

# 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
	<b>31/87</b>	<b>68/87</b>	<b>47/87</b>	<b>5/87</b>	
<b>Airdrie-Cochrane</b>		Peter Guthrie			
<b>Airdrie-East</b>		Angela Pitt			
<b>Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock</b>		Glenn van Dijken			
<b>Banff-Kananaskis</b>	Cam Westhead	Miranda Rosin	Brenda Stanton		

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

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

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

<b>Biche</b>		Goodridge			
<b>Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo</b>		Tany Yao			
<b>Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville</b>		Jackie Armstrong	Marvin Olsen		
<b>Grande Prairie</b>		Tracy Allard			
<b>Grande Prairie-Wapiti</b>		Travis Toews			
<b>Highwood</b>		RJ Sigurdson			
<b>Innisfail-Sylvan Lake</b>					
<b>Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland</b>	Oneil Carlier		Don McCargar		
<b>Lacombe-Ponoka</b>		Ron Orr	Myles Chykerda		
<b>Leduc-Beaumont</b>	Shaye Anderson	Brad Rutherford			
<b>Lesser Slave Lake</b>	Danielle Larivee	Pat Rehn	Judy Kim-Meneen		
<b>Lethbridge-East</b>	Maria Fitzpatrick				
<b>Lethbridge-West</b>	Shannon Phillips				
<b>Livingstone-Macleod</b>			Tim Meech	Dylin Hauser	
<b>Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin</b>		Richard Wilson			
<b>Morinville-St. Albert</b>		Dale Nally			
<b>Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills</b>		Nathan Cooper			
<b>Peace River</b>		Daniel Williams			
<b>Red Deer-North</b>		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 4<sup>th</sup>.***

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

***Rhonda Barraclough***

***Executive Director***

