



<https://carf.org/carf-canada/>

**ALIGN – Association of Community Services
Together for Children and Families
October 31st, 2025 – Update**

CARF Canada would like to gratefully acknowledge that we are located on Treaty 6 Territory, the traditional territories of many First Nations including the Nehiyaw (Cree), Denesuliné (Dene), Nakota Sioux (Stoney), Anishinaabe (Saulteaux) and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) and within the Métis homelands and Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4.

General

On behalf of CARF Canada, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for our long-standing membership with ALIGN Association of Community Services. For many years, we have valued the opportunity to work alongside ALIGN and its member agencies, all of whom are deeply committed to helping children, families, and communities across Alberta thrive. We are honoured to be connected to an association whose mission, values, and beliefs align so closely with our own commitment to quality, person-centred services, and sector-wide excellence.

CARF Canada appreciates ALIGN's leadership in bringing agencies together as a collective voice focusing on excellence, respect, integrity, and shared wisdom. We deeply value ALIGN's belief that all families and communities have strengths and capacities, and that every child and family deserves access to services grounded in the best knowledge, practices, and community wisdom.

CARF Canada's participation as a member of ALIGN is centred on fostering dialogue, supporting knowledge exchange, and contributing to a culture of continuous quality improvement across the sector. We fully respect ALIGN's governance processes and any boundaries the association establishes related to our membership.

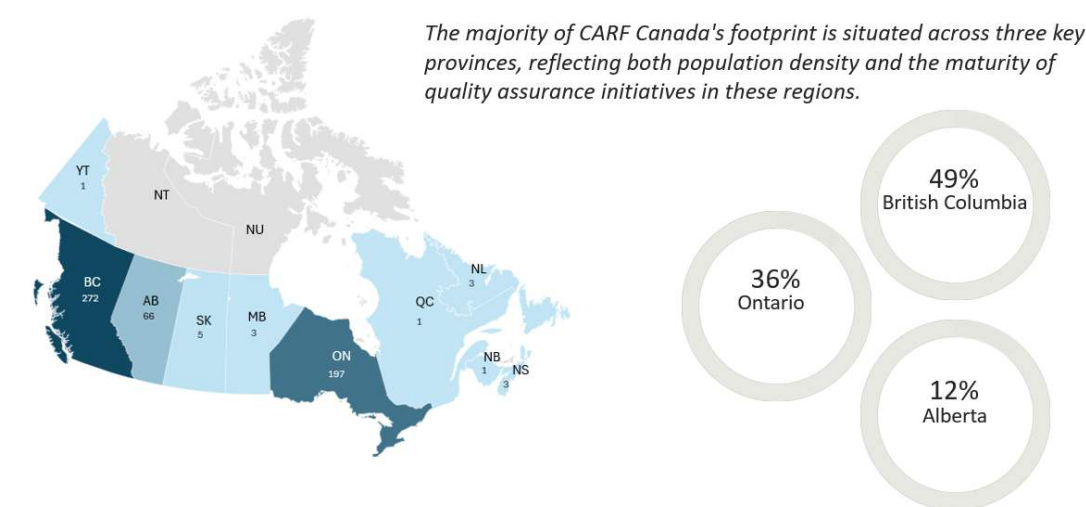
Our participation as a member of ALIGN supports our shared commitment to strengthening service delivery through collaboration, continuous learning, and evolving practice. We welcome opportunities to engage in conversations that enrich quality, elevate diverse perspectives, and promote culturally safe, ethical, accountable, and relationship-based approaches to care. As long-standing partners, we look forward to continuing our relationship with ALIGN and supporting the collective efforts that enhance the well-being, safety, and potential of children, families, and communities throughout Alberta.

Association Memberships Across Canada

CARF Canada is an active member of 18 provincial and national associations across the country, including those representing child and youth services, mental health, substance use disorders, primary/integrated care, long-term care, community social services, and medical rehabilitation sectors (to name a few). These partnerships provide valuable opportunities for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and alignment on emerging priorities that strengthen service delivery across Canada. Association memberships help CARF Canada stay current with emerging practices, field trends, and changing environmental conditions.

CARF Canada Geographic Footprint

As of January 3rd, 2025 there were 545 organizations across Canada providing over 5200 accredited programs. CARF accredits in five main areas which include Aging Services, Behavioural Health, Medical Rehabilitation, Child and Youth Services, and Employment and Community Services. CARF Canada has been growing since the very first Canadian survey in 1969. CARF Canada was officially established in 2002.



CARF Canada Priorities

The CARF Canada team updated the Strategic Plan for 2025 following an extensive environmental scan, SWOT analysis, review of feedback from organizations and survey experiences, robust discussions, and analysis of the 2024 achievements. This roadmap serves as a guide to remain responsive to the field and position CARF Canada to continually identify areas of opportunity and quality improvement.

These strategic priorities reflect CARF Canada's commitment to continuous improvement and our understanding that excellence in accreditation requires ongoing attention to relationship building, operational efficiency, and partner engagement. We recognize that organizations have options and we must consistently demonstrate value through our standards, processes, and support. We are committed to evidence-based practices and contributing to a broader knowledge base regarding quality improvement in health and human services.

Position as "Accreditor of Choice"

- Strategic communications and public relations for enhanced brand awareness
- Research projects highlighting accreditation value
- Continuous monitoring of sector and provincial trends

Build Strategic Relations

- Increase CARF awareness among organizations and government ministries
- Create showcase opportunities for best practices
- Strengthen relationships with relevant associations

Business Operational Efficiency

- Data-driven business planning and decision making
- Enhanced communication
- Improved alignment of priorities across teams

Education & Training Excellence

- Comprehensive training for new and existing organizations
- Strategic surveyor recruitment in Canada
- Meaningful engagement opportunities for surveyors

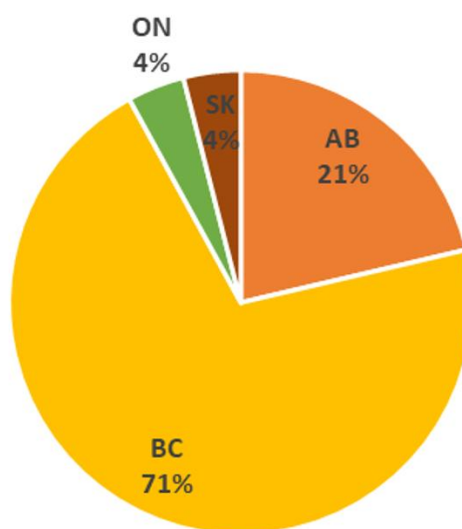
CARF Canada Accreditation

Organizations in Canada are accredited by CARF Canada. CARF Canada is a legal entity incorporated in Canada pursuant to the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. It is also important to know that all the revenue gained from surveys in Canada stays with CARF Canada and that our affiliation with CARF International is through a management agreement. By way of a licensing agreement, CARF Canada uses the CARF International standards.

Child and Youth Services

Within Child and Youth Services there were approximately 75 organizations providing over 880 programs across Canada. Most of these programs are in BC where 71% of them live and following that is Alberta at 21% and Ontario at 11%.

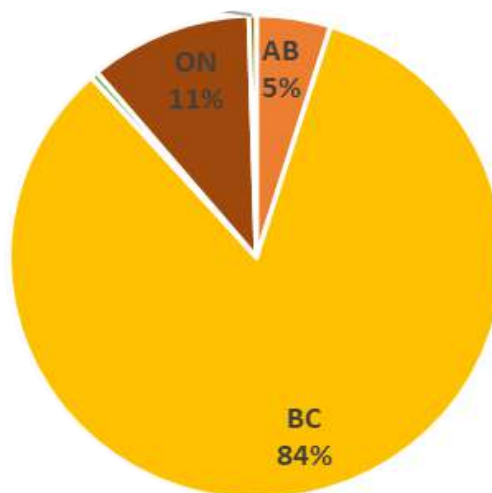
The top three programs accredited across Canada in Child and Youth Services are Group Home, Community Housing and Shelters, and Promotion/Prevention.



Employment and Community Services

Within Employment and Community Services there were approximately 200 organizations providing over 2600 programs across Canada. Most of these programs are in BC where 84% of them live and following that is Ontario at 11% and Alberta at 5%.

The top three programs accredited across Canada in Employment and Community Services are Community Housing, Community Integration, and Supported Living.



Education/Training and Conferences

CARF Canada participated in 23 conferences across the country where we exhibited, provided sponsorships, and presented. We trained over 175 participants through 8 offerings of training in both virtual and in person formats.

Good News Story - Carrier Sekani Family Services Collaboration

CARF Canada recently partnered with Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) to co-present at the First Nations Health Managers Association National Conference. Our workshop, *Walking the Path Together: Building Quality through Indigenous Knowledge and Community Voice*, explored how Indigenous organizations can use Western quality frameworks to better understand the true impact of their services. Through a case study, we highlighted how CSFS has taken ownership of their quality journey and how Western tools/frameworks supported their Indigenous led approach that is grounded in culture and community wisdom.

What stood out the most was not the content we prepared, but the depth of the conversations that unfolded during the tabletop discussions. The exchange of ideas, reflections, and stories created a meaningful learning space for all participants, including me. Working with CSFS to shape this workshop was rooted in our shared values and a collective commitment to supporting others on their quality journeys.

This experience reinforced something many of us already know and that is quality does not live in a checklist. It lives in our relationships, with the people we serve, with communities, and with one another.

Canadian Surveyors

CARF Canada has approximately 135 surveyors in the cadre. We continue to engage with our existing surveyors as well as seek opportunities to recruit new surveyors. If you are interested in becoming a surveyor or know someone in your organization, please contact me directly.

Make a difference by sharing your expertise and supporting organizations in their journey of continuous quality improvement. Becoming a CARF surveyor offers a unique opportunity to contribute to the field while advancing your own professional development.

Ready to Join Our Surveyor Cadre?

For more information please visit:

<https://carf.org/surveyor/>



Enhance Leadership Skills

Develop advanced leadership competencies through hands-on surveying experience



Broaden Your Perspective

Gain valuable insights into service delivery across diverse and creative organizations



Bring Back Insights

Apply learnings to improve quality and outcomes to your own organization

Quote of the Day

“Having gone through the entire process now, I now see the benefit of the CARF process. It is not just about meeting standards it is about quality performance and improvement. The consultative process of the survey was exceptional. I cannot express enough how impressed I was with our survey team and how they made the survey, what we thought would be a trip to the dentist, into a very informative and collaborative process that helped our organization immensely.”

Respectfully Submitted

Penny Gagnon

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