



Teaching English as an Additional Language to Adults in Manitoba



In this issue:

*Fall Conference
Announcement*

*TEAM Awards
and Bursaries*

CCLB Report

*Learning English
with CBC Manitoba*

CELBAN News

Issues...with Michael

From a students pen...



Don't forget to set your
clocks back to standard
time on
November 4th, 2007

*Thanks to the following
members for their contri-
bution to the newsletter;*

*Michael Rochon,
Lauren Phillips,
Audrey Bonham,
June Shymko,
Marcia Maia,
Joanne Pettis, and
Nanu Verma.*

Fall 2007



President's Message

Welcome to another year of TEAM. The executive is looking forward to the 2007-2008 season with several projects on the go.

First, our Communications chair, Tamara Stoesz is undertaking the task of changing the TEAM website to a new server. We hope the new server will allow us greater freedom and ability to develop the website as needed. We will be changing TEAM's website address to facilitate this so stay tuned for future announcements.

This year the executive has several new members and we have agreed that training for a stronger executive in the future is a worthwhile endeavor. In that light TEAM has supported two of the executive members attending Volunteer Manitoba seminars. I have attended "Effective, efficient, and enjoyable board meetings" and our Liaison Heather Lamont will attend "10 steps to managing a successful event". Heather hopes to use what she learns towards developing the May conferences and I expect you will hear the executive raving about the 'productive fun' a board meeting really is!

Our Learner Liaison, Tatiana Galeskaia has moved to member at large due to schedule and so we hope to invite a new interim liaison, Bora Kim to the board.

I hope we will see each other in November at the ALT PD on Speaking.



The 2006 Manitoba Immigration Facts document is now available. Electronic copies of the report are located on our website at www.immigratemanitoba.com. Use the search box to go directly to the report. Teachers may find this a useful source of authentic text (document literacy) to use in the classroom and helps acquire some insight into the demographics of Manitoba and Manitoba's commitment to immigration.

Interesting name...Interesting site for EAL practitioners!
www.quickanddirtytips.com

Landing a College Job: A Practical Guide for English, ESL, and Foreign Language Job Seekers is a self-help guide for anyone looking for a college teaching position in these fields. It describes the A-Z of the job search process beginning with finding job postings to landing a full-time position. \$12.95 + shipping.

To order visit <http://www.readingmatrix.com/jobs/order.htm>

Fall Conference



Teaching Speaking to Adult EAL Students

*November 23rd,
2007*

Announcement

The ALT Branch Fall Conference for teachers in government-funded Adult EAL programs will be held on Friday, November 23rd at Winnipeg Technical College - Henlow Campus, 130 Henlow Bay, off Scurfield Blvd. The focus for the day is Teaching Speaking to Adult EAL students. Coffee and session sign-up will be from 8:15 – 9:00. There is no cost for registration. There is extensive parking onsite.

The full-day conference will begin with a plenary address on some of the new directions in teaching speaking followed by concurrent sessions. The concurrent sessions will be repeated after lunch. Some of the topics for the concurrent sessions being considered include: Using Jigsaw Activities to Practice Conversation Skills and Clarification Strategies (Stage 2); Using Authentic materials as Conversation Prompts (Stage 1); Activities to Encourage Oral Responses ESL Literacy & Stage 1); Awareness Raising Activities (Stage 2); Using PodCasts (Stage 2); Online Resources for Teaching Speaking (Stages 1 & 2); Using Workplace Pictures; and Problem-Posing Scenarios for Student-developed Conversations (Stage 1); and Taking it out of the Classroom (Stage 1)

Please note, topics and titles are still subject to change at this time.

TEAM Awards and Bursaries



At the beginning of September 2007, the TEAM Awards Committee presented three \$500.00 bursaries to three EAL learners pursuing post-secondary studies in the province.

Mr. Mohammad Abdulhamid, along with his wife and child, immigrated from Russia to Canada in July 2004. Mohammad will use his \$500.00 bursary towards his tuition fees at Red River College 's Stevenson Aviation and Aerospace Training Centre where he is currently enrolled in the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Diploma Program.

Ms. Lidija Lozanova immigrated to Canada from Macedonia where she was educated as a nurse. Ms. Jill Hart from the English Skills Centre describes Lidija as "an excellent student" and someone who "will make good use of her education to become a very successful member of Canadian society." Lidija will use her \$500.00 bursary towards her tuition fees at University of Winnipeg where she is currently enrolled in the Faculty of Science. In the future, she hopes to enter the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba.

Mr. Cahn Nguyen was recommend for a bursary by Ms. Jill Hart. Jill describes Cahn as someone who "is always thinking about his education outside of class hours, which is great." Cahn will use his \$500.00 bursary towards his tuition fees at Red River College where he is currently enrolled in the Electronics Engineering Technologist Diploma Program.

TEAM would like to congratulate Mohammad, Lidija and Cahn and wish them all the best with their future endeavors.

CCLB Report

September, 2007

THE CCLB Board held its AGM and Board Meeting on June 28 and June 29, 2007, in Ottawa. Serge Boulé (Ottawa) was appointed the new chair of the Board.

Pauline McNaughton, the former Executive Director of the CCLB, submitted a written report on the Board's accomplishments of the 2006-2007 year:

- The support and development in the use of the NCLC, through field-based validation of the NCLC 2006, and the development and initial piloting of the national French placement test;
- The continued support in the use of the CLB in the labour market, through the development of an online version of the CLB Work Ready resource kit, developed with the support of a national advisory review process and field-based pilots;
- The development of online professional development modules, to help teachers who may be new to the CLB, understand how to use them in the classroom to develop lesson plans and prepare formative assessment.
- The development of two sets of Exit Assessment tasks for CLB levels 5-6 and 7-10, which were piloted and validated successfully;

The successful bid put forward to Services Canada to benchmark up to 22 Red Seal Trades, in English and French, including:

- the development of Occupational Language Analyses,
- the benchmarking of the occupations,
- the exams,
- conducting a feasibility study on benchmarking of training program.

The participation in numerous project activities in the area of assessment:

- provided ongoing assessor training and certification for LINC assessors using the CLBPT,
- developed expanded training materials to support the use of the WLA Screening Tool for Employment Counselors,
- developed new parallel versions of the WLA writing assessment (to be completed in the Fall, 2007),
- partnered with the Centre for Education and Training to develop the Online Self-Assessment Tool in English and French, as well as other web-based materials,
- developed an Institutional Version of CELBAN to help postsecondary institutions better serve the needs of internationally-trained nurses in their programs.

Pauline was recognized for all her dedicated work, knowledge, skills and friendship for the time she was employed as the Executive Director of the CCLB.

The Board was introduced to Gay Hamilton, the new Executive Director of the CCLB.

The Halifax Immigrant Learning Centre has developed various materials, resources and publications. All are available for purchase. More information is available on its website: www.hilc.ns.ca

For information about the following, go to the CCLB website: www.language.ca

What's New
CCLB Projects for 2007-2008

Respectfully submitted by
June Shymko



"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."

—Albert Einstein (1875-1955), theoretical physicist, philosopher

One may be old in years, but not in spirit, or poor in wealth, but not in ambition."

—Chinese proverb



Learning English with CBC Manitoba



Highlights

- Learn about Manitoba's people, places and culture while improving your English communication skills.
- Develop listening skills by studying real conversations from stories on CBC radio.
- Lessons are for intermediate level English speakers—CLB levels 5 and up.
- New lessons posted every week: one for self study, one for classroom use.

To start studying, or to learn more, visit:

www.cbc.ca/manitoba/eal

Funded through the Manitoba Immigrant Integration Program

Learning English

with

CBC Manitoba.



This month, CBC Manitoba and the Adult Language Training Branch launched a new on-line learning service called **Learning English with CBC Manitoba**. Each week, CBC posts printable EAL lesson plans based on a story or interview broadcast during the week on the podcast *Manitoba this Week*. Students will be able to access lesson plans that explore Manitoba's culture, people and current events, and will work on language development in the context of authentic conversations Manitobans are having about real events in their communities. Teachers will also be able to download a printable teacher's pack for use in the classroom. Check out www.cbc.ca/manitoba/eal. Lessons are appropriate for CLB 5 and above.

ALT Branch will continue to develop and modify the site according to feedback from teachers and students. Please email Lauren Phillips with any suggestions you have, or to let ALT know how the lessons are working for you and your class.

lauren.phillips@gov.mb.ca

Red River College has taken a new step in supporting internationally-educated nurses who want to qualify to re-enter practice in their chosen profession in Canada. The Institutional CELBAN (Canadian English Language Assessment for Nurses) is a new English language assessment tool, modeled after the official CELBAN, for use by Canadian educational institutions with Internationally-educated nurses. The official CELBAN, a standardized English assessment, has been in place for the past two years and is endorsed by Provincial nursing licensing bodies as a way for internationally-educated nurses to demonstrate proof of English language proficiency. Currently, there are eight CELBAN administration sites in Canadian cities in Manitoba, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. The new Institutional Version of CELBAN is available to assist educational institutes in assessing the English language proficiency of internationally educated nurses. Like the official CELBAN, it is a unique assessment tool which is based on language used in the Canadian nursing context. The new institutional CELBAN is available from Red River College's Language Training Centre as of October 2007. The Institutional CELBAN was developed by RRC under contract with the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks with funding from the Province of Ontario. Please see the CELBAN web page (www.celban.org) for more information on both the official and institutional versions of CELBAN.



ISSUES...

with Michael...

I think all EAL teachers would hope to see dictionaries used in the classroom with maximum benefit, and a minimum of headaches. With that goal in mind, I wanted to offer some of my reflections and findings on this key issue in EAL education. For ease of discussion, I've chosen the following short names for our typical classroom dictionaries in use today - bilingual - (bi-dictionary), monolingual (mono-dictionary), electronic dictionary - (e-dictionary), bilingual electronic (bi / e - dictionary) and internet dictionary - (web-dictionary)

It seems to me that many teachers have experienced a cluster of problems with the bilingual electronic dictionaries (bi / e - dictionaries):

- ◆ Teachers have struggled with the distracting nature of these machines, with their beeps, squawks, and hi-tech camera or video game capabilities.

READING

- ◆ Students get incorrect meanings that can even multiply error as one incorrect word confuses another and so on.
- ◆ The bi / e -dictionary seems to slow students down to an unbearable speed of reading, (Of course we believe that the slower speed is because they are translating every word and writing it down in the margins)
- ◆ Teachers are horrified to see the student's LI scratches all over the text.
- ◆ There are distractions and side discussions among language groups in the class, which teachers cannot enter into because they cannot verify any translation from the LI.

WRITING

- ◆ Again, teachers have watched students at work, and are horrified to see them constantly punching on the machine as they write each sentence.

Similar observations could be made in the areas of Listening and Speaking, except that with these skills there is an added dimension- that real listening and real speaking in the real world simply cannot involve the use of a dictionary - electronic, paper, bilingual, or monolingual, which makes it even more monstrous if the student is furiously trying to tap on his machine in the midst of a Speaking or Listening task.

It seems that we have identified an area of irritation and even conflict here. Indeed, many teachers have gone so far as to forbid bi-dictionaries, e-dictionaries, and bi / e- dictionaries in the classroom, You are probably also aware that the Canadian Language Benchmark descriptors discourage the use of bi-dictionaries at the higher levels.

Stay tuned for further thoughts on this in the next newsletter.

Please feel free to email me at mrochon@rrc.mb.ca so that we can add your insights to the discussion of this issue.



In their own words...

"My Association with "Age & Opportunity"

By: Nanu Verma August 2007

I have my Masters in English and Bachelors in Education from India and had taught English for several years in India. However, when I came to Canada in 2005 I realized that all my experience and education in English are not helping me to communicate in Canada in English. This, I realized, was due to my accent /style, local phrases, slang and pronunciation. I was frustrated as I could not even take a simple message on the phone and could not explain my problems to the doctor.

At this stage I joined the ESL classes in Age & Opportunity. I can not help praising Lan Doan, the manager of ESL for Seniors. She is sincere, devoted, and diligent in her work, and her choice of teachers is excellent.

My first teacher was Anessa Maize. Anessa is a great teacher. She told us that English language is musical .It has cadence in its pronunciation. She told us about the stress on syllables. She also told us that our ears should be attuned to the Canadian pronunciation so that we can copy the right accent and pronunciation. Our vocal organs should also be trained. For that, we should converse with people as much as we can. I still remember her dancing to the cadence of pronunciation with each stress on the syllables. My other teacher, Debra Schweyer was also very competent and effective in helping us with our English language skills.

ESL helped me to build my confidence and English language skills that helped me in succeeding in my job interview. Now I feel confident in conversing with my officers and in dealing with any problem successfully.

I feel highly indebted to the Age & Opportunity and Lan Doan for my confidence and ability to communicate effectively.

Age & Opportunity is a great institution in Canada, and it has so many programs to help seniors and the community at large. This institution also takes its participants to useful and informative trips. One of the trips was the "Gimli Trip" that I attended. Melinda was the coordinator of the trip .She is a versatile person, and she helped us all through this trip. We took lunch and coffee together and enjoyed a lot there. I took some pictures.

In the end, I would like to convey my gratitude to Age and Opportunity Once again and hope that this institution will continue its great work in helping people like me to settle in Canada and make it our home.

TEAM EXECUTIVE DIRECTORY

Jennifer Loewen South Wpg. Tech. College
President 772-5666
jenniferloewen@hotmail.com

Rita Prokopetz (U of W Division of Con.Ed)
Vice President 982-1141
r.prokopetz@uwinnipeg.ca

Aggie Grossberndt (WSD1) 669-5229
Secretary agrossberndt@wsd1.org

Allyn Manuel 254-6748
Treasurer teamtreasurer@lycos.com

Committee Chairs

Rita Prokopetz (U of W Division of Con.Ed)
Advocacy 982-1141
r.prokopetz@uwinnipeg.ca

Marcia Maia (U of M) 261-4208
Awards marcia_maia@umanitoba.ca

Tamara Stoesz
Communications tamarastoesz@hotmail.com

Osita Ogidi (U of M) 480-1480 (w)
Fundraising osyogidi@yahoo.com

Tatiana Galetskaia 475-9036
Learner Liason tanais2001@yahoo.com

Heather Lamont
Organizational Liason heatherlamont@hotmail.com

Paz Bowman (RRC) 945-6151
Newsletter pbowman@rrc.mb.ca

Kathe Remillard 224-2611
Professional Development K-remillard@shaw.ca

Antoanela Denchuk (M.Ed. TESL Student) 772-4735
Welcoming apardel@excite.com

Members at Large:

Kay Song 254-5137
hkaysong@hotmail.com

Barbara McCandless (RRC) 945-6151
bmaccandless@rrc.mb.ca