

# 2011 TESL ONTARIO ESL WEEK CONTEST

## SHORT STORY ENTRY #1

### TITLE

A Hard Decision

Three years ago, there was a young family who was living in Quebec. Alex was doing the best he could to take care of his family. Working as a supervisor in natural site restoration on a wonderful conservation center on the south shore of Montreal, he was living a dream. His wife, Karine, had just received her diploma in translation and was about to begin a program in teaching to become an elementary school teacher. The only problem was to choose between a four years program in Quebec or an eight months program in Ontario before beginning to teach.

After spending their parental year thinking about it, they decided that Karine should study in Ontario even if she will miss and be missed by her family very much. When Karine started school, Alex began to think about the future. He knew that that is a hard process to become a teacher in Quebec and that his wife will probably have more opportunities in Ontario, especially with a diploma from this same province. On an other hand, Alex didn't want to quit his lovable job and all his family and friends. In addition, he was worried about living in an English province by fear of rejection.

Then months passed and Karine finished school with a brand new diploma. As she started looking for employment in both provinces, she received an offer for a permanency in a little town called Sarnia. Normally, permanency is unusual for a new teacher. However, Karine and Alex took few days to make their decision. They finally chose to go to Sarnia and let everything else behind. So Alex quit his employment and the young family jumped in their new life.

The first six months were very hard for them because Karine realized that to be a teacher was harder than she thought. She wasn't sure anymore if they took the right decision. Conversely, Alex comforted her and helped her in every ways he could thought even if he was fighting against his own sadness. Finally, after multiple efforts, Karine regained confidence and started enjoying her work very much. Then Alex took some time for himself thinking about his career possibilities and his future in the region.

It's been a year now that they are living into Sarnia and they are very happy. They loved the region and couldn't think about returning to their old life. When they think about their adventure, they realize that the worst in that kind of situations is to make the move because when someone gains this courage, he understand that he can do anything.