



Teachers of English as a Second Language Association of Ontario
27 Carlton Street, Suite 405, Toronto, Ontario M5B 1L2
Telephone: 416-593-4243 or 1-800-327-4827 Fax: 416-593-0164
Email: administration@teslontario.org
www.teslontario.org

April 4, 2011

Bill Fisch
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Fisch,

On March 31st, 2011 TESL Ontario (Teachers of English as a Second Language) mailed you a letter inviting you to take part in our Ontario wide initiative and declare ESL week. Unfortunately the letter stated incorrect dates. The correct date for "English as a Second Language" week is **October 23rd to 29th, 2011.**

Given the diversity of your population, we hope you will grant us this request. In 2010 twenty-seven municipalities declared English as a Second Language Week.

For 38 years, TESL Ontario has held its Annual Conference to provide professional development for educators, administrators, students and volunteers who work with immigrants, refugees, citizens, and visitors, all who wish to improve their ability to communicate in English. This year, our 39th conference "Language Learning: A Focus on Success" will be held October 27th to 29th, 2011 and we will be honoured if representatives of your council can participate.

Last year's TESL Ontario conference attracted over 1600 registrants. Our members travel from across the province and beyond to attend workshops, research symposia, our technology fair and publishers' displays. For many of us, this annual journey to Toronto marks a time when we can share our experiences, expand our skills, and reaffirm the positive contribution that our province makes to diversity.

Having established a set of criteria to ensure measurable qualifications among ESL professionals, TESL Ontario, a non-profit organization, ensures that training institutions offering teacher training meet the highest standards. As we demand the best qualifications of our members, and the best in training from our teaching programs, we offer the best in second language education to our students, who in turn, contribute a wealth of knowledge and experience to our communities.

Attached, please find our revised suggested wording of the proclamation. Please contact our Executive Director, Renate Tilson at rtilson@teslontario.org if you require further information.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Sheila Nicholas
Chair

SUGGESTED WORDING OF PROCLAMATION

Ontario has been the destination of choice for many immigrants who have added to the diversity of the province by bringing their culture, customs and language, even as they endeavour to acquire the ability to communicate in English.

The community of English as a Second Language learners are represented in all aspects of society. They are students in elementary and secondary schools, universities, colleges, public and private schools, adult education students pursuing literacy and basic skills, participants in workplace-training programs, researchers and subjects, volunteers and workers, employees and business owners, labourers and professionals, neighbours and friends.

The professional organization Teachers of English as a Second Language (TESL) Ontario hosts a conference in Toronto each year consisting of workshops, research symposia and a technology fair to maintain and expand the skills and abilities of its members.

NOW THEREFORE, I, _____ on behalf of _____ of _____ Council, do hereby proclaim October 23rd to 29th, 2011 as "English as a Second Language Week" in the _____ of _____.