

Appendix 2: The AECEA Board

AECEA Board Members, 2017–2018

Manna Middleton, Chair

Manna Middleton is an accomplished early childhood educator with 24 years of experience in the field, including 15 years as the director of an early learning and child care program. She has held terms as a member of the Alberta Early Learning and Care Leaders Caucus and as president of the Child Care Directors Association of Southwest Alberta. Manna was the co-chair of the Lethbridge County Early Child Development Mapping Project. She served as an advisory committee member and pilot project participant for Alberta's early learning and child care curriculum framework.

Carol Sullivan, Vice-Chair

With 38 years of experience in the field, Carol Sullivan has logged extensive front-line time with children and their families. Carol holds a master's in family ecology and practice as well as an early childhood development diploma. She has taught in MacEwan University's Early Childhood Development Program, served as a mentor for the Alberta Resource Centre for Quality Enhancement and managed numerous early childhood and family support programs. Carol is currently the early childhood services director at the Terra Centre for Teen Parents.

Dr. Susan Garrow-Oliver, Secretary

Susan Garrow-Oliver has been a leader in Alberta's early childhood education scene for more than 26 years. As an associate professor in Mount Royal University's Child Studies and Social Work department, she has a hands-on role in developing leaders and strengthening the early childhood education profession. Susan's research interests include

leadership, social justice advocacy, ethical practice, critically reflective practice and communities of learning.

Patricia MacDonald, Treasurer

Patricia MacDonald has more than 39 years of front-line and consulting experience in early childhood education, day care, family day homes and child intervention. She has worked in Nova Scotia, Ontario and Alberta. Pat was a participant in Alberta's early learning and child care curriculum framework project. She has been an accreditation consultant and moderation coordinator for the Alberta Association for the Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services since 2007.

Nicki Dublenko, Director

Nicki Dublenko has been a leader and advocate for an early childhood education profession for more than 15 years. She is the executive director of a provincial day home agency and active in numerous community organizations, including the Alberta Early Learning and Care Leaders Caucus, End Poverty Edmonton, the Alberta Family Child Care Association and the Success by Six Council of Partners. She served as AECEA's board chair from 2014 to 2017. Nicki is currently completing her PhD in early learning and care through the University of Toronto.

Joanne Keilty, Director

Joanne Keilty has worked in early childhood education for more than 37 years. As a long-time instructor in the Early Childhood Education program at Lethbridge College, she was closely involved with group and family child care, kindergarten and out-of-school care programs. Joanne is currently a pedagogical partner of the Alberta Resource Centre for Quality Enhancement. She is passionate in her belief that early childhood educators play a significant role in children's learning, family well-being and thriving communities.

Sunita Khandelwal, Director

Sunita Khandelwal holds a Master of Arts in Early Childhood Studies from Ryerson University, Toronto. She believes that life is a teacher and that learning is a lifelong process. Sunita has studied power dynamics and the impact of individual and group actions upon society. She sees tremendous growth potential for Alberta’s early childhood education workforce.

Christina Pickles, Director

Christina Pickles has 20 years of experience as an environmental educator and a deep respect for early childhood educators. For the past three years, Christina has coordinated Alberta’s Get Outside and Play Early Childhood Network, which supports outdoor play in early learning and care settings.

Tara Stang, Board-Appointed Special Advisor

Tara Stang is a senior program officer with the Muttart Foundation. As a special advisor to the board, she has sat on AECEA’s Professional Learning and Development Committee since 2013. Tara brings 27 years of experience to her work with AECEA. Over the course of her career, she has awarded funding and worked alongside a large number of early learning and child care organizations in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Tara has also served on the board of the National Alliance for Children and Youth.

Jennifer Usher, Director

Jennifer Usher is the coordinator of the Medicine Hat and District Child Care Association, a non-profit organization that supports child care programs in southeast Alberta. She also operates a program that teaches sign language—through games, art, songs and rhymes—in a number of child care centres, out-of-school care centres and preschools. Jennifer believes that capable, knowledgeable early childhood educators play a

key role in delivering the high-quality care that all children deserve. She brings 19 years of early childhood education experience to the AECEA board.

Board Chairs*

AECEA is grateful to the scores of board members who served the association over the years. These people are too numerous to list by name, but their contribution is valued and celebrated as their legacy lives on.

2004 to 2008	Dr. Sherrill Brown, Leduc
2008 to 2012	Margaret Golberg, Edmonton
2012 to 2014	Rosetta Sanders, Medicine Hat
2014 to 2017	Nicki Dublenko, Edmonton
2017 to date	Manna Middleton, Picture Butte

* The board chairs listed here are the individuals who signed AECEA's annual returns for the reported years. Other individuals also served as board chairs during this period.