



Photo Courtesy: Amanda Krenbrink

Former ELC Parent

REGINA EARLY LEARNING CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2023

The First Years Last Forever.



Main Office

2115 Athol Street
Regina, SK S4T 3E8
P - 306-757-3744
F - 306-522-0040
E - info@earlylearning.ca

KidsFirst Office

3528 13th Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 1P9
P - 306-522-7044
F - 306-757-0147
E - dlanigan@earlylearning.ca

Early Years Family Resource Centre

3079 5th Avenue
P: 306-520-7979
E: familycentre@reginakids.ca
www.reginakids.ca

Regina Perinatal Health Network

P: 306-520-8431
E: info@rphn.ca
www.rphn.ca

Table of Contents

Land Acknowledgement

Organizational Overview

Board List

Executive Director Report

Presidents Report

Treasurer Report

Manager of Development Report

Program Highlights

Thank You to Our Supporters



The Regina Early Learning Centre (RELC) acknowledges we are on the traditional lands of the Treaty 4 Territory, the original lands of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the homeland of the Metis Nation. The Regina Early Learning Centre is committed to working together with Indigenous peoples as we take important steps forward on the pathway of collaboration, reconciliation, and change.

Our organizational mission is rooted in the desire to effect social change. Our goal is to equalize opportunity for everyone.



Preschool Graduation—June 2023

EMPOWERING • WELCOMING • INCLUSIVE

COLLABORATIVE • RESPECTFUL

Our Commitment:

The support [Regina Early Learning Centre \(RELC\)](#) brings families with young children together, to nurture skills and development through parenting programs, high quality early childhood experiences, and culturally affirming practices.

Our programs include:

Preschool

Each year 96 children from low-income homes receive a high-quality, play-based, culturally sensitive program that fosters holistic development and builds foundations for language and learning skills. The program is supported by low staff-to-child ratios. Children leave the program more prepared for kindergarten and success in school but also with greater self-confidence, social skills and a love of learning.

Parents as Teachers

A home visiting program supports parents in their role as their child's first and most important teacher. Families receive regular visits from a qualified parent educator to learn about child development through a variety of literacy and play activities.

KidsFirst

A home visiting program that assists vulnerable families to become the best parents they can be through home visits, support, education and building on family strengths.

Parents as Teachers and KidsFirst serve low-income and vulnerable families with children from prenatal through three years of age. Over 130 families participate in these programs each year.

Family Outreach

We offer a wide range of group parenting programs and one-to-one support to a small number of families facing very significant challenges.

Triple P

The Positive Parenting Program is a flexible, practical program that helps parents develop skills and strategies to build their confidence in handling any parenting situation.

The Regina Early Years Family Resource Centre (EYFRC)

The EYFRC is a one-stop point of access, offering a variety of parenting and child development information as well as opportunities for parents and caregivers to play and learn with their children from prenatal to age 5.

Regina Perinatal Health Network (RPHN)

The RPHN aims to be a single point of referral that provides support services to perinatal families with a special focus on mental health. The RPHN focuses on providing education and empowerment to improve health of new parents and reduce stigma surrounding Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMADS). We also have an outreach program to very vulnerable pregnant individuals who are at risk of having their babies apprehended at birth.



EMPOWERING • WELCOMING • INCLUSIVE

COLLABORATIVE • RESPECTFUL

Recognition/Years of Service

RELC would like to acknowledge some long-term staff members. The following employees have reached significant level of years of service, and we appreciate their commitment and dedication. We take considerable pride in creating an inclusive and meaningful workplace that cultivates a sense of belonging.

Kelly Thornton 25 years
Linda McKnight 10 years
Aleesha Johnson 5 years



Current Board of Directors

Lori Whiteman - President

Taryn Acoose – Vice President

Jim Powell- Treasurer

Danielle Pass – Member at Large

Natasha Berriault – Member at Large

Hilde Morrow – Member at Large

Danica Escobar – Member at Large

EMPOWERING • WELCOMING • INCLUSIVE

COLLABORATIVE • RESPECTFUL

Executive Director's Report

Our founder, Anne Luke, over four decades ago saw the need to help children and their families in the vitally important early years, and that making a difference at the very start changes lives forever. She recognized the disparity among children in our community and wanted to ensure equal opportunity for all. Anne worked in partnership with parents to open a preschool program for 10 children and over the past four decades the RELC has expanded its programs and services as the community's needs have grown.

Today we offer 7 different programs to serve children and their caregivers from prenatal to age 5 throughout Regina including the RELC preschool, the Early Years Family Resource Centre (EYFRC), the Regina Perinatal Health Network (RPHN), the KidsFirst home visiting program, the Triple P Positive Parenting Program, Family Outreach, and the Parents as Teachers program.

The challenges for children and families in our community continues and to ensure equal opportunity for all children education is a key and empowering families. Providing caregivers with an opportunity to have input in their child's education through intentional and respectful collaboration and partnership is fundamental.

The RELC teams works diligently to support caregivers with dignity and respect, acknowledging their cultures, providing needs-based support, and building on every family's existing strength.

I continue to be inspired each day by professionalism of our staff as they deliver our programs and services. The leadership and teamwork along with building and maintaining meaningful community partnerships are fundamental in our success and will continue to be as we move forward. I am thankful to the staff, board members, parents, donors, volunteers, and community members who all play a role in our ongoing success.

The “first years last forever” and together, we can make a difference or Regina children.

With gratitude,

Monica Totton
Executive Director



EMPOWERING • WELCOMING • INCLUSIVE

COLLABORATIVE • RESPECTFUL

President's Report

I am truly humbled and honoured to present the 2022 President's Report. As a new member of the board, I am still learning about this phenomenal organization and its people, programs and services. The level of care and commitment I have witnessed is heart-warming and makes me feel a connection to an educator I never had the privilege to meet, Anne Luke.

My career has been in the field of education, and specifically in Indigenous education, where I learned about Anne's work in my early career. There was a reverence and respect for Anne and the parents she gathered to imagine an early learning space where children and their families could gather to learn, share and grow together. As an Indigenous educational leader, I was inspired by the work of the Regina Early Learning Centre then, and I am newly inspired now in my role on the Board of Directors. I continue to be moved by the steadfast gaze on community building and healing, equity, and respect for diversity. I am reminded of a quote by the late, great Fred Rogers, who said *"Knowing that we can be loved exactly as we are gives us all the best opportunity for growing into the healthiest of people."*

I have the great pleasure of working with an amazing board who brings a wide range of experiences, knowledge and skills. At the centre of our table is a deep love of children and a commitment to ensuring that RELC continues to provide the children and families in our community who may need extra supports gain a solid foundation. Our work is made easier with Monica leading the organization. We are grateful to Monica, and to the other volunteer Advisory Committee members whose guidance keeps us moving toward a bright future.

In the past year, I have enjoyed the creativity and innovation of the preschool program, who is continuously seeking ways to be responsive and attentive to the needs of children. I have learned of the dynamic ways that staff in all areas carry their passion for this work, always with the best outcomes for children and families as their focus

The year has had many causes for celebration including an opportunity to grow a new family resource centre in collaboration with the Regina Catholic School Board. Being selected by Cultural Connections Regina to be the recipient for the annual India Night gala is something to cheer about.

I hope you enjoy reading the report and invite you to reach out to share your thoughts, feedback, and ideas at any time.

In the spirit of community,

Thank you,

Lori Whiteman



EMPOWERING • WELCOMING • INCLUSIVE

COLLABORATIVE • RESPECTFUL

Treasurer Report

As Treasurer of the Regina Early Learning Centre Inc., I submit to the membership, the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023. These statements were approved by the Board of Directors on November 9, 2023. The complete audited statements will be posted on the Centre's website: www.earlylearning.ca. Of note, in regard to the Audited Statements, this is considered a clean audit. The Auditors have not identified any issues of concern in terms of the Centre's financial management.

Some highlights from our financial statements are:

- Revenue was up due to a number of new one-time grants received. In addition, the approved SHA surplus funding on various projects.
- Expenses were higher due to inflation, activities/programs, additional training, new computer equipment, vehicle repairs, renovations at 5th Ave property and consultants providing additional support and guidance to the management team.
- Total assets have slightly increased from last year mainly due to increase in market value of investments and asset addition (i.e., roof repairs, landscaping/windows replacement at 5th Ave property).
- There was a change with our investment portfolio manager midway this year, which provided additional low risk investment opportunities within our investment policy.
- Total liabilities have slightly increased from last year due to deferred revenue from SHA grant funding not spent at year end. In addition, the increase included: deferred capital contributions from SHA surplus funding and one-time grants added this year and; the capital campaign monies that haven't been fully utilized.
- Fund Balances decreased due to deficit in the current year.

I would like to thank all our stakeholders, staff, volunteers, sponsors, contributors and donors, for their part in making the Early Learning Centre's programs successful, in this constantly changing environment. The programs offered by the Centre have had long-lasting positive impacts on youth, their parents and the community.

Thank you,

Jim Powell



Manager of Development Report

As we head into the season of reflection, and I would like to share some past thoughts about this past year. As I approach one year in my new role, I must say firstly how thankful I am to be in the position to help build and sustain the work we do at the Regina Early Learning Centre (RELC). Learning by developing a firm commitment to the four principles of stewardship: responsibility, accountability, reward, and retention, helps me understand what lies at the heart of raising money for the RELC.

This year's highlight would be India Night, which took place on October 21, 2023. This was an amazing opportunity for the Regina Early Learning Centre being the beneficiary, to highlight the work we do. I was able to share my journey at the RELC, as this year, 25 years ago, I was a parent at the centre. Being able to share the impact the centre played in my life was scary but purposeful.

Few key points of my speech:

What a child experiences has a lasting impact on their health, ability to learn and succeed in school and life. Research shows that high quality early years and preschool programming, like the Regina Early Learning Centre, can have a significant impact upon vulnerable children's overall development their ability to transition into the formal education system and their likelihood to graduate from high school and a range of other positive outcomes.

The first five years of life are incredibly important and can have a profound impact on physical and mental health, educational success, and the ability to become a contributing member of our community. Investments in young children lead to healthier children, stronger families, and more vibrant communities.

[India Night 2023](#) was a huge success with a sold-out crowd of 650 people. Many dignitaries were in attendance including the Honourable Russ Mirasty, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, Premier Scott Moe, and Mayor Sandra Masters. We are grateful to Cultural Connections Regina for this incredible opportunity that raised \$145,000 for RELC. Even though taking on a new role was challenging, I looked forward to learning about the processes of previous fundraising efforts and seeing how we can improve. I also enjoy helping build on ongoing relationships with our donors by showing the impact of and appreciation for, their gifts.

I am now looking forward to building our donor management system to help us continue building relationships with our donors to inspire them to continue supporting RELC.

I appreciate going out and sharing the work we do for children in our community and feel privileged to share my own journey. RELC has been very impactful in my life, and I believe in their mission and values that have been instilled in me as a parent and employee for the past 19 years.

Please stay tuned as we begin to launch our fundraiser, Small Hands Big Dreams fundraiser coming up in April 2024. We hope you can support by attending, selling tickets, donating to silent auction and by sharing with your contacts. Your support of this fundraiser would be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing where the New year takes us!!

Respectfully,

Meridee Sayer



EMPOWERING • WELCOMING • INCLUSIVE

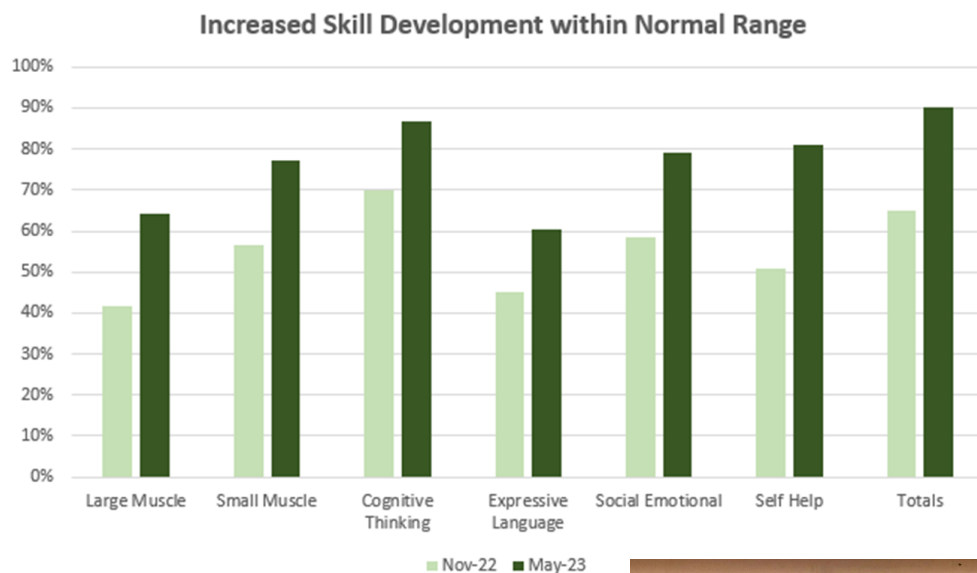
COLLABORATIVE • RESPECTFUL

Organizational Highlights

(Check out the impact of our programs [here](#).)

- Preschool evaluation scale reflected increased development in all areas, improvements overall of 25%.
- Early Years Family Resource Centre hosted 8516 participants in programs (4600 child/3916 adult)
- Triple P Positive Parenting programming served more than 180 primary participants and over 650 group participants
- KidsFirst and Parents as Teachers supported 320 families who participated in 2258 home visits
- Family outreach served hosted 63 groups attended by over 300 participants and supported 132 caregivers with individualized supports
- Regina Perinatal Health Network served 80+ individuals living with Perinatal Mood & Anxiety Disorders (PMADs), including 330 individual and group support attendances
- Majority of staff completing the Intercultural Inventory and have set goals to enhance cultural competency

Outcome for Preschool Program 2022-2023



EMPOWERING • WELCOMING • INCLUSIVE

COLLABORATIVE • RESPECTFUL

Parent Comments:

"He is loved and raised by the staff that get to interact with him, and he often comes home excited and talking about his friends and the things they do and learn at school."

"Our grand daughter has embraced a love of learning. She loves to set up her own classroom like setting and read to her 'students'"

"The experience on the bus is critically important for the kids. Eliminates any separation anxiety they might have, increases cohesion, and allows for socializing outside of class."

"I am very grateful for this program. Gatherings give me motivation and making my behavior more positive.

my visitor is positive, caring, supportive, compassionate, kind. I feel better after each visit."

"As a newcomer to Canada I am grateful for a community where my children and I feel like we are welcome."

"I'm a more confident father because of this program. It's been great to know there's someone I can talk to about parenting without worrying about being judged. I would recommend this program to any new Dads in Regina."



Photo of Founder Anne Luke sharing music with the children



Regina Early Learning Centre



reginaperinatalhealthnetwork



EarlyYearsFamilyResourceCentre



info@earlylearning.ca



Regina Perinatal Health Network



Regina Early Years Family Resource Centre



www.earlylearning.ca



www.rphn.ca



www.reginakids.ca

EMPOWERING • WELCOMING • INCLUSIVE

COLLABORATIVE • RESPECTFUL

Thank you to our many Supporters:



We sincerely thank our many community partners including: Regina Public School Division; Regina Catholic School Division; Saskatchewan Health Authority; Regina Public Library; Regina Region Local Immigration Partnership; Regina Police Service; Salvation Army; Regina and Area Early Childhood Network; Canadian Association of Young Children-Regina Chapter, Kiwanis, Rotary and many Anonymous Donors.

India Night 2023

SUPPORTING

Regina Early Learning Centre

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND DONORS

TITLE SPONSOR:

Saskmilk

DIAMOND SPONSOR:

Anonymous

SILVER SPONSORS:

WellDone **CIBC** **RBC** **RBC Wealth Management** **Dominion Securities**

BRONZE SPONSORS:

Scotiabank **VICTORIA JEWELLERS** **SASK LOTTERIES**

PRAIRIE SKIES MEDICAL IMAGING **PRIMAIR VALLEY GREENHOUSE** **SaskTel** **pioneers**

SGEL **myCH.ca** **SEIU WEST** **TAYLOR LUTHERAN GROUP** **DELTA HOTELS**

SAPPHIRE SPONSORS:

Dr. Neil Kapoor **SaskTel** **University of Regina** **Dr. Dhanapal Natrajan** **YQR**

FRIENDS:

Honorable Vaughn Schofield **Dr. Ashok & Rani Verma**
Abhishek Gupta and Family **Drs. Kalpana & Rajni Patel**
Dr. Brian & Indra Datta **Dr. Michael Fowler**
Gloria & Doug Archer

WYNDHAM CASINO & HOTEL **BERGER CAVAN GROUP** **REV** **FLOORS BY DESIGN LTD.** **Regina & District**

MEDIA AND EVENT SPONSORS:

ALLIED **ACCESS** **OTV** **SLEEK SIGNS**

RAWILCO RADIO **encore** **SL** **phoenix group**

EVENT DECOR & SWAG TABLE:

Unique Florists **Art - Allie** **TREAT SHOPPE**

AUCTIONEER: **Des Plewman** **ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR:** **Phoenix**

EMPOWERING • WELCOMING • INCLUSIVE

COLLABORATIVE • RESPECTFUL