



# Rural Routes Initiative

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# Special Thanks

**Alberta Enterprise and  
Advanced Education  
Alberta Human Service**

## Rural Routes

- A program that strives to build capacity in ESL and ESL literacy services in rural communities

# Overview

- History
- Mentorship
- Professional Development
- Resource Development

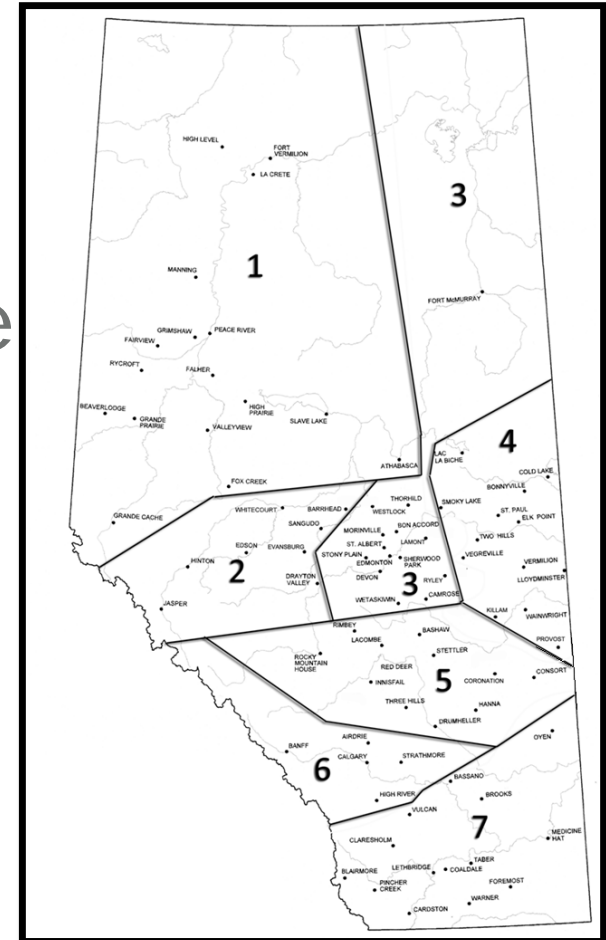
# History

- Began in 2002
- In 2010-12 worked with:
  - 71 communities
  - 117 organizations
  - 98 workshops



# What makes it unique?

- Hosted by an Edmonton college
- Serves the province



## Immigration Stats - 2011

	AB	SASK
Permanent Residents	30,965	8,955
Refugees	794	49
TFW	25,553	3510



# **What about the Canadian Citizens?**



# Target

- Community Adult Learning Councils
- Volunteer Tutor Adult Literacy Programs
- Rural programs supporting language learners

# Mentorship

- Isolation
- Support
- Knowledge

- Phone calls
- Emails
- Face to face
- Skype

## Most common topics:

- ESL programming, teaching, assessment and ESL resources
- Rural Routes services
- Tutor training
- Canadian Language Benchmarks
- Community ESL Needs Assessments
- Videoconferencing, needs and requirements
- Specific resources like the Multi Level Lesson Plans, ERPAC, ATESL Best Practices, Common Ground, and Roots and Connections

# Professional Development


- Workshops for coordinators, volunteers, instructors, community members, board members

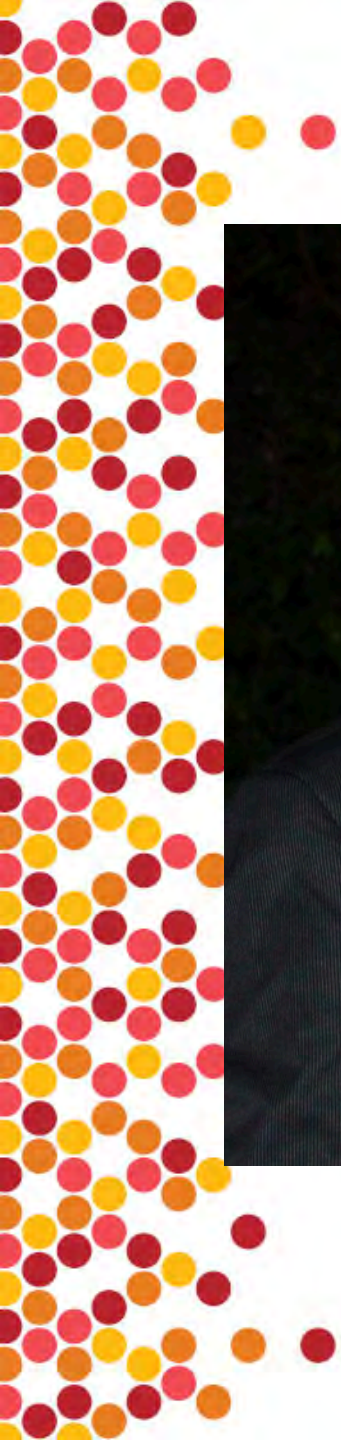


# Roles of the Instructor/Volunteer

- Cultural Bridge
- ESL Instruction
- Community Connection



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- ESL Tutor Training
  - ESL Literacy
  - Pronunciation
  - Strategies for Teaching Conversation
  - Teaching Grammar
  - Introduction to ERPAC
  - ESL Assessment
  - Canadian Language Benchmarks
  - Essential Skills for ESL Learners
  - Roots and Connections
  - Teaching Multi Level Classes



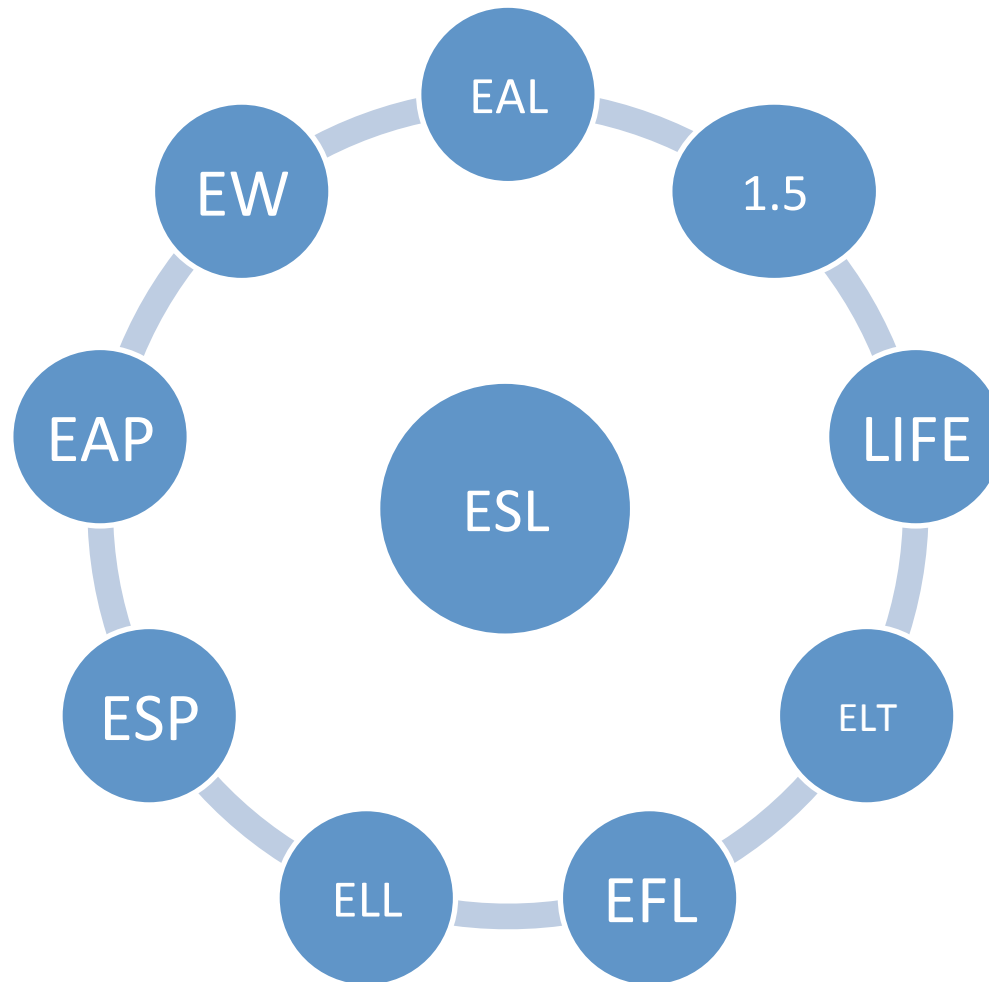
# Needs Assessment

- Need
- ESL vs. ESL Literacy
- Educational Background
- Cultural Distance





# What does it all mean?







Continuum of Literacy Level  
in first language

Pre-literate and Non-literate  
ESL Literacy Students

Semi-literate  
ESL Literacy Students

Functionally Literate ESL  
Students

The Canadian Language Benchmarks 2000:  
ESL for Literacy Learners

# Educational Background

Any learner with fewer than ten years of formal education, especially interrupted formal education, is likely to benefit from ESL literacy.

ESL Literacy Network

# Cultural Distance

- is a measure of the difference between two cultures with regard to:
  - politics
  - technical and economic experiences
  - language
  - the size and cohesiveness of the group
  - the cultural attitudes
  - cultural patterns

# Cultural Distance

- More to adapt to
- Longer to adapt
- Increased stress







# ● Adaptation

Stages of Adjustment	Needs/ Characteristics	Challenges
Settlement		
Adaptation		
Integration		

## Affected by:

1. Age
2. Cultural distance (the degree of similarity or dissimilarity between the host culture and the culture of origin)
3. Education
4. Gender
5. Support network
6. Experiences of discrimination
7. Immigration experience, e.g. time of arrival, length of residence, reason for immigration, language, politics, religion, status before immigration

# Resources developed

- ESL Needs Assessment Tool
- ESL Resource Package for Alberta Communities (ERPAC)
- Multi Level ESL Lesson Plans, Levels 2 and 4: Based on the ESL Resource Package for Alberta Communities (ERPAC)
- Multi Level ESL Lesson Plans, Level 6: Based on the ESL Resource Package for Alberta Communities (ERPAC)



**NORQUEST**  
COLLEGE

[http://  
www.norquest.ca/  
resources-services/  
resources/educational-  
resources-for-educators/  
english-as-a-second-  
language-\(esl\).aspx](http://www.norquest.ca/resources-services/resources/educational-resources-for-educators/english-as-a-second-language-(esl).aspx)



# ESL Literacy Network

- [www.esl-literacy.com](http://www.esl-literacy.com)
- <http://www.esl-literacy.com/readers/>
- <http://www.esl-literacy.com/flt/>



# Roots and Connections



**Questions/Comments?**

**Thank you for what you  
do!**

