

TEAL Newsletter

Special Edition: Celebrating Learner

Success



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Letter from the President



Dear Members,

For several years, BC TEAL has arranged to have the week of the annual conference officially proclaimed ESL Week by the provincial government and the municipality where the conference is hosted. However, we felt that not much came of this proclamation other than receiving a lovely parchment or two to put on display. So, in 2013 we decided to change the name to EAL week and to change the timing, choosing a week in the fall, where we might have more time to develop activities and celebrations. That year, we kicked off the week with a volunteer appreciation brunch, launched a student video contest, and ended the week with our Lower Mainland conference. We knew the potential for 2014 could be even better.

However, in 2014, the EAL profession in BC was facing cuts and uncertainties across the sector. With unease and uncertainty, we at BC TEAL thought that the focus we could take for provincial EAL week would be one celebrating learner success. If we focused on our students, it could serve as a reminder to us as EAL instructors that the work we do is important and has lasting impact. So, with the help of our friends at Corpus Academics, we launched the Learner Success Stories campaign for EAL week. We were thrilled when we received hundreds of submissions. We honestly did not expect the volume of essays, presentations, videos, and poster boards! Watching and reading the variety of submissions has been heart-warming. To know

that learning English in BC has had such positive effects on so many learners, in so many different learning contexts, is exactly the message the TEAL community needed to hear. What we do as EAL teachers really does matter.

I hope that you enjoy reading the learner success stories in this special edition of TEAL News. I cannot imagine how difficult it was for the editorial team to select the contributions that would appear in these pages. After all, they couldn't publish a book! A special shout-out needs to go to New Directions in Langley, BC. There were over 100 submissions from that one school alone!

I am excited to see if this momentum can continue and grow into 2015. We need reasons to celebrate, since we can only hope that the situation for EAL teachers and students improves, even though it seems that almost every week I hear of another long-time EAL program closing its doors.

Thank you to the many EAL teachers across the province who helped spread the word about the Learner Success Stories campaign. Thank you to Corpus Academics for kickstarting the campaign and procuring a fabulous prize incentive. Thank you to the BC TEAL members across BC who sought out proclamations from their municipalities (let's aim for more next year!). And thank you to Chris-Anne and her newsletter team for compiling this special issue of our students' success stories. I know I can't wait to share it!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawna Williams". The script is cursive and fluid.

Shawna Williams

President, BC TEAL

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to this special Issue of the TEAL News:
Celebrating Learner Success.

This is probably going to be the shortest letter I will ever write. Why? Well, I want to use the space for something much more interesting than this letter is likely to be.



November 16-22, 2014, was declared EAL week. BC TEAL with help from Corpus Academics ran a contest where current and former English language learners were encouraged to share stories about how studying English in BC had made their life better. The response was overwhelming. EAL learners from across the province submitted their answers in a multitude of forms. By the end, BC TEAL had received over 200 submissions.

The contest judges overwhelmingly agreed that the submissions deserved to reach a wider audience. Thus, the idea of this issue was born. Unfortunately, space limitations mean we cannot not include every submission. In order to include as many as we could, what we have done is to include some complete entries, and excerpts of others. If you have been wondering why you are in this profession, the stories shared by the learners will remind you.

Special thanks to the newsletter team who worked their magic to pull this together: Emma Hatfield, Barbara Golden, and Vania Kasui.

Enjoy

Chris-Anne Stumpf
Editor, TEAL News



**How do you think
Sir John A. Macdonald
should be remembered?**

Tell us by Making
Your Own Heritage Minute
with your class
to win great prizes!

 **STORIES OF
SIR JOHN A.**

Ce concours est bilingue – visit
StoriesofSirJohnA.ca
to learn more!

StoriesofSirJohnA.ca
@StoriesofJohnA

Learning to Listen

by Emma Hatfield

I was fairly young when I fell in love with the idea of being a teacher – sharing knowledge, helping people, and standing at the front of the classroom. The reality of my first teaching job seemed to live up to all my expectations as I saw how my efforts helped my students learn; within a year, however, the reality of language teaching lead me to see it wasn't as easy as I thought, and I realized I wasn't teaching as effectively as I wanted. Unable to see the teacher I needed to be, the front of the classroom felt more like I was hiking the Grouse Ground each day instead of standing in my professional happy place. Somewhere around this time I decided to heed the advice to "get to know my learners." I thought I knew them all fairly well: names, professions, number of children, and future life plans and was learning the truth of their cultures. Still, I felt that in order to be a teacher able to truly help each student, I had more to learn about these brave individuals, whose daily focus was improving their English. I had to get to know their stories.



TEAL's Learner Success Stories campaign reminds me how easy it is to get to know our learners by just listening. In one story, I saw how being able to read the instructions on hair products made a young woman feel feminine and pretty. I've taught sequences, imperatives, clarity, and so many other things that form the basis of giving and understanding instructions. Still, witnessing a learner's real life desires and success with understanding instructions breathes new life into my lessons on instructions. Seeing how many stories talked about the strong friendships that were formed in the language classroom, I remember the importance of ice breakers, warm ups and team building activities. The classroom needs to be a comfortable and safe place, and friendships foster the safety needed to take real language risks and weather all the apparent failures that come along when building fluency and clarity at the same time.

Perhaps though, the most powerful lesson I learn from reading and watching so many learner stories is one about the weights we carry around with us every day. As teachers at the front of our classrooms, we have to push life's weights out of our minds. We have to ignore that our backs are sore because we didn't sleep well. We need to push out of focus the fact that we're hungry because we didn't have time for breakfast. We have to leave those weights at the classroom door and teach with all our energy, focusing on our students' needs. In many respects, this is what feels like the most difficult thing about teaching.

We sometimes forget that our students have weights that they too need to leave aside in order to learn. The learner stories made that abundantly clear. One woman struggled with having been a professional speaker in her native country and realizing how far her language skills placed her from having that identity in her new country. Another learner was overwhelmed by the isolation from family, friends and culture while trying to adjust to life in Canada. Another, busily juggling the role of provider, mother and friend struggled emotionally with having to depend on her children to translate and interpret for everyday tasks outside the home.

Every student walks in the classroom door with life's weights—worries about money, safety, confidence, identity, professional growth, family members, and so much more. Having students share their personal lives means life's success and weights get shared. Shared successes give us strength, and shared weight isn't as difficult to carry. Sometimes, sharing our successes and struggles creates those human connections we need. Sharing also makes it easier for us to connect our classroom activities to specific needs in our students' lives. In many ways, knowing what life's successes and weights are means we can actually help lighten our students' loads and help them build strength. For me, it means I can actually make that significant difference I always wanted to for my students.


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Continuing from page 5

Inviting our students to write, present, talk about, and share stories like these learner success ones clearly involves reflection time for the students, and allows us and them to assess their challenges and acknowledge their successes. Together, we learn. Creating activities that really give our students opportunities to talk about themselves can only enhance our teaching. In fact, learner success stories are actually building teaching success stories, which has been my professional goal from day one. Over the years, I've learned to listen carefully to my students' various stories. TEAL's Learner Success Story campaign reinforces the value of learning to listen to our learners.

Emma's 15 years in the wonderful world of ELT have been a never-ending journey of learning. As one half of the consulting duo known as Corpus Academics, she writes, consults, and speaks about all things ELT.



Open the Door

Open the door. Open a new world.
Open my mind into a new multi-cultural world
There is such a lot of world to see; So, be a tourist enjoy learning English.
Be a traveler experience the journey in English.
Discover, explore the treasure of civilization.
This treasure is my precious dreams.
I love travelling with my best friends around the world visiting diverse people & places
Catching the variety of colours on the canvas of my life.
Open the door, open the door of New Directions.
Open the door, open a different world.
It is a wonderful global world
And I know my dreams
Are not far away

*By Jackson Chien
New Directions
Langley*



Farewell Marina Teacher



Certification graduation



Teacher, volunteers and classmates

My Gratefulness to IMSS

I arrived to Prince George on 21st February 2014. It was very hard because it was my first time living outside of my country. My English was not good so everything was difficult for me.

For example, "Going to shopping, going to school with my daughters, going anywhere, talking with my Daughter's teacher, visiting a doctor, driving, etc. Everything made me feel insecure.

So one day I decided that I needed to improve my English. My little daughter and I went to IMSS. Thereafter, I began to feel better, safer, and happier because I met people from different countries and cultures who were in the same situation as mine.

This experience has been very enriching for me. Finally, I would like to say to IMSS.

"Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to learn English".
Thanks for everything.

By Nerea Zalba



Easter's day



One funny day



Halloween's day



Mother's day tea party



Gym time

Why I am Happy Studying English in BC



If I had had good communication skills,
I would have been happier and more
comfortable living and working in BC.

Before turning up to class, I was
scared to speak English.



During the class,
I brushed up on
my English.



I always note down new words
and look up them on the
internet.



I have focused on my
speaking and listening.



Every movie has not made me drift off
any more.

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bctea.org

During the class, I learned a lot about 'CANADA'.



Now, I am familiar with Canadian history and culture.



If I had not studied about the Canadian government and voting in our class, I wouldn't have been interested in my city's elections on November 15th, 2014.



If I had not joined New Directions, I wouldn't have had a chance to achieve my dream in Canada.



THANK YOU ♥

By Mary Kim



What Happened at the Bus Stop!

I was waiting at a bus stop with a stranger last October. A bus passed by us without stopping. The bus had a sign that said NIS (Not In Service).

At that time the man asked me if I knew why the bus didn't stop. However, I didn't understand what he was saying.

My brother told me if I didn't understand when others spoke, I just have to tell them 'No!'. So, I said to him "No!" I think my behavior made him embarrassed. He walked away and he dropped his head down and waited for a bus. Maybe, he feared me, I thought.

I told the story to my brother the next day. When he heard my story, he laughed out loud.

The next day, I went shopping alone. The cashier at Extra Foods asked me if I wanted a bag. But I didn't understand the meaning. So I told her "No!" It was at this time, I realized I couldn't say 'No!' to everyone I met.

I decided I needed to go to New Directions School to learn English. Now I come to school everyday and I am learning lots of English. I am very happy that I can speak, read, listen and write in English.

I really appreciate teachers and New Directions school.

*By Jesong, LINC 3,
New Directions*



Oh Canada

Canada is a beautiful country to me. It has pure nature and we can live with wild animals together. I have enjoyed Canada's life in my own way before.

I never tried to learn English, even though I had an experience 4 seasons for 10 times. I just lived in my communities. Probably I would be afraid of first step and I thought that although I studied English, I couldn't use that, so I would forget easily and I never entered into Canadian society.

However, I decided to study English, and I went to school finally. There was my friendly and funny teacher Sharon. ^^ She taught us English in addition to very realistic things about Canada. That's why we can concentrate.

Learning about Canadian culture and history were very interesting to me. I have been living in Canada about 10 years, but I still had many things to study.

Whenever holidays came, we learned about that's history. It's very useful and makes me have affection for Canada.

In my school, I could learn about other country's cultures. We always ask each other and share information such as food, clothes, jobs . . .etc. We are close. And when I was watching a movie or drama I could understand some words and idioms that I didn't know before.

Now I want to get a job and volunteer in Canadian society. I never imagined like that before. It has only been 4 months. It's a big change to me, isn't it?

I thought Canadian society's wall was too high to enter. But my wall was too high. I built my confidence little by little through other students' experiences.

I lived in a small world, though I am living in a big country. I am more happier with my Canada's life now. I seem to be Canadian more and more.

By Shaina, Linc 5, New Directions

How has studying English in BC changed my life

A newcomer



☞ When I first arrived in BC, I couldn't make out what native speakers were saying; I had to take my son and my daughter with me every where I went because they spoke English better than I did.



Determined to learn



☞ I was determined to learn and not to give up on my English; I knew it would be a long way to go, but I wanted to take the challenge.



Jeannine, my helper



☞ Then I met my best friend Jeannine, if I hadn't met her, I wouldn't have been introduced to New Directions and I wouldn't have had the opportunity to learn English.



My English class



☞ Studying English cheers me up, that's why I turn up early every time I have English class. My heart's bubbling to know what new adventure is waiting for us.



Improvement



☞ I have learned a lot, not only about speaking but also about answering phone calls and calling back someone on the phone without being nervous as I used to be.



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Improvement



- ☞ I have learned about Beautiful BC, about the mountains, the Fraser River, and the Natives. What a vibrant history! It makes me love BC and push me to explore more.
- ☞ If I hadn't been introduced to New Directions, I wouldn't have known Melissa, my wonderful teacher who is so patient and kind. She makes us feel that we are learning something, rather than putting us off.



- ☞ At New Directions, I met people from all around the world, It's really multicultural and diverse!



A bright future?



- ☞ I'm more than confident now to order my food in a restaurant or to go shopping. Not only that, I can hold a conversation with local people!



- ☞ I enjoy BC very much and my family does too. My kids always ask me, "what are we doing this weekend mom?"



CONCLUSION



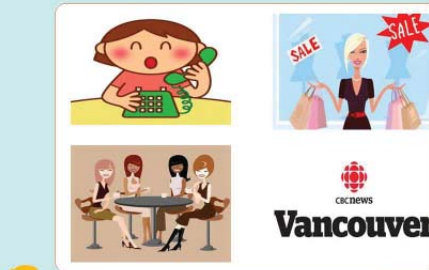
- ☞ I am now equipped with many skills I can use and can look forward, with confidence, to a bright future in BC!

By Marie Chantal

Studying English in B.C. made my life better

Beginning

- I immigrated to Canada three years ago.
- If I hadn't moved here, I wouldn't have gotten a better life.



If I hadn't learnt English, I wouldn't have done anything here.

Canada



History

- If I hadn't come here, I wouldn't have known Canada's history.
- Nowadays, I have fallen in love with this land.



Studying English

- I have turned up to LINC class on weekdays, and have always handed in my homework on time.
- I have made some friends and we have had lots of fun in our class.



Holiday

- Our family has had great time on every holiday.
- We are satisfied to live here.



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Sports

- I have picked up local activities such as skiing, curling, hockey, soccer, and skating.
- I have learnt new sports here and gotten great memories .



Food

- I have enjoyed different kinds of food.

It has made my cooking more various and delicious.



Fun

- If I hadn't learnt English,
I wouldn't have taken my children anywhere.
I wouldn't have had a wonderful time with my family and friends.



If I hadn't improved my English,
I wouldn't have had abilities to deal with problems.
interests to explore Canada.
chances to make my life better.

~Better and better



By Penny Wu

Before and Now

I moved to BC from China. I like studying English. It has made my life better.

Before I didn't have friends. I couldn't go on vacations and watch English TV.

After, I started to learn English. Now I could make Canadian friends. I can talk to my neighbour in English. I can watch English TV and I can go on vacation to anywhere. I worked three times as a volunteer.

Now I understand Canada and Canadian more than before. At home, I can talk a little English with my son. I enjoy studying English.

By Qiming (Jeff) Li, LINC 3 /4, New Directions

IMMIGRATION --> CHANGE --> OPPORTUNITY

"Don't be afraid of change.
You might lose something
good, but you'll gain
something better"



By Emma Suh

What I Have Gained

I HAVE STUDIED ESL AT NEW DIRECTIONS ONLY 2 MONTHS AND I HAVE GAINED MUCH MORE THAN JUST ENGLISH - I HAVE GAINED CONFIDENCE

- ◉ I used to speak in the spotlight on stage as a self-confident and persuasive speaker in my country.



- ◉ I used to believe in the power of speech and language, but when I came to Canada, I couldn't express myself, and few people understood what I said. I felt that I was a dumb person.
- ◉ After joining the ESL program at New Directions, and after only one week of lessons, I started to speak with others whether my speaking was perfect or not.

- ◉ The teachers smile at me and give me the opportunity to speak out. They understand what I say and help me correct my pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary. I feel that I have found my confidence the more and more I use English.



- ◉ I think it will not be a very long time before I speak English, again under the spotlight, with a confident smile.



By Tracy Chen,
LINC 6,
New Directions,
Langley

How has Studying English in BC made My Life Better

There is a wonderful school in our neighborhood. If you walk, it takes you only seven minutes to walk. There are a lot of beautiful trees and especially different maple trees on the street. In the autumn season their leaves change color, become different. We like to walk these calm and quiet streets, meet our neighbors, as well as people who walk with their dogs, or someone who just walks in the morning and get some fresh air. All these people always say hello and smile when you meet them. That is why you charge the good energy for the whole day and you feel better.

Once I get to school, I can chat with the teachers and other parents, who also brought their children to school. After school when I pick up my children I can ask the teacher about my children, how they feel themselves in school, if they have relationships with classmates in the class. I could not do all of these before so my husband had to do it for me. Now I feel more confident and I am not shy to communicate anymore.

Upon returning home from school I can also talk with my neighbors. We have very good ones. They are from Mexico. Our children attend the same school and we live in the same complex. So we can visit each other and share the news, discuss about our children and treat each other to something tasty. Also we have good relations with our neighbors who are next door to our unit. They have already retired and we all do our best not to disturb them, for example, not to make too much noise. Once I even had a case with our neighbor. I cooked at home and waited for my husband to get the children from school. I opened the balcony door to get some fresh air. Suddenly I heard someone's voice from the left. I was very surprised then I understood that it was my neighbor! She was asking for help. She was standing on the balcony and could not get back into her home, as the door locked once she went out. So she asked me to come down and help. My neighbor threw me her keys; I got into the house and opened the balcony door to let her finally

get in. It turned out my neighbor spent two hours on the balcony and could not find anyone on the street to help. She was very glad that I helped her. Now we have become good friends.

Learning English was extremely helpful for me in obtaining my driver's license in Canada. I could pass the computer test in English with no assistance! Once I had booked the driving test I decided to practice around town to prepare for the test. I prefer to have a Russian-speaking instructor, but unfortunately at that time, all Russian-speaking instructors were busy. And we had to take an English-speaking Chinese instructor. As we got to talking with him, he told us he was from Singapore and had lived in Canada for eighteen years. I had been in Singapore twice and I knew a little about their country and national cuisine. This helped us to understand each other better. My husband also taught me to drive on local roads. And when it was time to go for a test, my instructor also came. Both my husband and my instructor thought I would not pass the road test. You could read it on their faces! But my language knowledge did a great job! I had managed to pick up a lot of useful advice and tips from my instructor and I passed the driving test with no mistakes! And we all went home happy. It was another example of how important to know English in Canada.

I believe that it is very important to know the culture¹ and traditions of the country you are living in. And mass media are one of the main sources of information in the new environment. English lessons made it possible for me to watch local TV and to listen to local radio. So I can learn more about Canada as a country, about local community, about economic and political news. It makes me feel more immersed in local life and helps a lot in my daily routine. This is also a good tool in improving my English skills.

Studying English in Canada helped me a lot in planning and arranging my kid's activities. Taking into account the fact that here there are completely different sports clubs and recreational systems that it was not easy to find out all the details. My English

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skills were very critical and important to do everything in time and in a most efficient manner. As a result our kids have very interesting and useful activities which helps them to develop their talents in different areas. In addition to that I can chat with the coach and know on a day-to-day basis about kids progress and problems (if any) so I can support hem without delay.

There is a lovely pool in the community center just across the street. My family and I usually go there on a regular basis. English skills make me feel more independent and comfortable in my daily life. It is hard to believe, but without proper knowledge of English it is hard to do a long list of simple things like buying groceries at the store, having a cup of coffee at the Starbucks, taking a bus and more other things . . . And my English classes help me to obtain a very important communication tool to feel myself as a part of the great and lovely country like Canada.

By Elena Nemirova, Linc 5, New directions

I Felt...

I felt helpless and frustrated when I was a newcomer.

I couldn't help my son with the difficulties he had.



When I met my English teacher at
NEW DIRECTIONS

I was euphoric



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From you I learned to socialize with other volunteers.



Now I can have a good conversation with my son's teacher.

From you

1

I organized an athletic running group. I enjoy exercising with my friends every week.



2

Fashion Events



I also participated in many elegant fashion events.

3

Canadian Culture

I learned about Canadian culture and history from you dear teacher.



Thank You

I thank you for all
the great things
you've done for us! .



By Aileen Hua



Good English, Good Life

AS A NEWCOMER

◦ When I came to Canada in 2011, I couldn't understand and speak any English to people.



AS A NEWCOMER

I was so nervous and always worried about misunderstanding others.

The language problem totally put me off.



STUDY ENGLISH

One of my friends introduced me to English classes (like church English class; Adult education center)

I love to turn up to my LINC English class, then I have the opportunity to learn English not only from my teacher but also the classmates.

Changes happened

◦ I don't fear to answer the phone any more



◦ I can talk with my son's teacher



Changes happened

◦ I can shopping online and negotiate with the sellers



◦ I can read the local newspapers and watch English TV channel



Changes happened

◦ I can follow the English product instructions to curl my hair by myself :)



4/18/2015

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Changes happened

- I can use English to learn how to make things



4/18/2015

Changes happened

- If I hadn't studied and brushed up on English in LINC class ,then I wouldn't have been so confident to speak English in front of people.
- If I hadn't spoke English very well ,then I couldn't have communicated with English speakers.
- If I hadn't moved to B.C. ,then I wouldn't have gotten such a good life experience.

THANKS FOR

- I'd like to thank for the people who ever helping me go through the beginning time in Canada
- I'd like to thank for my teacher--Melissa who inspired me to keep improving my English ability

I BELIEVE

○ No Pains ,No Gains

LEARNING ENGLISH REQUIRES ACTION. YOU MAY KNOW ALL LEARNING TIPS, BUT IF YOU DON'T START DOING THINGS, YOU WILL ACHIEVE NOTHING.

○ Good English, Good Life

- *Do your best to create a better tomorrow!*

4/18/2015

The end

THANK YOU !

4/18/2015

By Lily Zhang



My English Success Story

When I first came to Canada 7 years ago, I couldn't say anything else except hello and thank you. After I became part of the Abbotsford LINC, I got to learn proper English. Now I understand many about the Canadian culture. For example I had no idea how to fix problems and I couldn't explain situations and complains. The most frustrating thing was not being able to take care of my children very well.

After 7 years of living in Canada, I gained much confidence in my English. I feel no nervousness when I go through the drive thru, on the phone I can register and order. Also my knowledge about Canada is good enough for landing services too. My husband used to be my English teacher before we got married. He is now very impressed on how much I have improved and he also calls me for help. With lots of help from my LINC, I am full of confidence and I have learned how much valuable confidence is.

by Midong Kim, CLB 5
Abbotsford Community Services
LINC EFW 5/6

Secret! Study Tips!

- Check out LINC classes
- Listen to an English radio station, watch an English TV show and movies
- Read an English newspaper
- Speak English to everyone: your family, classmates, friends
- Write something in English! Even if you only write one sentence a day this will help you to focus and THINK in English
- Do you like to cook? Use English cookbooks
- Change all the settings on your phone to English

by Alena



- Practice English outside. Don't be shy
- Talk with the salesman and bargain

by Yan Xie



- I have a step by step way to learn to speak and write in English
- I like to read books
- So I start with an easy picture book and I read the local newspaper and then I read my daughter's school notices.
- I am hopeful that I can learn more vocabulary and grammar in the future.

by Sarah Kim, Linc 3, New Directions

Studying English Makes My Life Cheerful, Confident and Challenging

If I had not moved to BC and had not started learning English, then I would not have had an *enormous change* in my life.

Many new Friendships

Organizing My Life in Confidence

Different History, Culture and Traditions

I can make out my neighbours' discussions and feel comfortable participating in neighbourhood events, such as street parties, Christmas parties and backyard movie nights.



Learning English allows me to have varied and colourful school activities.



Also, I have met many new friends who are from different countries in the school or community.



Regain My Aplomb



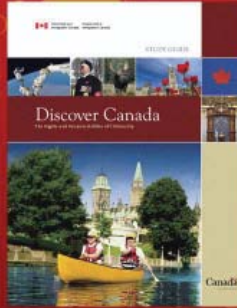
- Now I never break down when I meet with the natives, make an appointment, call back English customer service, or attend a party.
- I would not have had better communication with my son's teacher and have become a parent volunteer in elementary school if I had not improved my English a lot.



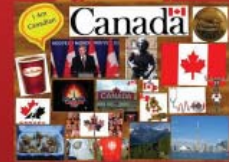
Continuing on page 24

Understanding Canada

- If I had not registered for LINC class, then I would not have gotten lots of knowledge about Canada's history, economy and regions.



Closer to Canadian Culture



- Through picking up new vocabulary wherever I go, I catch on to Canadian culture.

Cherishing Canadian traditions



My family and I really enjoy more and more Canadian traditions after knowing their background stories.



My future



- I am looking forward to thinking over different choices for new jobs.
- The better my English skills are, the more I love Canada, my second hometown.



By Ruby Jiang

Better Life in B.C. by Learning English Language

by Anita Bidaweed, Linc 5, New Directions

Studying English in beautiful British Columbia gave me the confidence to interact and socialize with the community without being shy or embarrassed to make mistakes, and if I hadn't studied the English Language and taken classes I wouldn't have been able to talk to people, take the driving knowledge test in English. Although I failed the test a couple of times, but when I passed the test I was very happy. I felt that I have taken a big step here in B.C., and I will be learning, searching, practicing more, I will be studying Accounting Courses to find a job, help my husband with his work and make the community and all B.C a better place to live.





I learned...

LINC 2

New Directions

I came to Canada over 3 years ago. I got to work and go to school and I'm from Viet Nam
 I live in Surrey with my family at my brother-in-laws
 I learned a lot about vegetables, animals, fruit and now I can go buy food
 I learned about different parts of the body so now I can go to the doctor
 Now I love to learn English because I can talk with everybody and I have fun, before I was scared and sad

by Ngoc Hung Thach

I learned how to ride a bus
 I learned how to go shopping by myself
 I learned to speak English with Canadian people
 I learned to go to work
 I learned to go around B.C.

by Ngoc Dien

I learned about countries freedom
 I learned that I can safely go anywhere on the streets at night
 I go to church and learn about the Bible and I learned to love all people of the world
 I learned to go shopping by myself
 I learned how to go to the dentist and get my teeth cleaned
 I have lived in Vancouver since three years ago, and I learned all of this because of English

by Thi-My Trang Thach

My Success Story

I moved to Canada six years ago. When I first arrived, I was very scared. I didn't understand some of the English that I was hearing around me. I didn't understand voice message on my phone. That time my son was one and half years old. So, I couldn't go for English classes. Last year my son start school as a kindergarten student. So, I start my English classes at Abbotsford Community Services last year. I started at CLB/4 and last April 2013, I moved up to CLB/5. During my time in CLB/4, I learned a lot of English. English classes build my confidence to talk with others in English. Now I can talk with my son's schoolteacher and everywhere. I made many friends too. I like make many friends. I learned about many cultures in these classes. My favourite activities were grammar and impromptu speaking. I have no problem in reading and writing. Impromptu speaking helped me to improve my grammar and speaking. English classes helped me imagine what a real life. I think when I learned English very well then I get more chances of good jobs and I can earn good money. Now when I met my friends, I encouraged to them for English classes. In the end I want to say that " God helps those who help themselves".

by Harpreet Bhullar, CLB 5

*Abbotsford Community Services,
 LINC EFW 5/6*



I am Odalys from Venezuela. I came to Canada on September 22nd, 2012.
I am happily married to a wonderful man named Oscar; thanks to him, I became an ESL student on October 10th, 2012.
It is incredible how at that time I just knew the basic words and phrases like: "Hi, good morning, good afternoon, good night, and how are you?".



My first day of class on October 10th, 2012 and the first step to my new life.



I have met wonderful people, and for the first time, I carried a big pumpkin.



That was so much fun.

I Am Odalys

Canada is beautiful and its history and culture is so interesting. For example:



Five months after I started studying ESL I found a job in customer service making balloon arrangements at 'The Party'.

The job is part of my learning experience and teaches me how to live in Canada. Work and study are the best ways to improve my language skills.



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ESL has given me the opportunity to understand and learn about other cultures, and of course has shown me how to enjoy potlucks where each student shows each other delicious dishes from their home country.

I love Canada, and I love winter, and I love the snow.



These are my teachers who have helped me on my ESL journey. I thank them all for their patience.



*By Odalys, LINC 6
Daytime,
New Directions,
Langley*

**ESL is part of my life and my learning
in my new home of Canada.
Thank you to all of my teachers, friends
and to my husband.**





BC, Here I Am!



Go to school with a big smile

I came to Canada for my daughter's education, in other words, for a better learning environment for her.

It's been two years since we moved to BC. Every morning, she goes to school with a big smile and waves good-bye to me to begin a brand new day.

Happy in BC



Study English in BC

I started my English class in March this year.

Before that, I thought my English was efficient, so I had no intention to take English class. But the truth was that I wasn't confident enough to start a job in an English work environment.

Until then, I realized I had to step out of my house and start something.

In My English class, with laptops provided by LINC



Learning with a great teacher

My English teacher is very energetic and enthusiastic.

I learn from her not only English, but also the attitude towards work. She is dressed up formally every day. Her instruction is well organized and she explains things patiently. My writing for Virtual Fridays is always well corrected, therefore I have chance to improve my composition.

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With my teacher Melissa



Chance to meet friends

I met a good friend in my English class. She is from Korea, and her daughter is also a dance major like my daughter at Langley Fine Arts Secondary School.

We exchange different cultural experiences between Korea, Taiwan and Canada. We go swimming together after English class. As a matter of fact, if I hadn't joined this English class, then I wouldn't have met her.

Enjoy different culture



Offering English Class is a great Policy

I appreciate that the British Columbian and Canadian governments have such good policies to help new immigrants to start their new life with learning English.

Overall, if I hadn't come to English class, I wouldn't have had the confidence to work in Canada and to enjoy the new lifestyle here.

Enjoying my new life in Canada



*By Anne Cheng, LINC 7,
New Directions*

My Friends, My Travelling, My Future

MY NEW FRIENDS



• This couple is Turkish. We met at English class. Now they are my intimate friends. If I hadn't spoken English very well, I wouldn't have had chance to know them and their native culture.

MY GOLFING



After school, I usually play golf with my new friends. My golf coach is Portuguese but speaks English. While I took his lessons, it forced me to keep learning English.

I GOT MY FIRST TROPHY IN MY GOLF LIFE



Only learning golf for one and half years, my score is unbelievable. It encourages me to integrate into the society and learn a lot of new stuff in Canada.

MY TRAVELING



This year I went to Toronto with my husband in September. I made a plan to rent an RV and booked a flight and hotel. The lady came from South America, now she is living in Toronto. She helped us lots when we stayed in Toronto. Without English, I couldn't have done anything. I would only have stayed at home.

TRIP TO TORONTO



My husband likes to take pictures. He travels lots. Now my purpose is to make my English better, then I can help him more.

MY FUTURE



This drawing is my daughter's work. I am very proud of her. Now she is studying at RSID in the States. In the future, I would like to learn how to paint after I finish all levels in New Directions. Absolutely, studying English has totally changed my life in B.C. It makes my life more fun and interesting. I will keep learning English till I die.



By Alice Hu, LINC 7,
New Directions

Learning English

Learning English in Class
Concentrative
But
Beneficial

Learning English in the Library
Hum drum
But
Hopeful

Learning English on Holidays
Chaotic
but
Amusing

Learning English with Friends
Confused
but
Happy Very Much!!

*by Martina Ma,
Richmond*

My Two Teachers

I have been here for more than two years since I left my native country – China. I began to learn English from Chinese middle school in 1963. I graduated from the University in Zhe-jiang in 1970. Then I worked in a local hospital as a surgeon. In the hospital I usually spoke my native language so I forgot that how to speak in English.

I have been studying English since living in Canada. From 2012 I began learning English words, basic grammar, and vocabulary. My granddaughter Ida is an elementary school student. She was my first teacher in my family. After school, she always teaches me how to speak Canadian English, and sometimes she corrects my mistakes in pronunciation. I usually ask her how to pronounce words over and over again until I pronounce them correctly. Now, we have a very good English teacher in our ESL class. She teaches kindly and reads very clearly and carefully. She helps us to understand English.

In reality, I have two English teachers. In class, Lianna teaches me a classic English lesson and my granddaughter Ida is my private teacher. I think that with both teachers' help, I will improve in speaking in English.

by Shou Mu, Linc 3, New Directions

MY LIFE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

I am Saritha. I am from India. I have been here for 10 months since January. I live in Prince George.



When I came here I was very nervous in the beginning, but after joining IMSS (Immigration and Multicultural Service Society). I met a lot of new friends from different places, and I got a lot of confidence. The teachers and the office staff are very helpful in providing materials and support. The English class in IMSS is very helpful for me in day today life. I have learned a lot of new things.



I love the fact that everyone here follows traffic rules. Now I can travel by myself anywhere in Prince George in using BC Transit, and I can do shopping by myself as well. I love summer season because I like to take long drives with my husband and my daughter. I like to live in Prince George because there are lots of lakes around the city.

I like to make new friends, but in the beginning, I was afraid to talk with others. However, I feel proud to say that every one in BC is very friendly kind, and helpful. I love to live in BC.

Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to learn English. Thank you so much for everything.





Thank You!

I came to Canada in February 2013 and have been attending English classes at New Directions School in Langley for 1.5 years now. Our teachers assist all students to adapt to our new lives by showing us resources and services that provide newcomers the opportunity to get settled, to get better in English and start contributing to the economy of BC and Canada.

I wish to thank all teachers and LINC as well as support staff and the government BC for organizing English classes for newcomers to Canada!

They are always happy to help prepare us for the challenges and opportunities ahead. As all newcomers to Canada, I faced many changes to live here, including getting familiar with medical practices, social systems, new culture, and the language. My teachers were and always are ready to assist me with all communication needs, help to teach me about Canadian laws, culture, health care, society, job market, and many things that are important for life in Canada. Basically they have given me starting points for adapting to life in Canada. It really helps a lot and day by day you feel more confident in yourself and what you do here and where you belong.

All of it has helped me to adapt and to succeed here, in BC.

I wish to thank you a ton for your time and effort!

Kind regards,

Valery Skripnichenko
LINC 6, New Directions, Langley

