



A provincial specialist association of the BC Teachers' Federation

BC TESOL NEWSLETTER
February 2025

President's Message

Dear BC TESOL Members,

I'm Rebeka, your new BC TESOL Executive President. I've been an ELL teacher in the Langley School District for nine years. Much of my work is with fee-paying international high school students, but I also work with newcomer students in

the middle school. I teach enrolling classes as well as work as an ELL resource teacher collaborating within the school.

I've been with BC TESOL for about eight years. I have been the chair of the conference for the last three years. I bring several strong skills to the BC TESOL table: organization, communication, and simplification. Our mandate is to support you, our ELL colleagues. I am working alongside the rest of our eight executive members to provide a relevant conference, scholarships for refugee students, and professional development funds. We are also researching new ways to provide you with the resources you need to do your job effectively and efficiently. You are passionate about providing a great education to your students, and we are passionate about helping you accomplish that goal.

If you have any suggestions or feedback for BC TESOL, please don't hesitate to communicate with us by sending an email to BCTESOL@bctf.ca.

Rebeka

2024- 2025 BC TESOL Executive

President: Rebeka delaMorandiere

Past President: Elizabeth Seitz

Treasurer: Analisa Feuz

Secretary: Debbie Gomes

Members-At-Large:

Karl Dick

Kris Hull

Jayashree Ramaswami

Becky Nelstead

Kiran Abraham

Tapestry Conference
February 14, 2025

Please click on image below for details and registration

FEBRUARY 14 K-12 EDUCATORS ONLINE + IN-PERSON CONFERENCE

LENA PALERMO
AI IN EDUCATION
AND INQUIRY

MANDART CHAN
EQUITY, DIVERSITY,
AND INCLUSION

REGAN RANKIN
MANAGING CHALLENGING
BEHAVIOURS

JOHN WESTHAVER
RESILIENCY IN SCHOOL
AND THE CLASSROOM

JAMES TAYLOR
INDIGENOUS
KNOWLEDGE KEEPER

REGISTER BY 9 AM
ON JANUARY 29
FOR EARLY BIRD
BENEFITS

REGISTER AT [TAPESTRYCONFERENCE.CA](https://www.tapestryconference.ca)

Student Scholarship Opportunities

CATHERINE LOGAN EDDY SCHOLARSHIP

The Catherine Logan Eddy Scholarship

The Catherine Logan Eddy scholarship has been created to honour one of the long-time ELL educators in British Columbia. Before her retirement, Catherine dedicated more than 25 years to ELL pedagogy and research, working with both ELL learners and their teachers as mentor, advocate and scholar. Catherine Eddy also worked with Sylvia Helmer to co-author *Look at Me When I Talk to You*, as well as other publications which supported and advanced ELL professionalism in the province.

Purpose: To recognize an immigrant student graduating from a BC Secondary School who has combined hard work with school and community involvement, and who wishes to further her/his education/training at a tertiary institution in BC.

Scholarship **Amount:** \$1,000.00

Application deadline: Tuesday, April 29, 2025

[Please click here for the application form and further details](#)

SYLVIA HELMER SCHOLARSHIP

The Sylvia Helmer scholarship has been created to honour one of the long-time ELL educators in British Columbia. Before her retirement, Sylvia dedicated more than 25 years to ELL pedagogy and research, working with both ELL learners and their teachers as mentor, advocate and scholar. Sylvia's contributions to language learning includes years as a highly respected consultant for the Vancouver School District, a UBC professor and an ardent supporter of BC TEAL, ESL PSA and TESOL. Sylvia worked with Catherine Eddy to co-author *Look at Me When I Talk To You* as well as other publications to support and advance ELL professionalism.

Purpose: To recognize a refugee student graduating from a BC Secondary School who has combined hard work with school and community involvement, and who wishes to further her/his education/training at a tertiary institution in BC. This student will have started their schooling in BC as a student with refugee status in Canada.

Amount of Scholarship: \$1000.00

Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 29, 2025

[Please click here for the scholarship application form and additional details](#)

Elizabeth Seitz, past President of BCTESOL shares two classic resources from Kate Kinsella. Please see links below.

Working with dedicated higher-level ELL students who are focused on winning scholarships and transitioning out of ELL classes as quickly as possible is truly rewarding but can have some workload challenges as a teacher. To further enhance their academic language skills, I recommend exploring two insightful articles I received from TESOL International over the years. Even though some of the links don't work on the Berkeley Unified School District document, it is still useful. These resources are designed to assist ELL teachers in effectively planning lessons that cater to motivated, high-achieving ELL students. This will leave you with more time to target those newcomers' lessons, ha ha! Together, we can ensure that all students receive the knowledge and support they need to succeed.

Elizabeth Seitz

[Academic Language Function Toolkit](#)

[BUSD Academic Vocabulary](#)

Sweetwater District-Wide Academic Support Teams, October 2010 *(from K. Kinsella)
and Berkeley Unified School District


