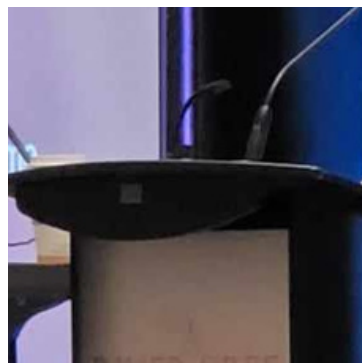


2022/2023

ANNUAL REPORT



Chief Cadmus Delorme speaking at the first *Walking The Children Home Together* summit on November 4, 2022, at the River Cree Hotel in Edmonton, Alberta.



Explore More



Dear Members,

As another year of hurdles and victories spreads out behind us, we continue to look to the future with a focus on Indigenous Cultural Understanding, Well-Being, OHS and Early Intervention as priorities. In the past year, we have wrapped up the picture story for the Indigenous Cultural Understanding Framework, moved into the second year of the Well-Being project, adding the University of Calgary to the conversation and completed the Foundations of Caregiver Support Train the Trainer sessions for FRNs throughout the province.

Throughout the year, ALIGN focused on Government Relations and worked hard to build non-partisan relationships that would be a benefit to membership after the planned election in mid-2022. In early 2023, plans started to be made to host candidate breakfasts that would allow ALIGN members to meet the candidates in their ridings and ask some questions important to them and the work they do.

This year saw ALIGN host their first of four Walking the Children Home Together events. The day brought together Nations and Agency providers throughout Alberta to have collaborative discussions in support of positive transition with the Federal Act (Bill C-92), An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families. The goal is to continue building on this conversation and to continue to host these events throughout the coming year around Alberta.

We continue to be proud of the work that frontline agencies throughout the province present at meetings, training opportunities and networking events. It is with this pride that ALIGN will move forward with post-pandemic workforce recovery and a focus on OHS partnerships for the sector.

We are grateful for the flexibility and ingenuity of our members and are pleased to announce that we completed the 15th annual ALIGN conference this past year with over 200 delegates in attendance from all over Alberta.

As such, ALIGN continues to advocate on behalf of its members and the sector for financial support and places at policy tables while navigating an ever-changing 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 and Pauline Smale

*Rhonda Barraclough
Executive Director*



*Pauline Smale
Board President*



ALIGN BELIEFS

- All families and communities have the strengths and capacities to grow and change.
- Each child and family must live in a safe, secure, healthy, stable and nurturing environment.
- Each child and family must be provided the opportunity to maximize their potential.
- Respect for the diversity, values and dignity of all people.



ALIGN VALUES

- Excellence
- Courage
- Respect
- Commitment
- Collective
- Integrity
- Ethical Accountability



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE

Pauline Smale	President (2017)	Edmonton
Robecca Chahine	Vice President (2018)	Red Deer
Soraya Saliba	Treasurer (2016)	Calgary

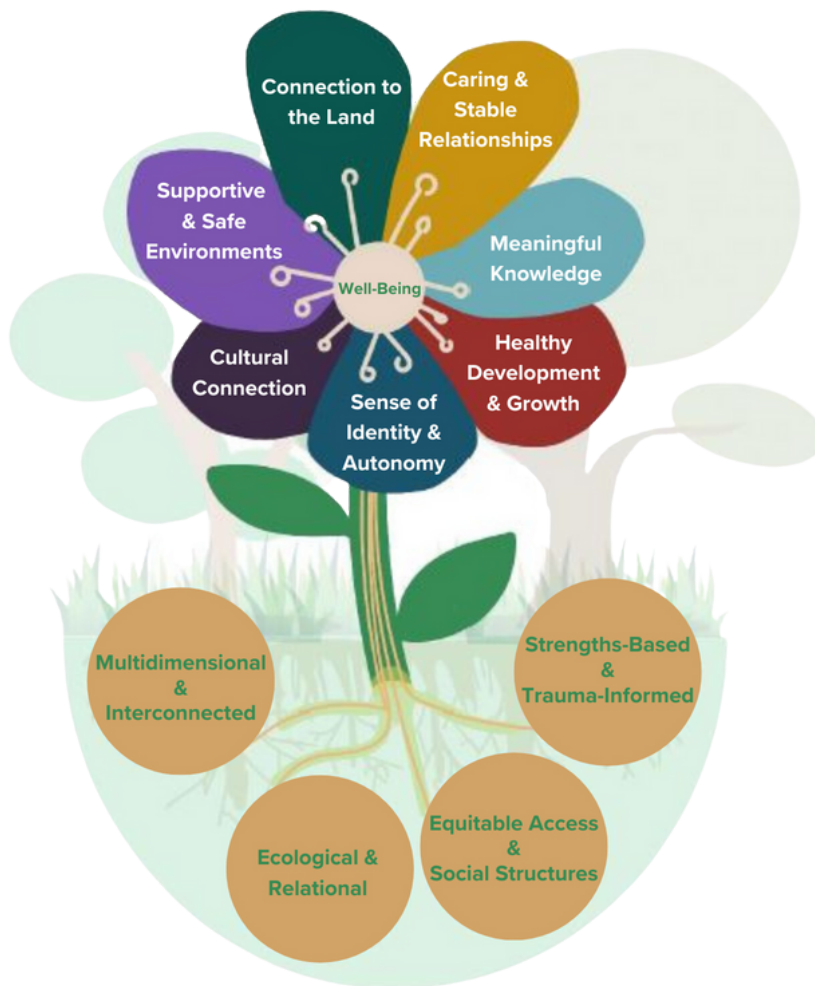
DIRECTORS

South Region Representative	Greg Schmidt (2019)	Lethbridge
Calgary Region Representative	Danielle Ladouceur (2020) Bjorn Johansson (2019)	Calgary
Central Region Representative	Sonya Polz (2022) Bruce Rafuse (2018)	Red Deer
Edmonton Region Representative	Michelle Meadahl (2019) Chris Simonson (2022)	Edmonton
Northeast Region Representative	Aaron Hachkowski (2017)	St. Paul/Athabasca
Northwest Region Representative	Jessica Beauchamp (2021)	Grand Prairie
Aboriginal Representative (Central)	Beverly Keeshig-Soonias (2016)	Red Deer
Aboriginal Representative (North)	Cheryl Whiskeyjack (2016)	Edmonton
Aboriginal Representative (South)	Sarah Fuhriman (2019)	Calgary
Community Member- Academic	Julie Mann-Johnson (2017)	Calgary

WELL-BEING PROJECT

The way we define and understand child and youth well-being matters. To ensure programs and services are equitable and culturally responsive, it is vital that we define and understand child and youth well-being based on the perspectives and values of culturally diverse communities. In phase one, we identified four principles that are foundational to the seven domains of well-being. Along with this, we identified seven domains of child and youth well-being; these are represented in our flower below.

In phase two of this project, we are building on what we learned to develop measurement tools that align with well-being, as we have defined it. In preparation for this work, we conducted a preliminary scan of existing well-being measurement tools and approaches and have since defined five measurement principles to define child well-being to guide the next phase (three) of this project as we move into late 2023 and early 2024.



We hope that the definition of well-being that we have outlined in the report - including the four foundational principles and seven domains - sparks continued conversation and deep reflection on how child welfare practice can best support children, youth, families, and communities along their unique pathways to being well and thriving.

Did you know?

To achieve our goal we held:

1

Three engagement sessions with youth

2

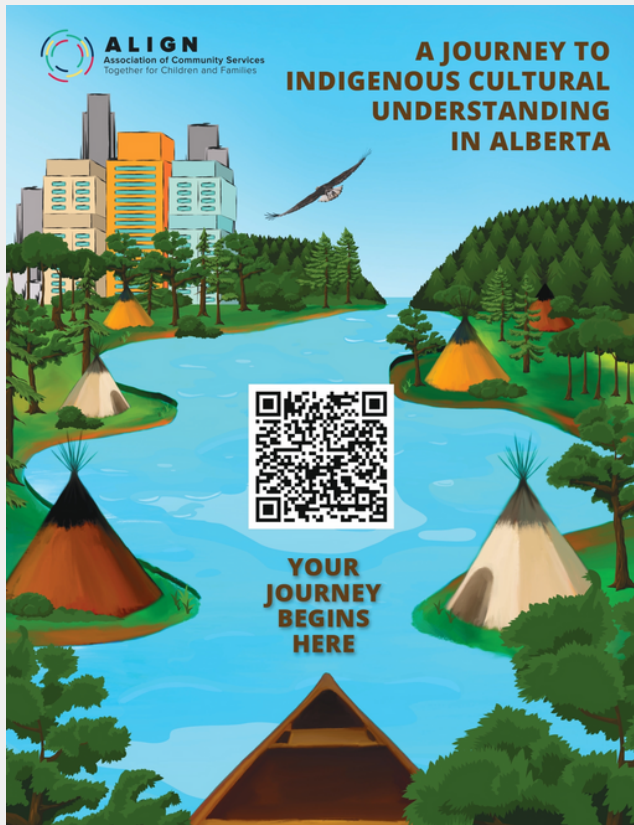
Two talking circles with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers

3

Two engagement session with youth and youth family councils



INDIGENOUS CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING FRAMEWORK (ICUF)



ALIGN is pleased to share a Journey to Indigenous Cultural Understanding in Alberta. This tool has been developed with consultation and guidance from elders, ALIGN members, youth, and Indigenous Cultural Understanding Advisory group members. We understand that this is a journey, and this tool is intended to be a living document; changing, flowing, and moving over time. Available in both oral and written form, this learning has been purposely created to support agencies to walk together with First Nations and to create a principle-based place for individuals to begin conversations that will become a foundation for moving forward.

This journey is supported and led by the Indigenous Advisory Committee of ALIGN.

Principles that have emerged:

- Ceremony
- Creation
- Natural Law/Relationships
- Knowledge Transfer
- Language
- Wellbeing and Kindness
- Land and Environment
- Traditional Parenting/Kinship
- Role of the Child
- Programs and Structures
- Allyship
- Drum and Song

Did you know?

Our indigenous advisory committee continues to meet to keep parallel world views a focus throughout all of ALIGN's work.

View ALIGN's ICUF document here:

<https://alignab.ca/indigenous-initiatives-resources/>

FAMILY RESOURCES NETWORK (FRN) SUPPORT

The ALIGN Family Resource Network (FRN) task group (2021-2022) worked with the Ministry of Children's Services as they developed the processes and structures of Family Resource Networks. ALIGN continues to sit on the FRN steering committee, as do many of our members. In 2022-2023, ALIGN was engaged by the Ministry to offer the Foundations of Caregiver Support Train-the-Trainer to agencies.

The Train-the-Trainer project led to ALIGN customizing the curriculum and facilitator guides to facilitate the training of 81 FRN trainers. ALIGN also partnered with the Multicultural Health Brokers to ensure that multicultural child and family service concepts were included in the training.

OCCUPATION HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS)

The ALIGN Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) working committee was formed to determine how to identify best further challenges, themes, issues, concerns and opportunities affecting our members. In 2023, our survey was completed, highlighting the roadmap of work ahead.

Our goal moving forward is to tell the story of our sector, enhancing OHS programming for the agencies and leading to a balanced and healthy workplace for both clients and staff.

Did you know? ALIGN represents over 15,000 front-line staff!

<https://alignab.ca/align-association-survey-results-report-align-ohs-sub-committee-survey-2022-released-march-2023/>

The ALIGN OHS Survey and results can be viewed here:

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

In 2022, throughout changes and turmoil, ALIGN continued to support and advocate for resources as we moved from COVID into a post-pandemic work environment. During this time, ALIGN had a financial advocacy strategy focused on wages and support for the cost of inflation.

As political climates shifted in early 2023, ALIGN moved to an election-based strategy to ensure our sector voices were heard and offered election key messages and strategies, including a social media campaign, advocacy training and candidate breakfasts.

We want to thank all those who contributed to the one-time GRC ask to help support this work.

There continues to be an ongoing collaboration with the Alberta Counsel as they support the Government Relations work of ALIGN and the Government Relations Committee.

Election key messages and elections strategy:

Sustainable funding for community services

Keep services in communities

Work together to ensure the most vulnerable Albetans have access to the services they need when they need them

ALIGN - ONLINE PRESENCE

ALIGN online presence continues to be vibrant; this year, the ALIGN website saw 467,014 clicks from almost 60,000 users.

The continued areas of interest are:

- Grants, Bursaries and Awards
- CS Provincial Caregiver Training
- Careers - Apply Now
- ALIGN's work such as ICUF, Well-Being, and Government Relations

Our social media analytics show a consistent increase in reach, engagement and visits across all social media platforms.

FACEBOOK	INSTAGRAM	TWITTER
2,113 (↑297.9%)	484 (↑200.6%)	2,113
REACH	REACH	IMPRESSIONS
567 (↑388.8%)	395 (↑1.0K%)	567
VISITS	VISITS	ENGAGEMENT
32 (↑300%)		
NEW LIKES		

We look forward to adding LinkedIn to our reach in 2023-2024.



Learn more about ALIGN at <https://alignab.ca/about/>



Audited statements are available upon request.

MEET THE STAFF

Executive Director



Rhonda Barraclough

Website Content & Design Manager



Starr Durrant

Administrative Assistant



Michelle Gordon

Practice & Policy Consultant



Nicole McFadyen

Indigenous Consultant

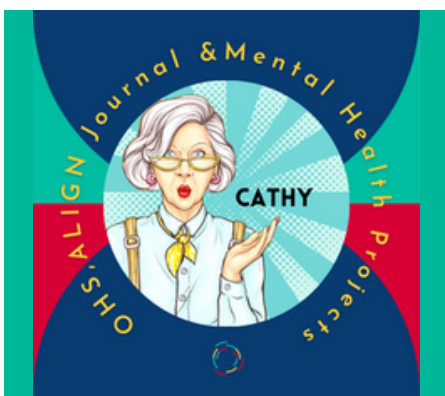
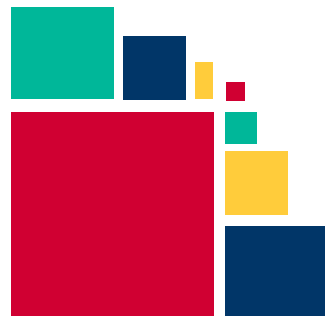


Frank Shannon
Haida Nation - Old Massett Band

Communications & Programs Assistant



Mista Zaugg



In 2022, Cathy retired!
We wish her all the best.

More information



(780) 428-3660



www.alignab.ca