ECELC 2022/2023 Work Plan

ECELC's Work Plan for 2022/2023 is to undertake the work necessary to design, promote, and build an integrated system of early learning and care in Edmonton that: is publicly managed; is supported by public funding; has a workforce that is appropriately educated and well supported; coordinates the range of services needed to support young children and their families; and contributes to poverty elimination.

What change do we want to see?

➜ Edmonton has a system of effective planning and management for early learning that conforms to the vision, mission, and principles of the Council and that is supported by sufficient mechanisms, structures, and resources.

➜ The information needed to plan and manage a system is readily available and used on a regular basis to monitor and evaluate early learning and care in Edmonton. Targeted research is conducted as needed to address issues that arise in designing, implementing, and sustaining an effective system of early learning and care.

➜ Edmonton Council for Early Learning and Care engages regularly with governments at all levels to promote and advance high-quality, affordable, accessible, and inclusive early learning and care that meets the needs of vulnerable children and their families.

➜ Early learning and care in Edmonton is fully welcoming to and supportive of the range and diversity of young children and their families.

➜ The need for a system of early learning and care is well understood and broadly supported by Edmontonians, and ECELC is a widely recognized and credible source of information about early learning and care in Edmonton.

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Evidence

➔ Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) is not just a "women's" or parents' issue. Benefits are much broader: for parents, increased opportunities to pursue educational and career goals; for children, increased opportunities for learning and socializing that positively influence their development; for employers, benefits from a larger and more diverse talent pool; for communities, thriving families and a stronger economy.

➔ The economic case for the benefits of ELCC are well documented and strong.

➔ High quality ELCC must be accessible and inclusive to eradicate poverty and inequality.

➔ The investment made by the Federal government to fund a national system of ELCC is a step in the right direction. The City in partnership with the provincial government and other stakeholders, should act now to leverage this opportunity to build an ELCC system for children, families and communities in Edmonton,

➔ The City of Edmonton can play an active role in determining how ELCC is publicly managed, funded and delivered in the city.

Objectives

➔ To ensure the City of Edmonton economic and growth plans promote a system of high-quality, affordable, and accessible early learning and child care that all Edmontonians and families, and especially low-income and vulnerable families, can use.

➔ To incorporate a reconciliation lens into plans to promote high-quality, affordable, and accessible early learning and child care system.

➔ To engage the City, local school boards, other levels of government, and stakeholders, in building a system of ELCC in Edmonton.

➔ To develop understanding for the need for collective solutions and policies to respond to problems, challenges, and opportunities.

➔ To inform the public of the role a high-quality, affordable, and accessible early learning and child care system can contribute to ending poverty in Edmonton.

➔ To build community, institutional and political support for a system of early learning and care.

➔ To promote culturally responsive early learning and care services, curricula, and educational programs for service providers who work with Indigenous families, newcomer families and families living in poverty.

➔ Contribute to discussions and provide expertise at the federal, provincial and municipal level to support a national system of early learning and care.

Work Plan

Theme: Advocacy		
Goal	Objective	One Year Activities
Develop municipal, provincial, and federal government relations plans.	To effectively influence and support elected officials. To support the implementation of the national childcare agreement.	Increase staff competency and confidence advocating to elected officials re: early learning and care. Implementing year 1 goals of government relations plans.

		To scope municipal and federal partners that *could* support the work (for example, the Big City Mayors, Alberta Municipalities, etc.).
The Provincial Government commits to develop an Early Learning and Care workforce development strategy.	To become trusted advisors to provincial ministers and opposition involved in ELC workforce development strategy. To promote the need for a workforce strategy jointly or in a complementary manner with partners.	Partner with ECELC members and other organizations to increase the impact and strategic nature of advocacy initiatives for a workforce strategy. - Support AECEA's development of ECE wage scale (Miranda) Collaborate with EPE's Inclusive Economy Directors to inform and support any further development of a workforce strategy for ECEs.
Childcare is an election issue in the 2023 provincial election.	To inform candidates from all parties about the state of childcare in Alberta.	Coordinate the work of ECELC with that of other EPE game-changer tables and EPE Executive Director to develop and implement an election advocacy plan. Centre lived experience (including Journey Mapping) in election materials and communications. Develop a plan to activate ECELC in election activities and communications (attending meetings, community forums, pledges, meet your own candidate, etc.)

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The City of Edmonton is an ally of ECELC and becomes an advocate to the provincial government on the importance of a universal system of childcare	To ensure that the work of the Council is aligned with existing and new initiatives in the city where appropriate, such as the Safe City proposal and District Planning. To become trusted advisors to City Councilors and administration on matters surrounding the creation of a universal system of childcare.	City administration and councilors understand the vision of ECELC. ECELC has an identified champion/champions on city council to support its work both provincially and with city administration. Present the work of ECELC to City Council in a Fall 2022 Lunch'n'Learn. Work (possibly with Calgary and others) to ensure municipal input into implementation of the Canada-Wide ELCC process on topics such as space creation, quality, affordability and workforce development.
ECELC has an effective and responsive communication strategy, supported by EPE's communication capacity	To develop knowledge mobilization plans to promote the research results generated by the ECELC. To provide opportunities to learn from other stakeholder research relevant to the work of the ECELC. To raise awareness and educate about the role affordable, accessible, inclusive child care plays in supporting families who live in poverty	Continue to prepare and disseminate documents on critical issues for a wide range of audiences including government and public (e.g., discussion papers accompanied by 1-2 page briefs). Continue to develop the Council website to help inform partners and the public of the Council's work.

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		Continue to develop resources, research and materials for quality and affordability that can be adopted and promoted by institutional partners. Create a sentence about our fundamental beliefs that speaks to the change we want to see in the world. Communicate EPE's Vision through the ECELC's work. Work with partners (AECEA, PIA, ESPC, etc.) to disseminate ECELC's work.
Raise awareness and educate with service providers who work with Indigenous and newcomer families about culturally responsive early learning and care services, curricula, and educational programs	To work to increase the engagement and influence of diverse ethnic communities in conversations and actions for ELCC. To support recommendations of other organizations that align with the ECELC vision and objectives. To advocate for increased diversity of voice to influence Edmonton's and Alberta's implementation of a national system of ELCC.	Grow partnerships with diverse organizations that have interest in ELCC such as the business community, union organizations and others (e.g., Alberta Building Trades). Collaborate with partners to provide educational opportunities for frontline staff.

Theme: Policy

Goal	Objective	One Year Activities
Influence policy development municipally and provincially that supports universal child care.	To remain current and drive conversation about system building, including the role of various levels of government To increase information sharing about learnings, policy changes, and promising practices related to ELCC system building.	Work with academic institutions to support research on and evaluation of promising practices related to ELCC system building. Track policy changes/additions to measure progress in policies that enhance/support child care expansion, workforce development, families in need of support, etc. Prepare briefs and discussion papers that would make recommendations or support specific asks to the City Council, City administration, and provincial government to inform municipal or provincial policies
Use research to influence the design and delivery of policy and services.	To centre low-income and vulnerable families in the design of a universal system of child care.	Develop briefs and other awareness raising products emerging from the parent and guardian survey, particularly focused on low-income

		families.
		Develop an information mobilization plan using the research, stories and journey maps.
		Conduct parent survey for the purpose of developing an understanding of parental child care needs to inform decision-making and policy. - Determine follow up steps in partnership with Muttart, MacEwan and CUP
		Continue to partner with MCHB to mobilize knowledge out of the Journey mapping project and define next steps
The city, provincial governments, and local school boards have coordinated policies, regulations, and practices that jointly support high-quality, affordable, and inclusive early learning and care.	Needs further discussion within the working committee assigned the task	Needs further discussion within the committee assigned the task

Theme: Community Action		
Goal	**Objective**	**One Year Activities**
Convene a table to increase the	To plan, develop, and implement a	Determine the right people within the

coordination and collaboration of the child care sector to support the building effective systems of early learning and care in targeted Edmonton communities.	community-based collaboration with the intent to improve access to high-quality, affordable early learning and child care in targeted communities and to develop a model for generalizing this work to other communities	ECELC to guide the project. Meet with various community members one on one and in focus groups to determine interest in being part of a collaboration. Based on interest, form a collaboration group and determine project. Determine the structure of the collaborative partnership. Agree on and develop a vision, commitment, leadership, and action plan including measurable data with regard to success and impact on poverty reduction. Work with information provided by the Data Table to help inform the project.
Convene a data table to increase the coordination and collaboration of the data related to ELCC sector and support effective systems of early learning and care in Edmonton	To develop a collective attitude to data sharing and data-informed problem solving. To agree on and develop an action plan to mitigate risk factors for the collaboration	Determine the right people within each partner organization and other organizations to be invited. Determine structure of the collaborative partnership. Develop an MOU for data sharing across partner organizations. Reduce barriers to data sharing

		across stakeholder groups