

Coalition Connection

Winter 2017
Volume 1, Issue 1

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Spring Issue

Deadline: March 15
Delivery: Early April

Share your coalition
story with ECCA by
submitting your article,
photos, or activities by
emailing ecca@fcssaa.org.



Sharing the ECCA Story

First we shared a table with the 2000Days Network at the Alberta Teacher's Association Early Childhood Education Conference and met many Early Learning teachers who were curious about the work of the Coalitions.

Later in November, we led a session for the 50th Anniversary FCSS conference. With the help of four Coalitions from around Alberta, the ECCA Support Team presented an overview of the priorities, tools and good work of the Coalitions. Thank you to Vicki Hazelwood (Lethbridge), Debbie-Layne Macleod (Foothills), Mai Tran (Calgary East) and Summer

Halliday (Westlock) who shared their unique local stories. Vicki shared how their coalition has responded to the emerging situation for young children and families in their community. They have collaborated with others and supported the Syrian families during the settlement process, including providing Activity bags for the children as their parents focused on the paperwork and other processes required. Debbie-Layne reflected on the how they continue to build resilience of families and their coalition member through the...

continues on pg.

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Welcome everyone to the new Coalition Connection! 2016 has been an exciting year with numerous changes and exciting opportunities. Family and Child Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA) and the provincial Tri-Ministry (Human Services, Health, and Education) want to thank everyone for their continued commitment to the Early Childhood Coalitions of Alberta (ECCA).

Thank you to the 97 coalitions for completing their 2017 Grant Applications. If you had a 2016 Grant we are looking forward to your final report that is due at the end of January! Everything you share with us highlights the exciting activities and new initiatives taking place across the province.

March 8-10 are the dates for this year's Spring Provincial Gathering (see pg. ___). The theme this year is "Our data, Our Stories, Our Future" and promises to be a great opportunity to connect, share and learn from experts like Ready to Raise and Dr. Magdalena Janus from the Offord Centre for Child Studies. We will also share the latest updates from the COWG group (see pg.---) and Colab (intranet and research tool). Please register early!

Sincerely,

Deb Teed, Executive Directory of Family and Community Supports Services of Alberta (FCSSAA).

Sharing the ECCA Story continues...

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Foothills Children's Wellness Network. Network members have a strength based focus in four areas including leveraging local resources and building capacity at all levels. Mai focused on the ever present challenges and opportunities that come with culture, language, income and time barriers. She shared of how the outcomes of their coalition work, with a focus on relationships and time, was a game changer in the lives of children, families and community. Summer shared how their Coalition Early Learning Tool Kits have opened the door of conversation and partnerships to increase the efficiency of accessing programs in their rural context. Building confidence and highlighting the formal and informal resources has been shared responsibly for their coalition members and an opportunity for reflection and planning for the future. All reflecting the amazing stories of all of the almost 100 Coalitions provincially. It truly has been a year of engagement and collaboration.

Fast Facts

Final reports are **due January 31, 2017.**

ALL Membership and Participant Surveys should be entered by **January 31, 2017.**

Coalitions can retain 10% of their 2016 funding by contacting their Liaison and submitting a Letter of Request to retain those funds.

ALL 2016 grant money should be spent!

Final Report Links are available on CoLab.

Final Reminder: Final Reports and Financial Statements 2016 are Due January 31!

The final report link for coalitions to reflect on 2016 has been sent to all coalitions. The process will look similar to the interim report. All Final Reports, Participant, Member and Output Surveys from 2016 must be entered on CoLab by January 31, 2017.

1. Coalition specific reports are available on the CoLab Research Platform. Please sign in using your “Coalition ID” and your “coalition1@fcssaa.org” email.

The following is a list of reports for your review and update:

- 2017 Grant Application (Submitted Application Summary)
- Coalition Membership Report (List of Active and Connected Members)
- Coalition Reflection Report (Community Liaison feedback on you Interim Reports)

If you need assistance in accessing the reports, contact your Community Liaison at ecca@fcssaa.org as soon as possible.

Remember that these reports are for your coalition. What you put in, is what you can take back to your communities. Enjoy the process of reflecting on the work of your coalition in 2016 and sharing your coalitions story with us.

In early February, we will be busy reading your final reports. We are excited to learn more about each of your coalitions, the great work you are doing in your communities and how each of you are impacting the lives of children across Alberta.

A green rectangular graphic with the words "Final Report" in white, bold, sans-serif font. The word "Final" is on the top line and "Report" is on the bottom line.

Membership, Output, and Participant Surveys

Please continue to update your Participant, Membership and Output Surveys in 2017. The COWG group will spend some time in 2017 reviewing the tools (see pg. 6).

Questions? Contact your Coalition Liaison at ecca@fcssaa.org.

Provincial Gathering is March 8-10 in Edmonton

The spring Provincial Gathering is taking place on March 8, 9 and 10 in Edmonton at West Edmonton Mall (Fantasyland Hotel). FCSSAA, Liaisons and various coalition representatives have been busy over the past few months pulling together the details and are excited to launch the Registration link on CoLab, the poster and a first glance at the conference.

On Wednesday, March 8 there will be an optional pre-gathering interactive session with *Ready to Raise* followed by wisdom circles to allow participants to come together,

learn, share and network.



On Thursday, March 9 we dive into coalition work with Dr. Magdalena Janus from the *Offord Centre for Child Studies* as our Keynote speaker. We then will learn more about the Outcomes

Measurement Framework, engage in some interactive planning sessions and connect regionally.

Friday, March 10 we will hear from the TriMinistry, have a chance to engage further with Dr. Janus, learn more about CoLab, CoLab Research tool, and updates on the EDI. Various Coalitions will also have the opportunities to share their stories in fun and engaging way. Stay tuned for more details on that!

For now, we hope that you will take the time to complete the Registration process on CoLab (deadline: February 27) and most importantly - book your room(s) by February 6!

Visit CoLab for more details about the gathering, to find the Registration link and reimbursement process.

BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM BY FEBRUARY 6!

We encourage you to book accommodations today to get the special rate of \$164/double occupancy.

Call 1-800-737-3783 toll free or 780-444-3000 in Edmonton to make your reservations.

Book using FCSSAA-Early Childhood Coalition to get the special rate.

“Children are the
priority. Change
is the reality.
Collaboration is the
Strategy.”

~Justin Billings, Washington
State Superintendent

<https://form.jotform.com/70155168517962>

Our Data,
Our Stories,
Our Journey.

Family and Community Support Services of Alberta (FCSSAA)
welcomes you to the annual
Early Childhood Coalitions Alberta (ECCA)

Provincial Gathering 2017

March 8*,9,10

West Edmonton Mall
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton, AB

An Optional Pre-Gathering Session

***March 8, 1:00 - 5:00 pm**

(Registration begins at 11:00 am)



Tracy Smyth & Tammy Dewar
Ready to Raise

March 9, 8:45 am - 5:00 pm

March 10, 8:30 - 4:30 pm

(Breakfast & Registration begins at 7:45 am)



Keynote presentation:
Dr. Magdalena Janus
Offord Centre for Child Studies

Gathering Highlights:

Outcomes Measurement Framework
Interactive Action Planning Session
Everything CoLab
Wisdom Circles
Regional meetings, resource sharing,
networking, and much, much more!

Please Note:

- FCSSAA will cover the cost and related expenses of one representative from each coalition. Coalitions are encouraged to support the attendance of one additional representative, for a cost of \$65, plus mileage, food and expenses. More information on CoLab.
- There are a limited number of rooms available on March 8 and 9 at a rate of \$164/night + taxes. Please call 1-800-737-3783 toll free to book your room. All rooms are double occupancy. **Rooms must be booked by February 6.**

Registration Deadline is February 27!
Look for the Registration link on CoLab.



Outcome Measurement Framework Updates

In 2016 various representatives from Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta (FCSSAA), provincial triministries (Human Services, Health & Education), and Coalitions came together to form the Coalition Outcomes Working Group (COWG) to develop a framework that reflects Coalitions' vision, mission, and actions at a community level, as well as the support of FCSSAA and the three provincial ministries. The focus for the framework is on the collection of data to demonstrate outcomes, impacts and value of Coalition work on diverse communities, and the collective impact at a provincial level. The framework also supports values like continuous learning and improvement, increases accurate and credible measures of progress, creates a common understanding and collaboration, increases communication amongst coalitions, and mobilizes knowledge locally and at the systems level.

The COWG group met bi-weekly throughout the year to discuss the process of building a Framework, Theory of Change, and Logic Models, and to identify assumptions, risks and factors that influence coalition work and data collection. They also discussed data collection tools, and data interpretation and conducted a literature review. Coalitions were engaged in discussions (81 of the 98 coalitions), and key informant interviews (20) were conducted resulting in the affirmation that the four key priority areas and interim outcomes support the development of intermediate and long-term outcomes. A draft Executive Summary, which includes the Theory of Change, Vision and Mission (listed below/side bar) and Outcome Map and Outcome Measurement Matrix, were developed and shared during three successful online webinars in early December.



A special thanks to Catalyst Research and Development Inc (Gene Krupa, Kate Woodman, Rebecca Gokiert and Sami Berger) in the development of the Framework.

Thank you also to the researchers, and policy/decision making from the following organizations: FCSS and Early Childhood Development Branches; Alberta Human Services,

Health and Wellness Promotion, Health Standards and Quality and Primary Care Branches, Alberta Health; Education Supports Branch, Alberta Education; Maternal, Newborn, Child, Youth Strategic Clinic Network, Alberta Health Services; Healthy Living, Alberta Health Services; Policy Wise for Children and Families; Human Early Learning Partnership; Healthy Child Manitoba; University of Calgary; First 2000 Days Network, Calgary; and the FCSSAA Board.

A warm thank you also to Dr. Susan Lynch and Line Perron of the former ECMAP Project for sharing your insights and learnings from the research project.

Looking ahead to 2017 the COWG group will be busy developing indicators and tools, and working on implementation plans and on knowledge mobilization strategies. More information will be available at the Spring Provincial Gathering.

Sincerely,

The COWG Group



All children establish the foundations of health and well-being in the early years with the collaborative support of parents, families, caregivers, and their communities. Community and provincial policies, practices and environments provide optimal support for children and families.

Early Childhood Coalitions of Alberta (ECCA) engage with community and provincial stakeholders to create and sustain positive for young children and families. This contributes to a foundation of health and well-being in the years...that will last a lifetime.

>> Theory of Change >>

Early Childhood Coalitions of Alberta (ECCA) work to create and sustain positive action with, and on behalf of, children (prenatal to 6 years) and families.

They engage and link with families, community members, Early Childhood Development (ECD) organizations and other stakeholders in their diverse communities. Coalitions communicate knowledge about ECD, its importance, and the need to support it. They use ECD and community research, including the Early Development Instrument (EDI), to identify local strengths; opportunities; and needs to mobilize local resources. They foster collaboration and build partnerships to improve the community's capacity to support optimal early childhood development.

By facilitating local action, and documenting the impact at the community and collective (provincial) levels, ECCA will contribute to children and families establishing the foundations of health and well being in the early years...which will last a lifetime.



Events

Southern Alberta

Northern Alberta

Leduc Regional Early Childhood Development
Coalition presents:

Gordon Neufeld

Helping Children Flourish

Thursday February 23 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Maclab Centre for the Performing Arts, 43080-50
Street, Leduc, AB Register: <http://bit.ly/2h376C6>

Play and Emotion

Thursday February 24 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Nisku Recreation Centre: 606 18 Ave, Nisku, AB.
Register: <http://bit.ly/2gzqPbv>

Great Community Supports and Opportunities

Help Line for First Nations and Inuit children, Youth and Young Adults launched!

The Hope for Wellness Help Line will provide immediate, culturally competent telephone-based crisis intervention counseling to First Nations and Inuit young people and adults experiencing distress. Help Line calls will be answered by experienced crisis intervention counselors, and service will be available in English and French. Callers may also ask about the availability of service in Cree, Ojibwa and Inuktitut.

Callers can access the Help Line 24/7 effective immediately. The toll-free phone number for the line is 1-855-242-3310.

Coalition's in Action

Chantal Beaver shares the serious shortages of child care workers in Fort McMurray with CBC News.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/fort-mcmurray-early-child-care-worker-shortage-wildfire-1.3932745>

Trending on CoLab

(November 2) Thank you Knee Hill for starting a discussion on great parenting websites on CoLab. "The website I just discovered is well designed, colourful and simple to use. It is from New Zealand. Would love to see this model used if we were to design a provincial site." <http://wbanau.skip.org.nz/tips-for-parents/>

(November 23) Call for French Resources "Our SE Edmonton coalition has quite a number of Francophone preschools, childcare centres, and elementary schools in our area and we'd love to reach out to them more with French resources. Does anyone have any posters, videos, booklets, articles, etc. in French about the early years that they'd be willing to share?"

(December 2) Wetaskiwin is working on a Media Strategy "Hi everyone! Our coalition is currently working on developing a media strategy, and we are wondering if any other coalitions have strategies that they would be willing to share. Thank you!"

(January 6) Wetaskiwin is planning an Early Years Celebration "Hi everyone! Looking for some wisdom from your coalitions. We are planning an Early Years Celebration in our community and are going to do activity stations. We are planning on having different agencies volunteer to run each game station, and parents would have a passport with ECD-related questions they had to ask the station managers. Wondering if any of your coalitions have done similar events, and if you gained wisdom you could share with us. Thanks!"

(January 19) Calgary East - Photography at Coalition Events "Hi All! When your Coalition has activities, what do you do to ensure that you can use the photos of the participants at the event on your Facebook Page and promotional materials. Do you always get participants to sign a photo release waiver. Any feedback would be sincerely appreciated! Thanks!"

Join the conversation! Share your experiences!