

ESL Cooperative Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Calgary, AB (April 30, 2012) – On Saturday, May 5th Cooperative ESL Ministries will celebrate 10 years of reaching out to newcomers in Calgary with a special anniversary luncheon during their Spring training conference, titled *Strengthening Community through Cultural Awareness*.

For the past ten years, the ESL Cooperative has been training Calgarians to reach out to newcomers. The result has been hundreds of ordinary, open-hearted Calgarians building respectful relationships with newcomers and filling the gap in society's integration of our new neighbors.

What started out as a few churches offering desperately needed English conversation classes has grown to a network of approximately 50 Calgary churches with programs for newcomers. With volunteer training and resources from the Cooperative, these churches are able to reach newcomers by offering practical support in local community settings. This friendly support can mean a world of difference to newcomers.

“When we come alongside them as they navigate the challenges of a new culture they become integrated into the community – it's a huge gain for the newcomers and for our city,” says founder, Madeline Johnson. “The Cooperative's vision is to see vibrant, integrated communities across Calgary.”

The Cooperative believes that Calgarians with training in cross-cultural communication and good principles of adult education can make a difference. Who better to lead the way in providing this warm welcome than Calgary's churches? Since 2001 the ESL Cooperative has provided workshops and other training events to empower churches to reach out in love to newcomers in our community.

To find out more about attending the luncheon or the conference on May 5th visit www.eslcooperative.ca

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For more information, photos and statistics or to schedule an interview contact:

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