

Cooperative English as a Second Language Ministries
(CESLM) Society

Annual Report

2015-2016

Breaking down barriers • Being bearers of Good News
Building integrated communities • A living example of unity in the body of Christ



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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 2016

Dear Friends,

September 23, 2016

As people of Faith we never overlook the Grace of God in our lives and in Cooperative English as a Second Language Ministries (CESLM) Society in particular (2 Corinthians 12:9). God has been with us through the past year, our fourteenth year of Service as unto the LORD (Ephesians 6:7). If one person did not obediently heed the call of God we would not be part of this work today. God has mightily used Madeline Johnson to start and continue to progress CESLM Society in more ways than one.

The year in review can rightly be termed "Our Year of Innovation." God brought many issues to our attention as individuals, and as a group, and He gave us His Grace to explore and implement accordingly. These times were not without their challenges but we pulled through. It is work-in-progress, a journey.

Very early in the year, and with mixed feelings, we accepted the resignation of three valued Members of the CESLM Society Board of Directors. Rhonda McNallie who also doubled as our Bookkeeper was active in fundraising. Today she focuses more on her passion of running English language classes. Kathleen Siemens has been a resource person in our Reaching Out With English (ROWE). She continues to teach English language lessons at her convenience. Bethany Love-Ulriksen's work with immigrant women has been an asset to the Cooperative. We thank you all and wish you well in your present endeavours.

Our ROWE remains popular with ever increasing ratings for delivery, the year in review not being an exception. The timely theme of our Networking Breakfast Event "From Crisis to Community: Welcoming Refugees" was also the focus of our Spring Training. These resonated well with the participants as evidenced by the feedback. The events afforded many participants the opportunity to better equip themselves to relate better with, and serve this particular group, the Syrian Newcomers in our midst.

Funding in this past year posed a huge concern for CESLM Society, as we experienced one of the lowest giving seasons in the past five years. We seemed to be at a crossroads regarding the future of our organisation. Some partners have regularly supported the Cooperative, we continue to source new supporters and donors but we still seem to struggle to keep ourselves financially afloat. CESLM Society is looking at potential partnership with some organisations, and trying to flesh out what that would look like. CESLM Society visited with all of our regular donors, and presented each with a poster acknowledging their support over the years. Good thing is, we have never stopped trusting God, and He always shows up at the very point of our need (Jeremiah 29:11).

CESLM Society completed the second year of our association with Encompass Partnerships. We have established our presence and participation in the quarterly meetings and events. During the year in review, new dimensions to the partnership evolved. On November 17 2015, "Encounter Encompass" Night showcased all partners, CESLM Society inclusive. Also the "Community Round Table" discussion on March 24 2016 was where we as Encompass family shared the "broader needs of the community that surrounds us, and discuss and discover ways to better address those needs..."

During the year in review CESLM Society sought expertise in various ways to improve the Cooperative. We purchased board development books, Paula Maclean's board training series – videos and books, had conversations with Ed Temple, Janice Clark, and Harvey Matchullis. CESLM Society followed through with Harvey, and top on our list were recruiting new board members and implementing a plan for resource development. On June 18 2016, rather than facilitate our Strategic Planning Meeting, Harvey redirected the focus to clarifying CESLM Society identity, and re-



establishing a set of value statements about CESLM Society, our perception of ourselves and how we desire to be perceived. CESLM Society invited past Presidents and past Staff, with successful outcome, overall. CESLM Society promptly went into action to implement the teachings and learnings of that day. This is a continuous process and we are indeed grateful to Harvey.

James Edel, CESLM Society Vice President and I continued to foster a healthy working relationship, encouraging, learning from, and feeding off of one another, for the good of CESLM Society. Thank you James, you also opened up your home to host our August 2015 barbeque. And many thanks for the games and treats organised by your precious little ones. For the first time in years Norm Chambers had a rare chance to be hosted and served. We all had good fun.

Dale Fisher, our CESLM Society Secretary wears several hats. Dale continues to tirelessly host our bi-monthly meetings, and provide nutrition to go with it. Dale plays a key role in catering at all our events. Also Dale is a resource person at most of our training events, and her lectures, with delivery style, have scored high popularity as they seem to address where most of our Newcomers are at.

Amber Wylie-Moerman we are blessed to associate with you. You stepped into the role, and took up extra classes during the last ROWE. Into the bargain, the innovation you brought, for participants to teach their peers the communicative task was invaluable practice that scored successful outcome.

Roxy Meyers is gifted to source the right well sought-after speakers for our events. We appreciate all of your hard work towards putting these events together. And the ease with which we encounter these successes belies the magnitude and tremendous effort that goes into the planning and delivery.

In the past year Bev Chambers wore several hats, serving as our go-to person for financial information and tasks, in addition to her role of Administrative Coordinator. Bev also organised and delivered our Intercultural Communication Workshop. At the end of this year in review Bev resigned from her role as Administrative Coordinator to take care of her dear husband, Norm, who took ill in April 2016. However with mixed feelings CESLM Society accepted Bev's resignation. But due to Bev's unwavering interest and dedication to the cause of CESLM Society she continues to provide volunteer assistance in areas where CESLM Society needs her expertise until such positions are filled. As a long time staff member and volunteer of CESLM Society, Bev has been, and continues to be an asset to the Cooperative.

My prayer is that in due season, God will bless and reward you all of CESLM Society, Executive Staff, Volunteer Staff, Board of Directors, Community Partners, Friends and all here present, individually and as one Body in Christ (Hebrews 6:10).

Thank you all, and do remain blessed.

Shalom and Maranatha!

Yours in His Service,

Ijeoma Chuku

Ijeoma Chuku



Board of Directors & Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2015/2016):

Executive:

Ijeoma Chuku: President

James Edel: Vice President

Dale Fisher: Secretary

Amber Wylie-Moerman: Director



Ijeoma Chuku



James Edel



Dale Fisher

All members of the CESLM Board of Directors are volunteers

Part-time Staff Positions:

Bev Chambers: Administrative Coordinator
& Co-executive Director

Roxy Meyers: Community Liaison Coordinator
& Co-executive Director

Janelle Baldwin: Communications & Marketing Coordinator



Amber Wylie-Moerman

Resignations from Board of Directors (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016):

Bethany Love Ulriksen: completed term as Director, September 12, 2015

Rhonda McNallie: resigned from Board, September 24, 2015

Kathleen Siemens: resigned from Board, September 24, 2015



Year in Review

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meetings: The board of directors met for 6 regular board meetings and one visioning workshop with Harvey Matchullis between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. The CESLM Annual General Meeting was held at Encompass on September 23, 2015.

Executive: As of July 2015, 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 2015, included: Ijeoma Chuku, James Edel, Dale Fisher, Kathleen Siemens, Amber Wylie-Moerman, and Bethany Love-Ulriksen.

Resignations: Kathleen Siemens resigned on September 24, 2016. Rhonda McNallie resigned on September 24, 2015. Bev Chambers resigned from Administrative Coordinator June 30, 2016.

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, and we know they will be well applied in the next fiscal year, thank you!.

Janelle Baldwin, Communications and Marketing Coordinator, Communications and Marketing Coordinator, is a creative woman who is very talented in the area of graphic design, as can be seen from this publication. Our website, newsletter, and promotional material present a fresh and attractive look. And during the past year Janelle has maintained a blog as well as looking after our Facebook and Twitter accounts. She accomplishes a lot in a few hours per week.

Bev Chambers volunteers as Administrative Coordinator. She and Roxy also serve jointly as Interim Co-Executive Directors.

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

We are grateful for many committed volunteers. All our Board Members have assisted in our training programs and events. Ijeoma has made some rewarding visits to churches thanking them for partnering with us and being on our list of community partners. We thank all of our directors, staff members, and willing volunteers for their valuable contribution to the Cooperative's vision of Empower churches to reach out in love to immigrants and internationals!

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 18, 2016, we met with Harv Matchullis. This was an important event in our organization's journey. We left feeling that our vision had been sharpened, especially in how we contribute directly to churches emerging desire to befriend immigrants and internationals. We thank Harv!

Respectfully submitted by,

James Edel
Vice-President



Training & Events



What a privilege it has been to work alongside passionate people who have big hearts for newcomers to Canada, no matter with what status they arrive. We continue to see the positive outcomes of investing time, talent and. And the need continues to grow, especially with the influx of refugees this past year.

Reaching Out with English Training enrolled fourteen participants who were empowered with tools to serve and support immigrants with learning English. We made some adjustments to the training materials and added a communicative task practice to better prepare participants for their teaching practicum. It is always a joy to see the confidence increase and blessing the participants receive from their students' teaching experience session. It's scary at first but they

settle in quite quickly. We are also grateful for the dedicated professional facilitators who continue to share from their vast experiences giving their best knowledge to equip these dedicated volunteers and organizations who offer their facilities for our events.

As the Syrian Refugee Crisis took centre stage in the news, we were compelled to focus our **Networking Breakfast** and **Spring Training** on how we as Christ followers are called to respond and welcome refugees to our city. *From Crisis to Community: Welcoming Refugees* focused on the bigger picture of why welcome refugees. We were given information on refugee sponsorship and heard a story of a recent Syrian immigrant. Immigrant serving agencies were given an opportunity to host mini-information sessions at their tables. Bringing resources together helps build a stronger vibrant community and we trust those community connections will continue to grow. *Building Bridges: Responding to the Refugee Crisis* featured speakers who brought expertise and could speak directly to the refugee crisis giving practical tools to help in our response. Both events were well attended and received with two-thirds being first time participants at our events.

Currently, we are aware of approximately 35 churches in Calgary who are actively providing a welcoming ministry to newcomers, whether it be conversation classes, ESL Bible studies, cooking classes, sewing classes, formal English classes, resume writing, citizenship classes or help with settlement. We continue to be amazed with the creativity and courageous risk taking shown by these churches as they open their doors and hearts to our newest Canadians. We would love to see this number grow as we know the waiting lists are long for accessing the necessary support through the government sponsored agencies. We also know that church sponsored classes go beyond education to friendship and meeting the needs of the whole person.

God continues to open up new opportunities and show us gaps for quality volunteer training resources. We continue to trust Him for provision to stand in the gap and offer equipping resources to churches and community groups that help them become the "key leaders in welcoming newcomers to Canada". We invite you to pray for us often as we seek to honour God and make Him famous among immigrants and all who work with them.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxy Meyers

Community Liaison Coordinator



Marketing & Communications

This year has seen growth on several fronts, including social media and our newsletter. We continue to focus on ways to actively engage our subscribers and bring fresh, interesting content. Our Facebook reach has grown by 27% this year. Twitter has seen less growth, however it has not been as much of a focus. New strategies for expanding our Twitter reach will be explored in the coming year. Our blog and newsletter subscribers are also on the rise. While the blog has not yet reached weekly contributions, we are gathering articles from an increasing number of sources.



A pdf version of our ESL program list is on the website and is a popular draw to the site. It's updated twice per annum and provides a current list of fall/winter and spring programs offered by Calgary churches.

We continue to see good attendance at our events and look forward to increasing those numbers as we move forward. 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. I'm looking forward to another year of service.

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 2015-2016.

We also extend thanks to Ruth Jargalsaikhan, our Bookkeeper, and to Kathleen Siemens who served 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, Amber Wylie-Moerman, Donna Judd, April Luk, 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 and Spring Training Events: 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 for the grant received in December 2014. 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 2015 - 2016

Hawkwood Baptist Church
 Lighthouse Christian Fellowship
 Centre Street Church
 Northside Bible Fellowship
 Rockpointe Church
 St. James Anglican Church
 Westminster Presbyterian Church
 Foothills Alliance Church – received “donations in kind”

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

Alison Longson
 Amber Wylie-Moerman
 Anonymous
 April Luk
 Charlie Hunter
 Darrell & Bethany Ulriksen
 David & Dale Fisher
 David Johnson
 Gisela Rohde
 Heather & Craig Jones
 Heather Webber
 Ijeoma Chuku
 James Anderson
 Janice Penner
 Kelly & Barb Johnson
 Kennedy Thompson

Kenneth & Cori Palmer
 Lynne Oishi
 Marilyn Millions
 Martha Beach
 Mel & Madeline Johnson
 Norm & Bev Chambers
 Patricia Dyck
 Rhonda McNallie
 Robert Slimm
 Roxy Meyers
 Sam Aylesworth



Financial Report

COOPERATIVE ESL MINISTRIES STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Bank/Cash	10,796	25,891
Receivables	282	110
Prepaid Expenses	<u>626</u>	<u>532</u>
	11,705	26,533
Capital Assets	0	0
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>11,705</u>	<u>26,533</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Account payables and accrued liabilities	—	—
Undispersed designated funds	<u>820</u>	<u>820</u>
	820	820
Deferred Revenue	<u>6,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
	6,820	20,820
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	<u>4,885</u>	<u>5,713</u>
	<u>11,705</u>	<u>26,533</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, 2016

	2016	2015
REVENUE		
Donations	27,569	30,579
Community Initiatives Grant	14,000	9,000
Registrations	8,583	10,320
Sundry and Membership	16	32
	50,168	49,931
EXPENSES		
Conference costs		
Facilitators	2,320	1,875
Facility rental	705	250
Food	2,225	2,197
Supplies and sundry	1,016	1,248
Advertising and printing	0	138
Books and Materials	46	0
Event Expenses	0	0
Insurance	980	1,149
Interest and bank charges	393	483
Office and sundry	1,104	1,410
Rent	2,100	2,100
Salaries and benefits	39,581	35,025
Travel	326	1,258
Workshops	200	0
	50,996	47,133
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	-828	2,798



Training & Event Photos



Reaching Out with English 2015



Reaching Out with English 2015



Spring Training 2016



Networking Breakfast 2016

