

2016

Annual Report



To be presented at the Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, June 27, 2017

WHERE THE
NATIONS
MEET

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ALC 2017 Budget (FY January to December)
LINC 2017 Budget (FY April to March)

WHERE THE
NATIONS
MEET

General Business

MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

Mission Statement

To demonstrate God's unconditional love to our new neighbours by meeting their need for English language and acculturation training through high quality interactive instruction in an accepting and affirming atmosphere.

Organization Background

Agape Language Centre (ALC) began in 1997 with the goal to help new immigrants improve their English language, understand Canadian culture, make new friends and feel more at home in Canada. To accomplish this over the past 20 years Agape Language Centre work with a mix of experienced teachers and volunteers who empower our new neighbours and facilitate their integration into Canadian Society in Calgary.

We do this by ...

Providing a safe friendly environment where relationships can be establish with student and teacher, student and student and student and their new community.

Providing excellent Language training through ESL Classes, LINC Programs and electives.

Providing events which give students opportunity to strengthen and develop new friendships.

Providing opportunity to students to discover God's love through programs like ESL Bible Studies.

General Business

MEETING AGENDA | JUNE 2017

1. Devotion and Prayer
 2. Call to Order
 - a. Recording secretary
 - b. Introduction of Board members and Director
 - c. Minutes of MAY 2016 AGM
 3. Chairman's Report
 4. Executive Director's Report
 5. Financial Report
 6. Budget Presentation
 7. Appointment of Auditor
 8. Nomination and Election of Board members
 9. Additional Business
- Close in prayer and Adjournment

General Business

AGM 2016 MINUTES | May 30, 2016

Present: Pastor Noral Woodburn, Preston Medd, Janet Medd, Michele Woodburn, Karen Kajorinne, Jonathan Durand, Kevin Kajorinne, Jane Lowry, Alex Lykshosherstova, Debbie Alexander Thomas, Connie Serrant, Marlin Adhikary

Absent: Dale Backstrom, Diana Ospina

Kevin welcomed everyone.

Doug Lockhart opened in prayer

Jane Lowry recording secretary for the evening.

Everyone introduced themselves to each other as there were a few people that did not know each other.

Approval of 2014 AGM Meeting Minutes: Jonathan moved, Connie seconded. All agreed.

REPORTS

BOARD CHAIRMAN – Kevin Kajorinne –Kevin read his report. He moved to have it accepted, Jonathan seconded and all were in favor.

DIRECTORS REPORTS – Pastor Noral Woodburn - Noral did not read his report but he did elaborate on it a little. He is very thankful to the Lord for what He is doing here at Agapé with the new immigrants. The atmosphere here is 'unique'. We go the extra mile. We are so thankful for the presence of God. Noral moved to accept his report. Jane seconded. All in favor.

AUDITOR REPORT – Jonathan noted how the reports read from the auditor. Retzlaff & Wong auditors found that Agapé was all in compliance with 'not-for-profit' organizations. Jonathan moved to accept his report. Jane seconded. All in favor.

BUDGETS The budgets were moved by Noral and Karen seconded. All were in favor. Janet asked about the big differences in last years and this year's salaries. Noral spoke about donations received from individuals from Westside Calgary Alliance Church and Chinese Pentecostal Church for ESL classes for Syrian refugees. Volunteers from these churches will also be coming to help out at Agapé. These classes are for refugees while they are waiting for lower level LINC classes to begin at our school.

AGM 2016 MINUTES | May 30, 2016 // Page 2

AUDITORS – Kevin moved. Noral seconded. All in favor to keep Retzlaff & Wong as the auditor.

BOARD NOMINATIONS – Debbie Alexander Thomas – background in human resources / good person for ALC at this time / BP Church member / non-profit background

All in favor to become a member.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Noral is putting in another proposal next week for more funding to use the East campus for more LINC classes
- Outgoing members for 2015: Dale Backstrom, Doug Lockhart, Karen Kajorinne, Joanna Lau
- Current members Kevin Kajorinne, Jonathan Durand, Connie Serrant, Diana Ospina, Abraham Phillip, Debbie Alexander Thomas, Alex Lyksherstova
- Consultant – June 18 – All members to attend from 12 to 1 pm if they can please -as a part of the community outreach team

We all prayed for Nataliya – the CLB 4 morning teacher who will be having surgery this month and will be off for recovery for 6 to 8 weeks.

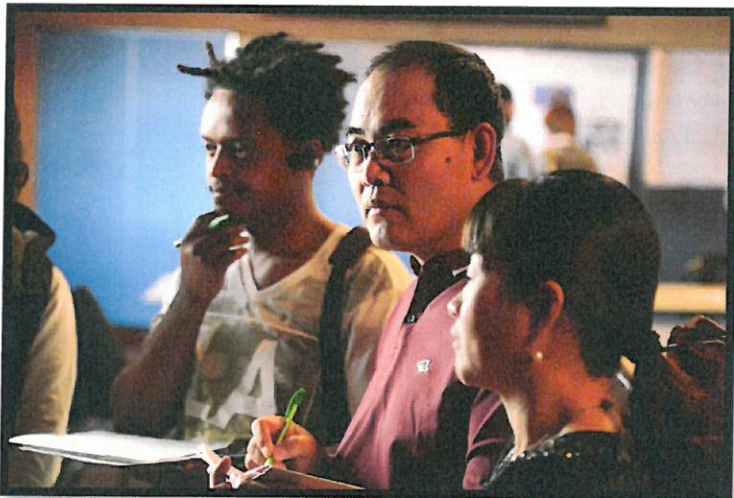
Kevin closed in prayer.

Reports

DIRECTORS REPORT

Michele and I are humbled to be called by God to be part of the leadership team here at Agape. When we arrived in September 2013 I could not have imagine the type of journey we would be engaged in through our service in Agape Language Centre.

Agape has been mandated to demonstrate God's unconditional love to new Canadians through ESL instruction and settlement training in an affirming and accepting atmosphere". Every day we have the opportunity to make this possible. This year we have been given an incredible team of teachers who not only instruct the students but care about them as they take steps to settle in Canada. This was especially true to those who worked with the Syrian Refugees. This year we also experienced incredible growth because of the additional funding for the Syrian initiative at Agape paving the way for additional instructors. As a ministry we are thankful for the great men and women that God has sent our way as English instructors to New Canadians.



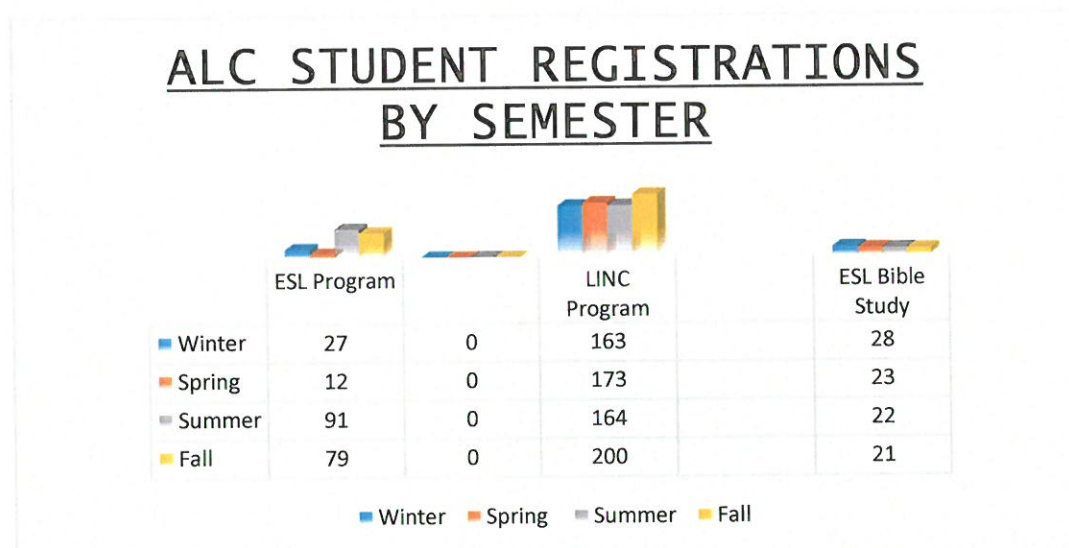
It has been a privilege for Agapé Language Center to partner with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) who completely funded LINC education to our new neighbours since 2000. Agapé also continue to develop additional valuable partnerships which help new Canadians to understand the Canadian culture. Our partners help to interact with the students through specialized workshops. Some of our partnerships include, Calgary Police Services, Calgary Public Library, Calgary

Immigrant Women's Association (CIWA), Civic Engagement and Momentum. Along with the classes, Agapé also offers opportunity for students to interact with their community through events such as the Agapé Christmas potluck, Easter Egg Hunt, Calgary Historic sites, Aggie Days and the Celebration of Chinese New Year

Reports

DIRECTORS REPORT

I would like to thank those who serve on the board and volunteer their time on behalf of the ministry; Board Chair - Kevin Kajorinne, Treasurer - Jonathan Durand, Connie Serrant, Debbie Alexander and Abraham Phillip. These men and women have captured the heart of the ministry of Agapé. I want to acknowledge our admin team Jane Lowry, Victoria Arroyave, Taylor Woodburn and Marlin Adhikary for their dedication to the ministry. We also want to thank Janet and Preston Medd for their commitment to the Sunday Night ESL Bible Study, and for Michele Woodburn and her team for leading Conversation Café.



Jane Lowry who has worked at Agape over the past 20 years writes:

I thank God every morning for my job at Agapé. There couldn't be a more perfect place to come to everyday and have the opportunity to meet so many amazing people from around the world and to be able to share God's love with them!"

To all the generous donors of Agapé Language Centre, we are grateful for your prayer partnership and your financial support, Thank you! Thank you BP Church for your continued support and the many volunteer hours.

Michele and I are here to serve in the Lord, Pastor Mark, the pastoral team and this congregation. Please continue to pray as we continue to rely on the Holy Spirit in our personal and professional lives.

Noral Woodburn | Director

Reports

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Agape Language Centre has been providing English as a second language for new Canadians for almost 20 years! ALC is a place that welcomes, empowers, and embraces our new neighbours that have made Calgary their new home.

We have been blessed with a professional and caring team of teachers who provide classroom instruction and support to our students each semester. Many thanks for the time you invest in our new neighbours.

On behalf of the ALC Board, I would like to thank Pastor Noral Woodburn for faithfully directing the ministry of Agape Language Centre through his hard-work, passion, commitment, and dedication to all those he serves.

A special thanks to the administrative team made up of Jane Lowry, Gordon Wong, Taylor Woodburn, Katherina Otomewo, Marlin Adhikary and Victoria Arroyave. Your commitment and hard-work in managing the day-to-day operations are greatly appreciated.

We are also very grateful to BP Church, donors, and to IRCC for their financial support in providing ESL and LINC classes in 2016. This past year we provided English instruction to Syrian refugees who recently arrived with the financial support from several churches. As well, thanks to the many volunteers that dedicate their gifts and time in providing the life skills classes, ESL and Chinese Bible studies. You are all a valuable asset to the organization.

Finally, I would like to thank the current and past members of the board: Debbie Alexander Thomas, Jonathan Durand, Abraham Philip, Connie Serrant, Alex Lykosherstova, Dale Backstrom, Doug Lockhart, Diana Ospina and Karen Kajorinne. Your faith, dedication and direction you offer to manage the affairs of ALC are greatly appreciated. It's a great privilege and blessing serving with you.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Kajorinne

Reports

LINC REPORT

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada | Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada funded the LINC (*Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada*) classes. This year we averaged 280 returning student registrations and 248 new students for a total of 528 students in our continuous LINC Program. We continue to offer four semesters each year of English Language training for students from around the globe desiring to learn English. ILVARC (*Immigrant Language and Vocational Assessment and Referral Centre*) referred the LINC students. A semester at Agape Language Centre lasts 12 weeks.

Through additional funding from IRCC this year we were able to offer classes to the Syrian Refugees. During 2016 Agape introduced 6 additional classes to the already 10 classes provided for clients providing a total of 16 LINC classes ranging from Literacy to CLB 5 every Monday to Friday mornings, afternoons and Tuesday and Thursday Evenings.

Agape Language Centre is honored that we had the opportunity of meeting the needs of our new neighbours who have traveled from Syria, China, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, Venezuela, and Columbia in 2016.

Special events are part of the learning experience that students have come to expect when attending Agape Language Centre. The events are planned primarily to help students become more familiar with Canadian culture while they learn English.

Some of the activities were:

- At the end of each semester students participated in a celebration. Students were encouraged to bring traditional dishes to share with their classmates. They also participated in playing Canadian group games that involved using their English skills.
- Our students along with their children joined the “Teddy Bear Picnic” event where representatives from the NE and NW Calgary communities set up booths, exchanged important information and provided games for children. Representatives from the community included the library, police, fire, and health care department. This is a great event for parents of young children.



Reports

LINC REPORT

Guest speakers are also an important part of the student learning experience. Agape invited guest speakers to the school each semester to present to the clients and provide them with an opportunity to connect with important resources for their settlements. Depending on the guest all the classes may be combined, or group by levels. Agape provides a display of current settlement resources for the students. Some of our partners were:

- **Momentum:** Focused on our Banking institution, Credit, budgeting and RRSP
- **Employment Canada:** Focused on job search, interviewing skill and resume development
- **Calgary Workers Resource Centre:** Focused on Occupational Health, Safety and Human Rights
- **CIWA:** Focused on Employment standards and Insurance
- **Calgary Fire Department:** focused on Fire Safety
- **Calgary Police Service:** Focused on Calgary Laws, driving rules and protocols, reporting an accident etc.
- **Alberta Health Service:** Focused Health insurance, the culture of the Canadian Health system.
- **CIC Citizenship Judge:** Focused on preparing for Canadian Citizenship and application process
- **Safeway:** Discussed gaining employment in retail
- **Banks:** Focus on topics relating to banking, investments mortgagee

Field Trips help students interact within the non-immigrant community here in Calgary.

Some of the trips or activities were to:

- Library
- Aggie Days
- City Hall
- Tours at the Fire Hall
- Calgary Stampede
- GlenBow park

Agape Language Centre recognizes the importance of networking with other organizations and to keep abreast of government updates within the LINC Program. Throughout the year I attended LINC Coordinators and the ILCVARC Advisory Committee meetings. These meetings were very informative as changes to LINC programs and updates were often discussed.

Respectively Submitted

Rev. Noral Woodburn

