



## Get on board the Avenue Bus!

### FREE Learning Technology Professional Development for IRCC & MLITSD-funded language training programs.

*Instructor preparation to deliver online or blended learning & a comprehensive learning management platform for settlement language learning.*



### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS:

The LearnIT2teach Project is supported by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) to offer LINC, CLIC and Ontario Adult Language Training (ALT) instructors and managers the tools and training to integrate Technology-enhanced language learning (TELL) into their courses and programs. Threaded throughout the training are the recently released Avenue Learner, Instructor and Program Standards for TELL. Live Help in-service support is available to all.

Instructors also have support from an expert personal mentor as they progress through the training.



Screen from avenue.ca.

Since 2010 New Language Solutions (NLS) has operated the **LearnIT2teach Project** for the benefit of IRCC-sponsored language instructors. From 2017 to 2023 NLS also administered a web teaching and learning portal at Onyx.ca combined with instructor training for Ontario government funded Adult ESL and FSL programs. In September 2023, these Ontario programs gained access to the Avenue portal and the LearnIT2teach professional development.

Funded by:

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PLEASE EMAIL [admin@learnit2teach.ca](mailto:admin@learnit2teach.ca)

OR CALL (TOLL FREE) 1-855-522-2221 for further information.

[www.newlanguage.ca](http://www.newlanguage.ca)

## Training hours/modified training format

We have streamlined the training to improve completion of instructor preparation as editors of their Avenue courses. We encourage service provider organizations (SPOs) and school boards to request resources for paid release time so instructors are compensated for the extra effort to become proficient with the system. The pay-off for all concerned is more effective, efficient, modern language training. Your organization needs to consider not just the initial training of your instructors, but ongoing needs as new hires come on board.

**Technology is the mediating force at the core of modern language teaching and learning.**

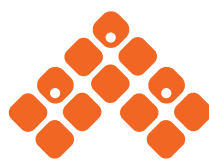
## Avenue Instructor Bootcamp course

The Bootcamp will require 3–4 hours to complete. After completing this course, LINC, CLIC and Ontario ALT instructors will have the option of stopping and staying in the Instructor (non-editing) role. This role allows them to manage and facilitate courses they create with the Course Builder, but not add or change any content. The Bootcamp takes place online and introduces the LearnIT2teach approach to blended and online learning. Participants are oriented to teaching on Avenue. The Bootcamp emphasizes how to use the PBLA-aligned eUnits and modules, manage a course and its learners, and how to use the ePortfolio.

The course is completed by working through interactive learning objects and a series of software simulations focussing on the requisite knowledge and skills instructors need to start deploying the courseware and using it with students.

**You have control over how far you go, but our team will support you all the way. Every Stage offers opportunities to broaden your skills for the digital age.**

**Certificates of completion will be offered at the end of each training course.**



**NEW LANGUAGE SOLUTIONS**

Founded in 1984, New Language Solutions is a registered charity, governed and operated by ESL – FSL educators. We are committed to sharing and collaboration with all professionals in the Canadian newcomer settlement language training sector. We operate The Avenue – LearnIT2teach Project for the benefit of IRCC and MLITSD-funded language training instructors, learners and programs.

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## Avenue.ca:

- Custom training developed for language instructors using Avenue.ca to deliver blended and online language classes
- Online, self-directed training with increasing complexity to match interest, skills and teaching assignments of individual participants
- Flexible delivery: Instructors can start and complete training courses at their convenience.
- Training (and support) for instructors, administrators, PBLA lead teachers, curriculum developers, supply teachers, stakeholders and TESL students
- Completion of four-hour bootcamp course allows instructors to setup and facilitate a course comprised of ready-made PBLA-aligned eUnits
- Stages 2, 3 and 4 build participants' digital teaching skills and include a dedicated mentor
- Supports include a live help desk, and coming in 2024 a custom Avenue chat bot for just-in-time offline support
- Develops 21st century instructor transferrable skills
- Training in Moodle, a world-class, widely-used open source learning management system
- Certificates of completion for all training courses
- TESL Ontario recognized: annual recertification PD hours for all training; Post TESL Certificate Training eligibility for Stage 3 and Stage 4
- In-person sessions available on request



### Transition to Stage 2 course

Building on the *Bootcamp* course, the one-hour *Transition to Stage 2* course prepares instructors to become course editors, so they can benefit from their new permissions when they enter Stage 2.

### Avenue Basics for Supply Instructors course

Supply instructor training has been available from LearnIT2teach since 2022. It requires about 3 – 3.5 hours to complete and prepares supply instructors to facilitate another instructor's course in the Instructor (non-editing) role.

### Transition to Stage 2 for Avenue-trained Supply Instructors course

This 90-minute course gives temporary instructors who completed the *Avenue Basics for Supply Instructors* course the opportunity to enter Stage 2 and manage their own course without having to restart the training.

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## STAGE 2

### Stage 2 converted to Micro-credentials

Much of Stage 2 represents a practicum where the instructor is putting the Avenue platform to work with their learners. Of the 15–18 hours of effort required to complete Stage 2, five to eight hours represent time on instruction (lesson planning/delivery) that the instructor would be doing in any case, and about 10 hours is time dedicated purely to professional development.

The focus of Stage 2 is on adapting the courseware in blended or online learning. Upon entering this Stage, participants are assigned the editing teacher role in their courseware, and they start adapting it to their teaching contexts. Basic course editing is introduced in Stage 2. Tutela.ca integration requires participants to use an instructional resource from this site in their course delivery. Avenue's Technology Standards (2024) are explored and participants must complete several related tasks.

During 2024 the Stage 2 training is being re-developed as 'micro-credentials'. Rather than one large course, the stage will be divided into smaller units that may be more manageable for busy instructors. After completing each micro-credential a teacher is awarded a digital badge. On completing all the micro-credentials, the teacher will receive a certificate of completion.

## STAGE 3

Stage 3 builds on the participant's course editing skills, and it emphasizes using the courseware in ways that support best practices in settlement language training. Instructors in Stage 3 develop more advanced course editing skills. Participants have the option of choosing assessments related to blended delivery or fully online delivery. Participants must use the courseware with learners to complete Stage 3, and they are required to create an assessment that is used as an ePortfolio artifact. Tutela.ca offers over 400 SCORM and many H5P learning objects in its collection, and the Stage 3 training provides information about how to access these resources and use them in a course. This Stage continues to build the participants' knowledge and application of Avenue Standards for TELL (2024). Stage 3 offers TESL Ontario members a PTCT accreditation in "Online/Blended Language Training Using Moodle".

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## STAGE 4

In Stage 4 Instructors master the creation of their own e-activities and the skills needed to upload them to a digital repository (Tutela.ca) where they can be shared with other professionals across Canada.

- Participants build on their Stage 3 H5P authoring basics, and learn to create more advanced H5Ps.
- Familiarizes instructors with Web 2.0 tools that can be used in language instruction
- Provides an introduction to Hot Potatoes and TexToys software, enabling instructors of all levels to create interactive skill building activities using software designed specifically for language learning
- Introduces instructors to project-based learning and webquests
- Offers TESL Ontario members a PTCT accreditation in “Developing e-Materials for Language Training”

## Avenue Leadership Training

LearnIT2teach provides aspiring learning technology leaders with training resources to help them put the courseware to work in their programs and advance local learning technology innovation. The training is comprised of micro-credentials plus a capstone assignment. Four of the micro-credentials explore the new Avenue Learner, Instructor and Program Standards for TELL. Digital badges will be provided at the end of each micro-credential and a Certificate of Completion at the end of the training. These can be used as part of the PD requirements to maintain your TESL Ontario instructor accreditation. The capstone assignment asks participants to articulate a plan for enhancing their personal practice or influencing innovation in their service provider or school board.

LEARNIT2TEACH PD STAGE	PD Hours (Range)
Avenue Instructor Bootcamp	3 - 4
Transition to Stage 2	1
Avenue Basics for Supply Instructors	3 - 3.5
Transition to Stage 2 for Supply Instructors	1.5
Stage 2, Basic Editing Instructor	18
Stage 3, Advanced Editing Instructor	30
Stage 4. E-Learning Developer	30 - 35
Avenue Leadership	25 - 30

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## In-service Supports

- Live Help Synchronous Chat
- Avenue Chat bot for Just-in-time Support (2024)
- Webinars and webinar archive
- Videos, podcasts and articles
- Ongoing contact with an expert mentor
- Avenue Teacher-only Forum



## Human Resources Considerations

Ours is a Settlement Language Training (SLT) sector of passionate and committed adult educators. The positive things instructors do with their classes everyday reward and inspire all of us. Respecting the human side of employment in our sector, our project team aims to help instructors maintain a healthy work – life balance. For example, instructors have the option of stopping the PD after the Bootcamp and remaining in a non-editing role.

Instructors who are moderately proficient with editing their Avenue course (finished Stage 2) enjoy additional benefits related to collaboration among learners, engaging course content, resource sharing with peers and improvements to learner assessment and PBLA implementation.

Whether or not an instructor goes beyond the Bootcamp, we frequently hear that instructors who use the ready-made content on Avenue spend less time preparing lessons.

The Moodle learning management system also provides many tools to gather report data for sharing with learners, instructors and funders.

Our team works to provide a system with the e-Learning functionality, E-curriculum, PD and in-service support needed by learners, educators, providers and the funders. We aim to make instructors as effective and efficient as possible and help them sustain rewarding careers in our language learning and settlement sector.

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## Language Instructors

*“They like having a centralized location to find their materials and to store their portfolio artefacts. Many find it easy to use. Some who started with very weak tech skills say that it has given them confidence to be able to use a program like Avenue and various activities in it.”*

*“I sometimes struggle with technology, but thanks to the Bootcamp course and Live help, I can get started on Avenue. Maybe later I will move on in the training, but for now I can manage my course. I am thankful because my students like to use Avenue.”*

*“They like that they can access content at anytime of the day whether it is content they missed, recorded lessons on BBB, or reviewing lessons/having access to extra learning opportunities.”*

*“I enjoy the creativity of customizing my courseware, and I also enjoy the convenience of being able to reuse the work for each subsequent session of my class.”*

*“The eUnit Catalogue and Course Builder were a wonderful addition to Avenue. They give me more control of my course content, and I'm better able to meet my learners' needs. I can select topics with PBLA assessments and add them to my course at any time. This helps a lot with continuous intake.”*

*“I am so glad I discovered Avenue. It has lots of PBLA-aligned resources and it saves me time preparing classes. And the ePortfolio is the best way to collect and manage artifacts.”*

*“Avenue is a One-Stop Shop, so to speak. It offers a free LMS, excellent ready made resources, assessments and an e-portfolio, not to mention-Live Help. Grateful to all the webinars provided as well.”*

*“The LearnIT2teach provided me with a mentor who was infinitely patient and responded to all my queries and questions. The Stages are designed with ESL instructors in mind. It's very methodical, it's step-by-step, there's support every step of the way.”*

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## Language Program Managers

*“It helps me to define what I need in the 21st Century instructor. So the instructors who come with the skills or who are very willing to embrace the skills; that's the instructor I'm looking for now. Having instructors at all levels with comparable skills makes my job easier.”*

*“Every instructor who has embraced it has realized the benefits. There's a lot of work up front, but after that it's smooth sailing. All of them feel it helps them be more organized and deliver a more relevant message to the students.”*

*“The majority of students have advanced technological skills and this feels natural to them. It's what they want and it's what they need.”*

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## What Learners are telling Instructors

*“The learners say It gives them the opportunity to review, to listen, to take time to understand as often as they need and want.”*

*“Students like it because they can study and practice language at home and anytime, when They need it or want it. Also, they can backtrack to find information which they missed.”*

*“Students enjoy being able to share ideas with their classmates through the forums, and being able to see and benefit from their classmates' work.”*

*“Avenue reinforces the work done in class. It allows students who are absent for various reasons to stay in touch with class activities and tasks. Students feel in touch with the lessons, and they don't feel lost or confused when returning to class.”*

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