

## Closing Thoughts

Quality early learning and child care has wide-reaching benefits for children, for families, for Alberta’s economy and for all of society. That makes it everyone’s business, and it’s important to get our business right.

Getting it right is important for “making life better for Albertans,” which the Government of Alberta has committed to doing.

Legislative change that supports a highly qualified early learning and child care workforce is an important first step. But legislation alone is not enough.

Sound legislation must be supported by policy that creates an effective, integrated early learning and child care system and by a workforce strategy that can translate legislative and policy goals into reality. None of this can happen without appropriate public investment.

Creating an effective well-functioning early learning and child care system for Alberta will not happen quickly and will not come cheaply. It will require significant commitment from all sectors of society and significant investment of public funds. It will also require “a strategic, progressive trajectory of change over time to transform the professional landscape” (National Research Council 2015b, 16).

AECEA’s recommendations for legislative change centre on improving the education of Alberta’s early childhood educators. This is the first step toward professionalizing the workforce and ensuring that early childhood educators can enjoy the fair wages and good working conditions that every Albertan deserves. It is also the first step in ensuring that all Alberta children have the high-quality early learning and child care that is every child’s right.

## GETTING IT RIGHT

Well-educated early childhood educators are the cornerstone of a high-quality early learning and child care system. We need to get the system right.

Getting it right is what's best for Alberta's children. And our children are worth it.