

Annual Report 2008-2009

*Breaking down
barriers.*

*Being bearers of
good news.*

*Building integrated
communities.*

*A living example
of the unity of
Christ's body.*



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Message from the President



*Kenny Thompson,
President of CESLM*

Dear Friends,

Another year has passed already and its time to take stock as the song writer advises, “count your blessings, name them one by one” (*Count Your Blessings*, Johnson Oatman). Cooperative ESL Ministries began this year grappling with how to fill the very big shoes left behind by our founding President Madeline Johnson. She took a well- deserved sabbatical as I like to call it since, and perhaps you’ll agree with me, Christians don’t retire, they re-fire!

One of CESLM’s first major events this year was a workshop held in conjunction with Alpha Canada on how to implement an Alpha ESOL (English speakers of other languages) program. Not long after that, the world was thrown into panic with the swine flu pandemic (scientists have yet to come up with a vaccine to cure the disease). As we watched and heard of the devastating blow that this relatively unknown disease was inflicting on thousands of people all over the world including our city of Calgary, another big blow was delivered - the world had fallen into a recession.

The world’s best and biggest economies were the first to collapse – “Oh how the mighty are fallen” (II Samuel 1:19) – no one was spared. Churches were greatly affected and Cooperative ESL Ministries was not immune. The number of churches and individual donors to CESLM dropped drastically.

In the face of this economic downturn we began the daunting task of organizing our annual Spring Conference. The board of CESLM met and prayed to God concerning His work and He responded beyond our imagination. God proved as He always has that He indeed is an Awesome God.

As we were thanking God for a successful event we got news that some members of the board had resigned and if you know me you know I don’t like having to say good bye!

I would like to thank Merrill Humphrey, Dan Lodovica, Julie Lo and Pastor Jay Holdner for their love for Jesus. I know I speak the mind of the Board when I say it has been a great pleasure serving with each and every one of you as co-laborers in Christ. I also regret to announce that our much-appreciated Gisela Rohde recently lost her father.

My beloved in Christ, as I look back at the past year I can say that in all of these things we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37). I am mindful it has been a trying time for many of you but your love for Jesus has kept you volunteering. I want to say thank you for being a blessing in more ways than you can ever imagine. If His eye is on the sparrow I know He watches you (*His Eye is on the Sparrow*, Civilla D. Martin). My prayer is that those who come behind will find us faithful (Steve Green).

Yours in Christ,
Kenny Thompson

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From the CESLM Board

Objective

The intention of this report is to summarise Board matters that would not already be covered by the reports of our staff members.

Meetings

The Board met 10 times between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009.

Summary

The year can perhaps be best described as the post Madeline Johnson era. Madeline's tireless and passionate work for CESLM was recognized at the AGM of September 2008. Following her departure a new executive took over and the outstanding contributions of our staff members enabled the Cooperative to move forward strongly in Madeline's absence.

Executive

As of September 2008, Kenny Thompson - President, Jay Holdner - Vice president, Cathy Smith - Treasurer, and Charlie Hunter - Secretary, formed the executive. Drinda Wilson became Vice President in March 2009, and Heather Jones became Treasurer in March 2009, having joined the Board in January 2009.

Board Membership

As of September 2008, membership on the Board was Kenny Thompson, Cathy Smith, Merrill Humphrey, Dan Lodovica, Drinda Wilson, Julie Lo, Jay Holdner, and Charlie Hunter. Gisela Rohde was welcomed back in December 2008. Heather Jones joined the Board in January 2009.

Jay Holdner resigned in November 2008. Merrill Humphrey, Dan Lodovica and Julie Lo resigned in June 2009. As of June 30th, steps had been taken to find replacements with 3 excellent prospects agreeing to attend meetings starting in September as they consider joining the Board this fall. Thank you to all Board members for their interest and hard work during the year.

Staff

The Board is thrilled with the contributions of our staff. We are extremely fortunate to have all of them. They are very capable, passionate, and committed. Thank you so much.

Gisela Rohde's term as Coordinator of Curriculum Revision continued until November 2008 when it expired.

Bev Chambers continued as volunteer staff member. Her title was changed to Grant Administrator and Intercultural Project Coordinator in September 2008, and she became Privacy Officer in September 2008. The Board is indescribably grateful to her for her remarkable competence, admirable generosity, leadership, passion, and tireless work for the Cooperative.

Olivia Kitt continued as Coordinator of Community Relations & Advocacy. Her title and job description were changed in May 2009 to reflect her new role as Marketing & Communications Coordinator. At that time, her hours were reduced at her request. Myra Brown continued as Coordinator of Training Events & Financial Administration. Her hours were increased to take effect in August 2009 when she would take on some of Olivia's previous responsibilities. Thank you, Olivia and Myra, for your energy, expertise and passion.

Nominating Committee

Membership was Bev, Kenny and Charlie. Appointments are listed above.

Fundraising

A number of initiatives were undertaken in 2008-2009. Of particular note was a generous donation of \$7000 by the Nickle family. In June 2009, conscious that our major funding runs out in 2010, a Financial Stewardship Committee was struck to make suggestions on a strategy for pursuit of funding for 2010 on. Drinda, Kenny, Bev, Charlie and Myra agreed to serve. Bev kindly led the initiative. As of June 30th, the committee was slated to meet in July and August and take a proposal to the Board in September.

On behalf of the CESLM Board,
Drinda Wilson and Charlie Hunter

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About CESLM

Churches as societies' leaders, welcoming and integrating newcomers to Canada.

Cooperative ESL Ministries (CESLM) Society is a group of local Calgary residents who have come together to fill a gap we have seen in our city's integration of the immigrant, refugee, and international community. We believe that ordinary, open-hearted Calgarians, with training in cross-cultural communication and good principles of adult education for language learners, can make a difference.

CESLM is a network of associations composed of many volunteers, crossing many borders of belief, but who share a common commitment to the God whose love we have experienced. We are Christian, from many different backgrounds. We are non-sectarian and will not proselytize. We will advocate for understanding and appreciation of people whose culture and language is different.

Our Mission: Empowering churches to reach out in love through ESL to the internationals and immigrants in our community.

Our Vision: Churches as societies' leaders, welcoming and integrating newcomers to Canada.

What We Do

1. Support Church-Based ESL Ministries - CESLM offers conferences, workshops, and training sessions to current and prospective ESL teachers, directors, administrators, conversation partners, home-stay parents, and other volunteers involved in an ESL ministry in Calgary. We also provide forums for churches, ESL teachers and volunteers to network with one another.
2. Advocate on Behalf of Canada's Newcomers - we do consciousness-raising among faith groups in Calgary, encouraging openness and involvement and reducing barriers. This involves audio-visuals, print materials, and presentations to various community groups.
3. Act as a Referral Agent to Other Service Providers - CESLM provides referrals to specialized services for Newcomers such as employment training/services, settlement/housing issues, medical and life skills, citizenship, further academic training, English for professionals, et cetera.

Intercultural Project

During the past year CESLM was blessed with a second grant from Alberta Employment and Immigration. Part of this grant was designated for the continuation of the Intercultural Project and included funding for the training of additional Intercultural Workshop Facilitators and the development of a follow-up workshop focusing on specific strategies for effective communication.

Training for the new facilitators began in September 2008. Five people have completed the training workshop and are working on reading assignments, four of them have also completed observations and three have assisted in the facilitation of workshops.

Gail Kastning has completed the design for the follow-up workshop, the training materials have been developed, and we look forward to delivering this new workshop.

Since the beginning of the Intercultural Project, we have delivered 21 Intercultural Workshops to a total of 369 participants.

Response to the Intercultural Communication Workshops has been very positive. Churches and volunteers are enthusiastic about the help and resources we have to offer. We have been invited to deliver workshops to church volunteers from many different denominations and have been met with a warm welcome every time.

- Bev Chambers



*Bev Chambers,
Intercultural Project Coordinator*

Community Relations



*Olivia Kitt, Coordinator,
Community Relations &
Advocacy*

From a marketing perspective, over the past year, CESLM has re-designed its training and promotional materials to have a fresh and professional look. In November 2008, we launched our newly designed website, www.eslcooperative.ca, which incorporated colours from CESLM's logo, and is updated on a monthly basis.

CESLM's monthly newsletter is currently being distributed to over 250 individuals (100 more than last year). The newsletter is our opportunity to promote CESLM events, but also lets the ESL and Christian communities know about valuable resources available to them.

From 2008-2009, 45 individuals joined CESLM as Teaching Associate members. In addition, CESLM created a new membership category, Professional Associates, for churches and organizations. We had one Professional Associate member join in the last year.

CESLM was also privileged to witness six new ESL programs start in Calgary churches, with several more planning to start in Sept 2009. We have focused our efforts on supporting churches in starting ESL programs by meeting with church leaders and offering ongoing consultations. A new promotional package was designed for any prospective church wanting to know about CESLM and its services.

CESLM is connected with several groups in Calgary including the Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations, Calgary Multicultural Centre, Calgary Evangelical Ministerial Association, Calgary Learns, and various community agencies. These groups help promote CESLM and its events, and provide referrals for church ESL programs.

Our mission is to empower churches to reach out in love through ESL to the immigrants and internationals in our community. As we look forward to 2009/2010, CESLM hopes to meet the needs of churches by providing the resources and support they need to start and maintain an ESL program.

- Olivia Kitt, Coordinator, Community Relations & Advocacy

Training Events

It was a great privilege this year to serve CESLM – and God – in the role of Coordinator, Training Events and Financial Administration.

CESLM's fall training started at Varsity Christian Fellowship, September 26 and 27, 2008. A poignant feature of this weekend was recognizing the end of Madeline Johnson's tenure as president and executive director. The second weekend, held at Covenant Church in Millrise, October 3 and 4, was encouraging since it marked the beginning of an ESL program in that church. At the end of the third weekend, hosted by Agape Learning Centre, 23 faithful church volunteers received a CESLM certificate for having completed the 30 hours of training.

To honour volunteer leaders of church-based ESL groups, the cooperative hosted an appreciation brunch one chilly morning in January 2009 at Abundant Life Church. During the brunch a tearful immigrant acknowledged her teacher's role in leading her to greater proficiency in English and also in leading her to the Saviour.

On February 28th, 2009, CESLM held a networking lunch at Harvest Hills Alliance Church ably emceed by ESL teacher, Donna Zamiski. Everyone present that day was encouraged to "set another place at the table" by inviting immigrants into our churches and into our lives.

In March of 2009 CESLM partnered with Alpha Canada to train volunteers how to teach Alpha ESOL (English speakers of other languages). Kathy Watson, Multicultural Global Alpha Director, came to us from Washington to do this training.

CESLM's training year came to a close following the May 22 & 23 Spring Conference with its timely theme, "Church-Based ESL: Offering Hope in Hard Times". Keynote speakers spoke powerfully to current discouraging realities but also to the Hope all of us have in Christ. Participants gave the conference's six workshops encouraging evaluations.

We who are part of CESLM recognize it is God who enables us to do His work and it is His Spirit who changes hearts and lives. To Him be all the glory for what He has accomplished through the efforts of CESLM.

- Myra Brown



*Myra Brown,
Coordinator, Training Events
& Financial Administration*

Fall Training Curriculum Revision



*Gisela Rohde, Coordinator,
Curriculum Revision*

I was hired at the beginning of June 2008 to revise the CESLM fall 30-hour training material with grant money from Alberta Department of Employment and Immigration. It was a lot more work than I expected, but I also learned a lot as I researched links and materials for the CD and thought about what to include in the binder.

I planned the training as an introduction for those who were just starting out in TESL as well as a resource for those further on. I decided to start not from the binder we already had, but by checking out websites and books to see what other trainers were offering. I then borrowed a lot of books from the library and from friends like Madeline Johnson and compiled the information I found together with what we already had. Finally, I added insights and information from my own experience over the years of teaching English and working with international students. The hardest part was paring it all down to fit our training limit.

Overall, the feedback was quite positive, from participants as well as from those presenting. I got the most negative reaction from training participants who were a bit overwhelmed by the amount of grammar and pronunciation factors they were learning about, and sometimes about other sections that felt rushed because we were trying to squeeze a lot of material into a short time. Bev Chambers and I used participant evaluations to revise the training again this year, hopefully making it even more more user-friendly.

I am grateful for Dr. Tom McCormick for the original impetus and Spiritual Foundations talk and the original binder of material that has been copied, adapted, re-arranged, and added to, and also to other CESLM board members and friends who have added material when it was their turn to present in the past. Finally, thanks also to Marion Chang and Kristin Pederson for the sample conversation lessons our participants can use and for those who cooperate with us by letting our participants observe in their classroom.

I know our training has been helpful to many in the past. May it continue to be helpful to many more so that God can use this training to reach out to His world through church-based ESL programs.

- Gisela Rohde, Coordinator, Curriculum Revision

Funders, Donors & Associates

CESLM is grateful to all our donors, funders, and associate members for their continued support and faith in this organization.

Funders:

Alberta Employment and Immigration

Donors:

Au-Yeung Lai Ming, Barry and Jessie Johnson, Charlie Hunter, Dan Lodovica, Darryl McDonald, David Johnson, Donna Zamiski, Drinda Wilson, Foothills Alliance Church, Gisela Rohde, Kelly & Barb Johnson, Kenny Thompson, Melvin & Madeline Johnson, Preston & Janet Medd.

Professional Associates:

St. James Anglican Church (Silver)

Teaching Associates:

Alice Anderson, Alice Smedes, Annette Lengyel-May, Arron Warner, Bettie Orchard, Bonnie Sturgeon, Brenda Kloiber, Carol Kerfoot, Cheryl Wiswell, Cindi de Graaff, Deborah Lawson, Donna Judd, Donna Kiffiak, Elaine Cameron, Faye Stengler, Fern Buszowski, Gisela Rohde, Grace Stolte, Irene Rubens, James Edel, Jane Ranshaw, Jane Whitman, Janet Medd, Jean Patterson, Joan Samson, Joanna Chang, John Vandenberg, Joy Keefer, Lesley Vickar, Leslie O'Loughlin, Lydia Elankairajah, Maria Yu, Marilyn Bottomley, Marisa Spannagel, Patricia Love, Peggy Abbott, Preston Medd, Ralph Hertzprung, Ruby Knudtson, Shelley McLean, Sherlee McGregor-McCuaig, Sherma Jeffrey-Ryan, Trevor Hubbard, Zona Wilson.

The CESLM Board & Staff

Board Members (2008/2009):

Kenny Thompson - President

Jay Holdner - Vice-President (resigned from Board Nov 2008)

Drinda Wilson - Vice-President (as of Mar 2009)

Cathy Smith - Treasurer (Director as of Mar 2009)

Heather Jones - Treasurer (as of Mar 2009)

Charlie Hunter - Secretary

Gisela Rohde - Director

Dan Lodovica - Director (resigned from Board Jun 2009)

Julie Lo - Director (resigned from Board Jun 2009)

Merril Humphrey - Director (resigned from Board Jun 2009)

Part-time Staff Members/Contracts:

Gisela Rohde - Coordinator of Curriculum Revision

Beverley Chambers - Intercultural Project Coordinator

Olivia Kitt - Coordinator, Community Relations & Advocacy
(Marketing & Communications as of Apr 2009)

Myra Brown - Coordinator, Training Events & Financial Administration

Gail Kastning - Intercultural Workshop Facilitator

Esther Aichele - Bookkeeper

CESLM Board & Staff :

Top (left to right) - Cathy Smith,

Bev Chambers, Myra Brown,

Gisela Rohde, Dan Lodovica

Bottom (left to right) - Merrill

Humphrey, Madeline Johnson,

Kenny Thompson, Drinda Wilson



Photos from 2008/09 Events



Top photo: CESLM Board/staff at Alpha ESOL Workshop, with Kathy Watson (Alpha ESOL Director) and Ken Dryden (Alpha Canada).

Middle photo: Networking Luncheon at Harvest Hills Alliance Church, Calgary.



Bottom photo: Participants in the 2008 Fall Training Program with free Bibles from the Canadian Bible Society.

