



2019- 2020 Annual Report

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Fall portrait



Spring portrait

President's Report

2020 was a year that will go down in history.

We have a Pandemic, closed our doors, worked from home. Parented and worked and tried to hold things together. We learned words like Zoom and social distance and lock down. Social media became a more important way to communicate with families and run programming, and there have been some funny mistakes along the way. People learned to find ways to make wearing masks normal for the children and there are some amazingly creative people out there who began baking bread. People finally learned how to wash their hands properly and most of them started actually doing it. We held a lot of virtual meetings, like tonight, we learned new ways to communicate with our loved ones even though we don't see them very often any more face to face.

But some good things came out of 2020. Parents who maybe worked too much spent more time with children. We are learning to appreciate the little things and small interactions with people. We made new traditions over the holidays and went for walks more often. New programs were created in all sectors of society and people are adapting to "new normal" At the ELC some things changed too. Our Centre closed due to restrictions for a time and we had to create a new way of communicating with the parents and children in the programs. Teachers did virtual class time, reading, songs on Facebook video and provided activity kits to families. The Early Years Family Resource Centre and other community organizations distributed hundreds of literacy bags to Kids First Families.

ELC Preschool reopened in September and even though the kids are not able to do as many activities as past years everyone is happy to have the program up and running. The teachers and staff have done an amazing job of keeping positive and engaged with both the children and the families and I need to thank them over and over for the work that they do on a daily basis.

A new Regina Perinatal Health Network was created which assists and supports individuals facing or at risk of Mood disorders and Anxiety disorders. It is committed to creating access to treatment and support for women/birthing people in the community. It functions as a branch of the ELC and has been well received in the community. Though it is not as easy to have those face to face supports that we all have come to rely on they are running support groups and sessions within guidelines and restrictions.

Kids First, Family Outreach, Parents as Teachers (PAT) programs all found new way to reach out to families. From Activity package drop offs to calls, virtual groups and a zoom Coffee House. Along with this and other supports, the staff and management found a way to make things work. I can't say thank you enough for how well you have all adapted.

Our Early Years Family Centre's were closed around the city due to restrictions so we had to adapt and move forward for this program also. We decided a designated location in the heart of the city, close to bus lines and other resources was the way to go. So after much thought and consideration we bought a building on 5th Avenue and Cameron. This way we are able to use the space for the current programs and potentially utilize it for other events and meeting groups as the restrictions are lifted. We are in the process of renovating our new community-based location in North Central and we are very excited to see the progress. We have had engagement with the community and positive responses from funders. People see the potential for this new location and its an exciting new step. I have yet to see the most recent progress in the renovations but I am excited to see it as it gets closer and closer to opening.

In the mean time the EYFC and Triple P are also running virtual programming and it has been received well. From Through Kohkom's Eyes, to Spanish circle time, mum and baby fitness and music. Triple P Support has also provided Virtual potty training tips, Parenting during COVID and a class called Parenting Tips for Uncertain Times which I think is one of the most needed right now. They have worked so hard to keep things running and people engaged and I can't say thank you enough.

I look forward to what 2021 has to bring for the ELC and EYFC. I'm excited to see new programming, the new building and us moving out of this phase of our lives that has us all feeling, what has now been termed as, COVID Fatigue. Spring is starting - though slowly - and it feels a bit like things might be moving forward.

Thank you for attending the 2020 AGM and I am looking forward to positive things for our organization in 2021 and beyond.

Dianne Beauchamp, President

Treasurer's Report

As Treasurer of the Regina Early Learning Centre Inc., I submit to you, the membership, the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020. These statements were approved by the Board of Directors on Nov. 26, 2020. The complete audited statements will be posted on the Centre's website: www.earlylearning.ca.

Of note in regards to the Audited Statements, is that this is a clean audit. The Auditors have not identified any issues of concern in terms of the Centre's financial management.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I like to acknowledge the continued diligence of the Centre's senior management. I would also like to thank our many funders, donors and volunteers for making the Centre's work possible. Of particular significance in the past year was that all the Centre's major funding contracts remained in place when Saskatchewan went into lockdown. This allowed programming to continue despite changes in delivery and staff to retained.

Sara Jurdeini, Traasurer



Executive Director's Report

2019-20 was a year of many challenges but, amid all the stress of dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic, there have been some real opportunities.

What can one say about 2020? At every level, it was a year of unprecedented challenges. Families with young children have been impacted in so many ways. And although the ELC had to make radical changes to how all our programs were delivered, I believe that we were successful in finding ways to respond to the needs of families and children while keeping both staff and families safe.

There were some real opportunities. The first was the challenge of finding a home for the Regina Early Years Family Resource Centre. While the decision making process on this was difficult, I believe our decision to purchase the building at 3079 5th Ave. was a decision which will create many opportunities for our organization and for families in our city. We have gone through an extensive renovation process which will result in a wonderful space for families particularly families in North Central Regina. In many ways, opening the space will be a "coming home" for the ELC which from 1977 – 1990 was located in North Central. We can't wait to start the process of reopening in late March.

Another highlight was the launch of the Regina Perinatal Wellness Project. Our facilitator Sara Beckel has been a passionate advocate, educator and support person in this area for a number of years. The mental health of pregnant and new parents has been one of those issues which have received a lot of attention for a lot of years with very little corresponding action. Emergency COVID-19 funding provided an opportunity to launch this new and innovative program which fills a serious gap in our community. The response has been overwhelmingly positive.

We began this evening's meeting sharing a video of Anne Luke reflecting on the ELC's early years. We have grown so much since 1977 but I believe there is a clear continuity between Anne's initial vision and the values embedded in the original organization and the Regina Early Learning Centre as it exists today. At the same time, the Centre has continued to be informed by the growing body of research about the importance of brain development in the early years; the growing knowledge of the impacts of colonialism, residential schools and institutionalized racism; and the changing needs of families in our community. I firmly believe that this has been the Early Learning Centre's greatest strength: we have stayed true to our roots while continuing to grow and evolve in order to support the health and success of our children.

We see positive outcomes in all these programs. Everyday in the Preschool was a day of growth and discovery for the children and they gained so much in terms of confidence and social skills and well as in terms of speech and language and cognitive development. Parents in both the Parents as Teachers and KidsFirst program grew in confidence in their role as parents and teachers. And parents who attended group programs indicated that while programs are fun and a great opportunity to connect with other parents, they also learned practical skills that they could use at home.

Early Years Family Centres operated in three locations throughout the year: Sacred Heart Community School, Dr. Hanna School and St. Matthew School. A highlight of the year was being able to provide a fourth outdoor site during July and Aug. here in the Preschool outdoor play space. Overall throughout the year, there were 15,550 child visits accompanied by 13, 101 adults.

All Early Learning Centre programs depend upon the dedicated and talented staff. As Executive Director, I am extremely proud of all our staff – they are an incredible group!

Two of the major challenges for 2019-20 will be securing long term stable funding for the Preschool program and beginning a drive to replace our four fifteen passenger vans which are aging and becoming very expensive to maintain.

Mary Ann McGrath
Executive Director

