

Regina Early Learning Centre

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17



President's Report

Dianne Beauchamp

My name is Dianne Beauchamp and I have served as the President of the Board of Directors for the past year. Parents play a critical role in ensuring the smooth governance of the ELC and ensuring that the Centre is able to continue to offer programming.

2016-17 was a successful year for the Early Learning Centre, I am proud to present the Annual Report of the Regina Early Learning Centre for the year ending Aug. 31, 2017.

Executive Director's Report

Mary Ann McGrath

2016-17 marks the Regina Early Learning Centre's 40th year of programming – a real milestone.

We are, of course, starting to plan for some special events in the spring of 2017. Stay tuned!

However, the occasion of forty years also offers an opportunity for reflection: a chance to think about where the Centre has come from and what it is moving toward; what has changed and what has remained the same; what are some of our key learnings, and what are our hopes for the future?

It is impossible to think about the Early Learning Centre's history without remembering Anne Luke, the wonderful, visionary woman who started the ELC and who remains a close friend, advisor and supporter. I believe Anne was not just a gifted early childhood educator, she was also a true leader and an individual with a profound sense of social justice and all three of these qualities were critical in making the Centre what it is today.

In a very real sense, Anne was thirty eight years ahead of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

Getting to the truth was hard, but getting to reconciliation will be harder. It requires that the paternalistic and racist foundations of the residential school system be rejected as the basis for an ongoing relationship.

Reconciliation requires that a new vision, based on a commitment to mutual respect, be developed. It also requires an understanding that the most harmful impacts of residential schools have been the loss of pride and self-respect of Aboriginal people, and the lack of respect that non-Aboriginal people have been raised to have for their Aboriginal neighbours. Reconciliation is not an Aboriginal problem; it is a Canadian one.

[http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Honouring the Truth Reconciling for the Future July 23 2015.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Honouring%20the%20Truth%20Reconciling%20for%20the%20Future%20July%2023%202015.pdf)

After teaching kindergarten in a Regina School, Anne was concerned both by the fact that her students were entering Kindergarten not ready but also, the schools were not ready to meet the needs of these children. In the summer of 1977, she started to go door to door in that North Central neighborhood to discover if there were parents interested in working with her to create a solution. She discovered parents who were very interested in ensuring their children had greater opportunities to succeed in school. For Anne, mutual respect involved saying to parents: "I know something about how young children learn and what a preschool could look like and you know your children best, you know about the challenges of living in poverty and you have a vision of what you want for your children. Let's work together and create a preschool program". In many ways, it is this initial insight/philosophy/value that has guided the Centre's growth and development over the past forty years.

It is the reason why the Centre has always had a parent Board of Directors and with their guidance and determination, the Centre has weathered many a storm. It is the reason why we work so hard to find and or develop programming that is culturally sensitive and affirming. For many years this cultural sensitivity has been in terms of indigenous culture but increasingly, our program is challenged to respond respectfully and sensitively to the culture of new comers to Canada as well. In a very similar vein, it is the reason the Centre has always created a workforce that is culturally diverse and reflective of the children and families we serve. It is the reason that as the Centre has expanded all programs have remained voluntary and have retained a core belief in the strengths and potential of both the children and the parents.

Treasurer's Report

Reeta Rani

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, 2016 - August 31, 2017. These statements were approved by the Board of Directors on Nov. 20, 2017.

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 would like to thank the Finance Committee for providing expert and advice to the Board. I would also 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.

Full statements are available at www.earlylearning.ca or by contacting the ELC at 306 757-3744.

