

TESL North York/York Region
An Affiliate of TESL Ontario
(416)750-2135

September 27, 2005
Jeffrey Abrams
Deputy Regional Clerk
regionalclerk@york.ca

Dear Mr. Abrams,

I am writing on behalf of TESL North York/York Region, an affiliate of TESL Ontario (Teachers of English as a Second Language), to ask that your Region declare the week of November 13 – 19, 2005 English as a Second Language Week. TESL North York/York Region membership of 350 includes about 200 second language instructors who live in and/or work in York Region. The city of Toronto has proclaimed this week for 2004 and 2005; however we wish to include the teachers in York Region as well to recognize their dedication to helping new immigrants in the area. Given the diversity of the population of the Great Toronto Area, every day might be declared an ESL day, yet for the following and particular reason, we hope you will grant us this request.

For more than 25 years, TESL Ontario has held its Annual Conference in Toronto, to provide professional development for teachers, administrators, students and volunteers who work with immigrants, refugees, citizens, and visitors, all who wish to improve their ability to communicate in English.

Our 2004 Conference attracted over 1000 registrants from a membership of over 3000. Our members travel from across the province and beyond to attend workshops, research symposia, and publishers' displays.

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 proposed wording of the proclamation. If you wish any information about our organization, please consult our TESL Ontario website www.teslontario.org. or contact me directly.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Linda Cooper
President
TESL North York/York Region
ljcooper@rogers.com

The Greater Toronto Area has historically been the destination of choice for the majority of immigrants to Ontario, and has been recognized as a region world-renowned for its multiculturalism.

Over the past three decades the majority of immigrants have added to the region's diversity 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 November 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 York Regional Council, do hereby proclaim November 13 – 19, 2005 as “English as a Second Language Week” in the region of York.