

October 2006

Dear English as an Additional Language (EAL) Colleagues,

We hope you enjoyed our wonderful summer and had a chance to re-energize. Now, refreshed and relaxed we head back into a new term of language instruction and programming. We at the Adult Language Training (ALT) Branch wish you all a stimulating and rewarding year.

We want to extend a special welcome to new teachers to the Adult language training environment in Manitoba. You have joined an informed and creative professional community committed to achieving excellence in the delivery of Adult EAL instruction in Manitoba.

In Manitoba, Adult EAL instruction is a complex, integrated province-wide system. We realize that it is important for you to be aware of the organizational structures and directions of this system in which you work. We also know you like to be aware of new initiatives for your learners, professional development opportunities and new resources. This newsletter is our opportunity to give you this news that we think will be of interest to you and the learners you work with. We hope this information will help you make plans, find professional support and provide information to your learners that will help them take the next steps in learning English or meeting their employment and educational goals.

The Provincial Government, through Manitoba Labour and Immigration coordinates settlement and language training programs for adults in Manitoba.

For those of you new to the field in Manitoba, English language training for adults is coordinated through the Adult Language Training (ALT) Branch, a branch of the Immigration and Multiculturalism Division of Manitoba **Labour and Immigration**. We're located on the 5th floor of 213 Notre Dame Avenue (at the corner of Notre Dame and Albert in the old Electric Railway Chambers Building). Our

Minister is the **Hon. Nancy Allan**. **Jeff Parr** is our Deputy Minister and **Gerry Clement** is the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) responsible for the Immigration and Multiculturalism Division. In addition to the ALT Branch, our division includes Strategic Planning and Program Support, Immigration Promotion & Recruitment, Settlement and Labour Market Services and the recently added Labour Market Strategy for Immigrants (LMSI) initiative under director Denise Hanning. The division also includes the Multiculturalism Secretariat. We all work closely together to help immigrants come to Manitoba, settle successfully and lead lives of purpose and dignity in our communities throughout the province.

Our **website** can be found at www.immigratemanitoba.com. This site has numerous settlement and EAL resources and links. The Learning English section is divided into pages for learners, teachers, employers and volunteers. As well as information about the various EAL programs, assessment and referral, notices of specialized EAL courses, volunteer training, and professional development (PD) are all on the site. We are also beginning to load teaching resources and activities in PDF files that teachers can download. Some of the new resources we have added to the site are described below. For all the current information, we suggest you bookmark the website for easy access. We also welcome your feedback and suggestions for the website, as it is an ever-evolving entity.

Coordination of adult language training includes funding and accountability of programs in Winnipeg and regions throughout Manitoba, *Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB)* assessment and referral, and curriculum development and implementation.

ALT Branch Toll-Free Number

1-800-665-8332

The Adult Language Training (ALT) Branch Staff

Because of the changes at ALT Branch we want to provide you with a current list of the ALT Branch staff and their areas of responsibility. If you have particular concerns or questions, please feel free to contact the staff person responsible for that area or project directly.

Margaret Pidlaski – Director, Adult Language Training Branch

phone: 945-7415

email: mpidlaski@gov.mb.ca

Margaret is the Director of the Adult Language Training Branch and part of the Divisional Management Team of Immigration and Multiculturalism. She supervises the following staff and is responsible for the strategic direction, allocations, and management of the Provincial Adult EAL budget. Margaret chairs the Manitoba Adult EAL Coordinating Group and is a member of the Executive Council of the Centre for *Canadian Language Benchmarks* Board, the Federal Provincial Territorial (FPT) Working Group on Settlement and Integration and the FPT Working Group on Enhanced Language Training.

Antonio Alfaro – Coordinator, Community-based Language Training (CBLT)

phone: 945-0507

email: aalfaro@gov.mb.ca

Antonio is responsible for Community-based Language Training Programs in Winnipeg: Community EAL Classes for Women and the St Vital Adult EAL Program. He works with the program coordinators on logistics of programming, staffing, financial monitoring, childcare and transportation issues. Antonio is also the MIIP program officer responsible for the programs in Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Parkland and Virden as well as Red River College (RRC) and Winnipeg School Division (WSD). Antonio is also responsible for the branch's program data collection and analysis.

Anna Bird – EAL Specialist

phone: 945-4310

email: abird@gov.mb.ca

Anna is the program officer responsible for projects that relate to English for specific purposes or occupation-specific communication. These include the programs for internationally educated engineers, teachers and Winnipeg School Division's new Work Start program. She is also involved with several projects promoting the development and use of e-learning and web-based tools. Another role is to support and advise on issues related to benchmarking of occupations, such as in a current national project to benchmark Red Seal trades.

Joanne Enns – Language Assessor and Referral Officer

phone: 945-8081

email: joenns@gov.mb.ca

Joanne is a language assessor, who also works P/T with ALT assessing the language levels of newcomers using the Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Test (CLBPT). She liaises with Adult EAL programs and settlement serving agencies. Joanne is also responsible for updating the learning English section of the www.immigratemanitoba.com website.

Judy Johnson – Coordinator, Assessment and Referral Centre

phone: 945-5473 email: jujohnson@gov.mb.ca

Judy coordinates all the activities related to *Canadian Language Benchmarks* Assessment in the province and is responsible for the Assessment and Referral Centre. Judy is also the assessor trainer for Manitoba. In addition, Judy is the Coordinator of Adult EAL Volunteer Coordinators and works with Society for Manitobans with Disabilities.

Dale Klassen – Coordinator, English at Work

phone: 945-6016 email: dklassen@gov.mb.ca

Dale is the program coordinator and funding officer for the English at Work programs that take place at Manitoba businesses and industries. He is also the funding officer and teacher support person for the English Skills Centre and regional programs in Thompson and the Interlake. Dale works with teachers, learners, other government departments, business, industry, unions and social service agencies to set up specialized English language training programs that best meet the needs of particular groups of learners.

Frances Molaro – MIIP Project Officer

phone: 945-2593 email: fmolaro@gov.mb.ca

Frances is the MIIP funding officer and teacher support person responsible for the Adult EAL Project with Pembina Valley Language/ Education for Adults (PVLEA) in the Morden/Winkler area, South Eastman English & Literacy Services (SEELS), the Adult EAL programming delivered in the Steinbach region and EAL programming for francophone immigrants at St. Boniface College. Frances also provides teacher support in the Community EAL Classes for Women.

Shawna Musto – Administrative Support

phone: 945-7305 email: smusto@gov.mb.ca

Shawna provides administrative support to ALT Branch and to the Settlement & Labour Market Services Branch. In ALT, Shawna is responsible for the day to day operation of the ALT Branch Resource Collection.

LeeAnne Penner – Language Assessor and Referral Officer

phone: 945-3833 email: lpenner@gov.mb.ca

LeeAnne is a language assessor, who works P/T with ALT to administer *Canadian Language Benchmarks* Assessments and refer newcomers to EAL programs. This involves liaising with Adult EAL programs and settlement serving agencies. LeeAnne also updates the Career Resource for prospective Adult EAL Teachers that provides an overview of all the Adult EAL programs in Manitoba, both government-funded and private programs. For each program it gives information about the *CLB* levels and types of programming delivered, size of the student body and teaching staff, hiring criteria and process, salary range and employment benefits. The resource is revised bi-annually.

Joanne Pettis – Coordinator, Adult EAL Curriculum Development & Implementation

phone: 945-0351 email: jpettis@gov.mb.ca

Joanne coordinates the development and implementation of the Manitoba Adult EAL curriculum in programs funded by the department. She is also the MIIP project officer for Applied Linguistics Centre and the ESL for Seniors Program delivered by Age and Opportunity. Joanne takes the lead on pre- and in-service professional development activities and is responsible for procedures and the acquisition of items for the resource collection at 5 -213 Notre Dame. Joanne is available to all adult EAL teachers in Manitoba to answer questions about Adult EAL resources or other teaching issues.

Marsha Share – Administrative Assistant

phone: 945-0219

email: mshare@gov.mb.ca

Marsha provides the administrative assistance to the Director and support to the Assessment and Referral Centre and Branch. She is responsible for ALT Branch reception, files, correspondence, invigilating for CLB reading & writing assessments and volunteer training registration.

Staff News

Anna Bird, EAL Specialist at ALT Branch will be taking a leave of absence so she and her family can spend 9 months in Ecuador teaching English and exploring.

Dale Klassen, Coordinator of the English at Work program is now working a 4-day week and enjoying his new work/life balance. He is currently training for the New York City Marathon as a fundraiser in support of the Arthritis Society, as well as taking up learning Spanish.

Leigh Trusler, Language Assessor and EAL Specialist, has moved to Penticton with her husband and young son. Leigh is busy helping her husband set up his medical practice.

Leigh worked with Human Resource personnel at the St. Boniface Hospital to develop a pictorial CLB referenced screener to use in the hiring of immigrants for certain support positions. She established the in house language resource centre at the hospital for English as Work programming for immigrant employees. Leigh also developed a CLB referenced language assessment tool for the College of Occupational Therapists of Manitoba. In addition, Leigh developed *Practise English on Your Own: Self Study Ideas for English Language Learners*, which is available in a limited number of hard copies for people unable to attend EAL classes and available online at www.immigratmanitob.com.

Leigh is a member of the CCLB Registry of CLB Experts and is beginning to explore various Adult EAL projects in her area

Immigration to Manitoba

Manitoba continued to see immigration growth in 2005 as it continued to strive toward its target of 10,000 annual arrivals. In 2005, Manitoba received 8,097 newcomers a 9.0% increase over 2004. The Provincial Nominee Program, a component of the Economic Class, provides Manitoba with the flexibility to respond to local labour and business needs. Economic Class immigrants made up 5,725 (70.7%) of the newcomers, comprised of 337 Skilled Workers – principal applicants, 623 Skilled Workers - dependents 83 Business (principal applicants and dependents), 4619 Provincial Nominees (principal applicants and dependents), and 63 Live-in Caregivers (principal applicants and dependents). Family Class immigrants made up 14.70% of the newcomers (1,192). Refugees made up 1,094 (13.5 %) of our newcomer population. The top source country was the Philippines (1,837) followed by Germany (1,111), India (676), China (384) and Korea (326). In 2005, 6,134 of the newcomers settled in Winnipeg, 693 settled in

Winkler, 369 settled in Steinbach, and 181 settled in Brandon. Many smaller communities around these centres also received increasing numbers of immigrants.

This year, 4,808 (source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada preliminary data) newcomers arrived in Manitoba from **January to June 2006**. This included immigrants and refugees. The top ten countries of last permanent residence overall of this group were: Philippines, Germany, India, China, Korea, Ethiopia, Israel, USA, England and Ukraine. Of the newcomers, 3,230 (67%) were Provincial Nominees and 517 were refugees. The top ten countries from which the refugees came from include: Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Mozambique, Egypt, Colombia, Eritrea, Congo (Democratic Republic) and Iran.

News about CLB Assessments & Referrals

The English Language Assessment and Referral Centre of ALT Branch continues to be a busy place as each month the staff assess both newcomers to Manitoba as well as immigrants who have been here for a while but who are still interested in improving their language skills. Clients may phone 945-6300 to make an appointment or have their appointment made while they are in their 4 weeks at the ENTRY program.

Clients are assessed using the *Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Test (CLBPT)* and, after their assessment is complete, their needs and goals are discussed. Professionals or skilled workers are given information about services that can assist them in their credentialling or licensure process including information about the CLB levels they should be at to practise in their occupation.

Some of the occupations identified by clients during their assessments last year:

Accountants – 60
Doctors – 27
Teachers – 109
Sewing Machine Operators - 70
Bank Managers – 6
Human Resource Managers – 7
Bricklayers – 3
Registered Nurses – 43
Dancers – 2
Journalists – 5
Pharmacists - 14

Clients with other needs are also provided with information. Based on their needs and goals, the clients choose the program that will work best for them. While most clients are referred to language training programs, some are referred to literacy programs for the general public, Adult Learning Centres or other training centres.

This last year we have been using the two new forms of the *CLBPT*. The Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB) developed Forms 2 and 3 to meet a need for enhanced test security and to allow for efficient and reliable re-assessments. A new, fourth version of the *CLBPT* is also available for use now. This version has an employment focus and is valuable for the assessments of clients seeking placement into language training programs that prepare newcomers for integration into the Canadian workforce.

Another assessment tool nearing the end of the development phase is the Workplace Language Assessment. Assessors at ALT Branch have been part of the piloting and standard setting process for this test. The WLA will measure language levels from CLB 7 to CLB 10 and is designed for use with learners seeking placement into bridging programs for professionals.

This summer we were fortunate to have the services of 4 part time assessors on a special project. Thanks to Debra Schweyer, Elizabeth Slivinski, Manola Barlow and Diantee Louer, wait time for an assessment is less than 3 weeks.

In the last fiscal year (April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006) the total number of assessments conducted by ALT Branch assessors was 2,781.

The Assessment and Referral Centre is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 – 4:30 and also on Wednesday evening until 7:30. Learners who want to move from one EAL program to another do not need to return to ALT Branch for a referral. However, it is important for learners to know they must put their name on the waiting list of the school they wish to attend and wait until a space opens for them.

Administration Changes in Adult EAL Programs

- **Applied Linguistics Centre (ALC)** has announced several major changes in their program. **Mrs. Julia Boon**, the founder of Applied Linguistics has retired after 28 years as Executive Director. Mrs. Boon is one of Manitoba's pioneers in the provision of EAL in Manitoba having started the first EAL at RRC in 1967. She also began EAL classes in Steinbach, Winkler and Haskett. Over the years, Mrs. Boon has been recognized and honoured on numerous occasions by local, provincial and international bodies for her years of dedication and commitment to EAL learners. Her retirement marks the end of an era spanning almost 40 years. We wish her well in her retirement.



Alex Kirov is the new Executive Director at ALC. Alex has extensive experience in motivating and coordinating dynamic bodies of people and brings enthusiasm and commitment to his new responsibilities. **Ruth Klippenstein** a long-time teacher at ALC, has been appointed Head Teacher. We welcome Alex and Ruth to their new positions and wish them all the best for the future.

- **Winnipeg School Division (WSD)** welcomes **Dushant Persaud** as the new Winnipeg Adult Education Centre Principal, replacing **Cathi Hill** who retired. Dushant comes to the program from St. John's High School where he was the principal. WSD also welcomes **Jill Tardiff** as the new Vice-Principal in charge of the Adult EAL Centre. Jill comes to Adult EAL from Tec-Voc High School where she was a Vice-Principal. **Pat Burgess**, the former WAEC Vice-Principal has left to become the principal of Interdivisional Student Services, which provides instructional programming for institutionalized learners (those in hospitals, etc.) We wish Cathi, Pat, Dushant and Jill all the best in their new challenges.
- **The Interlake Adult Literacy Association** has announced that **Margaret Chambers**, long-time coordinator of EAL and Literacy Programming in the Interlake has retired. Margaret, a winner of the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Literacy, has been a pro-active and committed leader in Literacy and Language initiatives in the Interlake region of Manitoba and her work has benefited all of Manitoba. She has been replaced by **Gary Einarson**. We wish them both well in their new endeavours.



Adult English Language Assessment & Referral Centre: Possible Changes

The Adult Language Training Branch is exploring the possibility of offering the language assessment and referral service off site through a third party in order to facilitate expansion of the service. The service is an integral part of the Adult EAL system and provides a formal language assessment for placement into a government funded Adult EAL programs. The assessment instrument used is the Canadian Language Benchmarks Placement Tool (CLBPT); a nationally validated, secure test instrument which identifies the test taker's English language proficiency in Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) levels in the four skill areas (listening, speaking, reading and writing). ALT Branch will continue to fund and support assessments in regions outside of Winnipeg and provide coordination among the assessment centres and programs as well as coordinate and hire itinerant or ad hoc assessors for special projects. The Branch staff will engage in research for the development of new assessment tools, 'benchmarking', language assessment support to new initiatives and employers. Branch staff will remain the provincial trainer for new assessors and to refresh certified assessors and ALT will maintain the provincial license for CLBPT in Manitoba with the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks. The third party organization will offer the same service with the critical communication and information sharing that exists now among schools/programs, assessors and funders. The plan is to continue a system that works well both formally and informally.

The English Skills Centre

The **English Skills Centre**, formerly, the English Skills Program delivered through Winnipeg Transition Centre, is now a stand-alone centre. It is currently located on the 4th floor - 259 Portage Avenue, although a move to a new location is anticipated in January. The English Skills Centre offers the following:

- STRATEGIES FOR LISTENING AND UNDERSTANDING
- LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN THE WORKPLACE (New)
- PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL READING SKILLS CENTRE (New)
- TRADE SPECIFIC READING SKILLS CENTRE (Coming in January 2007)
- PREPARING FOR CERTIFICATION TESTS AND EXAMS IN CANADA (New)
- WRITING SKILLS CENTRE



Students should register in person at the English Skills Centre. For more information about the courses and the required CLB levels, visit the website at www.englishskills.ca or contact Michaela Piro, Program Manager (204) 927-4375 or michaela@englishskills.ca.

POLICY CHANGE!

Eligibility to Attend Manitoba Immigrant Integration Program (MIIP) Adult English as an Additional Language Classes

The following Manitoba residents are now eligible to attend government funded adult **English as an Additional Language (EAL)** classes:

- Permanent residents;
- Canadian citizens born outside Canada;
- Claimants who have filed a claim with the Immigrant Refugee Board; and
- Provincial Nominees (including spouses and adult children) who have received their Letter of Approval from the Province*.

Note: *This is a change in practice. Until recently, only permanent residents could be registered in adult EAL programs.

Persons in Manitoba on temporary work permits, under certain conditions, can apply for permanent residence through the Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program. Once the Province has assessed their application and approved them, their file is processed by the Federal Government, who grants permanent status. It is advantageous for the **approved** provincial nominee to attend classes while waiting for permanent status. Persons in this category will have a Letter of Approval from the Province to confirm their status.

Other temporary visa holders (students and visitors) are not eligible for MIIP adult EAL classes.

English at Work programs continue to be cost shared with the company and the students can be permanent resident and/or temporary work visa employees of that company.

The wait list priorities for continuous intake classes remain:

- refugees within their first year of arrival
- individuals at CLB 1 or 2 In listening and speaking
- individuals that have been in Canada less that 6 months
- individuals that have never attended an adult EAL class in Manitoba before.

New! Courses, Programs and Resources

Work Start: Language for Employment

In March of this year, Winnipeg School Division (WSD) Adult EAL Centre began to offer Work Start: Language for Employment, a unique language program especially designed for individuals who need to find work but are overcoming a language barrier in order to do so. The course runs in 3 to 4 week full time sessions and accepts students at a CLB 2 to 5. Lessons are built around topics relevant to every

Work Start: Language for Employment

workplace such as safety and health, following directions, and the working culture in Canada. The program focuses on communication and skills that help immigrants succeed in entry-level positions.

Work Start will even customize curriculum to suit the needs of companies that are interested in hiring beginner language level immigrants. The program can inform students as to what types of jobs and which employers are good for people with lower levels of English to consider. They can acquire the language to describe their work experience, approach possible employers and communicate their attributes to them.

A variety of people may be interested in Work Start:

- It is an excellent option for individuals who are transitioning from full time EAL studies to work.
- Students who are attending language training while on EI can benefit from this program both in a special afternoon class to compliment morning classes as well as in its intensive 3-4 week version as they transition from EAL to work.
- The program is also open to individuals who are not in school and who simply cannot commit months of time to language classes because they are pushed by necessity to find work. Though it is more limited time in class than we would hope for, it gives them some skills to make their transition to work more likely to succeed.

Once they have finished in Work Start and found a job, students are still strongly encouraged to continue to attend any EAL classes that accommodate their schedule.

Anyone interested in Work Start: Language for Employment can register at 206-696 Portage Ave. between 9:30 am and 2:00 pm, or can call 953-1070 for an appointment. (Note: interested candidates do NOT need to get a CLB assessment before registering.)

Canadian English for Professionals Website

The Canadian English for Professionals website is undergoing upgrading and expansion to be accessible to a broader array of English for Specific Purposes (ESP) language programs. The Adult Language Training Branch first funded the design and development of the website 2 years ago to be used by the English for Engineering Professionals program. This was the first government funded online ESP course for Internationally Educated Professionals (IEPs) in Canada and was the Branch's first foray into the world of online learning. The initial stages of development were made possible through the federal Enhanced Language Training (ELT) initiative. This was an increase in federal funds to address barriers in language and communication that internationally trained workers face when attempting to find and keep work commensurate with their experience and skills. Special thanks should go to Kathleen Clarke and Debbie Kroeker (of the English for Engineering Professionals program), Dan Bartley (of Notamonopoly website designers and developers) and Lisa Petit who over the past few years have all contributed their vision to the concept of the site and have shared their expertise in many aspects of on-line learning.



The CEFP website is a tool for teachers to deliver multi-media lessons, accept and review work submitted by students, conduct discussions, connect fellow immigrant professionals and link students to other useful websites that are relevant to their fields. In its new expanded version, the CEFP site is now used by English Communication for Internationally Educated Teachers (offered by University of Winnipeg, Continuing Education) and Culture and Communication for Nurses (offered by the Manitoba Nurses Union). These programs both offer English for Specific Purposes to professionals in the range of CLB 7 and higher. Some of the programs offer the option of completing a course exclusively on line, while others use it as a component of a blended program with in-class instruction being complemented with on-line activities. The website has the capacity to accommodate many more ESP programs in years to come. It also houses Language Links, a resource for rural teachers to access support in EAL delivery.

There are so many benefits to using on-line learning. It is a wonderful way to broaden EAL delivery to individuals who may otherwise not access language training. The website is an excellent tool to reach those in rural areas who can't access English for Specific Purposes. It also offers flexible learning options to accommodate the complex and busy lives of immigrants who are trying to improve their English while balancing demanding work schedules and family expectations. In addition to the language training aspect, it gives students an opportunity to increase their comfort level with using computer technology in a wide range of applications. They submit assignments online, use email, navigate links to other websites and use message boards, all features that they will consistently be using in the professional environment. They also use online dictionaries, translators, profession-specific vocabulary lists, and a range of word processing features and programs to edit and create documents. This enables them to conform to Canadian standards in the profession and gives them tools to quickly address language issues on the job.

Adult Learning Centres' New Assessment Tool

The Adult Learning and Literacy Branch of Advanced Education and Training has developed a CLB 7 Screener: A Canadian Language Benchmarks-Referenced Assessment Tool for Use in Adult Learning Centres (ALCs). The CLB 7 Screener's purpose is to provide Adult Learning Centres with a means to identify whether English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners who are interested in attending an Adult Learning Centre have the required language proficiency to succeed in high school credit courses.



It will also assist ALC staff in making EAL learner placement and/or referral decisions. It is strongly recommended that a level of Benchmark 7 in all four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing be used as the minimum entrance requirement to high school level (grades 9 – 12) programming at an ALC. Of course, EAL learners may have compensatory attributes that can be taken into consideration where their CLB levels are somewhat lower than recommended. A thorough intake process will identify these types of EAL learners and registration is expected to proceed only in accordance with the program's ability to meet these learners' particular needs. For further information contact: Heather Kilbrai, Program Consultant, Adult Learning and Literacy, 310 – 800 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0N4, Telephone: (204) 945-4784, Fax: (204) 945-1008, Toll free: 1-800-282-8069, extension 4784. Email: HKilbrai@gov.mb.ca.

ENGLISH AT WORK

It has been a busy time for English at Work programs. To give you an overview of the Manitoba businesses and organizations that have recently provided or are currently providing English at Work programs for their employees, please see the following list:

Business/Organization	Work Product/Activity of participants
All-Fab Building Components Winnipeg	Manufacturing prefab construction trusses
Barkman Concrete Steinbach	Manufacturing concrete products – steps, sidewalk blocks, retaining walls, etc.
Boeing Canada Winnipeg	Manufacturing of aerospace composites
Canadian Tool and Die Winnipeg	Tool and die making
Decor Cabinets Winkler	Manufacturing cabinets
Diemo Machine Works Arborg	Precision machining, tool and die making, custom fabricating
Earthshare Agricultural Co-op Winnipeg	Market gardening
FC Woodworks Winnipeg	Manufacturing cabinets
Friesens Printing Altona	Printing and book manufacturing
Great-West Life Assurance Company Winnipeg	Life and health insurance, financial security
Kroeker Farms Winkler	Potato growing
Loewen Windows Steinbach	Manufacturing windows and doors
Manitoba Lotteries Winnipeg	Casino support staff
Manitoba Nurses' Union Winnipeg	Canadian Culture and Communication program for Manitoba nurses
Maple Leaf Pork Brandon	Pork processing
Meridian Industries Winkler	Manufacturing agricultural storage bins
Palliser Furniture Winnipeg	Manufacturing furniture
Pro-Fab Industries Arborg	Manufacturing pellet-burning hot-water furnaces
Riverview Health Centre Winnipeg	Rehabilitation and long-term health care centre
St. Boniface General Hospital Winnipeg	Hospital facility, provides an English Communication Resource Centre for support staff

Springhill Farms Neepawa	Pork processing
SunWest Screen Graphics Winnipeg	Manufacturing of decals
UFCW Training Centre Winnipeg	Union training centre, offer general and job-specific EAL classes to members
Vansco Electronics Winnipeg	Manufacturing electronic components
Vidir Machine Arborg	Manufacturing wire, carpet and vinyl carrouseles
Welcome Place Winnipeg	Counselling and assistance for refugees

Curriculum Development Initiatives

Reading and Writing Rubrics & Sample Assessment Tasks

Last year, ALT Branch planned to undertake a major revision to its Adult EAL Curriculum Framework, beginning with the **CLB Core Language Learning Objectives**, which were developed as a lesson plan support

document after the introduction of the 1996 CLB Working Document. However, consultation with programs indicated teachers were interested in receiving more assistance with assessment. Consequently, two curriculum resource development projects have been taken on:

- The **Writing Rubrics for Outcome Assessment (working document)** will be expanded to include a rubric for CLB 9. In addition, sample writing assessment tasks for CLB 1 – 9 will be collected as exemplars for teachers to assist them in conducting fair and accurate assessments of their learners.
- A set of **Reading Rubrics for Outcome Assessment and task/text exemplars** is being developed for CLB levels 1 – 9. Teachers in WSD Adult EAL and RRC Language Training Centre are assisting with the piloting and feedback on the resources.

Professional Development and TESL Training

Once again ALT Branch will be supporting the delivery of professional development sessions this year.

Friday and Saturday, October 20th and 21st, 2006

2006 TESL Canada Conference

This national conference will be held at **The Delta Hotel, Winnipeg MB**. The TESL Canada Conference only comes to Winnipeg once every 10 years, so this is an exciting opportunity for local EAL professionals to share their knowledge and skill on a national level. Dr. Anne Burns from McQuarie University in Australia and Dr. Hetty Roessingh from the University of Alberta will keynote.

Pre-Conference Symposia will be held on Thursday, October 19th, 2006.

Because Manitoba is hosting the 2006 TESL Canada Conference, there will be no **TESL Manitoba Conference** in February this year.

Friday, May 11th, 2006
TEAM Conference

NO
TESL MANITOBA CONFERENCE
THIS YEAR!

TEAM will be hosting its conference on May 11th this year. This change comes as a result of discussions with ALT Branch, TEAM and TESL Manitoba to reorganize its offering of PD events for Adult EAL teachers in the province. Beginning in the spring of 2007, **TEAM** will offer a full-day conference on May 11th. In the fall of 2007, **ALT Branch** will host a full-day PD event and in February, 2008 **TESL Manitoba** will once again host its annual conference. See you all there!

TESOL Training
For English as an Additional Language Teachers
in Adult and K – 12 programs in Pembina Valley
PILOT PROJECT

TESOL Training in the Pembina Valley

ALT Branch is partnering with Providence College in a pilot project to deliver a 3-credit hour TESOL training course Winkler. The course instructor will be Gail Tiessen, well-known TESOLL expert. The course will be the **Methods and Materials** course, which is a practical foundations course in the TESOL program. Content will be designed to focus on the needs of the participants.

Intended participants are practicing adult EAL teachers in government funded programs in the Pembina Valley region, classroom teachers in the K-12 who have EAL students, potential adult EAL teachers in Pembina Valley and others. **Priority, however, will be given to teachers in government-funded adult EAL programs** and teachers currently working in Pembina Valley adult EAL programs will receive an honourarium for their participation and successful completion of the course. For more information, contact Providence College – Admissions office or Laurie Sawatsky, PVLEA Program Coordinator at (204) 325-7718.

For more information, contact the Admissions Office, Providence College or email Joy Lise at Joy.Lise@prov.ca.

For further PD developments, check the information in the section *For Adult EAL Teachers* in the Learning English pages of our website www.immigratemanitoba.com. Teachers are asked to think about the kind of PD they would be interested in throughout the year and to share this info with their program administration. Teachers also have lots of great ideas to share and know of colleagues who are doing interesting things that others would like to hear about. Teachers are encouraged to make suggestions to TEAM or TESL Manitoba reps.! The field always benefits from the sharing of new ideas.

Other PD sources...

- Teachers are also reminded that TESL-L, a free on-line, moderated listserv focused teaching EAL and EFL, is a valuable resource for teaching ideas and help. With well over 30,000 members in over 150 countries, it provides an immediate mechanism for discussing ideas and getting practical suggestions for teaching EAL. To subscribe, send a message WRITTEN IN UPPER CASE to:

LISTSERV@CUNYVM.CUNY.EDU In the body of the message write (ALSO IN UPPERCASE)
SUB TESL-L Yourfirstname Yourlastname

for example:

SUB TESL-L Johnny Canuck

- <http://www-writing.berkeley.edu/TESL-EJ/ej22/toc.html> is the website for a free on-line TESL journal that frequently has useful practical and research articles.
- <http://iteslj.org/ESL.html> is a web page that provides a selection of useful links for EAL students. Teachers will find it helpful, too.
- <http://babel.uoregon.edu/yamada/guides/esl.html> is a site provided by the University of Oregon, which has a terrific range of links to websites for both EAL learners and teachers. One link enables teachers to download customized worksheets.
- <http://www.literacynet.org/esl/home.html> is part of a larger Literacy website. It has a very useful collection of links and resources, including photos that can help teachers develop interesting and vibrant lessons.

Volunteer Training

The Volunteer Training Workshops for volunteers working with Adult EAL learners will be held again this fall. The series of 6 workshops is repeated twice – on Tuesday afternoons (Elmwood High School) and on Saturday afternoons (University of Winnipeg). The CALL workshops will be held in the computer lab at Osler School and at the International Centre. We are fortunate to have Mavis Harper as the facilitator for these workshops. Interested volunteers are welcome to sign up for all or some of the workshops by phoning Marsha at 945-0219.

In addition, the volunteer guide ***Learning Together: A Resource for Volunteers Working with Adult EAL Learners*** is available online <http://www.gov.mb.ca/labour/immigrate/learningenglish/4.html>.

Remember these Resources!

Please remember that these resources are in the Learning English pages on our website at www.immigratemanitoba.com for you to download when you need them:

Suggested Resources for Teaching EAL to Adults in Manitoba

ALT Branch has a 24-page annotated list of resource suggestions in the *For Adult EAL Teachers – Curriculum, Teaching and Learning* section of the Learning English. This list is organized into sections to help novice and experienced teachers locate recommended resources that may be useful in the classroom or for their own professional development. The suggested CLB levels or Stages are provided, as are the ordering information and cost.

Practise English on Your Own: Self Study Ideas for English Language Learners

ALT has a booklet of self study ideas for English language learners. This booklet is available in hard copy in limited numbers for learners not in EAL programs. It is also available on our website in the *For Learners* pages of Learning English. The booklet is intended for anyone who is interested in improving their English prior to immigrating, for Newcomers who may be waiting for classes and for learners who may wish to practise their English language skills outside of class time. It provides information such as study ideas for all three *CLB* stages, library information, websites for speaking, listening, reading, writing, spelling, idioms, Business English, English for Professionals and Trades, CD ROMS, self study courses, books, resources and information about tests of English as a Second Language.

Employment & Hiring Information: A Career Resource for Prospective Adult EAL Teachers

This popular publication is available in the *For Adult EAL Teachers – Becoming an Adult EAL Teacher* Learning English section of the website. The resource is available as a PDF for downloading.

This resource provides an overview of all the Adult EAL programs in Manitoba, both government-funded and private programs. For each program, it gives information about the *CLB* levels and types of programming delivered, size of the student body and teaching staff, hiring criteria and process, salary range and employment benefits. This information can help prospective teachers in their employment quest, especially in targeting their search to programs that match their expertise and tailoring their resume to the context of those programs.

Collaborative Language Portfolio Assessment (CLPA): Manitoba Best Practices Guide The CLPA Best Practices Guide was developed with significant teacher input and ideas. It outlines the protocol for using CLPA in Manitoba government-funded EAL programs and offers a variety of ideas for using CLPA with specific groups of learners including EAL Literacy, *CLB* Stage 1 and Stage 2, Workplace, EAP and ESP classes. This publication is available in Learning English on our website in *For Adult EAL Teachers – Curriculum, Teaching and Learning* pages.

Writing Rubrics for Outcome Assessment (Working Document) based on the Canadian Language Benchmarks 2000 These rubrics are aligned to levels 1 – 8 of the *CLB* as well as the ESL Literacy Phases and are intended to be used by Adult EAL teachers to conduct outcome assessments of writing tasks. They are in a draft format and will be revised following a period of trial implementation. The resource includes a protocol on their use, as well as some suggestions for designing good writing assessment tasks. This resource is available in Learning English on our website in the *For Adult EAL Teachers – Curriculum, Teaching and Learning* pages.

ALT Branch Resource Collection

The ALT Branch Resource Collection on the 5th floor, 213 Notre Dame Avenue continues to grow and, we hope, improve. For those of you who have not yet used the ALT Branch Collection, it is divided into the following categories: Listening/Speaking, Integrated Skills, Pronunciation, Classroom Activities, Reading/Writing, ESL Literacy, Grammar, Vocabulary, Culture, Citizenship, Workplace, Assessment & Evaluation, Professional Development, Life Skills, Kids, Settlement Information, Kits and AV. The collection has been catalogued into a database and as items are borrowed, we are now able to scan them and list them under the teachers' names. This should facilitate tracking of borrowed items and make it much easier to search for items and place holds.

o Borrowing Privileges

Borrowing privileges will be limited to teachers and volunteers in MIIP (government-funded) programs. Volunteers are required to present a letter from their volunteer coordinator indicating the period of time

that the volunteer will be with their program. Teachers working in programs not funded by Manitoba Labour and Immigration or individuals attending a TESL program will be able to access the collection for reference purposes.

○ **Hours of Operation:**

The Resource room is open during office hours, 8:30 – 4:30 Monday to Friday. Because the ALT Branch Assessment Centre is open on **Wednesday** evening, teachers can make an appointment to visit the Resource Collection during that time. Please contact Joanne Pettis at 945-0351 or Shawna Musto 945-7305.

Individuals visiting the collection for the **first time** are encouraged to make an appointment with Joanne Pettis for an orientation. Teachers are reminded that they are responsible for replacing any materials that they lose or damage.

Those of you with questions about Adult EAL resources or other teaching questions should feel free to call Joanne Pettis for assistance or consult the ***Suggested Resources for Teaching EAL to Adults in Manitoba***, an annotated list posted on our website in the For Teachers section (see additional info in this letter under Remember these Resources!). For questions related to specific programs, please contact the appropriate Branch officer.

In closing, we want to remind you that, as usual, there will no doubt be challenges this year in Adult EAL instruction. These challenges provide us with opportunities to stretch our problem-solving capabilities and exploit our ingenuity, attributes that we are well-known for in Manitoba. We anticipate a year full of possibilities, exciting developments and satisfying bright spots. Again, we wish you all the best this year in your Adult EAL endeavours.

Sincerely,

Margaret Pidlaski
On behalf of the entire ALT Branch

Enclosure: