

CESLM Annual Report

2018



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ABOUT US

WHO WE ARE

Cooperative ESL Ministries is an interdenominational, Christian organization dedicated to serving newcomers to Canada. We serve people of all faith and cultures—advocating respect and understanding of cultural, religious, and language backgrounds.

WHAT WE DO

We work with churches and community groups to plan and execute training and networking events for volunteers serving newcomers to Canada. We also provide resources and consulting for those that want to start up a new ESL Program in their church or community.

One of our main goals is to fill the gap we see in society's integration process of immigrant, refugee, and internationals who arrive in Canada. We believe that with training in cross-cultural communication and good principles of adult education for language learners, we can make a difference in the lives of newcomers living in our neighbourhoods and communities.

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since this is my first annual report, I would like to explain why I became involved with Cooperative ESL Ministries by sharing my first newsletter article from November 2017.

In the fall of 2016, I sensed the Lord direct me to revisit the conversation that He had with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4). While the disciples went into town to buy lunch, Jesus sat down to rest at the well. Seizing the opportunity for a life-changing conversation, Jesus asked the woman for a drink, then went on to promise living water to satisfy her soul forever. When the disciples returned with the groceries, all they could think about was how hungry they were when they saw Jesus talking to someone unworthy of their attention—for, in that time and place, women were low on the social ladder, particularly Samaritan women.

This was one of those moments when God's thinking clashed with humanistic thinking. While the disciples said, "Let's eat," Jesus said, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." While the disciples overlooked this outsider, Jesus reached out. While the disciples wanted to head back to their own people in Judea (as quickly as possible), Jesus pointed to the fields around them that were ripe for harvest. As a result, a community was transformed!

It's tempting to ignore the opportunities we have, here and now, with waves of immigrants coming to Canada looking for a better life. We can feel threatened by new neighbours not like us—or, we can offer them hospitality, friendship, and respect. Through our influence, many may find not just a better life, but eternal life.

As followers of Jesus, let's pray that our government would have the wisdom and discernment to know *who* should settle in our great country. As the church, let's be the first to welcome these new residents. Only the Lord knows the eternal impact we can make as we reach out with the love and Good News of Jesus Christ!

I went looking for who was reaching out to new Canadians living in Calgary. Through a mutual friend, Laura Swart (who leads I-AM ESL), I was introduced to Madeline Johnson, founder of CESLM. Over the next few months, we too became friends and Madeline asked me to serve as president. My fresh appreciation for the encounter the Samaritans had with Jesus in John chapter 4, Madeline's vision based upon Jesus' prayer for unity in John chapter 17, this new friendship with Madeline and her husband Mel, and the Lord's stirring in my heart—all influenced my decision to say yes.

This role has been challenging and rewarding. Since serving with CESLM, I see more potential in how we can come alongside churches as they reach out to those who are new to our country. With one out of five people in Canada's population born elsewhere ([Statistics Canada](#)), there are many opportunities for followers of Jesus to roll out the welcome mat!

—Allan Pole, President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

EXECUTIVE

Allan Pole—President

Madeline Johnson—Vice President

Bill Demaer—Treasurer

Kathryn Seib—Secretary



BOARD MEMBERS

Mel Johnson

Helen Ohlhauser, Volunteer Coordinator

Anshu Stephen



PART-TIME STAFF

Roxy Meyers—Events Coordinator

Sandy Baldwin—Communications & Marketing Coordinator

Darlene Penner—Resources Coordinator

Jacqueline Seib—Administrative Assistant



YEAR IN REVIEW

An African proverb exhorts, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” We marvel at the team that the Lord has brought together!

BOARD MEETINGS

The responsibility of governance rests upon the shoulders of our board members who wrestle with the “why” questions. Our first board meeting in 2018 was on January 18th and at that time Allan Pole (President), Madeline Johnson (Vice-President), Dale Fisher (Secretary), Bill Demaer (Treasurer), Mel Johnson, Helen Ohlhauser, Margaret Daley, and Marvin Busenius were board members. We met eight times over the year and enjoyed a barbecue and potluck supper with our staff in June.

RESIGNATIONS

We thank Dale Fisher, Margaret Daley, and Marvin Busenius who served as board members and resigned for a variety of reasons. Dale served faithfully for seven years and continues to be involved in other ways.

NEW MEMBERS

By the time we met on December 6th, Kathryn Seib and Anshu Stephen had been added as board members. Welcome, Kathryn and Anshu!

We gained government approval to change our previous fiscal year, July through June, to January through December, which will change the rhythm of our annual reporting. One constant in this life is change; however, we continue to train, resource, network, and consult to fulfill our mission. We still envision a future where churches are key leaders in welcoming and integrating newcomers to Canada.

We would like to add more board members in 2019. Would you please pray with us and let us know if you or someone you know would be suitable, willing, and available?

STAFF

Jacqueline Seib began to work as our Administrative Assistant on February 1st. Roxy Meyers returned to our staff on March 1st, this time as our Events Coordinator. We sure appreciate the creative, diligent work of Janelle Baldwin, who resigned as our Communications & Marketing Coordinator effective July 1st. We welcomed Janelle’s husband, Sandy Baldwin, who took over this role that same day. Darlene Penner was added to our staff on July 1st, working as our Resources Coordinator. We are grateful for the diversity of abilities and experiences these capable part-time staff members bring to our operations as they wrestle with the “how” questions.

—Allan Pole, President

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

TRAINING & EVENTS

INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES CONFERENCE—WITHOUT A PASSPORT

Intercultural Ministries Conference Report, October 13, 2018



We had an amazing group of people attend our Intercultural Ministries Conference on October 13. Keynote speaker, Bud Fuchs, gave an awesome presentation with key strategies for reaching newcomers in our neighbourhoods. More than thirteen churches were represented, with around 50 people in attendance.

With topics from cross-cultural strategies, to teaching ESL from a language learning perspective, using integrated Bible Study curriculum, to how to present the Gospel to newcomers, and an amazing story from an immigrant father on the stress and anxiety of integrating into a new culture—all had something to offer us as we learn to reach out to newcomers in our neighbourhoods, churches, and workplaces.

A few conference comments from attendees:

"Very well done. Excellent presenters and topics."

"Speakers were easy to understand and follow."

"Really liked the session by Amber Wylie-Moerman."

"The entire day was inspiring, energizing and encouraging."

"This was a conference that I found thoroughly inspiring at all levels. Bud Fuchs was a very engaging speaker and the topics covered provided many practical ideas and much spiritual encouragement to me in my role of reaching out to newcomers."

"An aha moment for me was when Amber presented the bible-based materials to use for teaching English to newcomers. It made perfect sense that the Bible should be used unapologetically as text for a language learner program. It was very helpful to have the various elements for effective language teaching so clearly outline and resourced."



Thank you to all who attended our Intercultural Ministry Conference. And special thanks to our donors, volunteers, supporters, and exhibitors.

To learn more about how we can help tailor a workshop or conference to meet your individual needs, contact our Events Coordinator at events@eslcooperative.ca.

INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

CESLM presented the Intercultural Communications workshop for the New Canadian Friendship Centre, a ministry of Centre Street Church, on October 27th. Amber Wylie-Moerman and Carol Moerman facilitated the course for 24 participants.

Participants from diverse backgrounds allowed for rich and lively discussions as common intercultural communications barriers were discussed in the context of authentic stories and situations. Participants agreed that this workshop was extremely beneficial to help gain confidence to address and work through communication barriers.

For more information on this workshop, visit eslcooperative.ca/training-events/intercultural-communication. —*Roxy Meyers, Events Coordinator*

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

It has been a great honour to serve this past year at CESLM. We are currently working on ways to actively engage our email subscribers and Facebook followers by including more fresh and interesting content. Our blog and newsletter subscribers are on the rise—we are committed to bringing you timely newsletters each month. In the coming months, we will be launching a new, updated website that will feature more content with easier navigation. For those of you with visual impairments, we will include the ability to have the blog articles read to you right on your smartphone, tablet, or desktop computer. I am glad to be a part of the new team at CESLM, helping to grow the ministry to new heights.

It's been a blessing to work with such a dedicated group of people. I'm looking forward to another year of serving this fantastic ministry. —*Sandy Baldwin, Marketing and Communications Coordinator*

RESOURCE AND CONTENT MANAGEMENT REPORT

CESLM Monthly Newsletter: The main media we use to provide current information for our donors, volunteers, teachers and ministry workers on ESL and cultural issues related to working with newcomers. The main content in our monthly newsletter includes a blog written by CESLM president Allan Pole, teaching and cultural tips (from various teachers), as well as conference and workshop promotion, reports, interviews, and articles from local ESL providers. Currently we have almost 900 subscribers.

Facebook: Each week we try to connect with our followers by posting relevant resources for others to use in lesson planning for their ESL classes. We also share posts from ESL programs we support. As well, we promote upcoming events. We currently have 179 followers.

Website Content Management: Our website is currently being updated to revise the current content/add new resources and other new content to best meet the needs of our readers. Current website—Users: 2,697. New Users: 2,603. Page Views: 9,307 (over a 5-month period 2017/18).

—*Darlene Penner, Resources Coordinator*

VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

The CESLM board and staff are grateful for a dedicated force of volunteers. The word *grow* recalls the generous gift of volunteers—those who help others grow, and those who give generously from the heart. Volunteers plant the seeds so others can prosper in God. Seeds turn into roots, and the plant or flowers grow. This past year, each of our volunteers made a difference by contributing their time, energy, and talents. It's been said that faith community volunteers are faithful, regular, and dependable. And you have shown us how true this is.

Through our ministry at CESLM, we have the unique opportunity to help others reach out to immigrants, foreign students, refugees, and internationals in our communities. Our trainings, workshops, and conferences cannot run without dedicated volunteers! You are outstanding individuals who invest in other peoples' lives, assisting where needed. From the board and staff at CESLM, a huge you "thank you" to each one of you. We are blessed to have you on our team!

We would like to recognize and thank the following volunteers, as well as various others, who gave generously of their time assisting with events and other areas of ministry with CESLM.

Marvin Busenius, Margaret Daley, Bill Demaer, Molina Dulce, Dale Fisher, David Fisher, Michael Hallworth, Madeline Johnson, Mel Johnson, Donna Judd, April Luk, Helen Ohlhauser, Allan Pole, Kathryn Seib, Anshu Stephen, Warsha Stephen.

"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you." —Colossians 1:3, ESV

—Helen Ohlhauser, Volunteer Coordinator

A HUGE THANK YOU TO DALE FISHER

Since 2011, Dale Fisher has faithfully served God as board secretary, as well as arranging and leading workshops, organizing event catering, and finding appropriate resources. Even now, in 2019, she continues to serve as a volunteer teacher/workshop leader/committee member.

As well, her husband David has supported her 100%, helping CESLM with technological expertise. You can see the love of God in this couple's lives by the many ways they serve—through Pioneer Camps, Inn from the Cold, at St. James Anglican, and in the community. Thank you, David, for putting the ESL ministry on the church website and raising its visibility.

Dale loves teaching, loves God, and loves his people—including newcomers. She serves in St. James ESL program where she is a blessing to the newcomers she teaches. Recently, she was reunited with a former student who has now brought her sister from Venezuela to attend ESL classes at St. James. She was so thankful to find a place where she knew her sister would be treated with God's love.

In a recent conversation, Dale underscored her passion for the opportunities that God gives.

“I believe in the mission. CESLM is a safe place to exercise our gifts. We have freedom to do our thing and others affirm us. We all belong equally—there's no competition in the Kingdom. The wisdom of the Lord is trustworthy; He gives it as a gift to the humble. We are blessed as ESL teachers—we never have to retire. It's inspiring to work with saints who have this calling. ESL volunteers are the cream of the crop! You can take the teacher from the chalk, but you can't take the chalk from the teacher.”

We are so thankful, Dale, that God brought you to CESLM and that you're continuing to volunteer. We pray good health to you for a long time. —*Madeline Johnson, Founder and Vice President*

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

January 22, 2019

On behalf of Cooperative ESL Ministries, I would like to say *thank you* for your financial support in 2018. With your partnership we were able to grow through the year and come out ahead.

This last year has been an exciting time of regrouping and rebuilding. We are so thankful for the board members, staff members, and volunteers who have come together. Each member of our team is dedicated, capable, and focused on our mission: Empowering churches to reach out in love to the immigrants and internationals in our communities.

I am reminded of Genesis 26:18 9 (NIV),

“Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the same names his father had given them.”

I get the sense that we need to reopen old wells and dig new ones in the days to come. I look forward to seeing where and how the Lord leads us. Would you please pray with us?

We love Jesus and we love His church. Thank you for supporting us so we can help churches reach new Canadians with the love of our Saviour.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Pole', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Allan Pole, President

FINANCIAL REPORT

COOPERATIVE ESL MINISTRIES STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

CESLM FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2018

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	TOTAL	% OF BUDGET
BALANCE FROM 2017	13,237.31	13,237.31	
Income			
Personal Donations	10,000.00	14,556.02	146%
Church Donations	10,000.00	5,760.00	58%
Events	5,000.00	5,455.00	109%
G.S.T. Rebate	100.00	83.69	84%
Interest	20.00	25.96	130%
Total Income	38,357.31	39,117.98	101.98%
Expenses			
Payroll & Expenses	25,000.00	17,547.05	70%
Events	5,000.00	5,508.67	110%
Insurance	1,200.00	918.00	77%
Mileage	600.00	191.05	32%
Advertising	500.00	460.70	92%
Office Supplies	400.00	-	0%
Gifts	200.00	150.00	75%
Mailbox Rental	200.00	199.50	100%
Transaction Fees	150.00	117.54	78%
Total Expenses	33,250.00	25,092.51	75%
Balance		14,025.47	
Chequing Account		7,870.02	
Savings Account		6,155.45	
Total		14,025.47	

LOCAL ESL PROGRAM STORIES—REACHING OUT TO NEWCOMERS

Meeting the needs of newcomers in Canada is more than just teaching them English, giving them resources, and sending them out into society to become “Canadian.” It’s about showing them God’s love by walking alongside them as they live this journey among us. It’s about accepting them as they are, and not forcing our cultural values on them, but rather loving them as Christ loves us—unconditionally.

The following is a story told by the Harvest Hills Alliance Church ESL program coordinator, Donna Zamiski, and church member Charlotte Engler, on how their church is making a difference as they reach out to newcomers in their community.

HARVEST HILLS ALLIANCE CHURCH



ESL WITH HEART AND LOVE

It took a couple of years for Harvest Hills Alliance Church (HHAC) to meet their sponsored Syrian Refugee, a single woman with two children, who finally arrived in Calgary in the fall of 2018. The family spoke Arabic and had absolutely no knowledge of English.

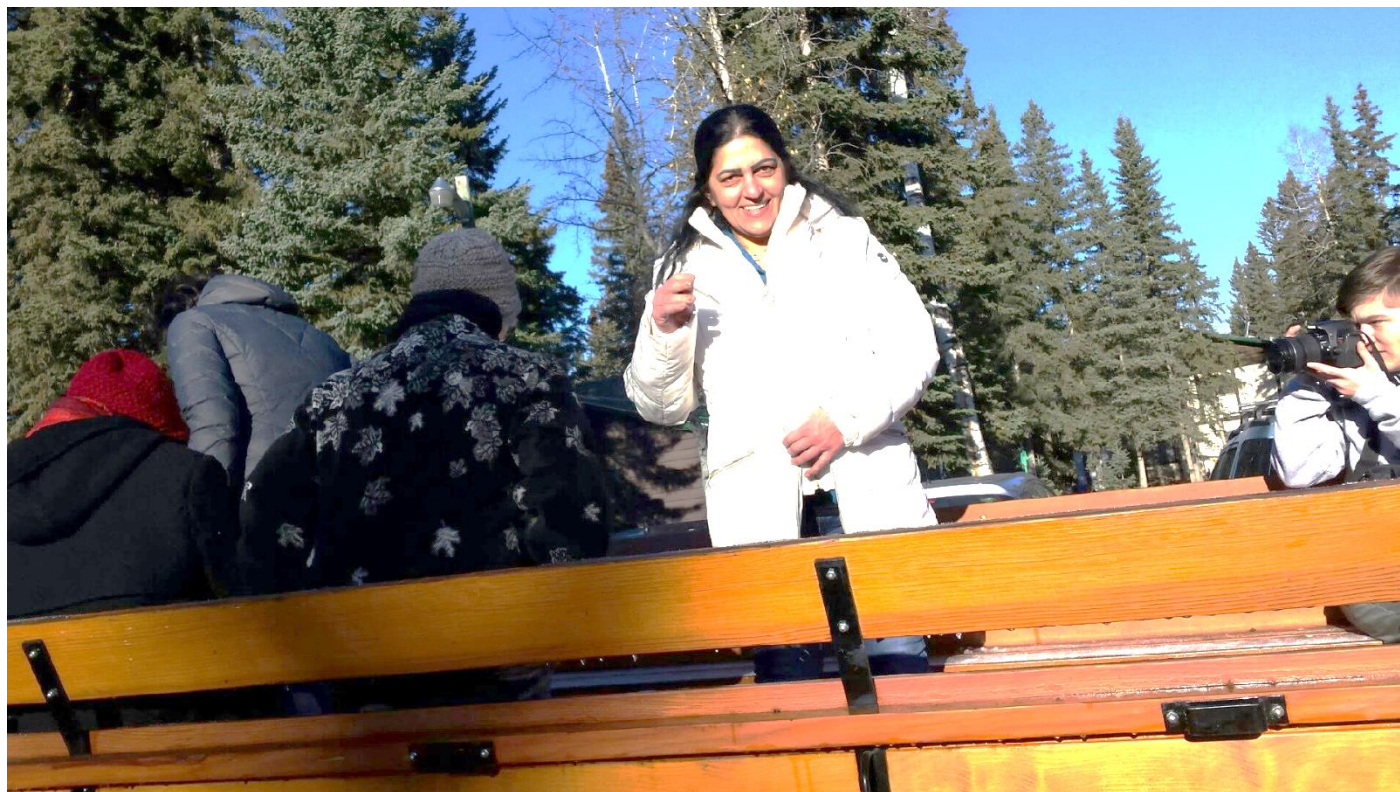
Having taught ESL at HHAC for several years, [being responsible for English language and acculturation instruction], I quickly recognized the difference between the two cultures and the loneliness the family felt.

Then it occurred to me to ask another Arabic speaking woman, [who had previously attended classes at HHAC and then continued at Agape Language Centre achieving Level 4], to help translate for the refugee woman and her kids. She also agreed to help as her conversation partner in the ESL classroom. As well, Charlotte, a member of HHAC congregation, came alongside this new refugee family. She not only accompanied this family to medical appointments but went beyond just driving this family places to get settled—she took them to ESL knitting/crochet classes at the New Canadian Friendship Centre, attended a woman’s retreat with the mom, and introduced them to her grandchildren by inviting them in to play and socialize, as well as share tea and help her with English homework—a great way to integrate a newcomer into Canadian culture.

Quickly frustration changed to smiles, hugs, relaxed chatter, and even laughter and food exchanges as many church members became involved in helping this family settle into Calgary. The whole church now stays informed of the family’s needs making sure someone is always there to lend a hand. The language will come with time! In the meantime, the new family is comforted and feels accepted in the community.

Thanks to Donna and Charlotte for providing details for this story.

For information on the ESL at HHAC, check out their video at hhachurch.com/ministry/esl.





ROSE'S STORY: NOT JUST A SETTLEMENT, BUT A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY TO CHRIST

Rose is a very hard worker—working 55 hours a week at two jobs. She is a widow and has one son. She started coming to our Thursday evening Conversation Club to improve her English. Every week she sat with a volunteer in a small group and practiced English. Rose often wondered why they took the time volunteering to help New Canadians learn English. She also couldn't understand why they were so kind to her, encouraging her in life.

Over the next few months, Rose started attending the Sunday ESL Bridges Class to study English, Canadian culture, and Jesus' life. Rose continued to observe the Christian volunteers as they befriended her, invited her into their homes, and took her camping for a weekend with the volunteer teachers and students.

Eventually, through a Christian friend, Rose became a follower of Jesus and was baptized! Now she is growing in her faith. She attends a Saturday ESL Bible study. The students in the Bible study are becoming good friends and enjoy spending time together.

For a short time, one of her jobs kept Rose from coming to the church services, classes, and events on weekends—so, she changed jobs to keep her weekends free. She looks forward to worshipping with other believers in the weekend church service. She says she feels so happy when she praises God. Rose shares

her love for Jesus with friends and family. She told her sister, “You should come to church with me. You will feel joy in your heart.”

Monday to Friday, Rose works at a daycare. A large part of her job is changing diapers. She says, “Every time I change a little one’s diaper, I tell them ‘I love you’. And as they get older, they respond, ‘I love you.’ I pray for them. And we sing about God’s good gifts.” Her boss is also a Christian and encourages Rose in her faith.

Rose’s settlement journey, which started with a very kind ESL volunteer—became a spiritual journey to Jesus.

(The volunteer teachers and many small group leaders in our ESL program were trained through CESLM).

—Patricia Love



eslcooperative.ca