



Cooperative English as a Second Language Ministries
(CESLM) Society

Annual Report

2014-2015

Breaking down barriers • Being bearers of Good News

Building integrated communities • A living example of unity in the body of Christ

www.eslcooperative.ca • E-mail: questions@eslcooperative.ca • Charitable Registration No: 86399 3440 RR 0001

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Cooperative ESL Ministries Annual Report 2014-2015



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About Us

Cooperative ESL Ministries (CESLM) Society is a group of local Calgary residents who have seen gaps in the integration of the immigrant, refugee, and international community and we are united in our determination to work towards bridging those gaps. We believe that ordinary, open-hearted Calgarians, with some training and support, can make a very positive difference in the lives of newcomers.

Our Mission

Empowering churches to reach out in love to the immigrants and internationals in our community.

Our Vision

Churches are key leaders in welcoming and integrating newcomers to Canada.

What We Do

CESLM is an interdenominational Christian organization of volunteers from different backgrounds who advocate respect, understanding, and appreciation for people of all cultural, religious, and language backgrounds. We serve our community by training, networking, mobilizing, and inspiring hundreds of current and prospective volunteers who work directly with newcomers in Calgary. We support church ministries and community-based programs that serve newcomers to Canada by providing a variety of services.

TRAINING AND RESOURCES: Each year we deliver training programs and provide information and resources for volunteers from church and community organizations including:

- *Reaching Out with English:* a 30-hour intensive training program for volunteers in church-based ESL programs - offered over 3 weekends each Fall.
- *Spring Training:* a full-day training event focused on current issues facing newcomers. Provides information and strategies for assisting newcomers plus an option for ESL facilitators to enhance their classroom skills - offered one Saturday each Spring.
- *Intercultural Communication Workshops:* half-day or evening workshops for groups wanting to raise intercultural awareness, learn about different cultural values, and improve cross-cultural communication skills. Workshops are delivered for your group at your church or organization by CESLM facilitators.

BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: Through our large community network we connect leaders and volunteers from church and community organizations with representatives from immigrant serving agencies and other supportive community organizations. We do this by providing:

- *Annual Networking Breakfast:* a half-day information and networking event for volunteers and staff from churches, immigrant serving agencies, and other supportive community organizations - offered one Saturday morning each February.
- *Information, contacts, and referrals to services for immigrants and other newcomers:* connecting church and community-based programs to immigrant-serving agencies in Calgary and enabling program leaders to find appropriate specialized services (settlement services, counselling, further education, employment preparation, etc.) for their clients.

ADVOCATING FOR NEWCOMERS TO CANADA: We strive to raise awareness among church and community groups, and encourage openness and involvement in reducing the barriers faced by immigrants and other newcomers in Calgary. We do this by:



- Providing information and resources via our website and newsletter and through workshops, speakers, and presentations at our training and networking events.
- Encouraging interaction through Social Media: 'Like' us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, sign up for our newsletter, or ask us questions via our website.

President's Report



September 2015

Dear Friends,

September 23 2015

Dear Friends,

Thirteen years ago Cooperative English as Second Language Ministries (CESLM) was birthed to affect and impact lives of new immigrants to Calgary. We have soldiered on despite the odds, and we are still relevant to the society we live in.

This past year Cooperative English as Second Language Ministries had good outings in our programs and services - Networking Event, Spring Training Event, Intercultural Communication Workshops, and Reaching Out With English (Fall Training) Program. We had our regular attendees and some new faces. CESLM continues to hear stories of our attendees imparting their knowledge and impacting their worlds with English as a Second Language, even as unto The Lord (Colossians 3:23-24). This is encouraging. Cooperative English as Second Language Ministries (CESLM) could not achieve these feats and successes without the collective never-dwindling efforts of our Executive and Volunteer Staff, and active participation of our esteemed Board Members. Thank you one and all. We especially thank Roxy Meyers for tirelessly coordinating these events.

With mixed feelings we accepted the resignation of one of our Directors, Donna Judd. We appreciate Donna's service on the CESLM Board of Directors and wish her well. Donna is however still very much involved in volunteering during CESLM programs and events. So CESLM is deeply grateful for Donna's continued involvement in the Cooperative. Kathleen Siemens, one of the founding members of CESLM rejoined our Board of Directors. Also Divine Connection admitted Amber Wylie-Moerman to the CESLM Board of Directors. Both of these ladies are invaluable resources to CESLM, especially in our Reaching Out With English trainings. Thank you for coming on board.

We still look forward to attracting more people to add value to the Board of Directors. Please do not hesitate to let us know of your findings, so we can prayerfully seek the Face of God in this matter.

Cooperative English as Second Language Ministries had the repose of going through the better half of this year in review, without much financial stress. Our finances seemed to be at the 'just enough' stage. We are not relenting on our efforts to have 'more than enough' to meet immediate needs and to cover our monthly operating expenses, today and always (2 Corinthians 9:8). Thank you, Bev Chambers for following through with and securing the Community Initiatives Program Grant. And for all that you do, we appreciate you sincerely. Cooperative English as Second Language Ministries consulted with Pastor Ed Temple, Executive Pastor of Foothills Alliance Church on how CESLM core funding can be more sustainable. We hope to continue to explore this avenue with him.

Janelle Baldwin used her expertise and dedication to keep our CESLM website safe, secure, and problem-free this past year in review. She has also increased our presence on social media and set up a regular blog on the website. God will meet you and yours at the point of your need, Janelle.

Cooperative ESL Ministries commenced association with Encompass Partnerships, eighteen months ago. This partnership that started with six ministries, CESLM inclusive, has now grown to a total of ten partners, and still going. By the summer of the year in review God added the New Canadian Friendship Centre (NCFC) to the group. Both CESLM and NCFC believe God has a plan and purpose for this at such a time as this (Jeremiah 29:11). So we are obediently and patiently, prayerfully, watching, waiting and acting upon Divine opportunities as we believe God will perfect that which concerns us, in Jesus' Faithful Name, Amen (Psalms 138:8).

Thank you CESLM Board of Directors, and Executive Staff, for another successful Strategic



Planning Meeting, held on June 13, 2015. We especially appreciate you, Bev Chambers for your professionalism in preparing, coordinating, and driving this meeting. The highlights, Organizational Goals for the coming 2015/2016 Year, derived from those of the previous year, as strategies for reaching financial sustainability is a recurring concern. Another outcome of this meeting was the need for the Board of Directors to meet without the Executive Staff. The first meeting was slated for, and successfully held on June 15, 2015. If possible CESLM Board of Directors plans to meet a couple of times annually.

Dale Fisher, our CESLM Secretary continues to host CESLM Board Meetings. Thank you for your care and love. This year in review James Edel, our Vice President and I have worked more closely as a team, "feeding off of each other." I appreciate you James. My sincere thanks go to all you Directors of the Cooperative ESL Ministries Board, past, and for the year in review, James Edel, Bethany Love Ulriksen, Donna Judd, Dale Fisher, Rhonda McNallie, Kathleen Siemens and Amber Wylie-Moerman. I appreciate the love, joy, experience, expertise, and service you bring as unto The LORD always in CESLM. God appreciates your servant hearts.

Words cannot express my appreciation for you all, Executive Staff, Volunteer Staff, Board of Directors, Community Partners, *et cetera* for loving to do what you do, severally and as a team. God will continue to teach us, and we will have great peace (Isaiah 54:13).

Thank you all, and do remain blessed.

Shalom & Maranatha!

Yours in His Service,

Ijeoma Chuku

Ijeoma Chuku



Board of Directors & Staff

BOARD MEMBERS (2014/2015):

Executive:

- Ijeoma Chuku - President
- James Edel - Vice President
- Dale Fisher - Secretary
- Rhonda McNallie - Treasurer (resigned December 31, 2014)

Board Members:

- Dale Fisher – Director
- Rhonda McNallie – Director
- Donna Judd - Director (resigned January 21, 2015)
- James Edel – Director
- Bethany Love Ulriksen – Director
- Ijeoma Chuku – Director
- Kathleen Siemens – Director (September 24, 2014)
- Amber Wylie-Moerman: Director (January 21, 2015)

All members of the CESLM Board of Directors are volunteers

Part-time Staff Positions:

- Roxy Meyers – Community Liaison Coordinator
- Janelle Baldwin - Communications & Marketing Coordinator
- Bev Chambers - Administrative Coordinator
- Ruth Jargalsaikhan - Bookkeeper
- Kathleen Siemens: Donations Secretary



Ijeoma Chuku



James Edel



Dale Fisher



Rhonda McNallie



Donna Judd



Bethany Love-Ulriksen



Kathleen Siemens



Amber Wylie-Moerman



Ruth Jargalsaikhan



Year in Review

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meetings: Between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 the Board of Directors met for 5 regular Board Meetings held in September, November, January, March, and May. There was also a Board Strategic Planning Workshop in June 2015 and an 'in camera' meeting on June 15, 2015. The CESLM Annual General Meeting was held at Encompass on September 24, 2014.

Executive: As of July 2014, Ijeoma Chuku, President; James Edel, Vice President; Rhonda McNallie, Treasurer; and Dale Fisher, Secretary, formed the Executive.

Membership: Membership on the Board of Directors, as of July 2014, included: Ijeoma Chuku, James Edel, Dale Fisher, Rhonda McNallie, Donna Judd, and Bethany Love Ulriksen.

New Directors: Kathleen Siemens, who served as one of CESLM's first Board Members, joined the Board again on September 24, 2014. Amber Wylie-Moerman joined the Board of Directors on January 21, 2015.

Resignations: Rhonda McNallie resigned from the position of Treasurer on December 31, 2014, but continues to serve on the Board as a Director. Donna Judd resigned from the Board on January 21, 2015.

All members of the Board of Directors are volunteers and we thank them for their commitment and hard work during the last financial year.

STAFF

Roxy Meyers, Community Liaison Coordinator, is in charge of training and events in addition to building our network of relationships and negotiating partnerships with churches and other supportive organizations in the community. Events and training programs run very smoothly and we met and exceeded our planned goals in this area. Roxy's talents and organizational skills are a tremendous blessing to the Cooperative.

Janelle Baldwin, Communications and Marketing Coordinator, is a creative woman who is very talented in the area of graphic design. Our website, newsletter, and promotional material present a fresh and attractive look, and during the past year Janelle set up a Blog as well as looking after our Facebook and Twitter accounts. She accomplishes a lot in few hours per week.

Bev Chambers continues to volunteer as Administrative Coordinator. Bev and Roxy also serve jointly as Interim Co-Executive Directors.

Ruth Jargalsaikhan continues to serve as our volunteer Bookkeeper, for which we are grateful.

Ijemamaka Idiata volunteered to help with some administrative work and assisted at events over the past year.



We are grateful for many committed volunteers. All our Board Members have assisted in our training programs and events. Treasurer, Rhonda McNallie volunteered time to make church visits and do fundraising. Secretary, Dale Fisher served as caterer at several of our events, meetings, and programs. President, Ijeoma Chuku, spent additional time visiting churches and attending community forums and networking meetings. All members of the Board volunteered their time by attending CESLM training and events, assisting in program delivery, and/or helping with set-up & clean-up at various events.

Many former Board Members continue to serve as Volunteers. April Luk serves as Librarian and helps out at events; Heather Jones served as Registrar for Reaching Out with English; and Ruth Burgerhout has again undertaken our year-end Financial Review. We are grateful to have many volunteers who help out with events as facilitators, serve on set-up and clean-up crews, and take on administrative tasks. We extend our thanks to all our Directors, staff members, and willing volunteers for their commitment and passion for the mission of the Cooperative, and for their hard work over the past year.

STRATEGIC PLAN

As part of our annual Strategic Planning Workshop on June 21, 2014 we set a two-year Overall Organizational Goal: to move towards financial sustainability by building the resources (knowledge, experience, funds, and partnerships) needed to provide a sustainable funding base that will cover operating costs and ensure stable core funding for the future.

With the achievement of a sustainable funding base we will be able to put our time, talents, and energy towards programming and services rather than an exhaustive search for funds to cover regular monthly expenses. Solid core funding will ensure that we can continue to develop and deliver impactful programs that bring our mission to life in the community.

Board and Staff seek guidance, leadership, assistance, and finances in reaching this goal. If you or someone in your network would be interested in contributing and are able to provide leadership, training, or assistance please let us know. We would be very grateful.



Respectfully submitted by,

Bev Chambers
Administrative Coordinator



Training & Events



Three years ago I began my role as community liaison coordinator for CESLM and I continue to be encouraged by the high level involvement and commitment a growing number of Calgary churches are demonstrating as they welcome newcomers to Calgary through a variety of intercultural ministries. CESLM is a church equipping ministry that provides volunteer training with a primary focus helping churches to reach out in love to those immigrants and internationals who choose to settle in Calgary and area.

My primary role is to stage training and networking events that serve those who are volunteering in those churches and community based organizations that share the same heart and passion to help newcomers find their way in Canada.

Our most intensive training, **Reaching Out with English**, takes place over the course of three weekends in October and provides practical instruction for teaching English to adults in your church or community. Out of 31 people representing nine churches and one community agency, 24 were able to complete the course in its entirety for the 2014 training sessions. Those who missed some of the sessions are welcome to return this coming October to complete the course. Through this training, a large number of newcomers are being served and given opportunities to simply practice speaking English and learning about life in Canada. But the need for more church based programs continues to grow as Calgary continues to rank high on the city of choice for starting a new life in Canada.

In February, our **networking breakfast** was held at Encompass Partnerships where we had an opportunity to share our passion for welcoming the stranger into our midst through acts of hospitality. A story was shared by one immigrant who has lived in Canada for over five years, and didn't have any Canadian friends until he met someone who works with international students at the university. We were reminded that the need is great and accepting the foreigner into our lives opens the doors for blessings both ways.

Spring Training was hosted by Foothills Alliance Church. Our keynote speaker, Elfrieda Lepp-Kaethler, from Providence University College and Seminary, challenged us with the idea of living as hosts and guests in God's kingdom. She explained that the roles are dual functioning where the teacher is host and the learner is guest but also where the learner is host and the teacher is the guest. Creating spaces where strangers can be friends by converting "hostis to hospis"—in other words the enemy into a guest. A number of practical breakout sessions addressing aspects of the main theme as well as workshops for growing classroom techniques were also offered.

Our training and events continue to grow and we have been blessed with access to excellent speakers and facilitators who not only bring knowledge and experience in the field, but do so with great passion and enthusiasm.

It continues to be my privilege to serve this ministry in this capacity and while it is a faith stretching exercise in light of the economics, it certainly continues to make a difference in the lives of new Canadians who are welcomed by over 50 churches who intentionally desire to reach out to the nations among us.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxy Meyers

Community Liaison Coordinator



Marketing & Communications

It's hard to believe that I have been a part of this dynamic and wonderful team for three years now. I am delighted to see it continue to grow and bless the city of Calgary.



This year has seen growth in our social media exposure, with both Twitter and Facebook showing active connection and engagement. Our newsletter subscribers are also on the rise. A new feature on our website this year is our blog. On average, two blog posts are generated each month. In the coming year, I'd like to see it increase to weekly. We currently have seven blog authors, three of whom are immigrants. Our blog features a variety of topics, including tips for the ESL classroom and stories from immigrants in our province who enjoy sharing their experiences of Canada. These posts have proven to be particularly popular.

We continue to see good attendance at our events and look forward to increasing those numbers in the year to come. We will also continue to source engaging, interesting content for our blog and focus on increasing the reach and number of subscribers.

It's been a blessing to work with such a dedicated group of people and I look forward to another year of growth.

Respectfully submitted,

Janelle Baldwin

Marketing and Communications Coordinator



Please visit our website www.eslcooperative.ca
To find our app, search 'esl cooperative' in the App Store



Acknowledgments

The Cooperative's past success is based on countless hours of service from committed volunteers. Essentially we are an organization of volunteers dedicated to serving and training volunteers. This has been one of our greatest blessings and the Board and Staff of CESLM offer our sincere thanks to all our willing volunteers!

Working volunteers are involved in all aspects of our organization and our training events. Many are professional people (ESL Trainers and Teachers, Immigrant Settlement Workers, and Employment Counsellors working in agencies, colleges, schools, city services, and churches) who volunteer their time in training and facilitation. Others provide help setting up furniture and equipment, registering people for events, catering, and cleaning up. Without them, we would be unable to accomplish all that we do.

Special Thanks:

The Board & Staff of CESLM wish express our sincere thanks to Ruth Burgerhout, who donated her time and accounting expertise in undertaking a Review of our Financial Records for 2014-2015.

We also extend thanks to Ruth Jargalsaikhan, our Bookkeeper, and to Kathleen Siemens who serves as our Donations Secretary.

We'd like to thank the Event Volunteers without whom we could never manage to run our programs and events. Dale Fisher, James Edel, Ijeoma Chuku, Rhonda McNallie, Amber Wylie-Moerman, Kathleen Siemens, Bethany Love Ulriksen, Donna Judd, Ijemamaka Idiata, April Luk, Ruth Jargalsaikhan, & Heather Jones have helped with the lending library, registration, catering, set-up, clean-up and a variety of other tasks.

Thank you to volunteers from our Partners at Encompass who helped with the set up and sound system for our Networking Event: Adriana Jerez, Jai Singh, and Jose Luis Alaya Brava.

“We always thank God for all of you...we remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2



Donors

Thanks to the **Community Initiatives Program of Alberta Culture**, from whom we received **a grant of \$29,000**. This two-year funding was granted to assist Cooperative ESL Ministries in the development of long-term sustainable funding to support core organizational costs.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS 2014 - 2015

Hawkwood Baptist Church
Foothills Alliance Church
Lighthouse Christian Fellowship
Rockpointe Church
Rockyview Alliance Church
St. James Anglican Church
Sunnyside Christian Retreat
Westminster Presbyterian Church

*We are grateful to all our Donors
and Community Partners for their
continued support and faith in the work
of **Cooperative ESL Ministries.***

Thank you!

DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS

Amber Wylie-Moerman
Anonymous
April Luk
Bill Mah
Boyd & Jennifer Anderson
Charlie Hunter
Darrell & Bethany Ulriksen
Dave & Serena Nelson
David & Dale Fisher
David Johnson
Doug & Roxy Meyers
Gisela Rohde
Heather & Craig Jones
Helen Edel
Ijeoma Chuku

James Anderson
James Edel
Janice Penner
June MacKeith
Kathleen Siemens
Kelly & Barb Johnson
Kenneth & Cori Palmer
Martha Beach
Mel & Madeline Johnson
Norm & Bev Chambers

Patricia Dyck
Rhonda McNallie
Ron Osbourne
Sam Aylesworth



Financial Report

COOPERATIVE ESL MINISTRIES STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

	2015	2014
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Bank/Cash	25,891	1,913
Receivables	110	148
Prepaid Expenses	532	1,505
	<u>26,533</u>	<u>3,566</u>
Capital Assets	0	170
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>26,533</u>	<u>3,736</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Account payables and accrued liabilities	—	—
Undispersed designated funds	820	820
	<u>820</u>	<u>820</u>
Deferred Revenue	20,000	—
	<u>20,820</u>	<u>820</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	5,713	2,916
	<u>26,533</u>	<u>3,736</u>

For a copy of our complete Financial Review please email Bev Chambers bev@eslcooperative.ca



Statement of Operations

COOPERATIVE ESL MINISTRIES STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

	2015	2014
REVENUE		
Donations	30,579	28,360
Community Initiatives Grant	9,000	8,894
Registrations	10,320	8,650
Sundry and Membership	32	6
	<u>49,931</u>	<u>45,910</u>
EXPENSES		
Conference costs		
Facilitators	1,875	2,106
Facility rental	250	425
Food	2,197	1,492
Supplies and sundry	1,248	1,759
Advertising and printing	138	180
Books and Materials	0	160
Event Expenses	0	1,152
Insurance	1,149	921
Interest and bank charges	483	570
Office and sundry	1,410	1,217
Rent	2,100	0
Salaries and benefits	35,025	35,261
Travel	1,258	1,626
Workshops	0	140
	<u>47,133</u>	<u>47,009</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	<u>2,798</u>	<u>-1,009</u>



Training & Event Photos



Top left: Reaching Out with English 2014 graduates
Top right: ROWE 2014 practice teaching
Middle left: Encompass Intercultural Communication Workshop
Middle Right: Networking Breakfast 2015
Bottom: Networking Breakfast

