

ATEQ AWARD 2008

Each year ATEQ honors a member of the ELA and ATEQ community. The ATEQ award is presented at the Springboards annual conference.

On Monday, April 7, 2008, The Association of Teachers of English of Quebec proudly awarded Kevin Wright the coveted ATEQ award for an outstanding contribution to the field of English Language Arts in the Province of Quebec.

Kevin Wright has always worked tirelessly at the forefront and behind the scenes. When many think ATEQ, they think of the name Kevin Wright. Whether he was the unknown man's name on a document received from ATEQ, or the man behind a desk doling out bags at a Springboards conference, Kevin quietly works to bring ATEQ to the forefront. This year's owner of the ATEQ award exemplifies a lifetime achievement, a commitment beyond, a love of the English language, and dedication to the community at large.

Kevin started teaching in the Jerome LeRoy School Board in 1975, after receiving an elementary teaching certificate from St. Joseph Teachers' College in Quebec City; a Bachelor of Education in the Teaching of English from McGill University; and the McGill Reading Diploma/Certificate in Corrective Reading Instruction.

His early teaching career started at St. Enfant High School (Pointe aux Trembles). Because of school closings and redundancy, Kevin taught at various schools on and off the island of Montreal; General Vanier, Georges-Etienne Cartier, John Paul I (St. Leonard); Aime Renaud High School (Ville D'Anjou); St. Francois Xavier High School (La Prairie); Penfield Academy (Brossard); Chambly Academy, Riverside School Board, his present school.

He has been directly involved with the implementation of the International Baccalaureate Organization – Middle Years Programme (IBO MYP), as level leader and student mentor.

Throughout his years as a teacher, Kevin has demonstrated an uncanny understanding of the demands of the English Language Arts programs, and his role as educator and mentor. He has consistently expanded his views of curriculum both in terms of content and its applicability to students. It is the student who remains at the centre of Kevin's focus. It is the student who benefits directly from Kevin's astute and kindly nature for teaching every student, regardless of ability. Kevin will be the first to say that he may not reach each and every student – though it is not for lack of trying – but there is no doubt that Kevin has given his best to all concerned. The teaching profession is often without its obvious rewards, but Kevin has reaped its rewards in each and every student's smile at the end of the school year, and each returning alumnus who remembers a poem or story mentioned in passing in a classroom. Kevin has assumed his teaching duties and sought ways to interest and address the needs of an ever-changing student population. Kevin's commitment to his profession and charges are without parallel.

In addition to his role as classroom teacher, Kevin has been diligently and actively involved with the Association of Teachers of English of Quebec since 1986, serving on the Board of Directors and as a member of its steering board for many years, serving in various capacities, such as secretary, treasurer, chair of ATEQ, and recently, as liaison officer for NCTE. He has also held various positions on the steering committee of the long-standing ATEQ annual Springboards conference. He has served efficiently and knowledgeably on the Ministry of Education English Language Arts consultation committees for secondary schools; and various other committees within the ELA community.

As a practised educator, Kevin was also the ATEQ representative to the Quebec Secondary Language Arts Advisory Council (SLAAC) and chaired the meetings of SLAAC in its last years of existence. He was also part of a sub-committee of SLAAC, which put together an annotated bibliography for Language Arts. He has also served on validation committees for the reformed curriculum in Quebec; worked with the Ministry of Education to validate the English Language Arts Exam; and as a member of the Secondary IV English Language Arts exam committee of the Riverside School Board.

Always a fervent educator concentrating his efforts on the promotion of the English Language Arts programs in Quebec, Kevin has kept his focus on the well-being and success of his students.

It is our pleasure to acknowledge Kevin's contribution – a fitting tribute to an educator who has dedicated his life to the teaching profession – a long-standing pedagogical warrior.

Congratulations Kevin



Kevin Wright, Donna Lahache, President of ATEQ, Louise Bourque, Vice-President