



ALIGN
Association of
Community Services

ANNUAL REPORT **2021- 2022**





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We are a collection of allies – a unified community of agencies that represents the diverse needs of Alberta's children and families. We are proud to champion the work of our front line service providers and to support our members. Together, we are stronger.

Mission:

One voice so children, families and communities thrive

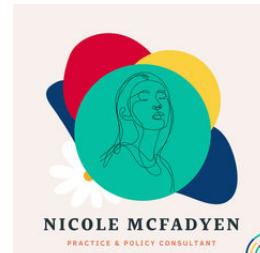
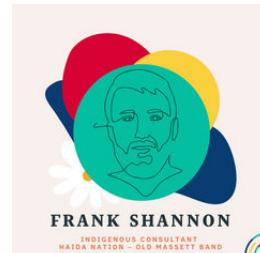
Beliefs:

- We believe all families and communities have the strengths and capacities to grow and change
- We believe each child and family must live in safe, secure, healthy, stable and nurturing environments
- We believe each child and family must be provided the opportunity to maximize their potential
- We believe in respect for the diversity, values and dignity of all people

Values:

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellence• Respect• Collective• Ethical Accountability | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courage• Commitment• Integrity |
|--|--|

Meet Our Team





ALIGN
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Board of Directors

Executive

Pauline Smale
Robecca Chahine
Soraya Saliba

President (2017)
Vice President (2018)
Treasurer (2016)

Edmonton
Red Deer
Calgary

Directors

South Region Representative	Greg Schmidt (2019)	Lethbridge
Calgary Region Representative	Danielle Ladouceur (2020) Bjorn Johansson (2019)	Calgary
Central Region Representative	Robecca Chahine (2018) Bruce Rafuse (2018)	Red Deer
Edmonton Region Representative	Michelle Meadahl (2019) Carol Hrenyk (2019)	Edmonton
Northeast Regional Representative	Aaron Hachkowski (2017)	St. Paul/Athabasca
Northwest Regional Representative	Jessica Beauchamp (2021)	Grand Prairie
Aboriginal Representative (Central)	Beverly Keeshig-Soonias (Anishinaabe) (2016)	Red Deer
Aboriginal Representative (North)	Cheryl Whiskeyjack (Anishinaabe) (2016)	Edmonton
Aboriginal Representative (South)	Sarah Fuhriman (2019)	Calgary
Community Member Academic	Julie Mann-Johnson (2017) Donna Jamieson (2019)	Calgary
Member at Large	Hazel Bergen (2017)	Calgary





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Message from the Board President and Executive Director

Dear Members,

Another year full of successes and challenges has come and gone. COVID-19 continues to have an impact on social programming throughout the sector. Compassion fatigue, staff burnout, and political uncertainty have all been challenges in the last year that ALIGN membership has faced with resiliency and transparency.

In late 2021 ALIGN has maintained support to FRNs through training and information-sharing opportunities. We have also continued our work in Indigenous Cultural Understanding Framework which we forecast seeing a written and oral showcasing by 2022.

Caregiver Provincial Collaborative meetings have begun this year and are a place of information sharing and support for DFNAs, AFKA, and ALIGN to work collaboratively. The other exciting work has been a Well-Being collaboration with PolicyWise to create a collective definition of well-being and the report is on our website.

We are grateful for the flexibility and ingenuity of our members and are pleased that so many people were able to attend another virtual conference ALIGN has hosted online. Moving forward ALIGN will use their learning from the year to host a hybrid conference in 2023 to ensure accessibility for all members throughout the province.

ALIGN continues to advocate on behalf of its members and the sector for financial support and places at policy tables while navigating an everchanging political landscape.

The Board of Directors and staff appreciate the member support and thank you for the work you do with children, youth and families.



Rhonda Barraclough-
Executive Director



Pauline Smale-
Board President

Rhonda Barraclough and Pauline Smale



Strategic Plan

The ALIGN Board developed a new strategic plan in 2021

Develop and Implement Organizational Sustainability Strategies

Cultivating relationships with member organizations and identifying potential new ones that are key to organizational success.

Promote Excellence in Professional Development and Research in Alberta

Relies on relationship building, emphasizes mental wellness, has an Indigenous focus, as well as being intentional about addressing racism. It also considers occupational health and safety (OHS), recognizes the need to address the aftereffects of the pandemic all the while remaining collaborative and focusing on relationship building.

Develop an ALIGN Indigenous Cultural Understanding

Supporting organizations to understand and develop their own Indigenous and cultural strategies and enhance understanding, both at the staff/front-line and organizational level.

Promote Anti-Racist Practice and Address Systematic and Institutional Racism

Commitment to understanding and addressing systemic and institutional racism, while supporting diversity and representation in ALIGN's work. It addresses the outcomes of reducing the number of Indigenous children in care as a function of racism and ensuring systems do not put any children into care as a result of racism.

Develop a Workforce Strategy for Safe, Healthy, Sustainable, Competent Service Providers

ALIGN identified the desire to make this sector a "workplace of choice" by concentrating on enhancing recruitment and retention, with a specific focus on diversity and equity as well as highlighting a greater understanding of intergenerational issues within the staffing complement.

Advocate and Demonstrate Leadership to Enhance Child, Youth, and Family Well-Being in Alberta

There was a desire by ALIGN to enhance its advocacy skills with aim to strengthen the work of the sector.



<https://alignab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ALIGN-Strategic-Directions-February-20221.pdf>

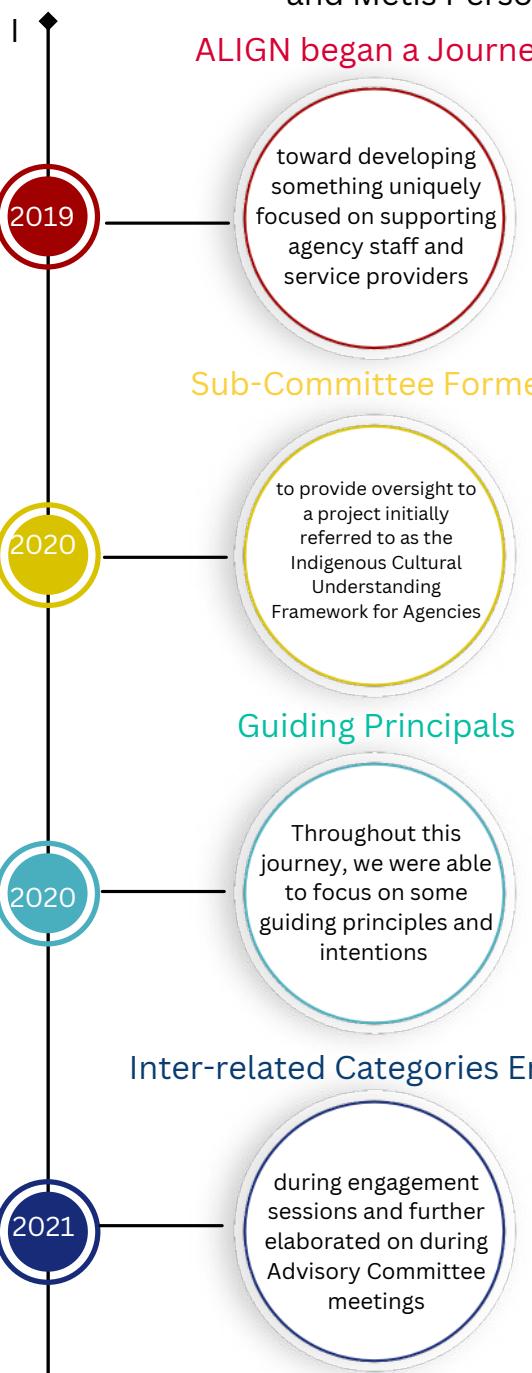


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Indigenous Cultural Understanding Framework (ICUF)

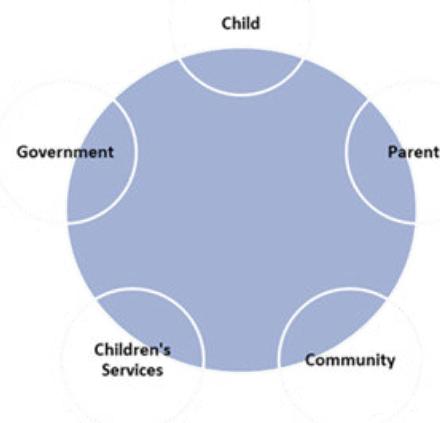
ICUF is aimed at advocacy for reconciliation and equitable treatment of Canada's First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Persons in Canada, particularly our children and youth.

ALIGN began a Journey



Throughout this journey we were able to focus on some guiding principals and intentions which included:

- Elder involvement: The process starts with protocol to acknowledge
- Honouring Indigenous lands
- Ethical Space
- Parallel Practice
- Inclusive and respectful of diversity
- Creative and open minded: Consideration for existing knowledge and practice

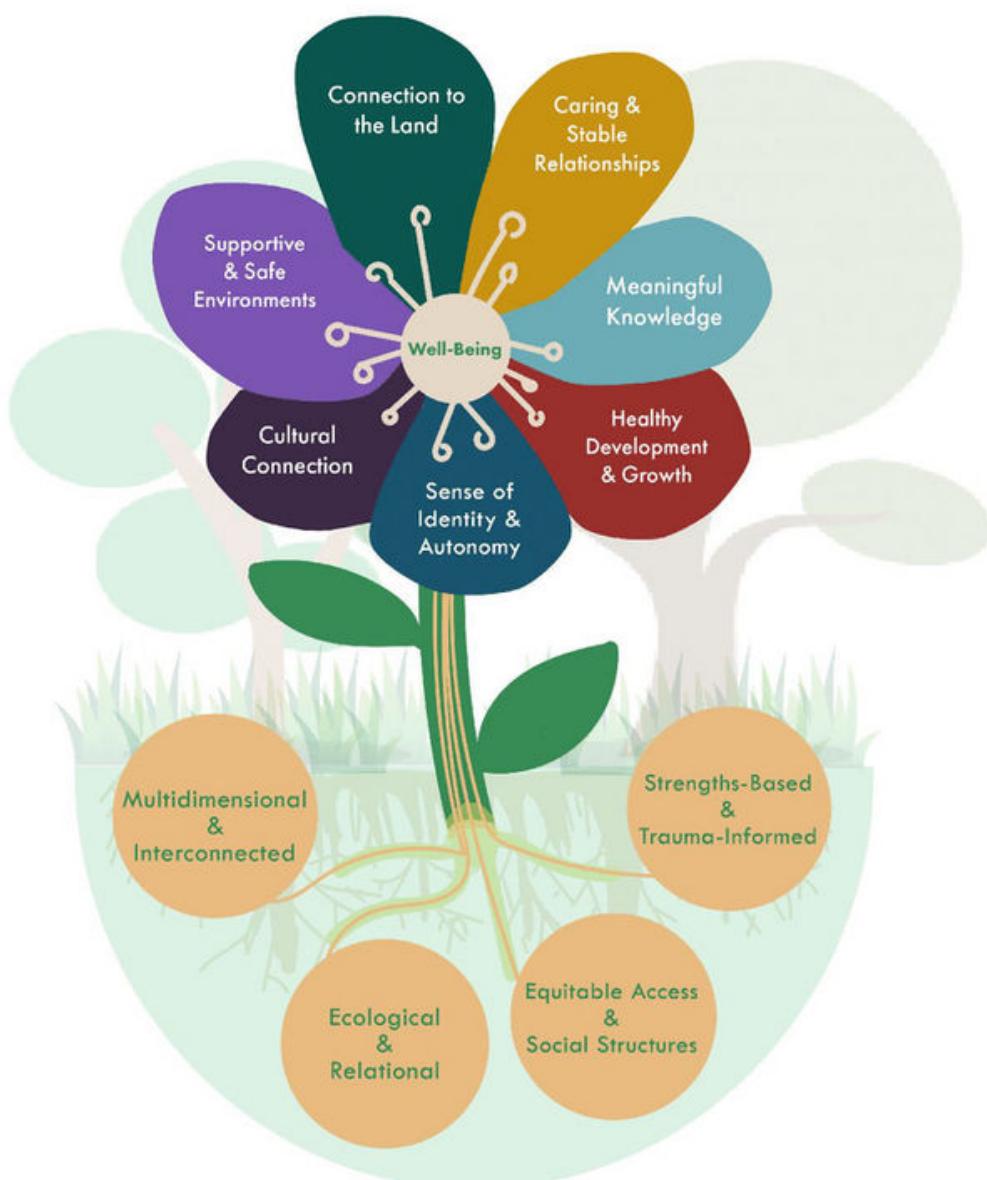




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ALIGN Well-Being Project

ALIGN is leading a three-year project to explore how the concept of well-being is defined, operationalized, and measured across the continuum of services for children and families. This project will look to define and describe well-being from prevention to intervention, outline approaches to measure well-being, and socialize and engage the sector in implementation and evaluation.



https://youtu.be/_uBSkz94Fe8

<https://alignab.ca/align-policy-wise-report-defining-well-being-across-the-continuum-of-childrens-services-environmental-scan-report-2022/>



ALIGN's Communication Strategy

News Letters

- Bi-Weekly Sector Newsletters
- ALIGN Newsletters
- Sector News
- ALIGN Connections

ALIGN members employ 10,000 staff and provide services to over 200,000 vulnerable children and families each year

Approximately 80% of the contracts government arranges with frontline child intervention, early intervention, FRNs, youth strategies, and disability services each year are with ALIGN's member agencies

Top Pages Viewed Year to Date

- Home
- Family Resources – Rent
- Family Resources – Pet Care
- Grants
- Family Resources – Financial Aid
- COVID – Critical Worker Benefit Careers
- Family Resources – Household COVID CS Updates
- COVID Memos

Increased Social Media Presence

ALIGN supports over 120 members throughout Alberta

Resources:

- ALIGN Political Tool-kit & AB Budget 2022
- Anti-Racism & Diversity
- Child Welfare & Intervention
- Children's Services Provincial Caregiver Training
- COVID-19
- Early Intervention and Prevention
- FSCD/PDD
- Grants, Bursaries, Awards
- Indigenous Cultural Understanding
- Kinship Care
- Leadership & Governance
- OHS Health, Safety & Wellness

Annual Website Statistics - 161,724 post or page views - 85,485 visitors versus current stats that reflect only Feb 2022 to date.



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On Oneness and the Spirit Within

Crazy Horse (1840-1877) – Oglala Lakota Sioux

"The Red Nation shall rise again and it shall be a blessing for a sick world; a world filled with broken promises, selfishness, and separations; a world longing for light again.

I see a time of Seven Generations when all the colors of mankind will gather under the Sacred Tree of Life and the whole Earth will become one circle again.

On that day, there will be those among the Lakota who will carry knowledge and understanding of unity among all living things, and the young white ones will come to those of my people and ask for this wisdom.

I salute the light within your eyes where the whole Universe dwells. For when you are at that center within you and I am that place within me, we shall be one."

PowWows.com Native American Quotes As Meaningful As They Were Centuries Ago

We are excited to see what the coming year brings for ALIGN

And we encourage you to follow along with us

Where to Find ALIGN



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