

Appendix 3: AECEA's Stakeholders

The Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta works closely with a host of provincial and national organizations that share an interest in early learning and child care and the workforce on which the sector is founded. A selected list of AECEA stakeholders follows.

Alberta Association for the Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services (AELCS)

AELCS works on behalf of the Alberta government to provide accreditation services for licensed day care centres, approved family day home agencies and licensed out-of-school care programs in the province. Alberta's voluntary accreditation process promotes excellence and supports continuous quality improvement in the province's early learning and child care programs. Accredited programs qualify for government funding, including staff wage enhancements that support the recruitment and retention of qualified early childhood educators.

Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL)

As the voice of about 175,000 unionized workers, the Alberta Federation of Labour speaks out on a broad range of social and workplace-related issues. The federation's Fair Start campaign, launched in March 2016, calls on the Alberta government to take action on early childhood education and care. Campaign specifics include a pension plan, increased educational and professional learning opportunities and fair remuneration for workers in the sector.

Alberta Early Learning and Care Leaders Caucus (ALC)

Established in 2010, the Alberta Leaders Caucus project is funded and supported by the Canadian Child Care Federation. Members of the caucus are knowledgeable community leaders who engage in public policy-level discussions related to the funding, delivery and support of

early learning and child care in Alberta. Caucus discussions focus on strengthening workforce capacity and improving child care quality.

The Alberta Leaders Caucus recognizes that a well-educated, well-supported and appropriately remunerated workforce is an important foundation for high-quality child care environments and experiences that shape children's learning and support families' needs. The ALC advocates on behalf of all early childhood educators in Alberta. It contributes to the development of an integrated early learning and child care system that includes a comprehensive workforce strategy. Together with various provincial and federal partners, it meets with, educates and negotiates with elected officials and senior staff in Alberta's Ministry of Children's Services and Ministry of the Status of Women.

In 2015, with support from the Muttart Foundation, the Alberta Leaders Caucus launched an annual Leaders Day to discuss and develop strategies for professionalizing the early childhood workforce. AECEA took over the Leaders Day program in 2017. (See p. 56 for details.)

Alberta Resource Centre for Quality Enhancement (ARCQE)

ARCQE is a technical support agency established to facilitate the accreditation of child care services and nurture the growth of Parent Link centres in Alberta. Established in 2004, ARCQE provides information, training and facilitation related to early learning pedagogy and early child development.

ARCQE works closely with AECEA to improve quality and build capacity in the early learning and child care sector. The two organizations share office space and other resources.

Alberta Workers' Health Centre

Established in 1983, the Alberta Workers' Health Centre works in partnership with individuals and organizations to create healthy

workplaces. It provides innovative, engaging programs and services that help staff address workplace-related health and safety concerns.

Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCF)

The Canadian Child Care Federation is a national, non-profit network of provincial and territorial early learning and child care organizations and their members. Founded in 1987, the federation champions best practice in early childhood education and serves as a resource for educators, service providers, parents, policy-makers, media, business, government and community leaders. Working in partnership with its affiliates, the CCCF supports its members through advocacy, research and knowledge dissemination.

The Canadian Child Care Federation is committed to the following principles:

- “the importance of **quality early learning and child care** as an essential Canadian value and a right worth protecting and enhancing
- the importance of **quality delivery of early learning and child care** as...[a crucial element] in the healthy development of our children
- the importance of **competent, well-trained professionals** who deliver quality early learning and child care with passion and pride”*

AECEA has a seat on the CCCF’s member council and helps to provide leadership and direction for the federation. As a CCCF council member, AECEA has the opportunity to

- connect with federal, provincial and municipal work being undertaken on behalf of the early learning and child care workforce
- learn from other jurisdictions

* Emphasis added. See “About CCCF” on the Canadian Child Care Federation website.

- liaise with organizations such as Child Care Now, which also advocates on behalf of early childhood educators
- participate in national policy discussions to build a shared system framework for early learning and child care in Canada
- have a voice on the federal front
 - In September and November of 2017, AECEA board members met with representatives of the federal Ministry of Families, Children and Social Development.

CCCF's Member Council

As of December 2017, the Canadian Child Care Federation had 8,000 members. Thirteen affiliate organizations—including AECEA—have seats on the federation's member council.

Alberta Family Child Care Association

Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta

Association of Early Childhood Educators of Newfoundland and Labrador

Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

BC Family Child Care Association

Certification Council of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia

Early Childhood Care and Education New Brunswick

Early Childhood Development Association of PEI

Early Childhood Educators of BC

Manitoba Child Care Association

Nova Scotia Child Care Association

Saskatchewan Early Childhood Association

Child Care Now

Child Care Now* works with other organizations to advocate for a publicly funded, inclusive, quality child care system. It organizes activities, initiates campaigns and develops briefs and proposals for federal, provincial and territorial government action.

Child Care Now believes that all three orders of government—federal, provincial and territorial—have a responsibility to work together to ensure that child care is universal, affordable, inclusive and high quality.

“Quality child care starts with highly-skilled staff, with only a few children for every adult. It means plenty of interesting, stimulating activities and materials—balanced with quiet play and rest time—all in a safe environment.”[†]

First 2000 Days Early Childhood Development Network

The First 2000 Days network is an inter-organizational catalyst that facilitates collective action toward improving Alberta’s early childhood development system. The network’s system-wide approach recognizes the importance of supporting early childhood development along a spectrum that includes support for children and for the early childhood workforce that cares for children. An effective, integrated early child development system fosters continuous quality improvement at all levels—from individual caregivers to programs and services, organizations and the system as a whole.

GRIT: Getting Ready for Inclusion Today

The Getting Ready for Inclusion Today program is funded by Alberta Education. Program staff work alongside families and community partners to deliver early childhood education programs for preschool-

* Until 2017, Child Care Now was known as the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada.

† Child Care Now, “Priorities.”

aged children who have severe developmental disabilities. GRIT's ASaP (Access, Support and Participation) Continuum Project uses a five-part teaching framework that helps early childhood educators use evidence-based professional practices in their work.

The Muttart Foundation

The Muttart Foundation is a private philanthropic foundation established in 1953 by Edmonton business leaders Merrill and Gladys Muttart. The foundation provides capacity-building funding and support to strengthen Canada's charitable sector and improve the early education and care of young children. It also acts as a neutral convener that brings thought leaders together to discuss social issues and develop innovative solutions.

Since 2007, the foundation has sponsored various studies and facilitated stakeholder consultations aimed at advancing an integrated, comprehensive system of early learning and child care in Alberta. The foundation's consultations have considered the system as a whole, a provincial early learning and child care framework and, most recently, the educational preparation and professional learning of Alberta's early learning and child care workforce. As part of this work, the foundation commissioned several discussion papers and reports, including research on possible alternative remuneration models for early childhood educators.*

The Muttart Foundation continues to

- engage in policy-related discussions of early learning and child care in Alberta, Saskatchewan and across Canada
- support organizations that provide infrastructure for the early learning and child care system

* A list of Muttart Foundation–sponsored studies and reports is included in the bibliography. See p. 129.

- support processes that help organizations and individuals contribute to the development of public policy related to early childhood education and child care
- gather data on the early learning and child care workforce in order to help stakeholders make informed policy decisions
- explore the capacity of post-secondary institutions to prepare larger numbers of qualified early childhood educators
- support research and community engagement that helps AECEA and other non-profit organizations play an effective role in the development of public policy related to early learning and child care
- provide bursaries and training program funding to help registered charitable organizations build organizational capacity through ongoing professional learning for staff and key volunteers

Post-Secondary Institutions

Post-secondary institutions play a key role in developing a professional workforce of early childhood educators. AECEA works closely with post-secondary early learning and child care programs across the province. AECEA's partnerships with these programs provide the association with access to meeting space, facilitation services and research information. AECEA's partnerships also make it possible for the association to connect with students who will work in the child care sector once they graduate.

Provincial and Regional Directors Associations

AECEA's partnerships with regional and provincial directors associations provide a grassroots connection to early childhood educators across Alberta. This connection allows AECEA to connect policy-level discussions and advocacy with the delivery, funding and training needs of front-line staff.

AECEA provincial and regional partners include the following organizations:

- Alberta Family Child Care Association
- Child Care Association for Resources to Administrators (CAFRA), Edmonton and area
- Child Care Directors Association of Southwest Alberta
- Greenfield School Age Day Care Association
- Medicine Hat and District Child Care Association
- School Age Care Directors Association of Alberta (SACDA)
- Southern Alberta Preschool Teachers Association (SAPTA)
- Supports to Early Learning and Child Care Programs, Grande Prairie

Public Interest Alberta (PIA)

Founded in 2004, Public Interest Alberta is a province-wide non-profit organization that sponsors research, education and advocacy on issues of public importance. PIA believes that governments are responsible for advancing the collective interests of their citizens, and that high-quality early learning and child care should be a priority.

In its 2016–2017 annual report, PIA recognizes that developing a well-trained child care workforce “is the most important factor in determining quality of care.”* PIA calls on governments to

- invest in phasing in higher training standards for early childhood professionals
- support the existing workforce in meet these higher standards

* *Public Interest Alberta Annual Report 2016–2017*, p. 4.

- ensure that wages rise to a level that supports workers with higher skills

Public Interest Alberta and AECEA work together on issues of importance to early childhood educators and share data related to child care and the child care workforce.

School Age Directors Association of Alberta (SACDA)

SACDA is a non-profit society whose members are primarily from the Calgary area. The association provides professionals who work in school-age care programs with a province-wide network of community based support. It also advocates for greater availability of affordable, high-quality school-age care.