



For Immediate Release
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**BC proclaims Nov 16 - 22 English as an Additional Language Week;
Teaching professionals urge government to protect quality ESL training**

Vancouver – The BC Teachers of English as an Additional Language opened provincial EAL Week today by echoing a legislative committee’s call for stable, predictable funding for post-secondary English as a Second Language programs.

After six weeks of public consultation leading up to the 2015 BC provincial budget, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services recommended that the province adequately fund ESL at public post-secondary institutions and work with schools to develop a long-term strategy for the delivery of English language training.

With funding shortfalls and program cancellations looming at post-secondary institutions around the province, the 1000-member [BC TEAL](#) is urging Advanced Education Minister Amrik Virk and Premier Christy Clark to take action before the cuts take effect and students are turned away.

“EAL Week is about celebrating the value of accessible, high-quality English language instruction, and the committee’s report supports our view that these post-secondary programs are a top priority for British Columbians,” BC TEAL president Shawna Williams said today.

“In the spirit of EAL Week, we’re hoping the minister and premier will act to resolve the uncertainty around BC’s continuing investment in EAL education,” Williams said. “We believe post-secondary English language education is a key element of BC’s future social and economic success.”

The City of Vancouver and other municipalities join the province in officially recognizing EAL Week this year. Williams said BC TEAL members will mark the week with volunteer events, a [“Celebrating Learner Success Stories”](#) student contest, and the [BC TEAL Lower Mainland Regional Conference](#) on Friday.

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