Alberta Routes

Building Capacity in Community Educators
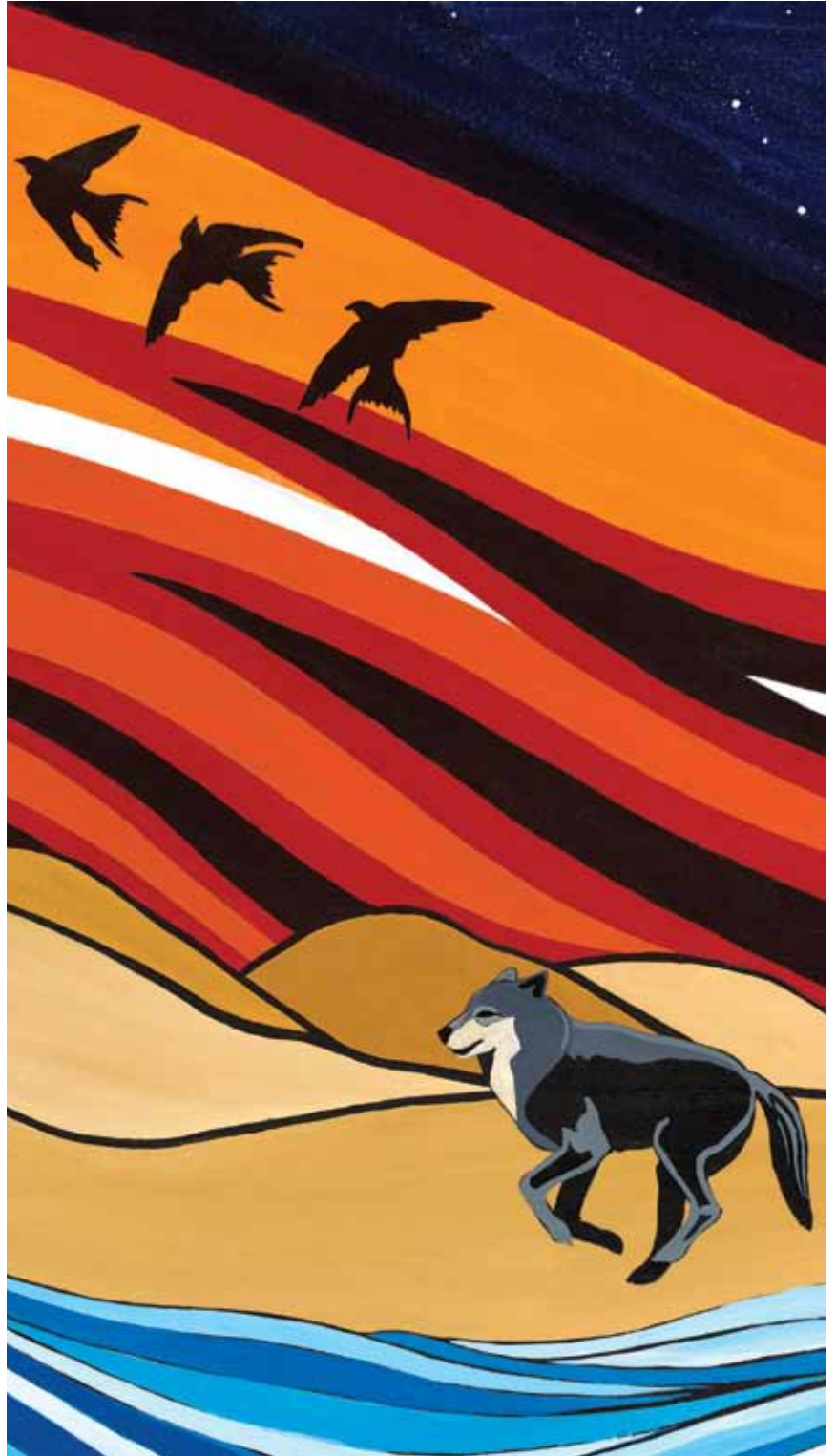
NORQUEST COLLEGE

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Land Acknowledgement

NorQuest College serves its learners and the community on the traditional lands, referred to as Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of Métis Region #4. This land is home to many diverse groups of Indigenous Peoples including the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Saulteaux, Nakota Sioux, Inuit, and Métis. We acknowledge that the City of Edmonton and all the people here are beneficiaries of Treaty No. 6, which encompasses the traditional territories of numerous western Canadian First Nations as well as the Métis people who have called these lands home since time immemorial.

NorQuest acknowledges the treaty, the land, and the territories of Indigenous Peoples as a reminder of:

• Our responsibility and obligations to the land and to Indigenous Peoples;

• Our accountability to addressing the ongoing impacts of colonization that are distinct to Indigenous Peoples and communities;

• Our commitment to working together in remembering the spirit and intent of the Treaty towards right relations.

Artwork by
Kalum Teke Dan

About Alberta Routes

The Alberta Routes: Building Capacity in Community Educators program is in its 22nd year of providing free, high-quality professional development support and services to adult English as an Additional Language (EAL) providers and programs.

Alberta Routes receives funding from the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Advanced Education and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for ongoing EAL capacity development services to rural and urban EAL providers in Alberta.

We support and build capacity of EAL providers so they can offer culturally integrated English language programs and services for adult newcomers.

Alberta Routes also provides the support necessary to help EAL providers feel more confident in the classroom and equips them with the skills to offer more effective lessons. By teaching the teachers, Alberta Routes provides adult newcomers with access to a more engaging and well-rounded English education.
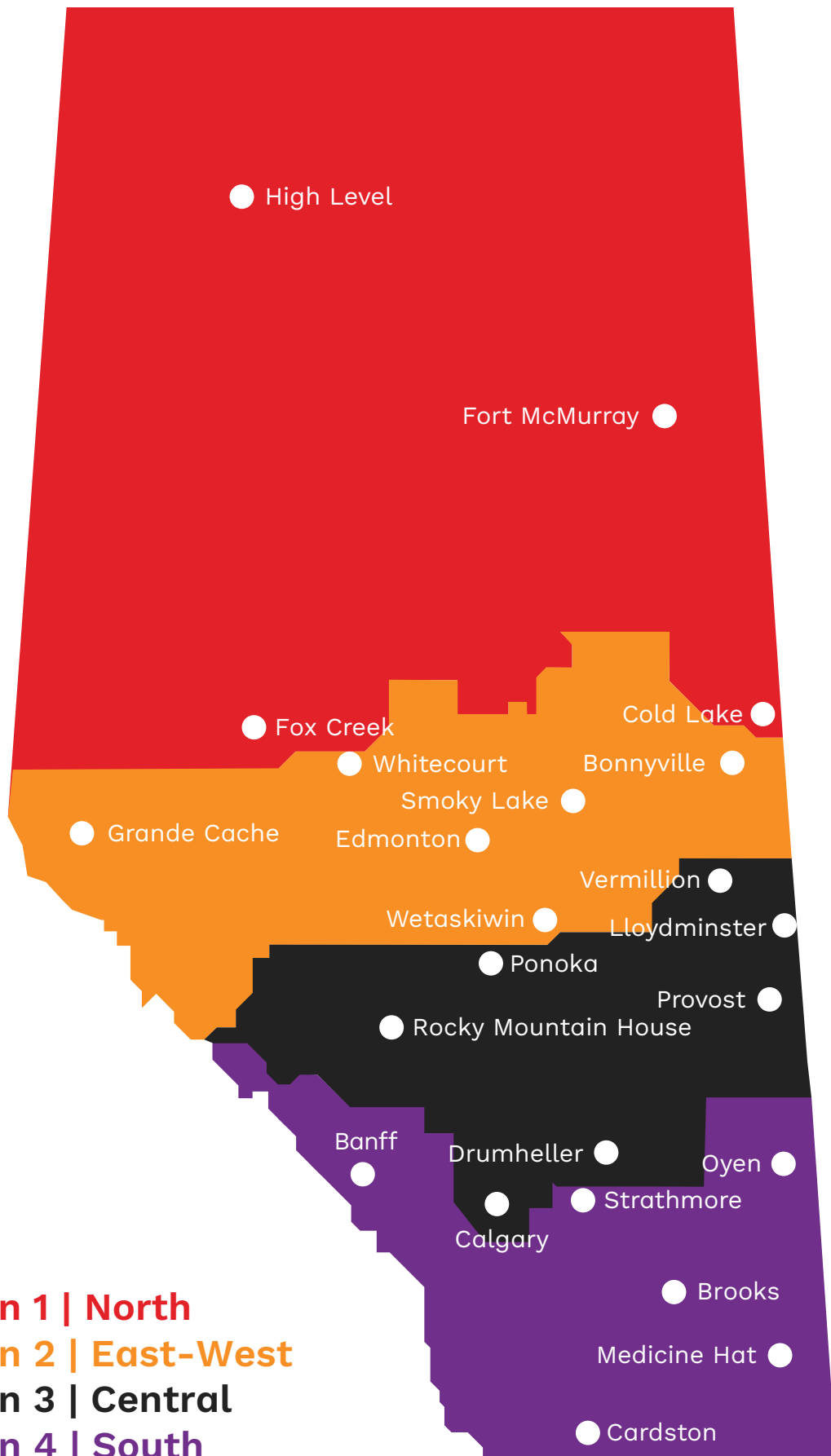
Campuses

We reach beyond NorQuest's regional stewardship as we are a provincially and federally funded program. Our clientele includes Community Adult Learning Programs (CALPs), CALP partners, and non-CALPs such as immigration organizations, churches, and library programs that provide front-line services that support newcomers to establish themselves in their communities throughout Alberta.

We are committed to providing continued support to our current clients and welcome new communities, programs, and EAL providers.

What to Expect

Our Regional Advisors stay at the leading edge of new information, standards, and resources developed in Alberta and across the country so they can pass this information on through the services we offer. Our services align with Canadian Language Benchmarks, ATESL's Best Practices, and Guidelines for ESL programming.

High Level

Fort McMurray

Cold Lake

Fox Creek

Whitecourt

Bonnyville

Smoky Lake

Grande Cache

Edmonton

Vermillion

Wetaskiwin

Lloydminster

Ponoka

Provost

Rocky Mountain House

Banff

Drumheller

Oyen

Strathmore

Calgary

Brooks

Medicine Hat

Cardston

Region 1 | North
Region 2 | East-West
Region 3 | Central
Region 4 | South

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Supports & Services

Workshops
Mentorships
Study Groups
Classroom Visits
Talking Circles
Intercultural Communication Series
Resources
Other Services

Workshops

- Can be held in-person or online
- Cover a range of topics and can be found at **albertaroutes.norquest.ca**
- Can be customized to meet your needs
- Vary in length from 1-4 hours
- Can be scheduled with an Alberta Routes Advisor
- Are free

Teaching Strategies and Frameworks

Building Critical Thinking Skills in English Language Learners

Developing critical thinking skills helps English language learners enhance their communication. Through intentional critical thinking tasks, instructors can help learners expand their vocabulary, strengthen their accuracy and fluency, and use language for different purposes in a variety of contexts.

During this engaging and interactive workshop, participants will explore what critical thinking is, strategies and tips to help learners develop these skills, as well as practical communication activities instructors can use to foster learner's critical thinking.

Classroom Management

Classroom management can be challenging for any instructor. During this workshop, participants will have an opportunity to explore five factors that influence a well-managed classroom.

Developing Vocabulary in ESL Learners

Intentional instruction time in vocabulary encourages learners to notice, focus on, and link meaning to new vocabulary. It also allows learners to use new vocabulary in spoken and written communication. This workshop will look at ways instructors can provide intentional instruction time, tips to consider, and resources.

ESL Tutor Training

This workshop is for participants new to the role of ESL Tutor. It will orient participants to their role, to the needs of their adult English language learners, and to a sample learner plan and lesson plan.

Foundations for Task Based Teaching

Task-based teaching is the leading ESL methodology today. In this workshop, participants will gain an understanding of what task-based teaching is, how it works in practical terms and why it is important in the context of the Canadian Language Benchmarks. They will explore the benefits of task-based teaching for both learners and instructors. They will also practice and create a task-based lesson for their own learners.

Foundations for Teaching Pronunciation

In this hands-on workshop, participants will identify how and where to produce English vowel and consonant sounds, how to produce correct syllable and sentence stress, and how to plan a productive lesson cycle with effective activities. Participants will experience a variety of teaching techniques and lesson ideas that they can bring back to their own learners.

Growth and Goalsetting

Participants will learn how to support learners in setting achievable learning goals that integrate all four language skills. We will also explore realistic goal setting for tutors and instructors to help them identify learner success and achievement.

Interactive Strategies for Teaching Speaking

Based on *ATESL Best Practices for Adult EAL and LINC Programming in Alberta*, this workshop explores principles and strategies for teaching speaking. Participants will deepen their understanding of the Canadian Language Benchmarks as they learn how to design speaking lessons to increase learner fluency and accuracy. They will also be exposed to tried and true interactive activities to use in their classes.

Introduction to the Canadian Language Benchmarks

In this workshop, participants will deepen their understanding of the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) as they learn how the CLB can help them determine learner proficiency, plan instruction, and assess learning.

Introduction to Teaching CLB 5 & CLB 6 Learners

This workshop is for participants who want to develop or enhance their ability to create lesson plans using the Canadian Language Benchmarks. By the end of the workshop, participants will have ideas of the specific vocabulary, grammar, and strategies CLB 5 and CLB 6 learners require for all four skill areas and the basis for at least one activity for each skill.

Learning Strategies for ESL Literacy Learners

Because ESL literacy learners often have limited or no formal education, they often lack well-developed learning strategies. In this workshop, participants will become familiar with three categories of learning strategies that when taught to ESL literacy learners will enable them to better understand, learn, and use new language and literacy. Participants will also explore how they can teach and support learners in acquiring and using new learning strategies.

Lesson Planning Made Easy

Lesson plans are essential to successful teaching and learning. But lesson planning can feel like an overwhelming task when there are so many demands on a teacher or tutor's time. This workshop breaks down the elements of lesson planning into a few simple steps and teaches tips and strategies to make daily planning easier.

Project Based Learning

Project-based learning is an engaging and authentic way to integrate language use and critical-thinking skills into the English-language learning environment. In this workshop, participants will learn about project-based learning, its benefits to learners, and how to create project-based learning opportunities for their students.

Strategies for Teaching Grammar

Participants will increase their confidence when teaching grammar by exploring a wide variety of strategies and resources to help them plan lessons that contextualize grammar, provide focused practice, and open opportunities to use grammar to communicate.

Strategies for Teaching Listening

Based on *ATESL Best Practices for Adult EAL and LINC Programming in Alberta*, this workshop explores principles and strategies for teaching listening. Participants will gain familiarity with the Canadian Language Benchmarks, discover useful resources, and learn how to design a listening lesson.

Strategies for Teaching Multi-level Classes

In this workshop, participants will explore four strategies for adapting instruction to multi-level classes and discover two classroom activities that work particularly well in multi-level classrooms. They will also become familiar with those parts of the Canadian Language Benchmarks that are particularly useful when planning instruction for multi-level classes.

Strategies for Teaching Pronunciation

Participants in this workshop will refine their strategies for addressing word stress, rhythm, linking, intonation, and problem sounds in their EAL teaching. Participants will prioritize pronunciation problems and explore ways to help learners apply what they learn.

Strategies for Teaching Reading

Based on *ATESL Best Practices for Adult EAL and LINC Programming in Alberta*, this workshop explores principles and strategies for teaching reading. Participants in this workshop will gain familiarity with the Canadian Language Benchmarks, discover useful resources, and learn how to design a reading lesson.

Strategies for Teaching Writing

Based on *ATESL Best Practices for Adult EAL and LINC Programming in Alberta*, this workshop explores principles and strategies for teaching writing. Participants will gain familiarity with the Canadian Language Benchmarks, discover useful resources, and learn how to design a writing lesson.

Task-Based Language Teaching

This workshop introduces participants to the theory and practice of Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT), an approach to language instruction that is fundamental to the Canadian Language Benchmarks. Participants will learn what a pedagogical task is, identify the principles and practices underlying TBLT, create a task, and design a task-based lesson and assessment.

Teaching by Theme

Do you teach using themes? Would you like to start using themes in your teaching? Themes are topic areas such as health, food and nutrition, and financial literacy. Participants in this workshop will look at what themes are, and explore topics related to specific themes, activities, as well as useful resources and activities. This workshop can be offered as a 1-hour workshop focusing on one of the following themes.

Series:

- Getting to Know You
- Home and Community
- Food and Nutrition
- Health and Safety
- Financial Literacy

Teaching CLB 1-2

This workshop is for participants who want to develop or enhance their ability to create lessons for CLB 1-2 learners, based on the CLB competencies. By the end of the webinar, participants will have ideas of the specific vocabulary, grammar, and strategies required by CLB 1-2 learners for all the four skill areas.

Teaching ESL Literacy Learners

Through this workshop, participants will learn how to recognize ESL literacy learners, distinguish between the various levels of ESL literacy as defined by the Canadian Language Benchmarks, explore principles for ESL literacy instruction, and identify strategies and resources for teaching ESL literacy learners.

Teaching Pre-Benchmark Learners

Participants in this workshop will develop or enhance their ability to create lesson plans based on the Canadian Language Benchmark competencies. Participants will be shown steps that apply to any CLB level; however, this workshop is specific to creating lesson plans for pre-Benchmark CLB learners.

Tutor Training Using the Foundational Numeracy Modules and Assessing Learner Abilities

This workshop is for instructors, tutors, and program staff who work directly with numeracy learners. In this workshop, participants will learn to use the modules effectively with their learners in one on one and small group settings. We will also explore ways of using the module assessments as a learning tool.

Tools and Resources for Teaching

ATESL Best Practices

This workshop introduces participants to *ATESL's Best Practices for Adult EAL and LINC Programming in Alberta*. As they explore the document, participants will have the opportunity to gather ideas and solutions to address issues related to their own EAL context.

An ESL Toolkit of Educational Games and Activities

Explore over 55 educational games and activities you can use to make your ESL classes more engaging and fun. You will learn how to use them to reinforce grammar, thematic vocabulary, and the four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing).

Introduction to LINC Works

LINC Works integrates essential skills, entry-level certifications, and facilitated work placements into programming for newcomers to better prepare them to enter the workforce and maintain employment. The project focuses on learners at CLB levels 3 and 5 and will be applicable for a variety of programs. This workshop presents the LINC Works materials and guides tutors and teachers to make the best use of this resource.

Introduction to Open Educational Resource (OER)

In this workshop, participants will be guided in how to use a free, online, interactive English language textbook in their ESL classes. Participants will gain an understanding of how the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) and intercultural communicative competence (ICC) are integrated throughout the chapters and how the numerous interactive features can enhance teaching and learning. Participants will explore the many ways they can use this resource in their teaching or tutoring communities.

The Language Experience Method for Beginning and Literacy Learners

Not sure where to start with your beginning learner or literacy learner? The Language Experience Method is an excellent and versatile method that engages learners who need to see some quick results to build their confidence. This workshop introduces the method and gives participants an opportunity to create their own language experience activity.

Online Resources for ESL

In this workshop, participants will explore a variety of free and fantastic online resources to use with their ESL learners. Participants will become familiar with instructor-use and learner-use tools to enhance instruction, provide home practice, and engage learners with tried and tested tools and activities. Participants will take away a list of amazing resources.

Picture This: Using Pictures with English Language Learners

Pictures are one of the most common resources for teaching English language learners. During this workshop, participants will learn about the benefits of using pictures to develop language skills. Participants will also have an opportunity to explore activities and ideas for using pictures in tutorial sessions and classrooms.

Pragmatics

In this workshop, participants will be introduced to the concept of pragmatics, and learn how to incorporate pragmatics into your classes and explore useful resources.

Setting and Maintaining Professional Boundaries for ESL Providers

In this workshop, participants will identify mindfulness practices and explore reflection strategies to support healthy boundaries. Participants will learn about compassion fatigue and how to set and enforce realistic expectations regarding their commitment to help and to serve learners.

Teaching Financial Literacy to English Language Learners

During this workshop participants will identify learner needs and concept related to financial literacy. Participants will also look at ways to incorporate financial literacy into their lesson plans and useful resources.

Teaching Idioms

This workshop is for participants working with English language learners who are at an intermediate level and higher. During this workshop, participants will identify reasons for teaching idioms, as well as things to consider when introducing idioms to learners. Participants will have a chance to explore different activities and online resources for teaching idioms.

Tips and Tools for Successful Conversation Groups

Conversation groups and classes can be a versatile and effective way to develop language skills for newcomers. Participants will learn about the benefits of conversation classes for English language learners and the diverse ways conversation groups can be organized to meet learner needs. Participants will also focus on ideas and tips to use in tutorial sessions and classrooms.

Tools & Resources for ESL Providers

ESL Providers will be introduced to the services offered by Alberta Routes (mentorships, workshops, resources, classroom visits, website), as well as to English as an additional language (EAL) terminology.

Using Realia with English Language Learners

"Realia" is a term that refers to any real object we use to engage a learner and enhance their learning process. Examples of realia include a bus schedule, flyer, or cereal box. During this workshop, participants will learn how realia can enhance a lesson. They'll also discover ways to use realia with their learners.

Warmers and Fillers for Teaching

Have you ever found yourself with a small block of time you needed to fill in your class/tutoring time because your lesson ran shorter than you planned? Have you ever wished you had an activity to bring energy into your lesson? Participants in this interactive workshop will discover warm up and filler activities to add to their toolkit. Participants will also leave with a handout filled with great warm-up and filler activities.

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The content was insightful, delivery was excellent.

– Workshop participant

Teaching Online

Best Practices in Online Course Development

Online classes have become part of EAL programming for nearly all learning institutions. This means that program coordinators and instructors have had to develop online curricula and materials. This workshop reviews the best practices for developing online courses. It will discuss the importance of creating a community of inquiry, course maps, and other basic considerations for creating online courses.

Developing Accessible Workshop Materials

Instructors need to ensure that online learning environments are accessible to all users, regardless of their learning needs. During this workshop, participants will discuss instructional design and apply the principles and practices of accessibility in online courses.

Games and Activities for Online Learning

An online instructor's role can be a struggle, and keeping learners engaged while teaching can seem like a monumental task. Join us for this interactive webinar to discover games and activities that will capture and keep your learners' attention from the moment they log in.

Online Facilitation Skills

In this workshop, we will explore different strategies to support online learning. If you are new to online facilitation or looking for new interactive teaching methods this webinar will provide practical ideas for online facilitation.

Practical Ideas for Blended Learning

The growing prevalence of technology inside and outside the classroom makes things a whole lot easier to keep your learner(s) engaged with activities even when they have gone home. Blended classes aim to take the best aspects of online learning and combine them with the best aspects of traditional classes for a more comprehensive learning experience

Supporting Learners with Online Learning

Many newcomers struggle with learning in a digital world. In this workshop, participants will become familiar with techniques to support learners. We will discuss strategies to assess learners' technical proficiencies, use audio/visual platforms and resources, include engagement expectations, monitor student progress, and provide action-oriented feedback.

Teaching Effectively with Technology

As we move into more online classes and events, we can be overwhelmed with the options for technology that we can bring into the classroom. Join us as we review some common presentation tools and online learning tools that bring multimedia approaches and encourage student collaboration and interaction in our classrooms.

Assessment

CELPIP (Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program) Preparation

This workshop introduces the format of the CELPIP test and highlights the test taking strategies that will improve your learners' chances of success on the test. You will learn how to prepare activities that help learners prepare for the exam.

Citizenship Preparation: Creating a Course

In this workshop, participants will explore the essential components of citizenship preparation courses for EAL learners. This workshop will discuss classroom models, course outlines, topics, eligibility and the application process, citizenship test preparation, and resources for students and facilitators. A booklet of related resources will be provided.

ESL Assessment

In this workshop, participants will identify strategies for assessing learner needs and setting learning goals based on those needs. They will explore strategies and tools for assessing learning outcomes, providing feedback, and encouraging learners to reflect on their own learning

IELTS (International English Language Testing System) Preparation

This workshop is designed to help participants better understand the IELTS test, introduce participants to useful IELTS resources, and enable participants to plan activities that will help students with all four sections of the exam.

Orientation to Alberta Routes Assessment Tool

Designed for the Alberta Routes program and based on the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB), these four skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) assessment tool will help program coordinators identify approximate CLB levels to place learners, make instructional decisions, and determine a learner's readiness for a formal CLB assessment.

Preparing Adult Learners for their Canadian Education Credential

This workshop gives tutors/instructors the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the CAEC format, access literacy and numeracy materials, understand lesson structures, analyze a CAEC-specific lesson plan, and create their own lesson plan(s) for CAEC learners.

> **66**
>
> # The presentation offered identifiable steps to put ideas into action.
>
> **- Workshop participant**

Community Connections and Programming

An Integrated Approach to ESL and Family Literacy

Family literacy practitioners will acquire tools and strategies to support ESL families. The course includes discussion of culture, traditions, and best practices for merging ESL and Family Literacy programs.

Developing Community Partnerships to Support Newcomers

This workshop is designed to assist participants in supporting ESL learners in the workplace. Participants will look at needs assessment to forge partnerships with local businesses that employ newcomers. Partnering with local employers to accommodate the specific needs and time constraints of newcomer workers can open opportunities for learners and help employers seeking to integrate newcomers.

ESL Outside the Box

Are you and your learners tired of the same old routines? Do you have learners who are not available for regular classes or tutoring? This workshop highlights unusual but effective ways of setting up ESL learning in your community. Participants will explore unique formats for organizing ESL classes and tutoring, identify best practices for fostering meaningful and engaging learning opportunities in non-traditional settings, and learn how to implement teaching strategies and ideas in non-traditional settings.

Preparing Refugees for the Post-Sponsorship Period

In this workshop, participants will acquire information and resources to support refugees nearing the end of the sponsorship period to guide them to self-sufficiency. This workshop is developed for anyone who is involved in refugee sponsorship.

Starting or Inheriting an ESL Program: Steps to Success

This workshop will guide participants through the essential steps to successfully setting up an ESL program. In addition to gaining a foundation in ESL programming principles and best practices, participants will explore needs assessments, program and curriculum development, resource identification, staff and volunteer selection and professional development. This workshop is for those starting up an ESL program or for new coordinators in existing programs. Participants will also take away a booklet of related resources.

Volunteer Engagement for ESL Providers

In this workshop, participants will apply strategies to recruit, retain, and recognize volunteers in ESL and literacy programs. They will learn how to effectively connect volunteers to meaningful opportunities through a ten-step approach to screening. They will discuss trends and demographics that impact why and how individuals engage, and they will develop an understanding of the organizational standards essential for effective volunteer engagement.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Creating Accessible Learning Environments

In this workshop, participants consider what an accessible learning environment is and acknowledge the importance of accessibility in creating a sense of belonging and an inclusive learning environment. It will explore using Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to create accessible learning environments for all.

Everyone is Welcome!

Teachers and tutors never know who will walk through their doors! Everyone is Welcome! explores one more element of diversity in our ESL classrooms: the diverse ways our brains are wired. During this workshop, we will overview Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and Learning Disabilities.

Gender-Inclusive Learning Environments

In this workshop, participants consider the importance of equity, diversity, and inclusion in a gender-inclusive classroom. It will explore the differences between sex and gender and focus heavily on the explanations of gender identity. It acknowledges and celebrates the diversity that exists within the social constructs of gender within a Canadian context. The workshop then explores best practices for a gender-inclusive learning environment and the development of those practices within the learners' own environment and contexts.

Integrating Anti-Racism in EAL Teaching & Tutoring Practices

This workshop is designed to provide EAL practitioners with the knowledge, tools, and strategies to incorporate anti-racism principles into their teaching and tutoring approaches proactively. The central aim is to equip participants with the skills needed to confront and dismantle racism within the context. In this workshop, participants will dive into the impact of racism on language learning and, by extension, learners' overall educational experiences. Furthermore, participants will navigate the complexities of acknowledging and addressing systemic racism in the education system while fostering a commitment to equity and social justice.

Interrupting Bias

Conscious and unconscious biases are part of being human. During this interactive workshop, participants will examine what bias is and how to mitigate bias. Participants will also learn practices that are helpful to effectively set expectations for valuing diverse viewpoints and facilitating respectful conversations. The information and teaching practices discussed in this workshop can be utilized in a variety of disciplines/areas to promote equity and inclusion.

Introduction to Intercultural Communication

In this workshop, participants are invited to reflect on foundational concepts related to culture, including how culture is defines, how it relates to people's behaviours and values, and how to respond to unfamiliar encounters with mindfulness, to foster effective communication and build relationships.

Learning Disabilities and ESL

Learning English is difficult. How much more challenging is it when you have a learning disability! This workshop will discuss strategies to help your learners read and write. Though these strategies are designed for learners with learning disabilities, all learners can benefit from a fresh approach to reading and writing.

The LGBTQ+ in the EAL Classroom

Participants will gain an understanding of how to create a safe and welcoming learning environment and how to address LGBTQ+ issues in the classroom. This workshop introduces the concepts around equality and rights, appropriate vocabulary, and other basic information that supports best practices.

Parenting in Two Cultures

Newcomers often struggle with childrearing in a culture with quite different practices and expectations from their own. This workshop investigates some of the challenges newcomer parents and children face and gives practical suggestions on how to teach newcomer parenting to negotiate the gap.

Promoting Indigenous Awareness:
The Elders Speak

As part of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action, this workshop supports ESL practitioners with content and strategies to teach newcomers about the country's indigenous history and cultures.

Supporting Learners with Mental Health Challenges

Many newcomers struggle with mental health issues. In this workshop, participants will learn about mental health issues and how they impact adult English language learners. Participants will also learn how to plan and implement instruction that is sensitive to and inclusive of individuals with these issues.

The workshop will address when and where to seek professional help and how to refer learners to a mental health professional in a tactful and non-intrusive manner. Participants will also have the chance to explore mental health curriculum resources for learners.

What is really going on here…
and does it matter?

A learner may not be making progress – but why? Is it because they have never had the chance to go to school and are just now learning how to read and write? Is it trauma? Is it just language development? Is it a learning disability? Is it stress? This workshop will explore common challenges for these folks and effective teaching strategies to help them all progress.

Working with Trauma Affected ESL Learners

This workshop is for instructors, tutors and program staff who work with English language learners. In this workshop, participants will learn to define trauma and look at the ways it impacts an individual and the ESL learning environment. Participants will explore trauma informed care and the ways they can support trauma impacted learners. Participants will also learn different calming techniques.

> ❝
> # The training was a great introduction to how teachers can help students.
>
> **- Workshop participant**

Mentorships

Our mentorship services support the application of knowledge and resources used to support EAL programming within the providers' community context.

Providers can connect to this service through:

- Web conferencing tools
- Face-to-face
- Emails
- Phone calls

This service addresses topics that concern the EAL community. Our trained and experienced regional advisors align with the Alberta Teachers of English as a Second Language (ATESL), the professional association for EAL practice in Alberta, Canadian Language Benchmarks, ongoing NorQuest research and provincial government recommendations as a guideline outcome-based process.

Mentorship sessions are organic in nature. These sessions are EAL practitioner-driven (tutors, instructors, coordinators), and the topic(s) discussed are guided by the EAL practitioner. Mentorship sessions occur post-workshop, ad hoc, or scheduled. Based on the needs of EAL programs and providers, the level of mentorship engagement is determined. Mentorship sessions can consist of a series of progressive conversations, referrals, resource reviews, and EAL-related organizational support. To book a mentorship session contact your regional Alberta Routes Advisor.

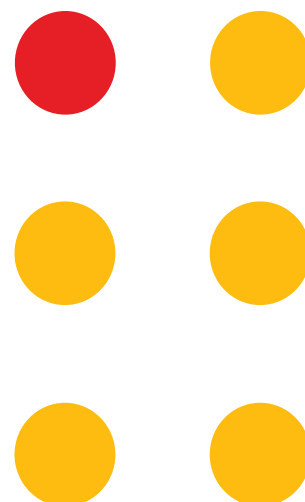Sample mentorship topics include but are not limited to:

- Assessment
- Starting an ESL program
- Workplace English
- Learning disabilities
- Intake testing
- Teaching speaking
- Intercultural Communication
- Canadian Language Benchmarks

Study Groups

Study groups offer participants an opportunity to gather ideas and solutions, get hands-on practice and connect with other ESL practitioners. Study group topics continue to be added, as needs are identified.

Please reach out to your Alberta Routes advisor for more information on Alberta Routes study groups or to request a study group for your organization. Current topics include:

- ATESL Best Practices
- The Canadian Language Benchmarks
- ESL Literacy
- Pronunciation
- Multi-level Classes
- Foundational Concepts on Social Justice
- Activities and Resources for Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing
- Grammar
- ESL Tutor Essentials

Classroom Visits

Alberta Routes advisors support instructors of English language learners in community adult learning programs and organizations, not only through training and resource-sharing but also in the role of consultants and mentors.

Upon an instructor's request Alberta Route Advisors can visit classes on-site or online.

- Advisors will sit in and provide personal constructive feedback on areas of strength and areas for improvement.

- This service is offered to both new and continuing instructors. (Note: This service is not available for one-on-one tutoring sessions, in the interest of supporting the creation of a safe space for learners.)

- Feedback from and discussions with Alberta Routes advisors will remain confidential and aim only to support the instructor's personal and professional growth, which positively impacts learners' progress.

Talking Circles

Societal events over the past few years have encouraged people and organizations to deeply consider that it is no longer enough to be quietly non-racist, but rather, now is the time to be vocally anti-racist.

What needs to be discussed about anti-racism in your communities? Talking circles provide space to better understand and/or respond to this question in a way that makes you feel safe, seen, and heard.

Anti-Racism Talking Circles consists of three one-hour circle conversations.

Participants are expected to:

- Commit to attending all three one-hour circle conversations
- Share their voice or simply be present to hear from others
- Be open to and follow the circle process
- Respect other circle participant's privacy and voices

Hosts are expected to:

- Offer space to listen and share
- Respect privacy and participants' voice

Intercultural Communications Series

Intercultural Communication Series Level 1

In this first course participants are exposed to Indigenous history and theories of intercultural competency. Participants will explore ways to develop cross cultural leadership tools intended to support a diverse workplace and learning community. Participants will apply the acquired knowledge via case studies, online discussions, and reflective practices.

Module 1: Foundations in Intercultural Communications
Module 2: Aspects of culture
Module 3: Self-awareness challenging assumptions
Module 4: Strategies and approaches for navigating
         culture
Module 5: The Role of Culture and Communication in the
         Socialization Process

Intercultural Communication Series Level 2

Level 1 is a prerequisite

In this second level of the intercultural communication series level, participants dive deeper into Indigenous history, knowledge, and experiences as well as theories of intercultural competency. Participants will explore ways to develop cross cultural leadership tools intended to support a diverse workplace and learning community. Participants will apply the acquired knowledge via case studies, online discussions, and reflective practices.

Module 1: Humility & History
Module 2: Intersections of Power and Privilege
Module 3: Treaties
Module 4: The Indian Act
Module 5: Assemble Learning

Intercultural Communication Series Level 3

Level 1 & 2 are prerequisites

In this third level of the intercultural communication series, participants further examine core concepts and theories on cultural competence. This level provides participants with an opportunity to critically examine their own socio-cultural locations to raise intercultural awareness, assist in intercultural mindset development and facilitate intercultural competence development.

Module 1: What it means to be culturally responsive
Module 2: Identity and examining power and privilege
Module 3: Culture and cultural transition processes
Module 4: Wrap-up & Review: Learnings throughout level 3
        with elements of understanding from levels 1
        and 2
Module 5: Complete Intercultural Developmental
        Inventory: Completing the IDI

Resources

Alberta Routes: Building Capacity in Community Educators creates teaching resources in both paper and digital format for adult learning practitioners, particularly in the field of English language teaching and teaching numeracy. Resources are shared at no cost to community adult learning programs. Regional advisors also provide orientation sessions, to familiarize learning practitioners with these resources and how to effectively use them with learners.

Alberta Routes New EAL Practitioner Handbook

This resource will introduce practitioners to the concepts and knowledge areas that EAL coordinators and facilitators need to master to be successful in their roles.

Alberta Routes ESL Tutor Handbook

The Alberta Routes ESL Tutor Handbook is a large comprehensive resource for ESL tutors, complete with needs assessment, lesson planning, learners' plans, games, and activities.

Downloadable: *Alberta Routes ESL Tutor Handbook*

Alberta Routes Multi-Level Handbook

The Alberta Routes Multi-Level Handbook helps instructors plan differentiated lessons that engage all their learners. This resource contains a brief introduction with an overview of the theory of teaching multi-level classes and ready-to-use lesson plans and materials.

There are two components to this resource, the first is a link for the Websafe online portion:

Websafe Online Activities

Alberta Routes Multi-Level Handbook

Alberta Routes ESL Resource Guide

This guide was designed as an annotated list of resources for tutors, teachers, and volunteers to use when working with English-language learners. The guide aims to provide practitioners with a practical list of resources that will be easy to use with learners.

Alberta Routes ESL Resource Guide

Alberta Routes Tip Sheets

Alberta Routes tip sheets include topics such as Lesson Planning for One-on-One Instruction, Needs Assessment, Learning English Apps and Key Resources.

Alberta Routes Tip Sheets

Other Services

Professional Development Planning

Alberta Routes advisors are eager to meet with program coordinators to create a Professional Development plan for their staff and volunteers. After learning the organization's unique needs, advisors can suggest which workshops would be most beneficial and give time to peruse the workshop list. Advisors will then:

- Create a schedule of workshops to be hosted in-person or online (one-time workshops or in a series) together with the program coordinator
- Share a registration link for participants
- Stay in touch with updates, materials, etc.

Referrals

Regional advisors provide information relevant to programs, courses, resources, and expertise both within and outside their scope of practice to program coordinators and adult learning practitioners seeking advice for themselves or their learners and looking to take advantage of a larger network reach. Referrals can be made in the areas of:

- Language courses
- Language assessment
- Academic upgrading
- Immigration and settlement
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Other areas related to continuing education for adults

Resource Support and Suggestions

Alberta Routes advisors can be contacted for support with choosing resources to use in their teaching practice.

Examples of resource support includes:

- Topic specific resources (eg., resources for teaching grammar)
- Learner level appropriate resources
- Websites
- Alberta Routes created resources

Ask Us Anything ELL/ESL

Alberta Routes advisors host monthly online Ask Us Anything sessions for anyone who needs answers about anything related to teaching English language learners (ELLs) or EAL (English as an Additional Language).

Bring your questions about teaching language, assessing learners' proficiency, managing classes, finding resources – anything goes!

These sessions are designed to offer drop-in office consultation, and do not require pre-registration. To get the link for these sessions, reach out to your local advisor.

> **66**
>
> # The instructor's expertise and enthusiasm gave me the confidence to try new ideas.
>
> **- Workshop participant**

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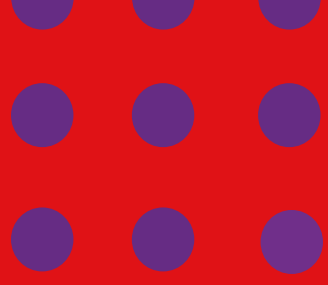
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Alberta Routes

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