



## Contents

- 2 Update from the Ministry
- 3 ELSA Net Update
- 6 From Our Community
- 8 About ELSA Net Events
- 10 New resources
- 14 From Our ELSA Students

The ELSA Net Newsletter is available in PDF format on the ELSA Net website: [www.elsanet.org](http://www.elsanet.org)

Contributions to future editions of the ELSA Net Newsletter are welcomed at [esl@elsanet.org](mailto:esl@elsanet.org)

Colleen Rogan, *Editor*

Cathy Nesmith,  
*Copy Editor*

Vania Ganacheva,  
*Design and Layout*

**ELSA Net**  
200-5050 Kingsway,  
Burnaby, BC  
V5H 4H2  
604-639-3230  
[esl@elsanet.org](mailto:esl@elsanet.org)  
[www.elsanet.org](http://www.elsanet.org)

## “Improving Opportunities for New Immigrants” Our Biggest PD Ever

*By Colleen Rogan, ELSA Net*

On October 29, 2007 ELSA Net was thrilled to host our biggest Professional Development Conference yet: “Improving Opportunities for New Immigrants”. With over 400 participants, 32 presenters and panelists, 19 sessions and 12 publisher tables, we had our work cut out for us. The PD Committee brought together the group of talented presenters to offer a line up of useful and compelling sessions. The staff at Broadway Church played an excellent host who provided us with a spacious, bright venue and served us a delicious lunch. Ultimately, it was the instructors and childcare professionals who made the day with their enthusiastic participation.



*Here’s what some of  
the participants had to say:*

*Lots of great ideas to use in  
the classroom*

*Excellent presentation*

*Very informative*



*The venue was great*



*The food was excellent*



*A very successful event.  
Thank you to the planning committee!*

The ELSA Net staff would like to thank all of the participants, the PD Committee, Emma Andrews, the panellists and presenters, and the Broadway Church for making this year’s PD event such a huge success!

For ideas about next year’s PD event, or to update us on how you have used the information you learned at the PD this year in your classrooms and daycares, email [resourcecoordinator@elsanet.org](mailto:resourcecoordinator@elsanet.org)



---

## Update from the Ministry

---

*By Norah Boltin, Manager Stakeholder Relations*

The Settlement and Multiculturalism Branch (SAM) continues to experience a period of program expansion and the development of new initiatives. Our program growth has been primarily lead by priorities established through service provider, stakeholder and funder consultations. The following will provide an update on some key initiatives the Settlement and Multiculturalism Division is pursuing.

### ***BCSAP Joint Training Committee***

The BCSAP Joint Training Committee was established to guide the development of a Training Model to support training initiatives for all of BCSAP staff and organizations.

The Committee will be meeting to discuss moving forward with contractor sign on for the Training Framework and the establishment of a secretariat to lead the development of the training model.

### ***Services for seniors***

Approximately 11% of ELSA students are aged 55 or over.

Acting on recommendations from past consultations we are exploring opportunities for the development of services for seniors.

SAM will be hosting a targeted consultation event early in the new year in Partnership with the Ministry of Community Services.

The focus of the consultation will be the needs and barriers of immigrant seniors, service responsibility, promising practises and partnership opportunities.

ELSA Net will be invited to participate in the consultation and a final report will be compiled and disseminated.

### ***BCSAP Funding Allocation***

The most recent census data on immigrant residency will not be available until January. Rather than revise our current funding model, we will compare actual service purchases through the RFP process against the census data and adjust services upward if there is statistical evidence of a funding misalignment.

### ***ELSA 4/5 Services***

Negotiations for the start up of ELSA 4/5 classes are in process. Some service providers will stagger the start date of classes between now and January.

ELSA Net and assessment centers will be kept informed of the start date of classes by service providers.

Recently a communication concerning STaRS utilization for ELSA 4/5 classes was sent by Joe Nguyen as the Ministry STaRS contact.

### ***Regional Meetings***

SAM is compiling questions and issues that were raised during recent ELSA Net regional meetings and will prepare a Ministry response for ELSA Net.

Issues relating to program delivery, design or evaluation will be referred to the Contract Management or Performance Design and Evaluation Units.

### ***Service Provider Reports***

BCSAP reports are being reviewed by Contract Managers and will be referred to the Performance Design and Evaluation Unit who will undertake an analysis of trends, observations and statistical findings.

Reports from Stream 1 providers (settlement workers) will inform SAM how they have enhanced and/or expanded services in response to increased funding. This information will be compiled and shared with internal and external stakeholders.

### ***Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)***

Up to 100 staff from 10 Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley and Victoria school districts will have received settlement training by the New Year.

The training provided was comprehensive and well received. It was recommended that the training be available for Stream 1 settlement workers. This recommendation will be forwarded to the BCSAP Joint Training Committee for further review.

### ***BC Newcomers Guide***

The much awaited revised BC Newcomers Guide is currently in development.

The revised resource will include some new content such as `going green` and will be reviewed by plain language experts before going to print.

The new resource should be available in English and French this spring with the guides available in an expanded number of languages in the fall of 2008.

## Message from the ELSA Net President

By Yvonne Chard,  
ELSA Net President



Greetings all.

Some days I think I'm seeing the 'trees and not the forest'.

Our ELSA program is going through yet another period of change, and we are all busy with proposal writing, and new class arrangements. With the new money that has been provided we are looking at a future of new testing, new curriculum, new teachers, and new levels of instruction. Sometimes it is frustrating trying to cope with all of these things.



However, if we look beyond that to the program itself, we should be proud and happy. The ELSA program in BC is thriving, respected, vital and enjoyable. I first began teaching ESL in Australia because it was the only extra job a teacher could legally have. Moonlighting was against the law. I taught a small class of Greek adults. My preparation for that had been a kindergarten class in which 75% of my students were Greek children without English. When I came to Canada, I started teaching in a grade 2 class in a school that I found very rigid and stifling in creativity. A colleague suggested I apply to another school that had a TESL vacancy. Off I went into a whole new passion.

I have worked with immigrant students since before some of you were born. I have found it to be an incredibly rewarding activity. Every day there is something unexpected, whether in learning something new about a culture, something new about a student or something new about our own language. There is a lot of learning, understanding, respect, laughter and sorrow being shared daily between staff and adult learners. This work provides staff with a wonderful opportunity to share the community of this beautiful province with its new inhabitants.

While we struggle with the administrative systems for running a successful program, let us keep our eyes on the wonderful people for whom it is designed.

## ELSA Net has a new office!



**200-5050 Kingsway,  
Burnaby, BC  
V5H 4H2**



## ELSA Net Update from the Executive Director



By Cathy Nesmith, ELSA Net

This fall has seen the introduction of new ELSA level 4 and 5 classes which are starting up all over the province. It's very exciting for ELSA classes in BC to reach into the intermediate student level.

As well, over the autumn, the brochures describing ELSA programs were revised, and they are now available for download from our website. The general brochure includes information about ELSA programs and eligibility criteria. It has been translated into 14 languages including the addition of S'gao, the language of the Karen immigrants who have been recently arriving in BC.

In relation to the new level 4 and 5 classes, two brochures comparing regular ELSA 4/5 and Labour Market Focused (LMF) 5 (or 4/5) have been produced, and are also on the website for downloading. There are versions for the Lower Mainland, and for Regional programs. These brochures are aimed at level 3 students, and have been prepared in plain English. There is also a lesson plan (e-mail me if you need a copy), to accompany these which provides a taste of the Labour Market Focus program for students trying to decide between LMF and regular ELSA.

There have been a lot of changes at the ELSA Net office in the past few months. We moved into new premises over the summer, and have a bright and beautiful office near Metrotown. Brenda Lohrenz is taking maternity leave and enjoying time with her new baby.

Vania Ganacheva, our administrative assistant, started in July and comes to us with expertise in event planning which was invaluable during the preparations for the Lower Mainland Professional Development Conference.

Colleen Rogan, with extensive teaching and curriculum development experience, is the new instructional resource coordinator. Colleen will be focusing on support to instructors and childcare workers, in this new position. Marian Ennis, our bookkeeper, will continue to keep track of our financial details. I'm looking forward to a fun and productive year working with this great staff.



### New contact information:

Cathy Nesmith  
[executivedirector@elsanet.org](mailto:executivedirector@elsanet.org)  
604-639-8118

Colleen Rogan  
[resourcecoordinator@elsanet.org](mailto:resourcecoordinator@elsanet.org)  
604-639-3233

Vania Ganacheva  
[admin@elsanet.org](mailto:admin@elsanet.org)  
604-639-3230 ; Fax: 604-639-8116

## ELSA Net Update from the Resource Coordinator

By Colleen Rogan, ELSA Net



My teaching career began in Africa, in a rural school, in the mountains, with one piece of chalk per week to teach a class of 50+ students. The challenges seemed insurmountable especially so because I was a new teacher (and didn't have a Resource Coordinator!) These were my beginnings in resourcefulness and I learned to teach with virtually nothing but myself, the surroundings, the students and an often very small piece of chalk.

In 1993, I discovered the wonderful world of teaching new immigrants. At that time, the program was still called LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) and my first class was a very low level one class. I remember those first days of cutting, pasting, coloring, struggling over the best way to present a new word or a concept. 14 years later, interests mushroomed into creating resources, curriculum writing, test writing and teacher training. Even so, I still found challenges and surprises in the classroom. And, at the end of the day, I was always astonished at the enormous wealth of knowledge, experience and spirit that came from those that I was supposedly teaching. I sometimes wondered who was learning more.

Becoming Instructional Resource Coordinator for ELSA Net in October has both challenged and enriched my life. In the short time since starting this job, I have learned so much about the field that I have worked in for over 19 years. I have met countless incredibly talented and dedicated people. I've had the opportunity to visit rural schools and to talk to teachers around the province. My eyes have been opened to the numerous challenges instructors face every day. And my respect for the people working so passionately in this sector continues to grow.

It's hard to believe that 2007 is coming to a close. It's been an amazing year for me personally and a

year of change and growth in the ELSA program and the ELSA Net office. I look forward to connecting with more teachers and childcare professionals in the coming years. I know that ELSA programs will continue to flourish and improve and our work together will help to make that happen.

I am always open to questions, feedback, issues, ideas, teaching tips, new resource discoveries... [resourcecoordinator@elsanet.org](mailto:resourcecoordinator@elsanet.org).

*It's a girl !!!*

*ELSA Net welcomes the arrival of Tiana.*

*She was born at 8:36 am on Wednesday Nov 14 weighing 8lbs 7oz. She is a cutie, and she and her mom are doing great.*



*Tiana with her brother Luka*

*Congratulations Brenda,  
Dragon and Luka!!!*



## From Our Community

### The 2007 Fall TEAL Sessions

By Noreen Cross, TEAL Sessions Chair

The Fall TEAL Sessions have come and gone, but I am sure the ideas and connections gained are still resonating among the participants and presenters. The bi-annual TEAL Sessions is a one-day event held each October and February where practical workshops are offered by experienced ESL practitioners from British Columbia.



At these Fall TEAL Sessions, the participants enjoyed a wide variety of workshops including “Oldies but Goldies-Favourite Grammar Activities”, a self explanatory workshop presented by Liet Hellwig; “Actions Speak Louder than Words”, a workshop in enhancing students’ communication skills presented by Richard Hoogendoorn; “Vocabulary Building-Beyond Lists” focusing

on collocations, presented by Jennifer Walsh Marr; “Past Simple, Present, Progressive; Future: Cambridge (Perfect)”, a workshop tracing the origins of Cambridge and its present significance in language learning presented by Dave Davies; and “Speed Sharing”, a workshop where participants share their own teaching ideas facilitated by Noreen Cross.

It was encouraging to see such a strong attendance emphasizing the salience of professional development in our industry. Participants came from as far away as Vernon, Kelowna and Seattle. We thank you all for attending and creating such a positive and energetic vibe in the workshops. We sincerely apologize to those who were unable to register due to the limited classroom space.

Thanks again to Tamwood International College, in particular Dee Maher and Emma Towson, who were so accommodating and helpful in setting up for the sessions. Also, a big thanks to Gwen Attard, for her pivotal role in making sure registration ran smoothly.

Hope to see you at the next sessions in February!

### BC TEAL Call for Submissions

We are pleased to announce the call for submissions to the BC TEAL 2008 Conference “Honouring the Past; Embracing the Future” which will take place at Kwantlen University College’s Richmond Campus on April 25-26, 2008.

We are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Diane Larsen-Freeman and Dr. Nina Spada as our plenary speakers.

The conference will address:

- Challenges to ESL professionalism

- History, standards, and practice changes in English Language Education
- Program Development
- Teacher Training
- Curriculum Development
- ESL Teaching

We are inviting submissions from practitioners, administrators, and researchers, as well as graduate students interested in specific areas of English Language Education.

The BC TEAL 2008 Conference Committee plans to usher in the next decade with style, so do plan to be part of this 40th anniversary conference!

Please register via the conference website: [www.bctéal.org](http://www.bctéal.org) by clicking on CONFERENCES in the menu bar. The Call is also attached for your reference.

Thank you,

Conference Committee, TEAL 2008 BC TEAL

## From Our Community

### 'Promoting Healthy Living' 2008 Multicultural Health Fair

From AMSSA



Plans are underway for AMSSA's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Multicultural Health Fair, which will be held at the Croatian Cultural Centre in Vancouver on **Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**. Lower Mainland ESL teachers and students are invited to participate in this exciting event!

The aim of the Fair, a free community event, is to *Promote Healthy Living among BC's Multicultural Communities* by responding to a growing interest among the multi-ethnic community for simple, accessible solutions for a healthier lifestyle.

Teacher Resource Sheets can be downloaded from

our website for you to encourage students to prepare for the fair, fully participate at the fair, and discuss and share their experiences after the fair. The information includes an activity sheet with health-related vocabulary, teacher resources, and a scavenger hunt that can only be completed by attending the event. Leading up to the Health Fair, you can spark discussions and games in your classroom and adapt these resources as necessary to suit your student needs, while teaching crucial health information.

For more information, including many great volunteer opportunities, please go to: [www.amssa.org/healthfair2008/esl.htm](http://www.amssa.org/healthfair2008/esl.htm).

### 2007 ELSA Net Conference

Participants listen to the plenary speaker.



Thank you to our volunteers!



Workshops were fun!



Networking was great!



Publishers displays





---

## About ELSA Net Events

---

### Regional News

#### Early Childhood Educators Enjoy Their Session

*By Lori deWet, Childcare Supervisor at ICA Victoria*

For our professional development day the Early Childhood Educators from Victoria and Nanaimo enjoyed an informative day with Maria Ressel from the Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre.

In our morning workshop we discussed the meaning of culture. Culture can be thought of in terms of the concrete items and objects we see, hold, and use but culture is also experienced in how people live out their lives. It is also what they believe and what values they hold dear. Sometimes it can be difficult to specifically identify our own personal culture but we did an activity that really helped us distinguish our own unique culture by answering some questions about our own family customs and values. It was interesting to really have to think about the answers to these questions and we all learned something about ourselves from this exercise.

We also discussed the benefits of celebrating diversity, choosing materials, and tips for working with multicultural families. The tip that resonated with me was a reminder to speak softly because if we speak too loudly it may sound like yelling to some people.

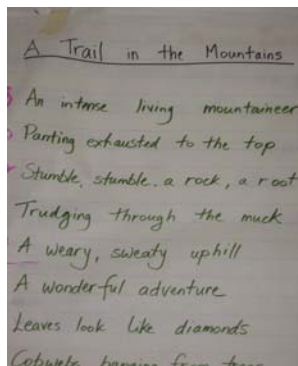
In our afternoon workshop we learned about diversity education. Maria came with loads of fantastic children's books that we all promptly wrote down to add to our wish lists! She also had some circle time activities that can help children learn and celebrate all our unique differences. One example is to hand out little mirrors so all the children can look in their mirror and decide what they have in common (2 eyes, 1 nose) and what their differences may be (different colour of skin, curly hair). We really liked that idea and knew it could inspire some positive, open dialogue about differences in a supportive environment.

We also had a great laugh mixing her safe, non-toxic flesh colored paints on our skin until we matched our own flesh tone. This is a must for every centre! I now know that I am definitely not a "white" woman. In fact I am a delicious mix of marshmallow, cinnamon and gingerbread!

A very informative day facilitated by a gifted woman. Maria's calm, organized presentation was made even more enjoyable by her wonderful sense of humour!

---

### Enhancing Language Through Creative Expression



*Enhancing language through creative expression.  
We used metaphors to describe our relationship  
to teaching.*



*Instructors from the Island Region enjoy a day  
of Professional Development at ICA in Victoria.*



## About ELSA Net Events

### Enhancing Language Through Creative Expression

By Colleen Rogan, ELSA Net

I have to admit, I was a little unsure when I attended a teaching workshop and saw Naomi Wolfe, the facilitator, pull out her ghetto blaster, candles and art supplies. I was ill-prepared for what followed: a journey through meditation, drawing and drama as we explored our relationship with teaching. Naomi began her session with a guided meditation that helped us to create an image of our relationship to teaching. From that meditation, we expressed this image in pictures using pastels, crayons and colored pencils. It



*Exploring visual metaphors.*

was a surprise when we paired up and were asked not to explain our own picture, but to look at our partner's picture and tell what we thought it meant. Our pictures lead to stream of consciousness writing. Relaxing to background music, we wrote non-stop about any images or ideas that came to us. These images finally lead to a collaborative drama presentation. The participants described Naomi's workshop as unexpected, out-of-the-box, creative and exploratory. However you describe it, we all came away with insight and inspiration.

### Living and Working in a Multicultural Society

By Deborah Harrison, ELSA Instructor, Kamloops Immigration Services

As a newcomer to ELSA, I was really looking forward to my first ELSA Net Professional Development day, and I was not disappointed.

The seminar with the most impact was the one on multiculturalism and diversity. The workshop started with a quiz on immigration in Canada, past and present, and showed how little we actually know about immigration policy and trends at present. We learned who was coming, why they were coming, and from where they were coming. This focus on the humanistic side of our profession was enlightening as we were reminded to focus not only on the skill building aspect of teaching, but to take into account who our students were before they entered our classrooms.



Knowing each individual as a person with a life history will better enable us to understand their possible barriers to learning, and their motivation for learning English. By the day's end, I had come away with new friends and many more items for my ever expanding teacher's toolkit.

\*\*\*

The session facilitator was Jody Johnson who works with Douglas College in the Skills Connect program. Skills Connect is a program for skilled immigrants ideally at a CLB 6 proficiency level. Skills Connect programs have the ability, tools and strategies to break down the barriers that face skilled immigrants in their search for employment in their field.

For more information about Skills Connect or to find the providers, go to <http://www.ecdev.gov.bc.ca/ProgramsAndServices/IQU/SkillsConnect/>



## Cyber Space



You may have already started so you know that exploring the web opens seemingly endless possibilities for free and photocopyable resources and information. If you haven't ..... Grab a mouse..... Go on.....

### Here are a few you might like to explore:

[www.nald.ca/library/learning/word2003/cover.htm](http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/word2003/cover.htm)

*The ESL Computer Book: Microsoft Word 2003* by Kathy Burnett, Halifax Immigrant Learning Centre (2007)

- Looking for resources to teach computer skills? Here you will find a downloadable manual written to teach ESL students basic computer and Word skills. It even has practise activities.

[www.soundsofenglish.org](http://www.soundsofenglish.org)

- This is a pronunciation resource you can really use. Try the “**links**” page to find sites with

*authentic* listening materials. The “**hand-outs**” page leads you to current TESOL presentations on the subjects of pronunciation, listening and teaching literacy skills.

<http://esl.about.com/library/quiz/bllisteningquiz.htm?once=true&>

- You'll need Real Player to listen to these conversations that come with listening comprehension quizzes. There are many topics of conversation at all levels: from simply listening for numbers to a conversation about job advertisements.

[www.settlement.org](http://www.settlement.org)

- Check this website to read articles on immigration and refugees in Canada
- Hit the “**LINC Documents**” tab to access materials on CLB , Curriculum development and evaluation.

[www.amssa.org/healthyliving](http://www.amssa.org/healthyliving)

- Remember to check out the **new, free, photocopyable** resources made specifically for ELSA levels literacy – 5. Sample activities are posted now and the full resource package will be ready to use by early December.

**\*If you know of some great websites out there, share them with us!**

**Send it with a short review to: [resourcecoordinator@elsanet.org](mailto:resourcecoordinator@elsanet.org)**

**We will post it on the website or publish it in the next newsletter.**



## New Resources For the Classroom

### Just in time for Christmas: The ActNow/Elsa Net Resource Package...

By Sheila Buchanan



#### **What is ActNowBC?**

ActNow BC is a government initiative aimed at improving the health of British Columbians by promoting healthy lifestyle choices. Specific goals of the program include increasing the percentage of the B.C. population that is physically active, increasing the number of adults who eat fruits and vegetables daily, and reducing obesity.

#### **What does it have to do with ELSA?**

Multi-cultural communities were one of the target audiences for this initiative, and as a result ELSA Net worked with AMSSA to create a website with resources aimed at those who work with immigrant communities.

#### **What's in it for me?**

Lots of FREE teaching materials that will enhance your existing units on food, health, community places and recreation. There are five full modules from literacy to level 5 that contain activities you can download and use in your ELSA classes.

#### **The Activities at a Glance:**

The first module is *Healthy Eating* developed for literacy and level one learners. It's based on the new Canada Food Guide and has a nice set of coloured food cards which can be printed in colour or in black and white. (put a class set of the beautifully illustrated colour picture cards on your school's Christmas wish list!)

The second module is *Healthy Lifestyles*, also for literacy and level one learners. It provides more colourful illustrated material including picture cards and picture stories which will help instructors introduce the lower levels to the importance of physical activity in maintaining physical and mental health at all ages.

The third module introduces the topic of *Diabetes* to level 2 and 3 learners. This unit is based, with permission, on the Westcoast Reader's April 2007 edition which was dedicated to Diabetes, a disease that can often be prevented by maintaining a healthy diet and an active lifestyle.

Module four, *Healthy Communities*, encourages level 2 and 3 learners to discover recreational opportunities within their own communities. It gives lots of opportunity to discuss the benefits of an active lifestyle through picture stories and guided discussions.

The fifth and final module is *Healthy Minds* which was developed for level 4 and 5 learners. It features case studies, guided web-based research, group presentations and lots of opportunities for discussion around addressing the particular stresses families face when they move to a new culture.

#### **This sounds fantastic! How do I access the Resource Package?**

Go to <http://www.amssa.org/healthyliving>. Enter the website and look under ESL Resources. You can print individual exercises, the entire curriculum or module.

#### **Who do we have to thank for all of this hard work?**

The Ministry of the Attorney General, ELSA Net, AMSSA, Act Now BC, Welcome B.C, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and BC Parks and Recreation. In the ELSA Net realm: Brenda Lohrenz who managed the project, Jennifer Walsh Marr who did the initial needs assessment and curriculum guides, Sheila Buchanan who developed the resources, Helena Maria who did the graphics, John McLaughlin who designed the website, the advisory board and pilot instructors who provided valuable feedback throughout, and Colleen Rogan who took over the final management of the project.

(Don't forget to ask Santa to make class sets in colour of the lovely illustrations and picture stories!)



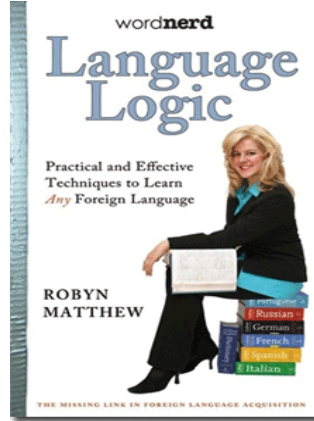
## New Resources For the Classroom

### Book Review

By Colleen Rogan

#### Language Logic: Practical and Effective Techniques to Learn Any Foreign Language

Anyone who has struggled with learning a foreign language can identify with Robyn Matthew who is the author of *Language Logic*. She took high school French only to abandon it in grade 11. Then, in university, she was required to pick up a French course. Her initial excitement turned into disappointment again when she didn't progress. She persevered though and transformed her initial failure into a huge success. Now Robyn not only grades provincial French exams, but she also runs her own Language and Educational Services company and works for Collins Dictionary.



#### *Language Logic: Practical and Effective Techniques to Learn Any Foreign Language*

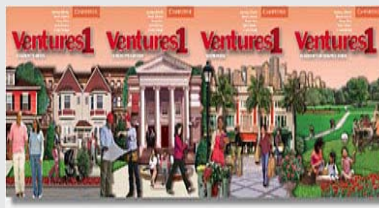
ISBN 0-9780641-0-  
0ISBN-13: 978-0-9780641-0-  
5Price: \$24.95

How does someone who initially failed French class become an evaluator of grade 12 provincial French exams? Her success stems from using a system to learn language. A system she shares in the book *Language Logic*.

Robyn writes from a deep understanding of the challenges language learners face in a witty and engaging way making it a great read for any language teacher. And although *Language Logic* targets English speakers who are learning a foreign language, in it you will find a wonderful refresher course in children and adult language learning theories as well as new and interesting ways to organize your teaching. Written with the wisdom of a learner who has succeeded, it is full of practical, if sometimes unconventional, ways of learning language successfully. This is a must have for any language teaching resource shelf. And hey – you might even take that foreign language class you've been thinking about!

## New Ventures

from Cambridge



For the first time, there is one complete, standards-based series with the flexibility to address all your individual needs. Ventures - the new low-beginning to high-intermediate, five-level course - is the student-centered solution that the adult education community has been waiting for!

### “The Vancouver Field Trip Guide”

The updated second edition lists 82 field trips with detailed information about each venue as well as a map, a photograph and a contact assignment. There is also an answer key and a list of web sites at the back of the book. All of these pages may be photocopied for the convenience of teachers and parents. The contents page is divided into the four categories of general, cultural, historical and environmental field trips.

These four categories are further subdivided into the two areas of the Vancouver area and the surrounding areas. This is very helpful for parents and teachers when planning their field trips.

To purchase a copy of the book , please contact Juliet Napier, 6709 Kent Crescent, North Delta, B.C. V4E 1K6 or jnapier@dccnet.com.



Keyboarding/touch typing is an essential skill in today's world that is required for many jobs as well as in everyday activities.

ATRT 3 was developed by **keyboard-ing specialists** and uses a sequenced approach to teach touch-typing. The program provides an array of lessons, keyboarding games, immediate feedback and record keeping to track progress.

To learn about how to take advantage of great savings for adult learners please go to [www.ingenuityworks.com](http://www.ingenuityworks.com) or call 1-800-665-0667 .



## From Our ELSA Students

### New Directions in Langley

By Annemieke Vrijmoed - Strang  
New Directions, Langley, BC

We had a very busy and interesting spring at New Directions in Langley. A couple of field trips and guest speakers, who visited our school, stand out:

1) In May the students of levels 1 to 3 visited Mayor Peter Fassbender at Langley City Hall. After viewing a film about Langley and the surrounding area, we had a chance to ask the Mayor a number of questions and the teachers were proud to see that our students had many.

2) A very special guest speaker was Dr. Godwin Eni, who visited our school with Langley MP Mark Warawa. Dr. Eni, who is originally from Nigeria, talked to the students about his experience as an immigrant to Canada. His talk was informative, at times understandably serious but also very entertaining.

This presentation was organized by 'Passages to Canada', an initiative of the Dominion Institute in Toronto. If any of you would like to invite a speaker, contact Eliana Busheikin, who is the Passages to Canada Programme Coordinator. (1-866-701-1867) e.mail address: [www.eliana@dominion.ca](mailto:www.eliana@dominion.ca) or [www.passages@dominion.ca](mailto:www.passages@dominion.ca).

3) In June we visited the Surrey Court House which is always a highlight. Jan Baldwin, the Law Courts Education Coordinator received our students with a big smile and made them feel at ease (see student's article). This visit was followed up by a lesson on the law by Tim Enders from the People's Law Society in Vancouver. Tim is always a popular guest speaker/teacher and students appreciate his classes very much!



### The Court House Trip

By Yu Mei (May) YAN, student  
New Directions, Langley, BC

Last Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, we visited the Provincial Court of British Columbia in Surrey. This was my first time to have a Court House trip. So I felt a little 'fresh' and a little scared.

When our car arrived at the Court House, we found that it was difficult to find a parking spot. The first impression that we got was that the Court House was very busy.

The lady who was in charge of the court education program was called Jan. She was a very friendly, open-minded and warm person. She let us talk about ourselves with humour. This



Photo was taken by Jennifer Kirk

made us feel more relaxed in this serious place. Then she introduced some aspects of the court system, including the daily list with details on the different cases.

Then we entered several court rooms in small groups and stayed about ten minutes each time. To be honest, I didn't understand what the judges and lawyers said because they all spoke very softly and I couldn't hear clearly. But being in the court room, when I saw the judge sitting at the top of the room, I felt that the atmosphere was very formal, serious and respectful.

After awhile, we returned to Jan's room. We had a question and answer period. Jan answered a lot of questions we asked.

This trip gave me a very special experience. I got to know about some court systems in Canada. It will be useful for my future life in Canada.



## From Our ELSA Students

### Lesson on the Law – Renting a Home

*By Young Sook KIM, student,  
New Directions, Langley, BC*

Our class had the opportunity to learn from Tim Enders on Renting a Home.

He explained all the definitions of the big legal words related to the subject in an easy way. He taught us what problems we might come across, how to prevent them and how to solve them. Before this class I was a little afraid because I am renting a house and I am a newcomer to Canada. After that lesson all my worries of being a tenant were solved. I think classes on the law are very useful. I am very thankful for having the privilege to have opportunities to learn about the law as an ELSA student. Thank you Tim!!!



### The Pumpkin Farm

*By Gadama (Daisy) GADAMAPAW,  
student, New Directions, Langley*

Our Karen people went on a field trip. This photo shows our Karen students. We study ESL at New Directions. We went to the Aldor Acres Pumpkin Farm and we enjoyed it with our teachers and our friends. It is a very nice place and we also love Canada. We are lucky.



For more information about The People's Law Society ESL Program, call Tim Enders at 604-331-5408 or email [ESL@publiclegaled.bc.ca](mailto:ESL@publiclegaled.bc.ca)

### Happy to Volunteer

*By Lan, Mei Tao and Kyung Youn*



The Raise-a-Reader campaign collects money to help children and adults learn how to read and write English. Our class were volunteers, so early in the morning we went downtown Vancouver to stand on the street corners and ask people to buy the Vancouver Sun newspaper. We talked to people for two hours. We were shy but we practiced saying, "Please give a donation for education." We collected a lot of money and met a famous hockey player. Then we had a good breakfast with hundreds of other volunteers. We were cold and tired but we felt happy and proud to volunteer.



## ELSA Net Overview

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.

The purpose of ELSA Net is to facilitate the effective delivery of English Language Services for Adults throughout the Province of British Columbia taking into account and recognizing regional differences and needs.

The objectives of ELSA Net are to carry out the following functions to assist in attaining the purpose of ELSA Net:

- (a) Recommend policies and procedures to the Ministry (Ministry of the Attorney General) regarding ELSA;
- (b) Provide a forum for networking by Members;
- (c) Provide professional development opportunities for employees of the Members;
- (d) Promote program research and development;
- (e) Establish and maintain an effective structure for communication and coordination among Members;
- (f) Provide representation of and information about ELSA and ELSA Net at the local, provincial and national level;
- (g) Provide advice to the Ministry regarding ELSA.

### ELSA Net STAFF

Executive Director: Cathy Nesmith  
Resource Coordinator: Colleen Rogan  
Bookkeeper: Marian Ennis  
Administrative Assistant: Vania Ganacheva



English Language Services for Adults Network

#200 - 5050 Kingsway  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
V5H 4H2  
esl@elsanet.org  
www.elsanet.org