



Helping churches reach
out to new Canadians.



Cooperative
ESL Ministries

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

WELCOME TO THE CESLM 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

VISION

We envision a future where...
Churches are key leaders in welcoming
and integrating newcomers to Canada.

MISSION

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS



01 PRESIDENT'S REPORT	4
02 THE FACES BEHIND CESLM	5
03 BOARD PROFILES	6
04 VOLUNTEER & MARKETING REPORTS	7
05 PARTNERSHIPS	8
06 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS	9
07 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS	10
08 LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026	11
09 THANK YOU SUPPORTERS	12

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Canada's current immigration trends reflect a clear shift from rapid post-pandemic expansion toward stabilization and selective reduction. After record-high inflows in 2022 to 2024, the federal government has lowered permanent resident targets to about 380,000 annually through 2028. This is sharply reducing the number of temporary residents (including international students and foreign workers) to bring them below 5% of the population. Policy is increasingly focused on economic immigration - now roughly 60 to 65% of admissions - to address labour shortages in key sectors while easing pressure on housing and infrastructure. Recent numbers show slowing population growth and even short-term declines in immigration levels compared with 2024, largely due to these policy changes. Overall, Canada is moving toward a more controlled, skills-targeted immigration system that balances economic needs with concerns about affordability, public services, and population growth.

The Government of Canada is not eliminating all English language training programs, but recent funding reductions to immigration and settlement services are leading to cuts in many English-language programs on the ground. Who will meet the needs? Followers of Jesus, the church and other ministries have opportunities to reach out with English in the love of Christ.

The Lord often meets with people on mountaintops, away from the crowds and chaos. Shortly after Jesus was raised from the dead, He met with His followers on the mountain in Galilee, where He told them to go. As glorious and wonderful as it would have been for them to stay on the mountain, the Lord sent them to the nations in Matthew 28:16-20. The nations are

coming to our communities, and we have a golden opportunity to reach out and share our friendship and our faith. Let's not be threatened and withdraw, but let's seize the opportunities that are before us! Let's help and encourage one another to be faithful in fulfilling our heavenly assignments here on earth.



We aim to collaborate and cross-pollinate more as we connect with others locally, provincially, nationally and internationally. We look to share more stories of what the Lord is doing, provide more training, search for and share more resources, and strengthen the community of like-minded people who reach out to others learning English and adapting to life in Canada.

I want to thank our board, staff, volunteers, partners, supporters, and friends who reach out with us and help others do the same. I am grateful for the Lord's goodness and faithfulness in 2025, and I look forward to what He will do in and through us in 2026!

—Contributed by Allan Pole, CESLM President

THE FACES BEHIND CESLM

Our team of board, staff and volunteers are a diverse group of people with a common goal to encourage Churches as they reach out to the newcomers in their cities, communities and neighbourhoods.

CESLM BOARD

Bill Demaer
Treasurer



Helen Ohlhauser
Volunteer
Coordinator



Allan Pole
President



Char Bates
Board Member



Val Cudmore
Board Member



Akinola Peloula
Board Member



CESLM STAFF

Jenelle Katrine
Resources
and Training
Coordinator



Jacqueline Seib
Administration



Sandy Baldwin
Marketing



BOARD PROFILES

Akinola Peloula, board member since February 2023



After attending a few board meetings as an observer, and from the perspective of an immigrant who has been in Canada for the past five years, Akin believes he can contribute his expertise to the management of the ministry. Akin is a believer in Jesus Christ and currently serves in the children's ministry at a local church in Edmonton. Akin is married with two children. His hobbies include playing soccer and watching movies.

Char Bates, board member since November 2023



Training: Bachelor of Religious Education, Prairie Bible Institute, Master of Religious Education, Canadian Theological Seminary, Ph.D., Michigan State University.

Experience: Char has had the privilege of serving the Lord in education throughout her life—primarily in college and graduate administration as well as in classroom and online teaching. She has volunteered in leadership with various ministries located in North America and internationally. Additionally, she has served globally as part of her experience. Char has had some acquaintance with CESLM since its founding!

DID YOU KNOW?

All our board members are volunteers, with some serving with us for many years. Thank you board for your hard work over the years and especially in 2025!

Will you join us? Contact us at
ask@eslcooperative.ca

For our complete leadership team bios, go to our website [Leadership page](#).

MARKETING REPORT

In 2025, we had our first Webinar Series on the third Saturday over the course of four months from February–May. This was a collaboration with Southern Ontario Cooperative of ESL Ministries in which we had a different speaker each month.

These events were a huge success!

We held our annual fall training event at the West Spring Church on Oct. 12 and it was enjoyed by all. Two workshops were attended consisting of Communicating Well Across Cultures and Lesson Planning.

We also hosted a networking breakfast at the Port O' Call Inn, where participants had the opportunity to connect in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

Over coffee and breakfast, attendees shared their experiences, exchanged ideas, and built meaningful relationships. The event created a sense of community, allowing people to learn from one another's stories while strengthening both personal and professional connections.

—Contributed by
Sandy Baldwin, Marketing Coordinator

VOLUNTEER REPORT

Exclamation of Thanks!

Thank you ! With gratitude ! In appreciation !

Thank you for all you do, all you share, and all you give, in Jesus' name!

God has gifted you with a servant heart. Thank you for sharing your heart! You are a blessing!

We would like to recognize the following volunteers, as well as others, who faithfully served in 2025.

Pablo Arechavala
Sandy Baldwin
Char Bates
Sallyanne Calver
Allison Chep

Justin Chep
Valerie Cudmore
Bill Demaer
Pat Dyck
Dale Fisher

Michael Hallworth
Jenelle Katrine
Nicolajsen-Gasana
Mel Johnson
Shelley McLean

Katherine Milum
Helen Ohlhauser
Terry Ohlhauser
Akinola Peluola
Allan Pole

Brenda Pole
Gisela Rohde
Ruth Sakstad
Jacqueline Seib
Layla Solomon

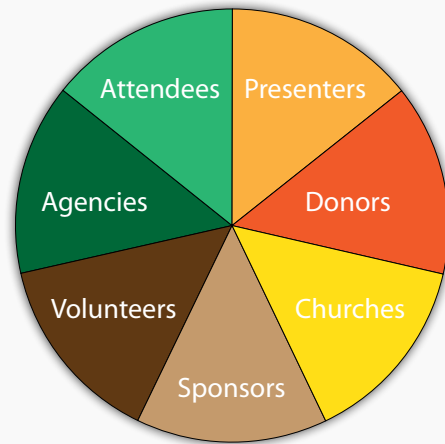
"We give thanks to God always for you." (1 Thessalonians 1:2)

With sincere gratitude,
Helen Ohlhauser, Volunteer Coordinator

PARTNERSHIPS

Thanks to all who collaborated with CESLM in 2025—attendees, sponsors, donors, churches, presenters, volunteers, agencies. We are blessed to have partners with a passion for welcoming newcomers to Canada. May God bless you in 2025 as you continue serving newcomers in the name of Jesus.

—CESLM BOARD AND STAFF



SOCEM

Southern Ontario Cooperative
of ESL Ministries



St. James Anglican Church
Making Faithful Disciples of Jesus Christ

NETWORKING BREAKFAST

We invited ministry leaders and workers to join us for a tasty breakfast with a beautiful mountain view on Saturday morning, March 22nd, at the Best Western Plus Port O'Call Hotel in Northeast Calgary to share vision, ideas and prayer. Participants commented on how great it was to meet, encourage one another, and share resources. One said it was too short! It is so helpful to be reminded that we are not in this alone.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Check out our event highlights, photos and more attendee comments on our past events page.

We were pleased to collaborate with Southern Ontario Cooperative of ESL Ministries on a webinar series over four Saturday mornings from January to May, featuring these topics and presenters:

- “Strengthening English Abilities Using Great Literature” by Jeff McCarrell
- “Demystifying AI: A Practical Guide for ESL Teaching” by Sandy Ho
- “Teaching Beginner ESL Learners: Resources to Motivate Your Students” by Nataliya Lykshosherstova
- “Using the Noticing-Awareness-Practice Model to Teach Grammar” by Roswita Dressler



Participants provided us with good feedback on the sessions, and we look forward to more in the future.

We held our **Fall Training Event** at West Springs Church where we had a wonderful morning of connection, prayer, idea sharing, encouragement, skill building, exhibitors and workshops!

Erich Wong shared a heartfelt moving message on being the Seeds for Future Generations.

Shelley McLean equipped ESL Teachers in her session on Lesson Planning.

Katherine Milum raised cultural awareness through her session on Communicating Well Across Cultures.

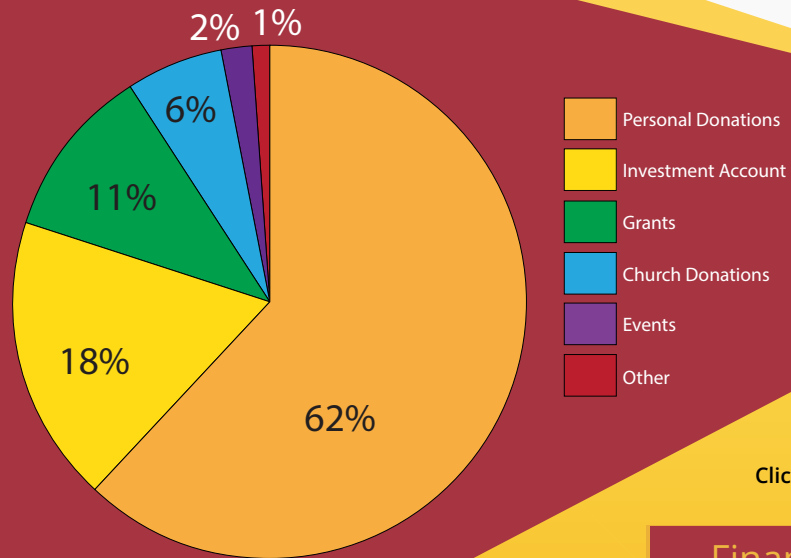


FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

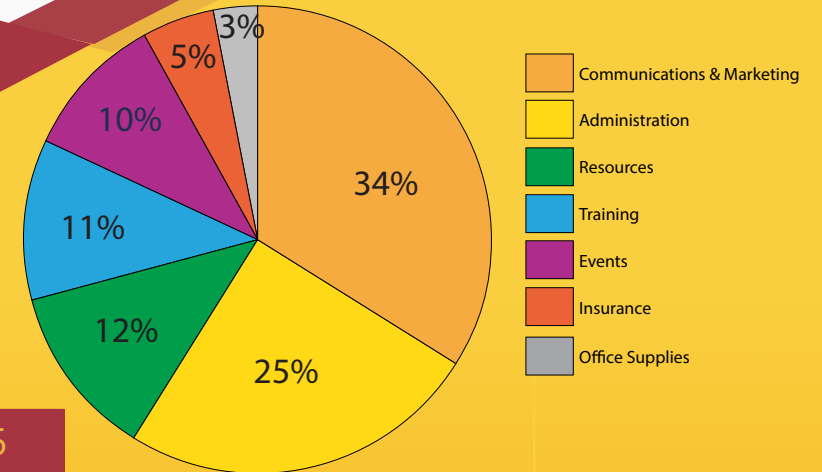
Thank you for helping us empower churches to reach out in love to the immigrants and internationals in our communities. We sense the trust, support and shared vision with each donation. God bless you in 2026.

—CESLM BOARD AND STAFF

2025 REVENUE



2025 EXPENSES



Click the link below for our complete financial statement 2025.

[Financial Statement 2025](#)

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

As CESLM looks ahead at our goal of supporting ESL ministries, we've been working to expand our resources so they are even more accessible and meaningful. We also plan to continue offering in-person events each spring and fall to encourage and celebrate the community here in Calgary. In addition, we're excited to develop more opportunities for online trainings.

With gratitude for the Lord's goodness to this point, we aim to accomplish these goals in 2026:

- Add one more board member.
- Assemble a fund-raising team.
- Complete at least one grant application.
- Conduct at least one fundraiser.
- Host a community breakfast.
- Collaborate with Southern Ontario Cooperative of ESL Ministries (SOCEM) on a webinar series.
- Conduct a fall event.
- Add videos to our resources, such as our Intercultural Communication Workshop and teacher training.
- Expand our network of relationships and ministry partners locally and nationally.
- Collaborate with Lingo On-Line/Teach Beyond on the updated Reaching Out With English (R.O.W.E.) training manual.
- Conduct a strategic planning session.
- R.O.W.E. pilot project in Calgary.
- Organization of the website prioritizing educational materials.
- Share 20-second training promos with our community.

Would you like to help us accomplish these goals?

Contact Allan Pole at al@eslcooperative.ca for more information.

DONATE TODAY

Thank You From Around The World

Country

Afghanistan
Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia
Algeria
Armenia
Aruba
Bangladesh, India
Israel
Fiji
Finland, Sweden
Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg
India
Indonesia
Kenya, Uganda
Luxembourg
Mongolia
Morocco
Nepal, India, Bhutan, Myanmar
Netherlands, Germany
New Zealand
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan, India (Punjab)
Paraguay
Philippines
Romania
Scandinavia
Sierra Leone
Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia
Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya
South Africa
Spain
Tonga
Tunisia
Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran
Uzbekistan, Afghanistan
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Translation

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sahite
chnorakaloutioun
danki
dhanyabaad
a dank
vinaka
kiitos
danke
dhanyavada
terima kasih
asante / asante sana
merci
bayarlalaa
choukran
dhanyabad
dankewol
kia ora
nagode
takk
sukriya
aguyjé
salamat
najis tuke
takk
tenki
hvala
waad mahadsantahay
dankie
gracias
tualumba
Barak Allahu fiik
spas
rahmat
natôtela
waita

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CESLM IN 2025



We couldn't have done it without your help!

We are forever grateful.

Thank you for reading CESLM's 2025 Annual Report.



eslcooperative.ca
ask@eslcooperative.ca



Charitable Registration
No: 863993440 RR001