



ESL FORUM

★ Educating the children of the world in BC classrooms

Presented by the British Columbia School Trustees Association

Thank you for registering for the **February 9, 2007** ESL Forum hosted by BCSTA at the Coast Plaza Hotel, 1763 Comox Street in Vancouver. This pre-forum information sheet contains a tentative agenda, online resources and a list of questions you may wish to consider in preparation for the forum.

Agenda

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| 7:30 | Forum registration and full breakfast (provided) |
| 8:30 | Welcome and introductions |
| 9:00 | Expert panel presentations |
| 10:30 | Break |
| 10:45 | Small group discussions and question generation |
| 11:15 | Facilitated plenary discussion and panel response |
| 12:15 | Lunch break |
| 1:00 | Plenary discussion starting with Kutapira (musical entertainment) |
| 1:20 | Case studies, student viewpoints |
| 2:00 | Brainstorming activity: promising practices |
| 2:45 | Sharing promising practices |
| 3:30 | Summary and evaluation |
| 3:45 | Closing remarks and next steps |

Online resources

Vancouver Sun Story: ESL students fall behind.

Canadian School Boards Association: Consultation paper on Second Language Learning

Citizenship and Immigration Canada: Agreement for Canada-BC Co-Operation on Immigration 2004

Readingonline.org: Literacy in Multicultural Settings

Questions

1. Over the last two decades what has been the collective experience with regard to immigration, multiculturalism and ESL, particularly as it relates to school aged children and youth and their families?
2. What trends and directions do we see for the future of immigration, multiculturalism and ESL and the school system over the next 5-10 years?
3. What are some of the most promising practices for responding to the needs of ESL learners?
4. How can the education system, schools and teachers prepare for the challenges of working with immigrant children and others requiring ESL support?
5. How can federal and provincial political leaders, school trustees and staff work more closely and cooperatively to improve the education system's ability to meet the educational needs of immigrant children and their families?
6. What is the role of the school system in integrating newcomers to our culture and what support is required for schools to do the best job possible?

