

The IHLA Newsletter

Volume 19 Issue 4

Editor: Marina Castro

June 30, 2022

~ President's Message ~

Dear Esteemed Member Schools and Friends of IHLA,

First and foremost, on behalf of the IHLA Board, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer time with friends, family, and heritage language community members!

In 2022, we welcomed new schools to IHLA and our year was filled with new and well-received Professional Development Sessions our last few IN PERSON ☺ I hope you all enjoyed and implemented many of them into your respective classrooms.

The New Year led us to IHLA's 19th Annual Mother Language Day and the publication of the Mother Language Book. Everyone's participation and tremendous performances were the highlight of our MLD celebration. His Worship Mayor Amarjeet Sohi, Professor Olenka Bilash and one of IHLA's Founders, our own Josephine Pallard spoke to the work all our heritage language schools do everyday and how they enrich our City and Province. Our sincerest thanks to IHLA Coordinators Grace Alarcon-Isla and Marina Castro for their efforts for a Mother Language Day that was well executed and attended *online* event for all our schools.

Our Mother Language Day became more meaningful as we, like the rest of the world, were witness to the invasion of the Russian military in Ukraine, unprovoked on February 24th, 2022. This horrific act of war continues into its 5th month with hundreds if not thousands killed and injured, as well as jailed (for those who stand with Ukraine on both sides of the border).

Our heritage language communities galvanized to provide support, psychological, economical, physical (providing a home for refugees) to our Ukrainian community and our Russian community which has experienced its challenges of discrimination and violence in this time.

To end, at our Annual General Meeting, we said good-bye to Board Members, Renata Krawczyk, Eyup Ozturk and Seyed Bahrami all who served IHLA well and with care. Along these same lines, we happily welcome new Board Members, Liliya Suhky, Sylwia Pozorek, and Amit Aery with whom we look forward to working in 2022/2023!

I look forward to *us all, together*, continuing the good work that IHLA does via *new*, engaging and informative workshops for Teachers and Administrators and developing new opportunities for schools, including the IHLA *Mentorship Program* given its continued success, and our *Principal Meetings* so that there is more communication and exchange of ideas between schools and the IHLA Board.

My hope is that we continue to strengthen our relationships amongst our HL Schools and our government liaisons, recognizing the importance and necessity of supporting Heritage Languages Education in Alberta. I look forward to working with



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everyone on the IHLA Board and all Member Schools to increase our profile and to encourage more active participation on behalf of all our Heritage Language Schools and Programs.

As a means of keeping abreast of happenings at all our IHLA Schools, I sincerely encourage everyone to send in notices about events/happenings, or projects your schools are doing so that they may be featured in the IHLA newsletter and website.

Sincerely,

Antonella Cortese, President



IHLA AGM

2022 — Review

IHLA Board elections

The International and Heritage Languages association held their annual general meeting on June 8, 2022, as a hybrid in person at the Edmonton Intercultural Centre and online meetings via zoom. Twenty-four members attended the meeting. Congratulations to the following IHLA Board of Directors for 2022-2023:

Antonella Cortese (CPLI Italian Language School)
 Anupama Deshpande (Edmonton Marathi School)
 Krishna Gupta (Alberta Hindi Parishad)
 Kuljeet Kaur (Ramgahria Khalsa School)
 Liliya Sukhy (Ivan Franko School of Ukrainian Studies)
 Jitka Storoschuk (Czech School in Edmonton)
 Krystyna Dembowski (Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School)
 Sylvia Pozorek (Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School)



Congratulations!!

Mentor and mentee schools!

Mentor schools: **Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School; Filipino Language and Culture School of Edmonton**

Mentee schools: **Comitato Promotore della Lingua Italiana; Escola-Gil Vicente Edmonton Portuguese School of Society**

We look forward to a new year with our dedicated Board of Directors leaders.

~IHLA in the media~

We are extremely happy and proud to announce IHLA's first podcast collaboration, in the 'It's About Language series', episode 63 – International Collaborations.

The topic is Heritage Languages: International Collaborations. She interviews amazing leaders of organizations working with community-based heritage language schools in other countries. They know so much and share so openly and richly! This is definitely worth hearing. I feel like I need to listen to it many times to process it all!

Gisi Canizzaro, Heritage Language Education Network (HLE Network), Netherlands, Antonella Cortese, International and Heritage Languages Association (IHLA), Alberta, Canada, Ken Cruickshank, Sydney Institute for Community Language Education, University of Sydney, Australia, Renata Emilsson Peskova, Móðurmál, the Association on Bilingualism, Iceland.



Thanks to Nina Paulovicova, Marta McCabe and Renata Peskova, an article about IHLA schools featured in THE CONVERSATION newspaper.

The short informative piece on IHLA research was just published in THE CONVERSATION. The CONVERSATION has a monthly audience of 18 million users, and a reach of 42 million readers through Creative Commons republication (media such as Huffington Post, Globe and Mail and many others).



To view IHLA in the media articles, please visit our website [Media | International and Heritage Languages Association \(ihla.ca\)](https://www.ihla.ca)

~News from our schools~



**News from the Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish
School, by Sylvia Pozorek**
A Conference Like no Other

A prodigious group of 8 parents and staff from Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School took part in the official 16th Conference of Polish Teachers and Parenting Committees in North America. The event took place in Toronto, Ontario from May 27 - May 30 in which Mrs. Agata Kornhauser-Duda, the wife of the President of the Republic of Poland, was the honorary patron of. The conference was originally scheduled to take place in 2020 but was rescheduled due to the pandemic. The wait was well worth it! One had to be there to fully appreciate the unforgettable experiences that took place. The event highlighted many intelligent and charismatic experts from Poland that shared a plethora of linguistic knowledge about the Polish language. The experts honoured us with personal insight and captivated listeners with their research and lived experiences. There was a great selection of lectures and workshops to attend, in which every parent, teacher and principal could select from to cater to their individual needs and interests. A certificate was issued for all those who attended. After the presentations, everyone grew even more encouraged and motivated to passionately teach others their mother tongue. Among the 21 lecturers scheduled to speak at the event, some of the honorary guests included: Ilona Łepkowska (screenwriter and film and television producer), Michał Rusinek (lecturer, translator, writer and poet), and Professor Jerzy Bralczyk (linguist and professor of humanities). All the meetings, lectures, classes, discussion panels, training workshops and extracurricular activities/trips were masterfully prepared and were a bottomless goldmine of knowledge, resources and time for pedagogical reflection. It was truly a pleasure and honour to represent our school at this event. Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School humbly awaits the next conference with great anticipation!





News from the Polish Canadian Children's Theatre Society, by Violetta Stryjski

(1)

On March 26, 2022, the theater class (Polish Canadian Children's Theater Society) from Polish Saturday school, IM.Henryka Sienkiewicza, got to go to the TELUS World of Science. The teacher, Viola, wanted to treat the kids to an outing since the kids worked very hard every Saturday throughout the year on the play: Puss in Boots.

The kids had a wonderful time bonding with each other, doing activities, learning and exploring through play. The TELUS World of Science inspired kids to explore and gain more knowledge on Science, Biology, Engineering and Math. One exhibit allowed the kids to learn about different blood types, how genes and microbes influence the body and how the small choices you make every day impacts your health. The hands-on activities allowed kids to be little scientists – microscopes, petri dishes, lab coats and all!



As for the teenagers, the highlight for them was the Ireland presentation on the giant screen of the IMAX theater. They got to experience Ireland's natural beauty, rich history, language, music and arts. A few students even mentioned that they would love to visit Ireland one day!

The overall experience allowed the group to bond in a different setting, work together and get to know each other more. It also taught them that it is important to work hard but also important to have some fun. Thank you, Viola Stryjski and Director Krystyna Dembowska for organizing such an amazing trip!



(2)



On May 14, the Polish Canadian Children’s Theater Society in Edmonton, performed the play: “Puss in Boots” in the Polish language. The fairy tale is the adventures of a cat who uses trickery and deceit to gain power, wealth, and the hand of a princess in marriage for his penniless and low-born master. All of the talented young actors and actresses took their roles seriously, and the performance was incredible. We also celebrated Mother’s Day that day which made it all so much more special. The kids made the school, teachers and especially the moms very proud. When the play was done, they gave out beautiful roses to not only their moms, but all the moms in the crowd. Special thanks go out to the hard working and patient Director of the play, Violetta Stryjski, and Support Director, Krystyna Dembowski. The school and parents can’t wait for another successful year in September.

her





News from St. Philip Elementary School

By Sofia Gallo – Bubula, Teacher

We celebrated the school year end with an Italian style lunch for our Grades 4, 5 and 6 students. The students spoke in Italian to order their food. It was a great event to finally all be together. As our grade 6 students embark onto the next chapter of their academic journey, we have presented them with a certificate at the Grade Six Farewell to remember their Italian language learning at St. Philip School. We wish them all the best!



News from the Czech Heritage Language Society of Edmonton

The end of school year at Czech Heritage Language Society of Edmonton

By Jitka Storoschuk, Principal

Last few months at Czech school were busy as the whole school year. We celebrated Easter in April. Czech Easter traditions are unique and popular, and we want children at our school to learn about them. Like in many other countries, coloring, and decorating eggs to celebrate Easter is one of the most common traditions. There are many different techniques, some of which require lot of skills. The decorated



eggs are called “kraslice”. Days before Easter Monday have mostly religious character. On Easter Monday little children and men go caroling to friends and neighbors’ houses. They sing a carol and use “pomlázka”, a braided whip made from young pussywillow twigs that is used to symbolically spank



girls and women on their legs. For many foreigners this is a very unusual tradition, but it goes back long ago, and it should bring good health to whipped girls and women and to keep them look young. Women give men decorated eggs, children also get fruits and sweets in the baskets for singing Easter carols. Many families bake a cake in a shape of a lamb or sweet Easter bread with raisins and almonds called “mazanec”. The wheat berries are planted in flowerpots days before the Easter so beautiful green grass has time to grow and beautify homes. In April we were also

learning about our planet Earth and how to protect the environment as we celebrated the Earth Day.

“Pálení čarodějnic” – Burning the witches is celebrated last day of April in the Czech Republic and it is a lot of fun. The witches represent the bad and dark period of winter and by burning them on huge bonfires people say goodbye to the grey days and are happy to welcome spring. At our school we made witches out of paper, and we learned how to fly on the broom, import skill for every witch. Last day of school year we celebrated by coloring a paper Czech flag and by playing games. Kids were given a word report with a few photos of the fun we have had during the school year. We also made a report for parents to make it more fun. Parents were evaluated on how they use Czech language at Czech school, if they bring their kids on time and other funny things. There was one more day full of wonderful experiences! In cooperation with SUV, another Czech organization in Edmonton, we went to Fort Edmonton Park to celebrate International Children’s Day. We made beaded bracelets in an indigenous culture program, played games to learn names of our new friends from SUV and explore the whole park. We at Czech school are proud and happy that we can share Czech customs and traditions and that we can met other people from Czech community in Edmonton. We are looking forward to a new school year and all the amazing things we will learn again.



News from the Filipino Language and Culture School of Edmonton



Our students were busy finishing up their projects and have started their festival season participation.

The students performed at the Edmonton Filipino Fiesta on June 18th. Rain or shine, the high school students performed their Rondalla instruments and started the festival with the singing of the national anthems; Canadian and Philippine national anthems. The



elementary students performed a dance called Nasudi. The students, staff and parents also participated at the Fiesta parade.

Students will continue to showcase their culture at the Filipino Trade and Expo at WEM and at the mainstage of the Philippine pavilion during Heritage days.

Students joined in the LINGAP Canada World Environment Art contest and their art works were presented at the International World Environment Day Conference. Congratulations to our students who won the art contest:



Senior High School:
Gemikalyn Isla

Junior high school:
Janzel Anareta - 3rd place
Ethan Gunther
Daniel Gunther

Elementary:
Kate Espinoza



We conclude our year with a year end celebration on June 26, 2022.



We will return to school on September 18 for our High School credit class and September 25 for elementary and junior high school levels. Have a great summer!

News Release - Recognizing Newcomer Successes



News release

Recognizing newcomer successes

June 10, 2022

Alberta is launching the Newcomer Recognition Awards to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of immigrants in this province.

Newcomers contribute to Alberta's economic recovery and cultural diversity by taking active roles in their communities, schools and workplaces, and by starting their own businesses. The Alberta Newcomer Recognition Awards will honour these achievements to show appreciation for newcomers and inform people about the ways newcomers make our neighbourhoods, schools and economy more diverse and inclusive.

"Newcomers make invaluable contributions to our society. As Alberta's government continues to attract, welcome and retain immigrants through the Alberta Advantage Immigration Strategy, it is important to show newcomers that we see and appreciate the ways in which they add value to our cultural fabric, strengthen our economy and enrich our communities."

Kaycee Madu, Minister of Labour and Immigration

Nominations are open until July 24, and anyone can nominate a newcomer who has enriched this province through volunteer activities, leadership, innovation in business, contributions to their academic or professional field, and actions to help build a more inclusive province. A broad range of award categories are available to recognize the accomplishments of youth, women, seniors, entrepreneurs, academics, workers and community builders.

"I have the privilege of meeting with newcomers across this province, and I am constantly inspired by their determination, creativity and resilience. I encourage people to nominate a newcomer who makes a difference in this province. Through these awards, we will raise the profile of newcomers and the role they play in making Alberta a prosperous and welcoming place."

Muhammad Yaseen, Associate Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism

Related information

Newcomer Recognition Awards

Multimedia* (optional)

[View the event photo](#)

[Listen to the news conference](#)

[Watch the news conference](#)

*Will be available after the event

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Classification: Protected A



News release

By launching the Alberta Newcomer Recognition Awards, Alberta's government is continuing to take action on multiculturalism and anti-racism by encouraging cultural communities to share their stories and successes across Alberta.

The awards program is one of many ways the government is supporting newcomers to call Alberta home and combatting racism. Through the Fairness for Newcomers Office, Alberta is getting newcomers back to work quicker by eliminating barriers to recognizing foreign credentials – helping people leverage their education and experience to reach their full potential.

As part of Alberta's Recovery Plan, the government is also creating more opportunities for people to come to Alberta, settle in communities, start businesses and create more jobs. Through two new immigration streams, the government is also helping revitalize rural Alberta by removing barriers and setting the building blocks to welcome job-creating immigrants to local communities.

Quick facts

- Nominations are open until July 24.
- The awards include nine categories: Small Communities Enhancement Award, Inclusive Workplaces Award, Entrepreneurial Spirit Award, Young Leader Award, Newcomer Champion Award, Career and Academics Contribution Award, Student Inspiration Award, Women Newcomer Impact Award and Senior Spirit Award.
- Nominations must be submitted through an online portal.
- To be eligible, nominees must:
 - be an individual (not a group or organization)
 - have not been a past award recipient for a similar Government of Alberta award
 - have been born outside Canada (but can have lived in Canada for many years)
 - be a permanent resident or Canadian citizen
 - have no criminal conviction for which a pardon has not been received
 - not be an elected official
 - reside in Alberta at the time of nomination
 - have made contributions to Alberta

The logo for Alberta's Recovery Plan, featuring the text "ALBERTA'S RECOVERY PLAN" in white, bold, uppercase letters inside a white-bordered square on a dark blue background. A yellow and white graphic element is positioned to the right of the square.

**ALBERTA'S
RECOVERY
PLAN**

Alberta's Recovery Plan is a plan to breathe new life into Alberta's economy and create new opportunities for every Albertan. It's a plan to build, to diversify, and to create jobs.



***Preserving the Past and Present,
By Lesia Perritt,***

I am a volunteer Principal of the Ukrainian Language Classes for Adults, sponsored by St. Andrew's Ladies' Auxiliary, of which I am a member. St. Andrew's Ladies' Auxiliary is a Branch of the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada (UWAC). I was invited by IHLA President, Antonella Cortese, to outline the additional volunteer responsibility I have taken on, most importantly around the preservation of historical documents telling the stories of Ukrainians who have come to Canada. But first, some background.

Following the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1918, Ukraine was declared independent as the Ukrainian People's Republic (UPR) or Ukrainian National Republic (UNR) between 1917 and 1920. Historical events of the time were complicated and chaotic. In 1922, Bolsheviks gained power over the territory, and it became a part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Ukrainian immigrants, many who had previously arrived in Canada with Austrian-Hungarian passports, saw an urgent need to collaborate and work together to preserve their Ukrainian heritage in their chosen land.

The Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada (UWAC) was formed in 1926 uniting Ukrainian women in many Branches across Canada. Among its objectives were to retain the Ukrainian language and cultural heritage, encourage education, as well as contribute to Canadian society through adherence to its laws and responsibilities. Nationwide, Ukrainian immigrants funded networking opportunities by building churches, community halls, reading rooms, publishing Ukrainian newspapers and books, and contributing to society at large.

Following a recent term as the National President of UWAC, I volunteered to make a concerted effort to gather the records of the organization in a central location. Since 2019, I have been serving as the Archives Convener for the UWAC National Executive. My small committee and I are processing 96 years of documents demonstrating the activities of the organization, which also includes records of dissolved Branches from rural villages. It is a daunting task; however, the decades of ongoing work of Ukrainian women must be preserved in the history of Canada. Who would know that among their other initiatives during WWII, the members of UWAC raised funds and purchased an ambulance for use in England? There are thousands of documents demonstrating

the work and achievements of the women of the past, and of current members who belong to this organization.

Preservation of archived history is of critical importance to accurately describe the conditions and activities of peoples wherever they reside. Following the February 24, 2022, invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces, Euromaidan Press reported that eastern Ukraine has suffered massive destruction of schools, universities, archival buildings, libraries, and museums. A sample weblink follows.

[Russian "military police" destroy Ukrainian books and archives \(euromaidanpress.com\)](https://euromaidanpress.com)

In Chernihiv Oblast in Ukraine, Russian occupiers have “destroyed the Secret Service archives, which documented Soviet repressions against Ukrainians.” This was reported by the Ministry of Justice, citing the head of the State Archival Service of Ukraine, Anatoliy Khromov.

“From the first day of the war, we have been working to ensure that sanctions are applied to the Rosarchiv. The State Archives Service of Ukraine has written an appeal to the International Council on Archives,” Khromov said.

In response to destruction of archival documents in Ukraine, the University of Alberta launched the following initiative on March 11, 2022.

U-ART: Ukraine - Archives Rescue Team was launched on March 11, 2022, as a Canadian emergency response initiative coordinated at the University of Alberta by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Kule Folklore Centre, and Kule Institute for Advanced Studies. The goal of the initiative is to provide data backups for Ukrainian archival institutions, research institutions, individual scholars in all disciplines.

Following is a link for this initiative.

[Ukraine - Archives Rescue Team | Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore \(ualberta.ca\)](https://ualberta.ca)

A final comment to all schools of heritage languages in Canada. It is our responsibility to ensure that the history of our cultural experience is preserved. Perhaps some of you, and many of your ancestors came to Canada to escape political oppression or economic hardships in your motherland or elsewhere. The documents of your organization, its official meetings, decision-making processes, and activities become your archival history. It tells an ongoing story of a unique culture that deserves to be preserved within the Canadian mosaic.

~How you can continue to help~

Hope Love Restoration Unity

Please visit the Ukrainian Canadian Congress for the latest updates regarding help needed in the Ukraine, news, and other matters in relation to the crisis.

[Home - The Ukrainian Canadian Congress \(UCC\) official website](#)

~Follow us on social media~



Please follow us on our Instagram @edmontonihla and International Heritage Language Association our Facebook page for more updates.

~ Professional Development 2022-2023 and important dates ~

(Please check our website www.ihla.ca for updates as well as our Facebook page)

** Please make sure to register for workshops so that you are able to have access to that PD session**

*** Please make sure you check your emails for details about registration for 2022 / 2023

Register



- Indigenous Land acknowledgement statement building (Oct)
- Writers workshop for heritage language resource acquisition (Oct)
- Alberta education - Locally developed curriculum (TBC)
- Olenka Bilash upcoming research-based lecture (TBC)

!!FIRST PRINCIPAL'S MEETING – 21, Sep 2022

!!! 2022/2023 REGISTRATION SOON

~ CAREER DEVELOPMENT ~

Education Assistant Diploma

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Do you like making meaningful differences in children's lives by touching their lives? Are you interested in working with exceptional learners? Then education assistant profession is just for you. Educational Assistants are valued members of the school team. Educational assistants are assigned to assist with programming for students who have been identified as having exceptional educational needs under the Education Act. Working under the principal, with the guidance of the School Based Team and classroom teacher in consultation with Special Programs Consultants, Educational Assistants assist classroom teachers in the implementation of Individualized Education Plans.

Education is the real path of a bright future and a good life because good education gives us the knowledge and understanding of life. It is because of this reason that Glenbow College prepares you for the diverse needs of exceptional learners by providing “both theoretical and practical education”. Glenbow College provides you “updated knowledge” by academic experienced instructors and at the same time enables you “hands on learning” with a practical approach.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Education Assistant (EA) diploma program at Glenbow College has two tiers, theoretical and practical education. Students at EA program will start with schooling history in Alberta. Then IT literacy module comes for learning the fundamentals of IT tools and software needed for education. To enable our students with high accuracy in their future profession, Glenbow College provides Effective Communication Skills module. The rest of the program is as follows: Positive Behaviour Support; Crisis Prevention and Intervention; Classroom Management; Children and Their Development; Language and Self Development in Children; Teaching Students with Special Needs; Tech Tools for Students with Learning Disabilities; Observation-Field Trip; Readiness for Career; First Aid/CPR; Practicum

PROGRAM DURATION

Theory on site 540 hours.

Practice at workplace (Co-op Work Experience) 180 hours.

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

Education Assistant Program at Glenbow College is licensed under the Private Career Colleges Branch of Alberta Advanced Education. Find out more by visiting the [Private career colleges | Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/private-career-colleges).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

An Alberta Secondary School Diploma or equivalent (supported by transcript) *; or be at least 18 years of age or older and pass an entry test

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The graduates have lots of opportunities of employment in public, private, independent schools and education/teaching settings such as: early intervention programs; kindergarten to grade 12 all schools; after-school programs; post-secondary schools; childcare centres; summer camps and day programs; home-schooling environments; parent link centres, native liaison or other social services in in which educational programs are offered and more!

GLENBOW COLLEGE DIFFERENCE

Education assistant program is a high in demand program because the need for education assistants increases day by day due to the rise in students with exceptionalities. While studying your major diploma program at Glenbow College, accelerate or expand your career with an extra certificate in Non-Violent Crises Intervention Program which will be a great asset for you. Glenbow College gives you an opportunity to study a certificate program directly related to your career in the future. Don't settle for less while you have more at Glenbow College. International practicum*opportunity for new beginnings and endless possibilities is

waiting for you at Glenbow College. Book an information session to learn the unique opportunities and different schedule options waiting for you at Glenbow College.

Student Aid

To find out more about this program's eligibility for student aid please visit [Education Assistant - Glenbow College: Post-Secondary Programs in Alberta - alis](#).

~Free Indigenous Courses at University of Alberta~



Indigenous Canada is a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting

national and local Indigenous-settler relations. Topics for the 12 lessons include the fur trade and other exchange relationships, land claims and environmental impacts, legal systems and rights, political conflicts and alliances, Indigenous political activism, and contemporary Indigenous life, art and its expressions. (University of Alberta website)

For more information about the course and to enrol, please follow the link below:

[Indigenous Canada | Coursera](#)

~Being a member in good standing~

To be an IHLA member in good standing your school needs to a) complete a registration form, b) pay IHLA membership fees, c) participate at MLD through a table (and a book or presentation), d) volunteer at IHLA fundraising events, and e) participate in at least 3 IHLA sponsored professional development sessions.