

# 50

## Years of LEADERSHIP in ACTION

### We Are ALIGN

We are one voice for many – a collective voice for our membership that promotes the essential services our members provide. With a shared vision, we advocate for the causes and issues that directly affect our members and the children and families of Alberta.

Our 120, member agencies and their 10,000 staff, provide direct service to over 200,000 vulnerable children and their families each year.

With over 50 years of experience behind us, ALIGN is proud to be recognized at home and across Canada as an expert in best practices associated with child intervention services. We serve as a knowledge hub for our members as well as hosting high caliber training offered by some of the best experts from across North America.

We are ALIGN ... *Together for children and families.*



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# 2017 | 2018

## Annual Report



# Thank you to our members for your support over the past 50 years.



The 2017 | 2018 year marked a milestone in ALIGN's history. But, it wasn't a year-long party. ALIGN was called on early in the year to participate, along with many of our members and partners, to provide intelligence to the Ministerial Child Intervention Panel by way of presentations as well as written submissions. While all that was happening, Bill 17, the *Fair and Family – Friendly Workplaces Act* received royal assent on June 7, 2017 and we quickly learned there would be significant financial impacts for our members. Not to be overlooked, Bill 30, *An Act to Protect the Health and Well-being of Working Albertans* was introduced and ALIGN contributed to the consultation process on behalf of our members. It has been an unusually busy year for our government relations work. Thank you to members who responded to our requests for information (sometimes on short notice). Without actual details from the front line it can be difficult to advocate appropriately.

*One voice so Children, Families and Communities thrive.*



## Child Intervention Panel

In June 2017, ALIGN made two formal presentations to the panel, followed by a written submission. With the support of more than a dozen ALIGN members who also made written submissions, our sector views were well-represented. Just prior to the end of the year, on March 28, 2018, the panel delivered its recommendations.

## Bill 17

The Fair and Family-Friendly Workplace Act came into effect on January 1, 2018. ALIGN, together with our members have identified significant financial impacts of the legislation. ALIGN's ED and Board Chair have worked throughout the year with both Children's Services and the Labour Ministry to address issues that are unique to our sector. ALIGN will continue to work toward negotiated solutions in 2018-2019.

## Bill 30

ALIGN responded to a consultation survey in April 2018, just prior to our 2017 | 2018 year end. ALIGN member agencies were informed and encouraged to respond to the public consultation process.

**700**  
Participants

## Leadership Bursary Comes to an End

After 11 years of administering a leadership education bursary program for the social services sector, the program has come to an end. 165 Individual leadership bursaries were awarded 65 Agency leadership bursaries were awarded with 516 senior staff, board members and CEOs or EDs participating in the agency initiatives. Other targeted leadership strategies supported by the bursary included a leadership symposium in 2014; development of the Emerging Leaders Framework; and support to the Indigenous Management Certificate program.

**317**  
Attendees

## Indigenous Thought Leaders Days

ALIGN hosted two symposia in 2017 | 2018 for executive and management leaders in the child intervention sector. Both days were held in ceremony and highlighted culturally-based approaches to child intervention practice. Presenters were highly respected elders and knowledge keepers from Alberta and the United States. Short videos highlighting some of the protocol teachings are now posted on ALIGN's website.

**545**  
Attendees

## Training to Support Service Delivery

In 2017 | 2018 most of ALIGN's training initiatives were focused on Indigenous learning as well as the fundamentals of the Foundations of Caregiver Support (trauma informed care, brain development and multigenerational trauma). ALIGN has worked hard to bring internationally recognized experts to Alberta for many of this year's training events. Thank you to our members for supporting these opportunities through your attendance.



Celebrating Bear Witness Day

## Putting our sector on the political agenda in 2019.

With a spring election just around the corner, ALIGN's Government Relations Committee is refining our key messages. The primary focus will be to communicate the need for public policies that support a strong social service network for vulnerable Albertans. ALIGN member agencies will play an important role in educating all party candidates and the public about our sector's role in sustaining a healthy and vibrant economy.

## Did you read ALIGN's 2017 Fall Journal?

Our contributors to the Fall Journal shared research papers and literature reviews focusing on topics of specific interest to those who support youth clients. A case study on developing meaningful partnerships; a book review; and editorial column rounded out the Fall Journal. All issues of the Journal are archived on ALIGN's website as peer to peer resources.

Consider sharing your research paper, literature review or case study in an upcoming ALIGN Journal.

## Foundations of Caregiver Support (FCS)

Work on this initiative has been ongoing since 2015. Training has been pilot-tested and in 2017 – 2018 ALIGN hosted Train the Trainer events to give agencies the material to train their own staff and caregivers.

## Mental Health First Aid

Over 300 agency staff from across the province were trained in Agency Mental Health First Aid in 2017 | 2018. Additional training opportunities related to aspect of intervention work were Kevin Campbell's "Family Finding for Caregivers" and Dr. Michael Unger's presentation on Resiliency in Children and Youth. These additional training opportunities were well-attended and received positive feedback from attendees.

## Financial Position 2017 | 2018

**VKO LLP CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS**

We are pleased to share that ALIGN's 2017 | 2018 financial records were audited by the above named independent chartered accountants and found to be without issue. Copies of the audited statements are available on request.