



## AEC - Access English Centre

### AEC Newsletter—Winter 2013

Dear Volunteers,  
We thank you all for volunteering with us during this Winter term 2013.

This new year starts with big news, new additions to the team, new Volunteers, and new structure in the program.

Changes can sometimes bring new challenges, but can also mean new exciting opportunities. Our program is always in constant change; it expands, creates, and brings in new ideas so it can offer a better service to newcomers. And you, as Volunteers, are key in all this. That is why we always try to find new ways to thank you.

Starting April 1, 2013, the Access English Centre will have a new funder. Citizen and Immigration Canada, CIC, will be our direct partner. We still continue our partnership with United Way as a funder. This big change will not affect your performance as Volunteers. On the contrary, this change will give the Access English Centre a more flexible way to answer your requests and needs to make your volunteer experience more rewarding. We will be able to focus on immediate needs faster.

We look forward to continuing working with you as a team in order to offer the quality service we've been offering for years. The high standards and reputation the AEC has in the province is due to its Volunteer staff.

Thank You  
Walter Luzzi  
AEC Coordinator

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Updates / Changes | 1 |
| Volunteer Support | 2 |

#### WHAT'S NEW

AEC Volunteer Blog  
Communication  
Activity Plans  
Extra Support  
Client Feedback



## AEC - Access English Centre

### AEC Blog

This is your Blog.

<http://accessenglishcentre.blogspot.ca/>

You can all use this space to share ideas that might improve your volunteer experience and/or to exchange topics or stories.

If you have at least one story to highlight, please share it with your colleagues.

Remember, do not use this Blog to communicate absences or schedule changes.

### Teachers Join AEC Groups

The AEC has been the "target" for many well-known MB Teachers to volunteer.

Over the last few months, retired Teachers and others currently working in the MB EAL community have joined the AEC to share their expertise. Also Students taking part in their Certificate in Teaching EAL program are doing their Practicum placements here.

### Volunteer Support

**Activity Plans:** the complete guide of activities for you to apply in your group is always on <http://icmanitoba.com/services/access-english-centre-aec/aec-activity-plans/>

**Shadowing:** you can also observe experienced volunteers facilitating their groups. Let us know and we will arrange it.

**Group Observations:** the EAL Specialist will arrange with you a regular visit to your group. This is only to give you the right feedback.

### Who is the right person to communicate my concerns to?

All the Access English Centre's concerns regarding absences, substitutions, bookings for presentation in classrooms, and/or cancellations must be addressed to Walter and/or May.

Your plans, extra training, requests for activities, and observations can be addressed to Shanshan.

Any extra curricula material such as computer set-ups, rosters, clients' questions, please refer them to April or May.

## Volunteer Resources Feedback January 2013

Thank you for participating in the last on-line survey conducted by the AEC Coordinator. Almost all our volunteers took part in this consultation.

Seventy four per cent of all those volunteers revealed they use internet-based websites instead of books to support their in-class activities, as well as to supplement most of their plans, and/or games.

This change in preference and selection of resources is changing the way the AEC team plans its volunteer support and program structure. Starting the new Fiscal year 2013-2014, we will be planning on purchase web memberships that have listening and speaking task-based activities. This is the core of the AEC program, to focus on the listening and speaking learner's skills.