PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED TO STANDARDIZE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION FOR NEWCOMERS TO CANADA

We, the undersigned Ontario Certified English Language Teachers (OCELTs) draw the attention of the House to the following:

THAT, since Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) removed the Teach English as a Second Language (TESL) accreditation requirement from its funding agreement with the federally funded Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) programs in Ontario in October 2013, some service providers have chosen to hire individuals who lack TESL training. TESL accredited English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers have gone through extensive training and practicum, have completed the federally funded Portfolio-Based Language Assessment (PBLA) trainings, and are required to engage in a variety of professional development activities every year. Federally funded programs (including LINC) all over Canada are required to hire instructors with the highest level of certification available in their province, of which the TESL Ontario Certificate of Accreditation fulfills this criteria.

THAT, the current practices fail to deliver high quality language instruction to newcomers participating in federally-funded programs in Ontario;

THAT, these changes underestimate OCELTs, highly trained professionals who are strongly committed to serving the newcomers to Canada and take pride in their field of expertise, accreditation, and professional designation;

THAT, it brings up significant language teaching inconsistencies to federally-funded programs in Ontario;

THAT, as TESL Ontario accreditation has been recognized as the certification standard by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (OMCI), the removal of this requirement from IRCC's funding agreement has led to double standard for adult ESL teachers and LINC teachers working for the same employer;

THAT, there are over 4,500 TESL Ontario Accredited Teachers with the necessary knowledge and skills to provide high quality language instruction to newcomers to Ontario

THEREFORE, your petitioners call upon the Government to ensure the high quality of language instruction to newcomers to Canada by having IRCC to:

1. Reinstate the funding agreement that requires the federally-funded language instruction programs to hire only TESL Ontario accredited teachers
2. Designate LINC Instructors in a National Occupational Classification.

NAME	SIGNATURE (Mandatory)	FULL ADDRESS with POSTAL CODE (Mandatory)	EMAIL