professional development, networking, mentorship, practical resources, discounts, recognition, and advocacy will demonstrate tangible value. Better onboarding and regular communication will help members understand and use available benefits, while participation in committees, special interest groups, and projects will build engagement, leadership, and belonging.

Increasing ATEAL's Visibility. ATEAL will raise its profile through consistent, accessible communication across its website, newsletters, social media, conferences, campuses, and community events. Member stories, chapter achievements, classroom innovations, and advocacy updates will demonstrate the association's impact. A stronger public presence will help ATEAL reach educators, students, institutions, funders, and partners while reinforcing its role as a trusted voice in EAL education.

Building Relationships. Strong relationships will connect ATEAL with local chapters, service provider organizations, post-secondary institutions, community agencies, governments, and professional associations. Shared projects in professional development, research, advocacy, mentorship, and outreach will turn partnerships into meaningful action. Regular dialogue and clearly defined goals will support trust, mutual benefit, and sustained collaboration across the EAL sector.

Improving Sustainability. Long-term sustainability will require stable governance, responsible financial planning, diversified revenue, and leadership continuity. Membership retention, conferences, professional learning, grants, sponsorships, partnerships, publications, and donations can provide a balanced financial foundation. Clear priorities, measurable goals, transparent reporting, succession planning, volunteer support, and efficient technology will help ATEAL remain resilient, responsive, and capable of advancing its mission.

A member survey received nearly 200 responses and provided useful information for future chapter development and outreach. A Membership Expansion Subcommittee explored student and volunteer recruitment, mentorship, institutional connections, member recognition, site visits, and clearer communication of ATEAL's value. Although not every idea can be implemented immediately, this work established a practical agenda for the next Board.

Pamela Ndumbi put her name forward as president-elect, and her name will be presented to the membership for ratification at this AGM. Her commitment to ATEAL, combined with the experience of the presidential chain and the Board, will support a thoughtful transition.

Member Awards

ATEAL will present two Member Recognition Awards. Dora DiLullo Patten will receive the 2026 ATEAL Lifetime Membership Award, which recognizes EAL professionals who have made exemplary contributions to the field in Alberta. Her distinguished career, extensive contributions, and positive impact on colleagues, learners, ATEAL, and the wider community

continue to inspire the profession. Amy Abe will receive the 2026 Carolyn Dieleman Award, which celebrates individuals and programs that advance innovative, high-quality language and EAL literacy programming in Alberta. Amy is recognized for her innovative work in Narrative Métissage and her invaluable contributions to *Developing Intercultural Competence through Narrative Métissage*. These awards underscore the importance of peer recognition and make visible the dedication and influence of EAL professionals whose vital work in society too often goes unseen.

Acknowledgements

ATEAL's accomplishments reflect a collective effort by Board members, committee and local chairs, project contributors, conference and symposium organizers, presenters, reviewers, volunteers, and members who contributed their time and expertise. We would also like to acknowledge the conference sponsors – CCIS, for their platinum sponsorship, The University of Alberta English Language School for their silver sponsorship, TIES for their bronze sponsorship, and AWES for their student ticket sponsorship.

Special recognition is due to Business Manager Irene Wood, whose organizational knowledge, consistency, and care sustain much of the association's daily work. I also gratefully recognize Board and leadership colleagues for their sustained work across conferences, partnerships, communications, chapters, and governance. Outgoing Past President May Yeung continued to provide valued support through the presidential chain, particularly through her work with Pam on the quarterly newsletters this past year. I extend my sincere thanks to May for her excellent leadership throughout her tenure in the presidential chain. The service of outgoing and ongoing Board members as well as the commitment of those stepping forward to lead are also gratefully acknowledged.

The 2025-2026 year demonstrated ATEAL's continued focus on professional excellence, inclusion, advocacy, connection, and responsible stewardship amid uncertainty. Progress achieved through the name change, the Narrative Métissage resource, the symposia, the annual conference, outreach, governance initiatives, and public advocacy illustrate what can be accomplished through shared purpose and sustained member engagement.

As ATEAL moves forward, the challenges facing EAL educators and learners will continue to require courage, collaboration, and adaptability. The association is well positioned to respond - not only by embracing change, but also by helping to shape a more equitable and hopeful future for English-language education in Alberta.

Submitted with appreciation, on behalf of the ATEAL Board of Directors.

President, ATEAL
Johnson Kunnel

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Treasurer's Report:

2026 Treasurer Annual Report - Respectfully submitted by Doug Vantour, ATEAL Treasurer

Our Financial Position

ATEAL's financial year (2025/2026) was similar to years past. Starting in 2020, ATEAL began to hold its first of what is now 6 virtual conferences, with an in-person conference in 2023 thrown in. The unfortunate reality of an in-person conference continues to be that the inflationary pricing of venues, catering, and accommodation expenses has increased dramatically.

While ATEAL has remained committed to the needs and desires of the ATEAL members, it also has recognized that being fiscally responsible, especially in this given time, must take a higher priority.

Cuts to Programming

The reduction in funding from IRCC to the LINC programs across the country continues to have a tremendous impact. We have seen a reduction in staffing, reduction in student retention, and even total closures of programs as a result. The closure of International Language Academy of Canada (ILAC) is a perfect example of the effects the cuts to international student funding and access to classes has had on the industry. These closures saw an impact to more than 2,000 students

ATEAL has taken a number of initiatives to combat the financial burdens placed on the membership. ATEAL is committed to fiscal responsibility which is detailed in the **2026 -2028: Envisioning the Future** strategic plan.

Membership Fees

Table 1: Rate Increase by Year

Year	Fee Increase Rate	Membership Fee - 1 Year Regular Membership Rate
2025	2%	\$60.64
2026	No Increase	\$60.64
2027	2% (proposed)	\$61.85

During last years' conference ATEAL paused the annual 2% rate increase for the 2026 year and the membership rate remained unchanged from the 2025 rate. For 2027, motion will be held for a 2% fee increase to take effect on January 1, 2027. This is based on a 2024 motion the board carried that an annual 2% membership fee increase be reviewed annually by the board and presented at the AGM. .

Table 2: Rate Increase by Membership Level

Membership Level	2026 Rate	Membership Fee - 1 Year Regular Membership Rate
Student, Volunteer, and Retired	\$39.73	\$40.52 (+ \$0.79)
Regular - One Year	\$60.64	\$61.85 (+ \$1.21)
Regular - Two Year	\$104.55	\$106.64 (+ \$2.09)

Auditors Report

MNP notified us in early November after the 2025 AGM that they were no longer providing Audited Financial Statements, and so ATEAL, led by Irene Wood and to a lesser extent myself, undertook finding a new accountant & auditor. We investigated several local firms and found one that provided equitable costs and services. All other accounting firms charged significantly more. In January, the Board approved using Kennedy CPA to do our books. We were very happy with their services and will be moving later in the meeting to contract them for the 2026 financials.

Kennedy CPA conducted a review of the ATEAL financial records and statements. The audit findings letter was provided on April 23, 2026. Kennedy CPA has not indicated any recommendations or changes to the financial policies that should be conducted and has found that there are no significant risks or disclosures.

Finally, it has been an honour to serve as Treasurer of ATEAL for the past two years and I look forward to passing this role on to the next person up 2027. We are in excellent hands with Irene as our Business Manager who continues to shine as captain of the ship!

Submitted by Doug Vantour – ATEAL Treasurer

Reports of Committees:

2026 Calgary Local Annual Report

Respectfully submitted by Holly Sadowsky and Jani Krulc, Calgary Local Co-chairs

The Calgary Local has had a successful season, hosting four online professional development (PD) sessions, two in-person socials, and a Symposium. The PD sessions, held on Zoom, touched on currently relevant topics like mental health awareness and the importance of inclusivity in the classroom. We extend our sincere thanks to all the presenters for sharing their time and expertise with us.

The Calgary Local Co-Chairs also chaired the inaugural YYC Symposium; the theme was Flourish: Wellness in EAL. Forty members attended this one-day event.

The Winter Social at the Kensington Pub saw twelve members in attendance, while the Fall Social at Milestones had a turnout of six. Both events successfully brought together the local membership in forging new connections.

January	<i>Designing Inclusive Digital Content for Low Level ESL Learners</i> – Doug Vantour and Nura Mohamed, 17 attendees
February	<i>Literature Circles: From Reading to Conversation (Practical Strategies for CLB 4+)</i> – Paola Leparoni, 13 attendees Winter Social at The Kensington Pub
March	<i>Microaggressions (From Anti-Racist Lens)</i> – Jyoti Grewal, 14 attendees
May	<i>Symposium – Flourish: Wellness in EAL</i>
June	<i>Supporting Learners with Mental Health Challenges</i> – Rosalia Dela Cruz, 11 attendees
October	Fall Social at Milestones

Jani Krulc stepped into the role of co-chair in October 2024, with Nura Mohamed acting as treasurer. Holly Sadowsky began her one-year tenure as co-chair in October 2025.

2026 Central Alberta Local Report

The Central Alberta Chapter was appointed a new Chair in early 2026. We welcome LaRae Stephan, and look forward to PD sessions in the local soon.

2026 Edmonton Local Report

Respectfully submitted by Bahareh Karkheiran Khouzani & Zhuo Zhang , Edmonton Local Co-chairs

The ATEAL Edmonton Chapter continued to support English language educators through professional development opportunities and community-building events throughout the year. The chapter organized a range of online professional development sessions addressing practical, innovative, and timely topics in English language teaching, along with social events that provided members with opportunities to connect, build relationships, and strengthen the local professional community.

The year's programming included two social events and five professional development sessions, covering topics such as vocabulary development, assessment preparation, visual and multilingual storytelling, artificial intelligence in education, and navigating sensitive topics in the English language classroom.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

Professional Development Activities

December 2025	ATEAL Winter Social In-person – Earls Kitchen + Bar Social Event
January 2026	Olena Gyrych Creating Lexical Notebooks with a Psycholinguistic Approach Online – Tutela PD Session
February	Jessica Cheong & Rigvi Kumar Making Speaking II (S II) Tasks Achievable: Scaffolding Strategies for Online CLB 4 Teachers Online – Tutela PD Session
March	Pamela Ndumbi Draw-and-Speak: Using Visual and Multilingual Storytelling in the Classroom Online - Tutela: PD Session
April	Spring Social In-person – Cactus Club Cafe Social Event

June	Sofia Elgueta Duplancic Building Better AI Tools for Learning: Lessons Learned Building an AI Writing Coach Online – Tutela: PD Session
September	Ruba Kallab Teaching the Untouchables: PARSNIP Online - Tutela: PD Session

SOCIAL EVENTS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

In addition to professional development, the Edmonton Chapter organized two social events to provide members with opportunities to connect informally and strengthen relationships within the local professional community.

HIGHLIGHTS AND NEW INITIATIVES

Diverse Professional Topics: A key strength of the Edmonton Chapter's programming this year was the variety of professional development topics offered to educators. The sessions addressed both practical classroom needs and emerging issues in the field, ranging from CLB assessment and vocabulary instruction to multilingual pedagogy, artificial intelligence, and sensitive classroom topics.

Accessible Online PD Delivery: The chapter continued to provide accessible online professional development through Tutela, allowing educators to participate remotely. This format supported flexibility and made it possible for educators from different teaching contexts to participate.

Classroom-Oriented Focus: Another notable feature of this year's programming was the emphasis on practical and classroom-oriented strategies. Sessions provided educators with approaches that could be adapted directly to their teaching contexts while also encouraging reflection on broader pedagogical questions.

Emerging Trends & Innovation: The inclusion of sessions on AI-powered learning tools and multilingual storytelling reflects the chapter's interest in emerging approaches and evolving needs within the English language teaching community.

Community Connection: The two social events contributed significantly to the chapter's community-building efforts by creating spaces for educators to connect informally, share experiences, and strengthen professional relationships.

LOOKING AHEAD

Moving forward, the Edmonton Chapter will continue to provide professional learning

opportunities that respond to the evolving needs of English language educators. Future programming can build on this year's diverse range of topics by continuing to offer practical, innovative, and inclusive sessions that connect research, technology, and classroom practice.

The chapter also hopes to continue creating opportunities for educators to learn from one another, exchange practical teaching strategies, and strengthen connections within the Edmonton professional community through both professional development and social events.

2026 ATEAL Southern Alberta Local Annual Report

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Fontaine and Susanna Gonsalvez, Southern Alberta Local Co-chairs

May 28, 2026: Presenter: Alana Johnson

Presentation Title: Alberta Routes EAL Community Educator Microcredential

Alana Johnson gave a presentation on microcredentials that had a focus on building practical, job-ready skills and were recognized through digital badges that showcased instructors' learning. They are offered free through NorQuest College's Alberta Routes Initiative. All attendees received a PD certificate.

June 10, 2026: Presenter: Andrew Kereliuk

Presentation Title: Creating Safe Spaces with AI Music in English Classrooms

Andrew Kereliuk led a 50-minute interactive Zoom session exploring how AI music tools, rhythm, and creative writing can build safe, supportive English classrooms where learners feel confident expressing themselves and sharing their cultures. All attendees received a PD certificate.

June 19, 2026: Lethbridge ESL Community Social

Venue: Blanca Cantina

Instructors attended: 11

We had a wonderful social at Blanca Cantina in Lethbridge, with many ESL instructors participating. We connected with all and discussed future ESL PD courses and social events in the upcoming months.

2026 Bursary Committee Annual Report

Respectfully submitted by the Bursary Committee

The ATEAL bursary for professional development is one of the many advantages of membership. The Bursary Committee consists of three ATEAL board members: Past President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

This year, four applications, all meeting the criteria, were received for the March and September submission dates. The Bursary Committee is pleased to have supported four

members for their endeavours in professional development for a total of \$1750. Recipients were awarded funds to support: AAAL online Conference Registration and annual membership, a 2026 LESLLA in person conference attendance, a presentation at Alberta Services for Students Conference (ASSC), and attendance at the Second Language Research Forum (SLRF).

We are pleased to support ATEAL members for their ongoing professional development. For bursary consideration, kindly refer to the eligibility criteria, note the bi-annual application dates, and complete the fillable application form on the website.

2026 Advocacy Committee Annual Report

Respectfully submitted by Yuji Abe and Johnson Kunnel

The Advocacy Committee members:

Yuji Abe, Elizabeth Abraham, Johnson Kunnel, Daniel Ling, Maria MacMinn Varvos, Pamela Ndumbi, Bukola Oluyinka-Ojo, and Chair Herly Cervera

During the 2025–2026 year, the Advocacy Committee met four times, in February, March, April and October. In February, the committee began recruiting new members. In March, we officially welcomed four new Advocacy Committee members—Elizabeth Abraham, Daniel Ling, Maria MacMinn Varvos, and Bukola Oluyinka-Ojo—as well as two new Board members, Johnson Kunnel and Pamela Ndumbi.

ATEAL’s Advocacy Committee continued to represent members and learners on issues affecting the profession. Funding reductions, including cuts affecting LINC programming, have contributed to program closures, job insecurity, and reduced access for learners. In summer 2025, ATEAL submitted a letter containing testimonials to Lena Diab, the federal Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship (IRCC). ATEAL has not yet received a response from IRCC and continues to follow up.

ATEAL raised these concerns with decision-makers and continued to encourage coordinated advocacy across provincial associations. Dialogue was also maintained through the Calgary Language Assessment and Referral Centre Advisory Committee and interprovincial meetings, where associations shared concerns about membership, funding, organizational sustainability, and the changing national landscape.

During a period of increasingly negative public discourse about newcomers, the Board issued a statement of solidarity grounded in ATEAL’s Ethical Guidelines, EDI Safer Space Policy, mission, and Best Practices. ATEAL also joined the Canadian Council for Refugees’ *We’re Better Together* campaign as a partner organization. These actions reaffirmed that support for newcomers, equity, diversity, and justice is central to ATEAL’s professional responsibility.

Relationship-building remained equally important. ATEAL connected with service provider organizations to better understand their priorities and conducted outreach visits to programs in Edmonton and Calgary. Links with Alberta Routes, SAHLA, AAISA, post-secondary institutions, and other community partners were strengthened.

The Board also reviewed ATEAL's relationship with TESL Canada. Given the financial significance of the current arrangement and evolving national structures, this conversation should continue carefully, transparently, and with meaningful consultation before any future decision is made.

2026 TESL Canada Annual Report

Respectfully submitted by Sofia Elgueta Duplancic – ATEAL Representative to TESL Canada

TESL Canada Membership Benefits

ATEAL membership automatically includes membership with TESL Canada, giving members access to [TESL Canada's bursaries](#), [group benefit plans](#), professional development opportunities, and scholarships. More details on membership benefits are available at [Membership Benefits Website](#).

TESL Canada also provides regular updates through its national newsletter, [TESL Canada Connects](#), and publishes the [TESL Canada Journal](#), a peer-reviewed academic resource on language teaching, learning, and assessment.

Professional Development and Certification

In 2025, 31 ATEAL members applied for TESL Canada professional certification. So far in 2026, 20 members have applied for certification. TESL Canada has delivered 3 professional development sessions in 2026. In addition, TESL Canada representatives will be present at ATEAL's 2026 Conference to respond to member questions about TESL Canada services.

Governance and Advocacy

TESL Canada held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 29, 2026. Some concerns were raised about confusing language in the bylaws and the financial statements not being audited. The financial documents shared with the membership were a compilation and, although completed by an accountant, a compilation does not require review or verification of the financial information. To address these concerns, an extraordinary general meeting has been scheduled for October 8, 2026.

TESL Canada's President has scheduled a meeting with MP Corey Hogan to discuss how funding cuts have had an impact in our field (for example, we have lost 9 Teacher Training Programs who were registered with TESL Canada Federation, losses in LINC 5 and up, international student restrictions, and cuts to EAP programs). She will request an introduction to IRCC Minister Lena Metlege Diab to present our case and further our advocacy.

2026 Alberta Routes Annual Report

Respectfully Submitted by Rosalia Dela Cruz, Alberta Routes Representative

With funding from the Ministry of Advanced Education, the Alberta Routes program initiative of NorQuest College continues to provide free professional development opportunities to EAL practitioners in community-based adult learning programs as well as to LINC and EAL providers in larger urban areas across the province.

In addition to a roster of webinars each month and customized in-person workshops, other services offered include online study groups, mentorship support, classroom visits, and online resources, including handbooks and tip-sheets.

A calendar of upcoming webinars and a map of the regions supported by each Advisor are available on the website albertaroutes.norquest.ca.

New Offering

In April 2026, Alberta Routes launched an **EAL Community Educator Microcredential**, a learning opportunity designed to build the confidence of educators supporting adult EAL learners in community adult learning programs by equipping them with practical tools and strategies. The microcredential is earned after participants complete a series of Alberta Routes workshops, either online or in-person, followed by a required knowledge check. Completion is recognized through digital badges.

In October 2026, two new microcredentials are set to be launched:

- **Educator's Toolkit Microcredential**
- **An Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Approach to Teaching Microcredential.**

New Resources

The Alberta Routes team of advisors is preparing to pilot two new workshops by the end of 2026:

- ***Storytelling in English Language Teaching***
- ***Teaching Digital Skills to English Language Learners.***

Provincial and Regional Involvement

In addition to two presentations given during the October 2025 online conference (*The Elders Speak: Promoting Indigenous Awareness in English Language Learners and Gender-Inclusive Learning Environments*), this year, Alberta Routes advisors presented in the following events:

- **ATEAL Edmonton chapter | November 20, 2025** (*Building Critical Thinking in English Language Learners*)
- **Community Learning Network Annual Literacy and Learning Symposium | April 29-30, 2026** (*Teaching Senior English Language Learners*)

- **ATEAL Edmonton Symposium | May 22, 2026** (*Teaching Senior English Language Learners*)
- **ATEAL South chapter | May 28, 2026** (Info session: *Alberta Routes Microcredential*)
- **ATEAL Online Conference | October 17-18, 2026** (*Setting and Maintaining Professional Boundaries in EAL and Alberta Routes Microcredentials: Expanding Pathways for EAL Educators*)

The Alberta Routes Team:

Alana Johnson, Manager

Rosalia Dela Cruz, Advisor

Selestia Herrera-Ganton, Advisor

Connie Sim-Siew Yung, Advisor

2026 Communications Committee Annual Report

Respectfully submitted by Zuzana Buchanan, ATEAL Communications Chair

Over the past year, I continued to support ATEAL's social media presence and communications. My work included:

- **Regular posts:** Shared event promotions, professional development opportunities, holiday acknowledgments, bursary reminders, and Member Recognition Award nominations.
- **ATEAL name change:** Posted New Year messaging about the transition from ATESL to ATEAL and updated account names, bios, branding, and contact information. Instagram is now **@ateal.news**, and Meta approved the Facebook name change. A LinkedIn link and access issue was also identified.
- **Symposium campaigns:** Prepared promotional content for Edmonton's *Creating Ripples* and Calgary's *Flourish: Wellness in EAL* symposiums, including calls for proposals, registration reminders, and volunteer opportunities.
- **Conference support:** Helped provide insights for the social media team. The ATEAL conference campaign was led by the conference social media group.
- **Board participation:** Attended board meetings to report, vote and stay informed about association activities and communications priorities.

My focus has been on keeping information clear, timely, and relevant to members. Suggestions for future posts and ways to increase engagement are welcome.

Thank you to fellow board members and volunteers for their collaboration throughout the years.