

Happy Holidays Everyone

ED Update December 2019



The Board of Directors and I met with the Minister of Children Services Danielle Larivee last week. Our meeting was a result of the letter we sent to the Premier. In our discussion we reviewed who we are, how many people we represent and the current financial issues we are facing. According to the Boland report we are back up to a 47% turnover rate, agencies are reporting difficulty in hiring and ALIGN has had an unprecedented number of jobs posted on our website. Interestingly as I reviewed our history for the meeting we are in a 6 year wave again. It seems that every 6 years we are in this predicament.

We were able to state that in each of those times we were able to develop some sort of business relationship committee which help everyone understand the issues and collaboratively work on them, we also have been able to work on flexibility in contracts and in some cases injections of short term funds as a stop gap. At this time, there is a promise of some funding to cover the paid days off vacation requirements in Bill 17, and there is some discussion of support for the costs of Bill 30. The Minister also assures us she is trying to request increased funding in the 2019/20 budget, with a special emphasis on the group care sector.

We emphasized that the added expectations over the past few years, and in the next few years with the *Stronger Safer Tomorrow* recommendations in all service delivery areas there is a need

to fund those as we cannot sustain the good practice with just minor adjustments. We stressed that group care, contact foster care and kinship care must have attention soon. We would like to see a clear procurement plan, and contracts that includes the costs of the new legislation, regular cost of living increases, and a realistic cost for operating. Generally speaking group care was last procured in 2006 and contract foster care in 2008.

We continue to advocate on your behalf, if you are really struggling you need to make your challenges known to your contract managers. If you are beginning to close programs can please let me know. I have monthly meetings with the policy and program division of the Ministry and we want to make sure they are aware of the challenges within the sector.

Disabilities Services

By now most of you know that the Ministry of Community and Support Services have been doing a review of the PDD program. I hope you were able to be at an open house and/or wrote a submission. Stay tuned; I am sure some recommendations will affect FSCD.

I recently received a letter of introduction from the new Disabilities Advocate. I have written to him in hopes of meeting with him to discuss the FSCD sector.

Foundations of Caregiver Support (FCS)

This project has taken a life of its own. ALIGN has provided 3 train the trainer sessions over the last 6 months. We have trained over 150 people to train the FCS modules. To date there have been a total of 685 staff and 200 agency caregivers trained that we know of. We believe that many of the contract foster care programs are working on training their caregivers over the next few months. Thank you for the support and uptake in doing this work. We ask that you report who has been trained in your agencies to us so that in June we can report on the total numbers.

We are moving forward with the assumption that the trainers are making plans within their own agencies to train staff. Our offer of assistance stands, especially if you need an indigenous trainer. Please email or call Nicole nicolem@alignab.ca or 780.232.9199.

We have decided not to offer ALIGN session in January and February. Our contract goes until June and the funding is tight. We hope to run another session for whoever needs it later in the spring. If you are struggling getting the training in, or need help please call Nicole and we want to ensure everyone has the opportunity to get it done. If we need to ask for more funding we will but need to know the need by March.

Strengthening Today, Building Tomorrow conference – January 24 & 25, 2019

Registration is going fast and furious for the annual conference. We are looking forward to seeing everyone here. If you haven't registered yet, there is still room. We have extra room on Friday if anyone wants to send their staff to see Dr. Michael Ungar. You can just purchase a one day ticket for that event.

Group Care Symposium – February 7&8, 2019

For those of you who work in group care, we are offering our 3rd group care symposium in February 2019. We know it is close to our conference and this may be a challenge but we had the opportunity to have some of the guest speakers' already here in Alberta, and we are aware that group care will be procured as soon as the Minister can get the funding in the budget. She plans to move forward with her ask soon. So we wanted to make sure that we had the latest research available to you, plus we have asked Jon Reeves and Joni Brodziak to come and open the session with the expectations for the sector moving forward. We have an exciting line up of academics and researchers to speak, and will have example of programs there as well. We hope that those if you who work in this area, are able to come. We do have limited seating on day 1 so don't wait to long or you will miss out. Registration is open now.

Occupational Health and Safety

Bill 30 and its requirements have been challenging for everyone. We have asked for some clarity on the requirements for work site and safety committees and representatives.

<https://www.alberta.ca/work-site-health-safety-committees.aspx>. Specific to your concerns about employers with multiple work sites, the approvals process is outlined on the webpage (bottom) or I will post on our website. If there are still questions please send them to me and I will get assistance for you.

Yesterday ALIGN and ACDS met with the Ministry of Labor regarding the current Care Worker Focused inspections. We clearly outlined some of the concerns we have heard including the inconsistencies, threats of fines, questions about placements, etc. We were able to have them stop/complete the inspection process. Only those that are currently open will be followed up on and there will be no more in this round. We are told that there is a group of inspectors that have been assigned to this sector. In light of that, ACDS, ALIGN and the 2 ministries have

offered to provide the inspectors some insight into the sector, how it works and who the clients are. We hope to do that in January and then we expect to have a debrief session on this current round of inspections later in February.

Government Relations

According to Alberta Council Recent polling states:

THE UNITED CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADS BY 15% AMONG COMMITTED VOTERS BUT 26% OF ALBERTANS SAY THEY ARE UNDECIDED

WHILE THE UCP HOLDS A COMMANDING LEAD IN MOST OF ALBERTA THEY ARE TRAILING THE NDP IN EDMONTON

Speculation is an election will be called for March

Our government relations committee (GRC) is meeting in January to compose some questions that are relevant that you and your staff might want to ask those that come knocking on your doors or that you go visit in the New Year. We encourage you to take the key messages (on our website) and invite candidates to your agencies to meet with you. If not, go talk to them about the sector, your strengths and challenges wherever you can. There will be many forums, or they will host office meeting or town halls. Alternatively just ask for a meeting. They need to understand how the sector works, and how we provide excellent services.

The GRC will continue to offer suggestions and questions as they work through some of the communications research we have. I have reached out and hope to meet with Jason Nixon and Leela Aheer from the UCP party and Stephen Mandel and Greg Clark from the Alberta Party. We have also been offered the ability to submit a position statement to the UCP on the sector. I am working on that now.

Here are the candidates as of today. You can get contact information by googling them or checking the Election Alberta website. We strongly encourage you to reach out to those in your home riding and your office riding. We need to inform the politician about the sector.

Constituency	NDP	UCP	ABP	Liberal	Other
	31/87	68/87	47/87	5/87	
Airdrie-Cochrane		Peter Guthrie			
Airdrie-East		Angela Pitt			
Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock		Glenn van Dijken			
Banff-Kananaskis	Cam Westhead	Miranda Rosin	Brenda Stanton		

Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul		Dave Hanson	Glenn Anderson		
Brooks-Medicine Hat		Michaela Glasgo	Jim Black		
Calgary-Acadia	Brian Pincott	Tyler Shandro	Lana Bentley		
Calgary-Beddington		Randy Kerr	Karen McPherson		
Calgary-Bow		Demetrios Nicolaides			
Calgary-Buffalo	Joe Ceci	Tom Olsen	Omar Masood		
Calgary-Cross		Mickey Amery			
Calgary-Currie	Brian Malkinson	Nicholas Milliken	Lindsay Luhnau		
Calgary-East		Peter Singh	Gar Gar		
Calgary-Edgemont		Prasad Panda	Joanne Gui		
Calgary-Elbow	Janet Eremenko	Doug Schweitzer	Greg Clark		
Calgary-Falconridge				Deepak Sharma	
Calgary-Fish Creek		Richard Gotfried			
Calgary-Foothills		Jason Luan	Jennifer Wyness		
Calgary-Glenmore		Whitney Issik	Scott Appleby		Allie Tulick (Green)
Calgary-Hays		Ric McIver			
Calgary-Klein	Craig Coolahan	Jeremy Nixon	Kara Levis		
Calgary-Lougheed		Jason Kenney	Rachel Timmermans		

Calgary-McCall	Irfan Sabir	Jasraj Singh Hallan			
Calgary-Mountain View	Kathleen Ganley		Angela Kokott	David Khan	Thana Boonlert (Green)
Calgary-North					
Calgary-North East		Rajan Sawhney	Nate Pike	Gul Khan	
Calgary-North West		Sonya Savage	Andrew Bradley		
Calgary-Peigan		Tanya Fir			
Calgary-Shaw		Rebecca Schulz	Bronson Ha		
Calgary-South East		Eva Kiryakos	Rick Fraser		
Calgary-Varsity	Anne McGrath	Jason Copping	Beth Barberree		Cheryle Chagnon-Greyeyes (Green)
Calgary-West		Mike Ellis			
Camrose		Jackie Lovely			
Cardston-Siksika		Jospeh Schow			
Central Peace-Notley	Marg McCuaig-Boyd	Todd Loewen			
Chestermere-Strathmore		Leela Aheer			Derek Fildebrandt (FCP)
Cypress-Medicine Hat		Drew Barnes			
Drayton Valley-Devon	Kieren Quirke	Mark Smith			
Drumheller-Stettler		Nathan Horner	Mark Nikota		
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview	Deron Bilous	David Egan	Jeff Walters		

Edmonton-Castle Downs		Ed Ammar	Moe Rahall		
Edmonton-City Centre	David Shepherd	Lily Le	Bob Philip		
Edmonton-Decore		Karen Principe	Ali Haymour		
Edmonton-Ellerslie	Rod Loyola				
Edmonton-Glenora	Sarah Hoffman	Marjorie Newman	Glen Tickner		
Edmonton-Gold Bar	Marlin Schmidt	David Dorward	Diana Ly		
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood	Janis Irwin		Tish Prouse		
Edmonton-Manning	Heather Sweet				
Edmonton-McClung	Lorne Dach	Laurie Mozenson	Stephen Mandel		
Edmonton-Meadows			Amrit Matharu		
Edmonton-Millwoods	Christina Gray		Anju Sharma	Abdi Bakal	
Edmonton-North West	David Eggen	Ali Eltayeb			
Edmonton-Riverview	Lori Sigurdson	Kara Barker	Katherine O'Neill		
Edmonton-Rutherford	Richard Feehan	Hannah Presakarchuk	Aisha Rauf		
Edmonton-South		Tunde Obasan	Pramod Kumar		
Edmonton-South West			Mo Elsalhy		
Edmonton-Strathcona	Rachel Notley				
Edmonton-West Henday	Jon Carson	Nicole Williams	Winston Leung		
Edmonton-Whitemud		Elizabeth Hughes	Jonathan Dai		
Fort McMurray-Lac La		Laila			

Biche		Goodridge			
Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo		Tany Yao			
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville		Jackie Armstrong	Marvin Olsen		
Grande Prairie		Tracy Allard			
Grande Prairie-Wapiti		Travis Toews			
Highwood		RJ Sigurdson			
Innisfail-Sylvan Lake					
Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland	Oneil Carlier		Don McCargar		
Lacombe-Ponoka		Ron Orr	Myles Chykerda		
Leduc-Beaumont	Shaye Anderson	Brad Rutherford			
Lesser Slave Lake	Danielle Larivee	Pat Rehn	Judy Kim-Meneen		
Lethbridge-East	Maria Fitzpatrick				
Lethbridge-West	Shannon Phillips				
Livingstone-Macleod			Tim Meech	Dylin Hauser	
Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin		Richard Wilson			
Morinville-St. Albert		Dale Nally			
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills		Nathan Cooper			
Peace River		Daniel Williams			
Red Deer-North		Adriana LaGrange	Paul Hardy		

Red Deer-South	Barb Miller		Ryan McDougal		
Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre		Jason Nixon			
Sherwood Park			Sue Timanson		
Spruce Grove-Stony Plain					
St. Albert		Jeff Wedman			
Strathcona-Sherwood Park		Nate Glubish	Dave Quest		
Taber-Warner		Grant Hunter			
Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright					
West Yellowhead		Martin Long	Kristie Gomuwka		

I want to personally wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and Best Wishes for the New Year. I hope you all get some rest over the holidays and little time off. Our office will be closed from Dec. 17th to January 4th.

I will see most of you at the conference in January.

Rhonda Barraclough

Executive Director

