



ELSA Net *NEWS*

Fall 2008 Issue 18



ELSA Net Fall 2008





Contents

- 3 Update from the Ministry
- 5 ELSA Net Update
- 6 Resources
- 12 From Our Members
- 17 From Our Community

The ELSA Net Newsletter is available in PDF format on the ELSA Net website: www.elsanet.org

Contributions to future editions of the ELSA Net Newsletter are welcomed at esl@elsanet.org

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ELSA Net

English Language Services
for Adults Network

Our Mission

ELSA Net empowers its members, throughout the province of British Columbia, to help their clients achieve language and resettlement goals by providing leadership, communication networks, and resources.

Our Vision

*Excellence
in Settlement Language Services.*

Our values reflect our passion for education and support our success.

Excellence
Diversity
Unity
Communication
Accountability
Teamwork
Ethics

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Update from the Ministry

Immigrant Integration Branch (IIB) Updates

Ministry changes

As of June 2008, the former Settlement and Multiculturalism Division has been split into two areas. The Immigrant Integration Branch (IIB) of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development will continue to be responsible for immigrant settlement services, particularly the *BC Settlement and Adaptation Program*. Responsibility for multiculturalism and anti-racism activities, particularly the *BC Anti-Racism and Multiculturalism Program*, will remain the responsibility of the Ministry of Attorney General as part of the Multiculturalism and Inclusive Communities office. The two ministries will continue to share office space and work collaboratively on various programs and initiatives. The IIB is one of four branches within the Labour Market and Immigration Division, headed by Assistant Deputy Minister, Shannon Baskerville.

New initiatives and programs

There have been a number of new initiatives, programs, and pilots that are underway in the IIB across the province. Some of the highlights include:

- An ELSA advertising campaign on transit has been launched in the Lower Mainland and Greater Victoria region. A poster campaign across the province will be launching soon.
- The development of a pre-literacy pilot program to target students who are illiterate in English and in their own mother tongue or who have very low exposure to schooling. Pilots for this class are to begin in January 2009.
- Enhanced child care services are available across the province for ELSA clients with children 0-6, with the goal of supporting immigrant parents/caregivers in obtaining social and emotional support in child rearing in a new cultural context and to learn effective strategies that support early learning.
- The expansion of the Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) program has taken place in 10 new districts across the province, bringing the total to 20 districts.
- Pilot projects focusing on vulnerable refugee children are taking place in 6 communities across the Lower Mainland including Surrey, Langley, Tri-Cities, Vancouver, Richmond and Burnaby. These pilots will support refugee children and their families in the early childhood development needs with the goal of transitioning to mainstream services and resources.
- Immigrant Parents as Literacy Supporters Program (Immigrant PALS) is designed to help immigrant families support their pre-school and kindergarten-aged children's early literacy development through interactions in English and their first language. This is taking place in 7 schools across 5 communities in the Lower Mainland.
- Similarly, SHARE English Practice Groups have begun in response to community residents wanting to develop their English conversation skills and reduce the isolation they experienced as newcomers to the Tri-Cities.
- The UBC Learning Exchange School-Based ESL Conversation Program began in January 2008 and will provide conversational group sessions in 5 Vancouver schools for immigrant parents to enhance immigrants' engagement in their children's school and to improve English conversation literacy skills.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) was posted to develop services for out of school youth in selected communities to support older immigrant youth and young adults who are facing significant language and/or other settlement barriers.

The IIB will continue to involve ELSA Net in consultations and communicate regularly with service providers as services continue to grow. For more information, please contact Lily Grewal at 604-775-0674 or at lily.grewal@gov.bc.ca.



Message from the President



*By Yvonne Chard,
ELSA Net President*

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your president these past few years. Sometimes it was hard to find the extra time needed for executive meetings and decision making, but I have always appreciated holding this position. It has been wonderful to have the support of Dale as vice-president and Diane as treasurer, Brenda, Colleen and Vania, as well as that of the members. I think the Board has been a successful team. We don't always agree, and that is what makes the decisions healthy. We can look at issues from different points of view, and with a good amount of feedback from all. I plan to continue to support ELSA in my role as past president, and on various committees. I'm getting older, and my memory is overloaded, but I still have a lot of passion for the work that we do.

We have been fortunate to have a very positive relationship with the settlement and multi-culturalism Branch over the years (whatever it may have been called in the past and will be called in the future). It has been beneficial for the ELSA program to have Branch and Ministry leaders who asked, listened to, and informed our membership.

Personally I seem to have come a long way since 1965 when I taught English to New Australians at night school. I used to park my car (a new Morris Minor), and walk down a long path to the school. I was young and popular, and that long path used to be lined with young men who would wolf whistle and say, "Hi teach!" as I walked along it. I used to feel so embarrassed as I took that walk. Nothing like that happens these days. Instead, I've enjoyed many years of working with immigrants who have enriched my life while I tried to assist in theirs.

English Language Services for Adults is our name and our policy, and provision of training in the English language is the on-going challenge and reward we all share.



*ELSA Net Conference,
November 3, 2008*

ELSA Net Update from the Executive Director



By *Brenda Lohrenz,*
ELSA Net

My mind of late has been wandering back to 'soft skills and hard skills' as so adeptly described by Lionel Laroché at our Lower Mainland PD event in early November. Being a professional networking association, how does this apply to our role? As we work towards providing a range of resources for this immigrant serving language sector, I realize that often we are bordering on both approaches. From resources and sessions around incorporating the CLBs and different delivery methods in the classroom (more of the technical 'hard' approach to teaching), to providing venues to get together, discuss, review, support, and exchange ideas (the communicative 'soft' approach in realizing our goals in the classroom / childcare room) - I think we all recognize the value both approaches have to offer.

Considering then the structure of ELSA programs and classrooms, how do we get our clients and students

to appreciate the necessity of the soft skill approach? (Putting memorization of vocabulary lists and irregular verbs aside...) I have no magic answer here. And being a teacher myself, I have struggled on both sides at times. Perhaps it is challenges like this that make us realize how important our role is in preparing our clients and students for this new journey in their life - living and working in a Canadian environment. I appreciated Lionel's ability to bring this into some perspective for us, thus encouraging us to reflect on the role that we play. I'd also like to thank all those who offered their expertise (both 'soft' and 'hard' approaches) at all of our fall PD events. ELSA continues to be enriched by the knowledge we share with each other.

I'd like to close by thanking Yvonne Chard, for working so hard on our behalf over her four year term as both Vice-President and President of ELSA Net. We are lucky to have her staying on as Past President as she continues to have much to offer our organization. Thanks also to any board members that have worked on our behalf and are stepping down. We greatly appreciate all that you have done in moving our vision forward!

ELSA NET PROJECTS

Environmental Conservation Materials available.

Earlier this year the Environmental workshops proved to be successful with ELSA classes across the province. Ellen Van der Hoeven shared her expertise and experience as a workshop facilitator at the ELSA Net Conference and now teachers can download the materials from the website. You can find the workshop materials posted on www.elsanet.org on the ESL Teacher Resource Page. Three workshop kits are available to borrow from the ELSA Net office. They cover the topics of Garbage and Recycling (ELSA 2), Energy and Water Conservation (ELSA 3) and Global Warming Awareness (ELSA 4/5). Contact Colleen at resourceccordinator@elsanet.org to borrow the kits.

BC150 Story telling Project

Childcare workers in ELSA centres throughout the province enjoyed make-and-take workshops this fall. Workers received stories and teaching resources for two delightful stories. Written by Heather Tekavec, the stories use rhythm,

rhyme and the five senses to engage children in learning about immigrants and Aboriginal people in BC. The stories and resources will be posted on the ELSA Net website by the end of the year. Thank you to BC150 and WelcomeBC for their funding support.

Networking Events

ELSA Net is excited about organizing networking events for members.

On November 24th, 18 literacy instructors met at Abbotsford Community Services. Instructors met each other, shared ideas, challenges and resources and heard from Deb Monkman from Literacy BC. Questions from the literacy networking meeting are posted on the ELSA Net forum.

On Friday December 12th a second networking meeting will take place at Collingwood Neighbourhood House. ELSA instructors teaching levels 2 and 3 will come together to share ideas based on different themes. Keep on the look out for an invitation and be sure to RSVP!



Resources

Field Trips and Speaker Ideas



By *Tim Ender*

People's Law School

The People's Law School is proud to welcome Bobbi Mand as a new part-time instructor with its Law-Related ESL Program. Bobbi brings more than ten years of ESL experience with her to the job, and the program is now able to provide 35 law-related lessons per month to ELSA (or other adult immigrant ESL) classes throughout the Lower Mainland and South Vancouver Island regions. In addition to this expansion, we are now offering a new topic, Writing

Your Will, to higher-level classes (ELSA 4/5). This lesson provides basic information on what is included in a will, why it is important, and what might happen if someone dies without preparing one. Key vocabulary regarding this topic is presented to students as well as a list of resources available for further information and help. So far, the topic has been met with positive feedback from students and teachers, and several learners have pointed out some distinct cultural differences pertaining to wills. For example, in Canada, the spouse is the primary beneficiary in cases

where there is no will, while in some other countries it might be the parents of the deceased.

Writing Your Will is the 11th topic developed for the law-related ESL program. The others are: Scams to Avoid, Working in BC I and II, Renting a Home, Family Law, Fundamentals of the Law in Canada, Young People and the Law, Criminal Law, Civil Law, and Different Kinds of Courts. The People's Law School looks forward to continuing to work with the ELSA program in providing free legal education to newcomers to Canada.



Vancouver Public Library

The Vancouver Public Library provides ever increasing services to new Canadians and ESL students of all ages and backgrounds, all free of charge.

VPL provides language support by offering a major collection of ESL instructional materials. This collection includes print, audio and visual materials at all learning levels, and test preparation aids.

VPL currently has ESL Learning Centres at 5 branch libraries:

- Britannia Library - 1661 Napier Street, South Hill
- Library - 6076 Fraser Street, Hastings Library - 2674 East Hastings Street,
- Renfrew Library - 2969 East 22nd Avenue and Champlain Heights - 7110 Kerr Street.

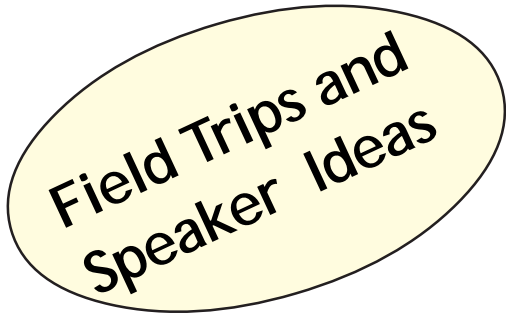
Vancouver Community College ESL tutors are available in these library branches to provide one-on-one assistance to English language learners, free of charge.

VPL additionally provides reading and viewing materials in a variety of other languages - books, magazines, newspapers (print and online), music, DVD's - for adults and children.

ELSA students with families are encouraged to bring their children to the public library to get library cards for everyone, even the babies. You can borrow books that your children will love and go to children's storytime programs such as Babytime, Toddler time and Family Storytime. These programs give young children a



Resources



chance to learn new vocabulary and have fun singing, rhyming and hearing stories. The Vancouver Public Library also has a program called Man in the Moon especially for dads and their babies up to 18 months. It takes place in the evenings and weekends at several different locations.

For more information about any other VPL programs or services, please call 604-331-3603 or visit our website at www.vpl.ca



Please ask for the storytime program brochure and Man in the Moon brochure at your nearest Vancouver Public Library branch.

Success Secrets for New Canadians A Seminar by Nick Noorani

by Crystabel Rafferty - Instructor,
Vancouver Community College

When I suggested to my ELSA 5 students a seminar called “Success Secrets for New Canadians”, they were instantly intrigued. Who wouldn’t want to know the secrets to success in their adopted country? Once the “honeymoon” phase of immigration is over and obstacles appear with alarming regularity, it is difficult to know what to expect next and how to stay positive.

But Nick Noorani knows. Even better, he wants to share. Nick is the dynamic, successful co-author of *Arrival Survival*, founder and publisher of *The Canadian Immigrant Magazine* and wears various other hats in education and media. However, when he first arrived in Canada, it was a very different story. His wealth of foreign experience was ignored and his expertise and skill were hampered by language issues. Importantly, it took

time to understand Canadian workplace culture. He overcame his obstacles through a variety of strategies (“secrets”) including volunteering, mentorship and networking. The first secret he shares, though, is the need to improve English skills, which he says is 50% of the battle.

Nick’s situation as a newcomer is one that many, if not all, of our students face. Eventual success, he claims, is also within everyone’s reach. In his seminar, he actively engages the participants, encourages sharing experiences and asking questions. He also offers to help them individually by email. My ELSA 5 students had no difficulty in comprehension and, in fact, nodded constantly in agreement throughout the talk. Student feedback



included: “I got confidence from that seminar”, “He gave us the key”, and “I got the direction of the route to my future”. To prepare my students, I printed out Nick Noorani’s background information from his website www.nicknoorani.com for them to read for homework. They predicted what the “secrets” might be, and prepared questions they might like to ask. As

many students didn’t know Langara College, I downloaded a campus map and highlighted the room location, bus stops and closest parking, as well as noting the various bus routes.

A second seminar was held on November 17 at 6:30 pm. For information about future seminars, contact Oren Lupo by email olupo@langara.bc.ca or at (604) 876-1023.



Resources

Lionel Laroche

Anybody who attended the ELSA Net Conference on November 3rd will agree that Lionel Laroche created quite a buzz. Many of you were interested in learning more about his work, his future talks and how to reach him.

Lionel has written two books: *Recruiting, Retaining and Promoting Culturally Different Employees* and *Managing Cultural Diversity in Technical Professions*. They can be found by following these links:

<http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/books/search?keywords=lionel%20laroche&pageSize=10>

http://www.amazon.ca/s/ref=nb_ss_gw/187-9343261-9928756?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=lionel+laroche

You may consider attending an additional workshop if you want to expand on the material covered on

November 3rd. If you are interested in hearing Lionel speak again, he will be teaching a full-day workshop at UBC on May 6, 2009. The title of this workshop is *Recruiting, Retaining and Promoting Culturally Different Employees*.



Lionel can be reached at:

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Intermediate Grammar: From Form to Meaning and Use Teacher's Book

Author: Susan Kesner Bland

Publisher: Oxford University Press, USA; Tch edition (August 29, 1996)

ISBN-10: 0194343677

ISBN-13: 978-0194343671

I came across this book a few years ago when teaching a workplace English class to a group of computer programmers. This book is great from a teacher's point of view because of its flexibility. It can be used as a reference, textbook or practice book and provides a thorough review of basic grammatical structures as well as more advanced structures covered in ELSA 4 and 5 classes. What I found particularly interesting about this book is that it previews each structure with

authentic and accurate examples of usage. It goes even further into the nuances of how we use language in different situations and gives learners some clear cultural cues to help them use language correctly. There is an explanation, for example, of how English speakers use the present continuous to complain or future time clauses to procrastinate. To help reinforce the lessons, each chapter has plenty of practice exercises that take into account different learning styles. As per most grammar books the appendices offer extras such as: irregular verb lists, two-word verbs, spelling and pronunciation of verb endings, articles, comparatives and reporting verbs. You can find order information and take a look inside this book at:

<http://www.amazon.com/Intermediate-Grammar-Form-Meaning-Teachers/dp/0194343677>

Resources

NEW MATERIALS FOR NURSES AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

by Joan Berndt - Gladwin Language Centre

Over the past 2 years, Gladwin language Centre in Abbotsford has developed 2 ESL lesson units with the help of a BC TEAL Grant.

In the summer of 2007, a Beginner and an Intermediate ESL for the Agriculture/Horticulture Worker Lesson Units were produced. The focus of this was to help businesses and organizations that relied on foreign or newly arrived immigrant workers provide English training that would focus on basic job related vocabulary. Added to each lesson was a section for the workers themselves to help them function successfully in the community. Each lesson focuses on a specific job related function such as reading memos, emergency procedures, following directions, phoning in sick, paycheques, and other employment related English functions. For the employee, additional lessons were added to help them in the community including basic shopping, transportation, telephone, banking, postal and other services.

In the summer of 2008, Gladwin developed a 10



lesson unit geared to immigrant nurses at level 5 and up who need to take the CELBAN English language proficiency test as part of the upgrading requirements to obtain their licensing in Canada. CELBAN is recognized by

all the professional nursing associations in Canada. To help immigrant nurses prepare for this test, a 10 lesson unit was developed which focuses on Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing in the nursing context. Speaking exercises include providing patients with advice, and giving patients directions. Listening skills focus on conversa-

tions involving patient/doctor or nurse. Writing practice includes specific detail in a paragraph involving either a critical incident report or patient summary. In addition, form completion is reviewed. Finally, reading exercises using actually nursing essays, policy manual excerpts, and nursing charts completes the 4th section.

Both units were developed by Leona Thiessen and Joan Berndt and can be ordered for only copying costs and a shipping fee.

For more information call Joan Berndt at Gladwin Language Centre. 604-854-8160 or gladwinlanguagecentre@telus.net.

Resources



Promoting and supporting literacy and learning since 1990

Together we can make ELMO Reviews a valuable resource!

The ELMO Reviews website <http://www.ELMOreviews.ca> is an online, interactive source of reviewed literacy materials - books, videos, CDs, websites etc. It is designed for all those in the literacy field: new and emerging adult readers and their families; tutors; instructors; librarians and other interested individuals who work with them. **Take a look!**

ELMO Reviews is a place where you can find literacy materials that have been *reviewed* by people in the literacy field. It offers two kinds of reviews: mini-reviews that can be written by anyone and are people's opinions about a resource or field-reviews which are more in depth, written by practitioners in the field and involve the resource actually being field tested.

The success of ELMO Reviews really depends on the involvement of the literacy field. We would love for ELMO Reviews to be a valuable source of reviewed materials relating to ESL and Literacy - for both students and instructors. **Why not write a review? Go to ELMO Reviews and add your voice!**



ELMO Reviews can also be used as a teaching tool with students. Just accessing ELMO Reviews on a computer can be a lesson in itself. Teachers can use the reviews posted on ELMO Reviews as a reading exercise and to generate discussion. You can also encourage students to write reviews: an exercise that both encourages writing but also validates their opinions as important and valued.

Find out more about ELMO Reviews

Subscribe to **ELMO e-News** through our website (<http://www.ELMOreviews.ca>). The next newsletter is about **ESL and Literacy**, and will include interviews ideas and resources!

Contact the ELMO Reviews team for more information, for help using the website, to send us our review or to give feedback!

Deb Monkman, Project Manager
Doreen McLean, Technical Coordinator
Nancy Anderson, Project Coordinator

Library@literacybc.ca or call
Literacy BC at 604-684-0624

Cyber Space



Directions for Immigrants in Trades and Professional Careers

http://www.directionsforimmigrants.ca/market_information.htm

- This organization based in Calgary gives immigrants advice on how to follow a career path
- Click on Information on My Profession to get a list of professions. Click on any one to get detailed information regarding regulatory bodies, training institutions, professional associations and more
- All information is in Alberta, but a great start for researching any profession

Multi-Cultural Educational Services

<http://www.mcedservices.com/>

- This is a source of flashcards and other materials for literacy and pre-literacy ESL students
- Flashcards come in a variety of fonts
- You can also find LaRue preliteracy reading skills tests

Soft Skills Interview Questions Connecting business strategy with effective human resources management

<http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/ucce50/ag-labor/7labor/b003.htm>

- A list of soft skills questions for job interviews

The Not-So Generic Skills: Teaching employability; communication skills to adult migrants.

Lynda Yates

http://www.ameprc.mq.edu.au/docs/research_reports/teaching_in_action/Teaching_in_action_navigable_lowres.pdf

- If you can't download the document by following this link then google the title
- This is a soft skills manual of sorts developed in Australia, but a lot of useable materials for ELSA classes

From the Australian Adult Migrant English Program Research Centre (AMEP)

http://www.ameprc.mq.edu.au/resources/esl_electronic_journals

- A list of free online professional journals in TESOL and Linguistics

Manitoba's Adult Language Training Branch

http://www2.immigratemanitoba.com/browse/eal_teachers/eal-teachers-curriculum.html

- Find teaching materials, website links, publisher information and more!



From Our Members

Conference in Review

We're All in This Together

*by Terry Lindsay, ELSA teacher
Penticton and District Multicultural Society*

Our first trip to the Lower Mainland ELSA Net Pro D started off well as we were asked to escort the keynote speaker Dr. Lionel LaRoche to the Broadway Church because he was staying at the same hotel as we were. By the time we arrived, very early, Lionel had excited us about the day ahead.



We headed for the publishers' area when we arrived. I was surprised when I glanced at my watch and suddenly realized we hadn't registered yet for the conference. My cohorts, Elise Stevenson and Ada Kostopoulos and I had lost touch with time as we wandered through the displays buying materials for our classes back in Penticton. I suggested we head right upstairs and register, as our first session would start in five minutes.

My first session was with Lionel and he gave me plenty of "food for thought". His presentation led directly into his keynote speech, which was inspiring. As I looked around the room I saw a sea of faces, the mosaic of Canadian life.

The afternoon session gave me the chance to engage in a great discussion with a variety of Lower Mainland teachers. When I commented on their concerns and told them I was from outside the Lower Mainland they were very attentive and cared about the problems we face, recognizing they were different from their own.

It felt great to realize I was but part of a larger group, dedicated to making our new Canadians feel as if they were coming home.

When I returned home to work it was with a new sense of pride and purpose. That's what I got from my first ELSA Net Pro D.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

Registration



Workshops



Lunch



Networking



Publishers



From Our Members

Conference in Review



Creative Barrels Overflow!

by Joyce Bergen ELSA teacher - ISS
Coquitlam

As an ESL literacy teacher, I periodically scrape the bottom of my creativity barrel when I'm constantly adapting or creating materials suitable for my students. So, I leapt at the opportunity to attend the 'Zest for Literacy' workshop at the recent ELSA Net conference, hoping for some fresh ideas. I was not disappointed because the presenters, Paula Mannington and Bobbi Mand, refilled my creativity barrel until it overflowed!

I have already tried the disappearing story on the whiteboard, and it was well-received. The small-size index cards on rings which my students can use to regularly practice asking and answering personal information questions have also been successful. I'm now planning to write some immigrant profiles based on the sample we received in the workshop. Using information contained in these simple profiles, students will practice all four language skills in a series of activities that Bobbi carefully outlined for us. I'm anticipating that these profiles and related activities will be very helpful in preparing my stronger students for ELSA 1. After a quick trip to the dollar store for a pair of fly-swatters, I'm now equipped for a fun and lively way to review vocabulary. The team game is a race to be the first person to 'swat' the target word on the whiteboard!



Paula invited us to participate in some of her creative ideas for movement and music in the literacy classroom. What a delightful experience! Since the workshop, it has occurred to me that if students can practice basic instructional language to the tune of YMCA, perhaps other simple dance tunes (eg. Mexican Hat Dance, the Chicken Dance, even the Bunny Hop) might also have ESL instructional potential!

For lesson ideas from this session visit

<http://www.elsanet.org/news.html>

TESL Panel – Working with Practicum Students

Moderated by Dr. C. Burgess (SFU)

Presented by Joann Chernen (VCC),

Dianne Fouladi (UBC) and Susan

Morton (SFU)

Contributed by Sandi Dueckman, ELSA Instructor, SUCCESS

The panel presentation at the November ELSA Net Pro D was an opportunity for ELSA instructors who have mentored practicum students, or who are interested in mentoring, to compare and contrast the programs offered at the three participating institutions and to become more aware of issues involved in working with practicum students.

Each of the presenters gave a brief overview of the teacher training programs at her institution and included such information as: who the TESOL students are; the necessary courses needed to complete a certificate or diploma; the length of each program; and practicum hours.

Dr. Burgess also asked the presenters for their thoughts regarding the qualities of a good mentor, the feedback process, trainee failure rate and the characteristics of an effective observation. The panel members agreed on various issues including the brevity of the practicum and the obvious importance of mentoring instructors. Questions and suggestions from the floor were given thoughtful consideration by the panel.

This panel presentation was informative, thought-provoking and a great occasion for professional development. I would like to see this subject explored further in the future.



From Our Members

Conference in Review



Reflections from the Plenary Session

By Radhia Benalia, ESL Instructor, ISS

When I first walked in to hear the plenary speaker, I was a little reluctant. What could someone with many letters after his name tell me about immigrant challenges that I didn't already know! I was in for a surprise.



Lionel Laroche not only knows quite a bit about immigrant challenges, he lived through many of them himself. Dr. Laroche first explained the difference in life standards between professionals in

developing countries and professionals in Canada. Some ELSA teachers weren't thrilled to find out that people in other countries with the same qualifications they have can afford a nanny, cook, and driver, while most here in Canada are still struggling with mortgage and bills.

This was certainly not the core of the lecture. The speaker explained with great ease and wit why most skilled immigrants don't succeed in Canada. According to him, the problem is that most people work on their technical skills more than they do on their soft skills and, by doing so, totally miss the



point. For an immigrant to succeed in Canada, he/she would have to acquire or improve skills such as making presentations or writing good executive summaries. In brief, Lionel Laroche's recipe for success is a combination of technical skills and soft skills along with some knowledge about how things work in Canada.

As ESL teachers, it is important that we listen to people like Dr. Laroche. We are not counselors, but we are often the newcomers' first resource person in Canada. As such we surely benefit from being able to identify and learn more about what the real issues are.

Merci Lionel Laroche!

For a copy of Lionel's PowerPoint go to <http://www.elsanet.org/news.html>



From Our Members

ELSA Curriculum and Test Training Project

By Dale Hunter, VCC

Long-awaited test and curriculum training are finally underway for the ELSA 4 and 5 curricula, ELSA 3 and 4 Progress Tests and ELSA 5 Exit Tests developed at VCC.

Workshop training at VCC for ELSA level 3 Progress Tests is November 28, and for ELSA 4 and 5 tests and curricula the 4th and 5th of December. Online materials to support and supplement the workshops were launched November 7th. Website access is currently only available to instructors who are taking the workshop training.

Training has been offered to lead instructors designated by their organizations; these instructors will, in turn, set up and lead training at their individual sites. Training is expected to expand and be maintained with the continued support of ELSA Net and collaboration and sharing.



Online materials at this time are only available to instructors taking the workshop training in November and early December. That will change in the new year when the Moodle site will pass from VCC to ELSA Net. Schools can then use the site for their own internal training. ELSA schools and instructors will have access to the resources there, and opportunities to build on them. Online materials currently include audio recordings, scanned samples

of student writing, overview documents, test components and more. Eventually we will upload video, curricula, and many other tools developed by ELSA folks. We hope and expect that, in the long run, the site will function as a centerpiece and a

stimulus for CLB implementation and to build our capacity for formative and summative CLB assessment in ELSA programs.

Contact dhunter@vcc.ca for more information, or to share your perspectives.

See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moodle> if you're not familiar with Moodle and would like an overview.



From Our Members

From Our Students

Homeland

by Payam Peykari
(ISS Coquitlam - ELSA 5 student)

Now I am here. It's not a temporary situation and I should understand it. It's not a short trip and there isn't any home behind me. Home is right here. I am at home. At first it's a little hard to understand, especially if there was no choice when you had to leave your country. But Canada is different; the most important thing here is responsibility.

I am here in a country that feels responsible for me. They care about me and they support me. Immigrants in other countries have to fight while the country's people don't accept them as their countryman, but here in Canada, Canadians ask us to be one of them and join them as their people and a member of their nation.

They open their arms so warmly toward us. I ask myself then what is the meaning of nation? Where is my nation? And if it's not a warm embrace then what is it?

I read somewhere that home is where you can lay your head safely on your bed. I think that I understand that, at last, after over 30 years of wandering. I am at home. I've found my land and my people and I should join them to make our future. If these people share with me all they have from their efforts in past, I should meet my quota to give back to them in the next generation. I think it's fair.

Now I want to know more about Canadian history, about Canadian goals, about Canadian hopes, about Canadian life and even about Canadian death ... Canada is not my second country, perhaps its better to say that now I have two countries. Side by side and land by land and here is where I will live forever ... I love this land.

Payam is originally from Iran where he was a Philosophy student and worked as a social worker. He enjoys writing poetry and doing photography.



From Our Community

BC TEAL 41st Annual Conference

The Theory Practice Cycle: Perspectives on ELT

We are excited to announce that the 2009 BC TEAL conference will be held May 7th – 9th at the English Language Institute on the Point Grey campus of the University of British Columbia.

We hope you will make plans to join your colleagues from across the province to take in this stimulating professional development opportunity. Keep up to date on conference events and changes by visiting our website at www.bcteal.org.

The Call for Presentations will be available for download from the TEAL website in early November, and if you are interested in participating on the Conference Planning Committee, please contact the TEAL office, admin@bcteal.org.

Please note that the BC TEAL Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on May 8th from 12:30-1:00pm, at UBC.





From Our Community



Centre for
Canadian Language
Benchmarks

Centre des niveaux de
compétence linguistique
canadiens

CCLB UPDATE - November 2008

The Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB) has been working on a number of activities to support the use of the national standard, the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB), in British Columbia.

National Consultation:

The CCLB has embarked on a national consultation on the CLB/NCLC. It will take eighteen months to complete and aims to be a comprehensive scan of organizations, programs, groups and individuals who use the CLB/NCLC. Stakeholder groups in British Columbia will be asked to express needs, gaps and desired next steps in terms of content, materials, tools and uses of the CLB/NCLC. They may also provide additional supports such as advice, consultation venues and partnerships. The overarching purpose of the consultation is to review the CLB 2000 and the NCLC 2006. In addition, the consultation will determine appropriate planning and action for the CCLB. This will enable the organization to pursue its leadership role in responding to the information and directions gleaned from this process. Regular communications will be circulated and posted on the CCLB website (www.language.ca) to inform stakeholders about information and consultation sessions, different means of participating (web surveys and discussion forums) and results. CCLB wants to hear from the ESL community in British Columbia!

Teacher Training on CLB 5-10 Exit Assessment Tasks:

The CCLB has recently developed a training workshop that will introduce ESL instructors to the new CCLB resource - *Canadian Language Benchmarks 5-10 Exit Assessment Tasks*. Participants will get an overview of the materials along with practice in using the scoring tools to get accurate CLB reports of adult learners' speaking and writing proficiency. The resource covers all four skills and is suited to use in both general and specialized language training programs.

Training workshops will take place throughout British Columbia from November to March for teachers currently teaching in CLB 5+ ELSA and Ministry of Advanced Education funded programs. The development of the workshop was funded by Alberta Employment and Immigration. British Columbia's Ministries of the Attorney General and Advanced Education are funding the workshops. For more information please contact jmckay@language.ca.

Integrating Assessment Workshop:

The CCLB will be delivering a workshop on classroom assessment for ESL instructors from ELSA and Ministry of Advanced Education programs. This workshop will help teachers develop an understanding of integrating CLB assessment into their classrooms. Participants

From Our Community

will recognize formative and summative assessments as integral parts of teaching and learning and will be able to create their own assessment tools pertinent to classroom tasks and themes. The workshop is based on the CCLB publication *Integrating CLB Assessment into your ESL Classroom* ©2005 by Tara Holmes. British Columbia's Ministries of Advanced Education and the Attorney General are funding the workshop. For more information please contact jmckay@langauge.ca.

Essential Skills Initiative:

A project is underway at the CCLB as part of the Essential Skills Initiative for Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC). The project will support the development of three resources and tools that will provide various professionals with a better understanding of how to apply Essential Skills and CLB with adult newcomers to Canada. The first resource is a guidebook and a workshop for job analysts who create and work with

national standards like Essential Skills Profiles and National Occupational Standards. The second resource is a guidebook and workshop for trainers who work with newcomers but who do not necessarily have ESL or ESL literacy training. The third resource is a guidebook, workshop and set of lesson plans for ESL practitioners. The ESL resources include techniques for building a foundation for Essential Skills with lower CLB learners, focusing on the transferability of skills. Resources will include a classroom diagnostic for teachers, a foundational comparative framework, and twenty-five new sample lesson plans. If you wish to volunteer to review any of the project resources or for more information, contact cpepin@language.ca or mkayed@language.ca.

For further information about these projects and other available resources, please visit the CCLB website at www.language.ca or contact the CCLB at (613) 230-7729 or info@language.ca.

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Fair**
2009
Promoting Healthy Living

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Join us at Canada's largest Health Fair for families of all ages and cultures...

Saturday, February 21, 2009

10 am – 4 pm

Croatian Cultural Centre

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FREE ADMISSION – FREE PARKING

Visit www.amssa.org/healthfair2009 for program information, sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities, as well as excellent volunteer opportunities!

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- Fabulous draw prizes

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❖ Also look for Regional Health Fairs in Abbotsford, Victoria, Nanaimo, Kamloops, Vernon in the spring. ❖

ELSA Net

English Language Services for Adults (ELSA) is a funding stream of the British Columbia Settlement and Adaptation Program. ELSA Net is a society of ELSA Service Providers, which consists of organizations such as settlement agencies (non-profit organizations), community and university colleges, school board continuing education departments, and private schools offering ELSA Programs.

Strategic Goals

- o Maintain a peer network among organizations delivering ELSA programs to support excellence in program delivery.
- o Be a proactive information and communication channel between Government and ELSA member organizations.
- o Collaborate with organizations with mutual concerns for developing and delivering resources and services for immigrants, refugees, and newcomers.
- o Promote and support ongoing professional development.

ELSA Net contact information:

Brenda Lohrenz
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Colleen Rogan
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