

# Identity Texts and Safe Spaces in EAL Classrooms: A Trauma-Informed Approach to Facilitating Literacy for Levels A-2



PRESENTED BY

**Carla Belanger**

SERIES SESSIONS

Date	Time
May 13, 2025	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM



LOCATION

**Online**

FEE

**\$20.00**

QUESTIONS?

Contact Us:

[crc.info@aplc.ca](mailto:crc.info@aplc.ca)[403-291-0967](tel:403-291-0967)

REGISTER ONLINE

Visit our website to register:

[crcpd.ab.ca](http://crcpd.ab.ca)

## Learning Opportunity

Target Audience: Gr 4-12 instructional leaders, pre-service teachers and teachers are encouraged to attend.

In this online session educators will explore the intersection of trauma-informed practices and culturally responsive teaching within the context of English as an Additional Language (EAL) instruction. Focusing on refugee and EAL students in the early benchmarks' levels, we will delve into the power of creating safe, supportive spaces where students can use their voices to share personal narratives through identity texts.

By blending trauma-informed teaching strategies with the rich cultural backgrounds of students, participants will consider how to foster resilience, encourage self-expression, and promote literacy growth with their students. This session will offer teaching strategies and unit ideas that could help teachers create environments where EAL students feel seen, heard, and empowered, while also enhancing their language and literacy skills.

Join us to discover how to integrate identity texts in a trauma-sensitive classroom to not only support academic growth, but also nurture emotional healing and a sense of belonging for our refugee and EAL students.

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## Presenters

**Carla Belanger**

Carla Belanger is a dedicated educator with over 20 years of experience teaching English as an Additional Language (EAL) to both adult learners and high school students at all proficiency levels. She was a high school EAL learning leader for 6 years, and for the past 12 years, Carla has been teaching in the high school LEAD program (Literacy, English, and Academic Development), which supports newcomer refugee youth with interrupted formal education. These students face unique challenges, including gaps in their education and the effects of trauma from war, poverty, or unsafe living conditions.

Passionate about fostering resilience and academic success, Carla specializes in creating inclusive, trauma-informed learning environments that empower students to overcome barriers and achieve their potential. In addition to classroom teaching, Carla facilitates professional development workshops to fellow educators, sharing strategies for working effectively with diverse learners and addressing the complex needs of students from refugee backgrounds. Carla's work is guided by a deep commitment to equity, empathy, and the transformative power of education.

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## Registration Notes

Session times are mountain time.

This session will be recorded and available for 30 days.



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