

June 2022 | Issue 3

TEAL NL NEWSLETTER

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TEAL NL BOARD

PRESIDENT: DR. XUEMEI LI

VICE PRESIDENT: DR. MARTHA TRAHEY

WEBMASTER: KHALID AL HARIRI

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



DR. XUEMEI LI

Dear members,

Spring has brought us renewed energy and a lot of hope for much better things to come after another dreary year of the COVID. TEAL NL, formerly TESL NL as you knew of it, is getting back to normal. Our executive team members have been meeting for seven weeks consecutively, working on our next meeting and newsletter, a possible grant from MUN, our fall conference, change of the association's name, and upgrading our website. These are the items I can list, but certainly our discussions and plans are not limited to these.

First order of business. Please come to our next TEAL NL meeting on July 4th, Monday to reconnect with our members, hear our plans for the next year, and celebrate the end of the semester for K-12 teachers.

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Our fall 2022 conference, which was postponed from last year, is a go. Like last time, we will need members' engagement in forms of presenting your teaching practices and insights, spreading the words, volunteering in the review of proposals, and chairing sessions. Please tell your students now that there will be a newcomer video contest in the fall. Awards will be granted to winners at the TEAL NL AGM during the conference, dates to be announced soon. Our keynote speakers will be no less glamorous than last time.

After a long pause, some of you may have wondered what our association is going to do and where we are heading. I can affirm to you that we will continue to grow, stronger and more vibrant each year. While we are welcoming increasing numbers of newcomers to our province, we need to work together so we can support our students and ourselves better.

Enjoy our beautiful spring and summer,
Xuemei

MEMORIAL'S ESL PROGRAM AT GRENFELL CAMPUS

AN INTERVIEW WITH PROGRAM COORDINATOR,
MELISSA HALFORD



In September 2021, Memorial University consolidated its ESL services at the Grenfell Campus in Corner Brook. Program Coordinator, Melissa Halford agreed to share with us some insights into the move and its effects on ESL services at Grenfell.

1. Can you give us a brief history of ESL services at Grenfell Campus?

The first group of ESL students came to Grenfell Campus in Fall Semester of 2015 and Intensive English Programs have been offered at Grenfell Campus ever since. The majority of students in our Intensive English Program and Intensive English Bridge Program at Grenfell prior to September 2021 were from Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea, who joined us through short-term study abroad partnerships with their home institutions. Our Intensive English Program is best for students who are interested in focusing on language study rather than earning credit, while Our Intensive English Bridge Program offers students an opportunity to take one or two undergraduate credits alongside their English language instruction time. We typically have two full-time instructors hired as well as, occasionally, part-time instructional assistants, and several student staff to lead discussion groups and tutorials.

2. What precipitated the move to consolidate ESL services at Grenfell?

It's important to point out that the ESL programs at the Grenfell and St. John's Campuses were completely separate from one another. When I was approached about the possibility of having Grenfell ESL as the sole provider of English language pathway programming for Memorial University, we were already set up to deliver programming both online and in-person for Fall 2022 semester, so the timing worked out and the transition was fairly seamless.

3. How has programming changed as a result?

Grenfell ESL was already keen to explore opportunities for online, remote and hybrid environments for teaching, so our programming has changed primarily in relation to delivery modes. We have offered classes remotely and in-person and are beginning exploration in truly hybrid options. It's worth noting too that our programming has changed because there is much more diversity amongst our student population.

4. What were the biggest challenges relating to the move?

The biggest challenge has been making sure that all students have felt supported throughout the transition. Many students had visualized their language pathway program involving in-person instruction at the St. John's Campus and that hasn't been their reality.

It's been very important to us that our students are offered high-quality experiences with individualized support, even as they navigate a study plan that wasn't what they initially expected. I can say with confidence that we were able to strike a balance and, in my opinion, offer all students what they needed – even if it was different from what they expected.

5. What were the biggest benefits or successes?

The ease of the transition to one pan-university program has been a marker of our success. The feedback we have received from students has been really positive and we've also taken that as an indicator of our success. Our Winter semester just concluded so I have recently had the pleasure of reviewing our students' writing portfolios. The progress visible in those portfolios was evident and their success is our success! I think that our increased enrolment through this consolidation is going to provide us with opportunities to refine our programs and grow our offerings to be even better and more effective for a diverse and changing group of students.

6. What are the future plans for ESL at Grenfell Campus, and/or in Memorial as a whole?

We are eager to increase our short-term programming options, particularly with a focus on winter activities that we could share with international visitors. We are working on ways to improve our support services for in-degree students, such as the establishment of writing circles and more tutorial offerings. We are keen to build on our successes with online instruction and get our classes outfitted for effective teaching in a more truly hybrid environment. Mainly, we're excited to welcome people to our campus – either virtually or in-person – and continue being a part of people's journeys.



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MEMBER PROFILE:

KHALID AL HARIRI



In every issue we profile one member from TEAL NL's vibrant community. This time, meet Khalid, TEAL NL's webmaster extraordinaire!

- **About me:**

Manager of Language Services at the Association for New Canadians Adult Training Center in St. John's, NL, assessment specialist in a number of examination boards, and PhD candidate in the Faculty of Education at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador.

- **My favourite thing about working in EAL:**

I like the diversity in English language classrooms. I appreciate the shades of interpreting life that each language learner brings and how our newcomer client community develops an awareness of different cultures and learn from each other. The interactions I see among our clients are eye-opening to how much humans share and can share.



- **My recommended resource:**

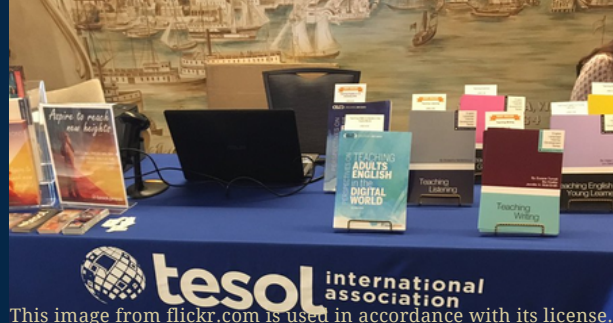
[Playphrase.me](https://playphrase.me) is one of my favourite resources. It is a kind of search engine for words, phrases, and sentences in movies and TV shows. The website allows you to download up to 5 clips for free and you can use them in your classroom or upload them to your Learning Management System (LMS). An alternative to this website that I came across just recently is [Yarn.co](https://yarn.co) which has more features and advanced search tools. At Yarn.co, you can select the movie or show title, date of release, etc. and you get more clips to download.

- **Final note:**

Volunteering with TEAL NL (formerly TESL NL) has been such a rewarding experience for me. When I first moved to Newfoundland and Labrador, TEAL NL gave me the opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals and exchange experiences with them. I also worked closely with other TEAL NL members on projects to raise awareness on issues of concern for our community.

TESOL 2022: A RECAP

VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AT A HYBRID CONFERENCE: TESOL 2022 AND THE ONLINE EXPERIENCE



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DR. MARTHA TRAEHY

For TESL professionals, large, international conferences, like TESOL, offer a unique opportunity for learning and connection. The switch to virtual during the pandemic has brought about a reimagining of all our interactions, conferences included. TESOL 2021 was held entirely virtually, and for the first time in March 2022, TESOL hosted a hybrid conference, with the in-person portion held in Pittsburgh, PA. As we've all learned, despite the many disadvantages of virtual engagement, one major advantage is reach: 2000 registrants attended the in-person portion, while over 6000 attended virtually. With the support of my employer, I counted among those 6000+ virtual attendees.

How did virtual access compare?

In-person attendees at TESOL 2022 had access to over 600 sessions on site. Virtual attendees had access to approximately half that amount, a proportion which was reflected in the registration fees, as virtual access cost approximately half of the onsite registration. Of the virtual sessions, a portion, including the four keynotes, were live streams of in-person presentations, which afforded the most realistic conference experience to virtual participants. Some sessions were pre-recorded with live Q&A, in which the authors were present online at the end.

The final category included pre-recorded on-demand presentations, which became available at the times scheduled on the conference program. Once posted, all virtual sessions were available for the duration of the conference and one month afterwards – a feature capitalizing on another major virtual advantage: accessibility.

How did the content compare?

In most ways, attending the presentations virtually provided a perfectly acceptable experience – the talks were easy to hear and follow (no partially obstructed view from the back of the room), the slide shows were easy to see (right there on your very own screen!), and there was ample time to move from one presentation to the next (no rushing down indistinguishable hallways looking for Salon B). But therein lay the failing. Again, as we've all sadly learned, virtual engagement is no match for the energy and opportunity in a space shared with thousands of like-minded colleagues. Nevertheless, TESOL is what it is – the largest international TESL professional conference in the world – and there is always a lot to learn. Some of my takeaways are listed below, and if you'd like the perspective of an in-person attendee, you can find it here: <https://ellii.com/blog/takeaways-from-tesol-2022-7-points-to-unpack>

SOME K12 THEMES FROM TESOL 2022

Translanguaging	<i>Translanguaging – defined as using bilingualism as a resource – has taken a, if not the, central place in approaches to teaching ELLs, with an abundance of classroom examples provided in multiple sessions. A definition, discussion and extensive classroom examples of translanguaging can be found at https://www.cde.state.co.us/cde_english/translangpacket</i>
Gaps in achievement	<i>Data continue to consistently show gaps in achievement for ELLs compared to their age- and grade-level peers across a range of subject areas, with gaps increasing as age and grade-level increase.</i>
Supporting ELLs in mainstream	<i>Strategies to support ELLs in mainstream classes are receiving greater attention, with the interesting documentation of the most successful and common strategies across subject areas. For examples of strategies for STEM see https://www.brainbasedscience.com/ and its partner site https://www.neighborhood-science.com/</i>
Supporting ELLs with learning differences	<i>The issue of identifying learning differences with ELLs and designing effective interventions remains a focus. For an overview of distinguishing between L2 learning and an LD, see https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/english-learner-toolkit/chap6.pdf</i>

TEAL Newfoundland and Labrador

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Dr. Martha Trahey, Vice President

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TEAL NL is a provincial affiliate of TESL Canada



Call for Proposals

UPDATED: NEW CONFERENCE DATES

November 4-5, 2022

TEAL Newfoundland and Labrador is calling for proposals for our 2022 conference to be held at 10:00am-4:00pm on **November 4-5** (Newfoundland Time). The conference is **free** to all thanks to funding support from Memorial University.

Participation will be hybrid, with onsite sessions and virtual sessions. Mainstream teachers and international participants are all welcome. Local TESL NL members will meet for the AGM on site.

The conference theme is **Teaching ESL through the Pandemic: Reflections and New Realities**.

Any topics related to our theme are welcome. Topics on anti-racism, blended learning, educator efficacy and burnout are of particular interest. Presentations may be in person, via livestream, or pre-recorded, in the format of

- Single paper presentations
- Panel presentations (3-5 presenters on a self-coordinated topic)
- Workshops (hands-on activities)
- Webinars (demo of instructional approaches)

Presenters will be able to use audience engagement features such as polling, hands-up, Q & A, and screen sharing in virtual sessions. Content of presentations may be research based, practical experience sharing, or policy analysis.

Please submit proposals to teslnl@hotmail.com by **September 5** indicating your preferred type of presentation. Proposals for single paper presentations should be no more than 200 words. Panel presentations should include a brief summary of all presentations and titles (300 words maximum). Please include your name, affiliation and contact information.