

Code of Conduct:

Christian Witness in Church-Based ESL Outreaches

1. Church-Based ESL facilitators work with people at a vulnerable stage of life, helping them to make a new home, fit into a new community and make progress in learning the language and culture of Canada. Our world-view recognizes that “God so loved the world,” and, as His representatives, everything we do must be done in a spirit of love, good will, and respect. Christians are called to conduct themselves with integrity and humility and to overcome all arrogance, condescension, or disparagement.
2. Newcomers to Canada have many needs; they also contribute to our learning and the health of this society. Although we cannot meet all the needs, we can listen, refer, and work collaboratively with other groups/agencies, working toward mutuality for the good of all. We should continue to build relationships of respect and trust with people of different religions so as to facilitate deeper mutual understanding, reconciliation, and cooperation for the common good.
3. Spiritual needs are real. Religious freedom includes the right to publicly profess, practice, propagate, and change one’s religion. This flows from the very dignity of the human person which is grounded in the creation of all human beings in the image and likeness of God. As Christians it is a privilege and joy to give an accounting for the hope that is within us and to do so with gentleness and respect. We share in the witness of Christ, in word and deed, but conversion is ultimately a work of the Holy Spirit. Acts of service and acts of justice and advocacy are an integral part of witnessing to the gospel. Just as the Father sent the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit, so believers are sent in mission to witness in word and action to the love of the triune God.
4. Christians are to acknowledge that changing one’s religion is a decisive step that must be accompanied by sufficient time for adequate reflection and preparation, through a process ensuring full personal freedom. This is where the church leaders have a role. In addition to providing the ESL facility, prayer and practical support, and a community for social interaction, soul care ought to be easily accessible. Pastoral care is necessary, not only for ESL facilitators but also for clients who desire it. The church community needs to be prepared to welcome, listen to, and accept newcomers at various stages of enquiry and involvement.

- approved October 25, 2012



Cooperative
ESL Ministries

Empowering churches to reach out in love to immigrants and internationals in our communities.
www.eslcooperative.ca