

ANNUAL REPORT 2003 – 2004



EDMONTON
Regional Learning
CONSORTIUM

Partners in adult learning for students' sake

EDMONTON REGIONAL LEARNING CONSORTIUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board governs the direction of the consortium and evaluates the executive director. The board is made up of 9 members from our partner organizations and meets four times during the year.

ERLC board members for the 2003-04 and 2004- 05 year:

PARTNER ORGANIZATION	2003-04 REPRESENTATIVE	2004-05 REPRESENTATIVE
Alberta Teachers Association	Dorothy Stanley	Dorothy Stanley
Alberta Teachers Association (Principal rep)	Will Simpson	Will Simpson (ERLC Board Chair)
Alberta Teachers Association (Teacher rep)	Patricia Hengel	Gail Berkner
Alberta Home and School Council Association	Cheryl Newton/Tracy Kaley	Cheryl Newton/Tracy Kaley
Alberta School Board Association	Terry Bouwman	TBD by ASBA
College of Alberta School Superintendents	Bill Hoppins	Elaine Whitford
Alberta Learning	Jim McLennan Dr. Dianna Millard	Brian Bittorf Dr. Dianna Millard
Alberta Association of School Business Officials	Jeanne Fontaine	Al Summers
University of Alberta	Dr. Larry Beauchamp Dr. Fern Snart	Dr. Fern Snart

ERLC TEAM

To facilitate your learning needs, ERLC staff consists of the following members:

VAL OLEKSHY

Executive Director
780 492 4993
volekshy@ualberta.ca

TASHA BLUMENTHAL

Executive Assistant
780 492 2005
tashab@ualberta.ca

SUZANNE CARTIER

Administrative Assistant
780 492 5301
erlcpd@ualberta.ca

JANICE CARDINAL

Registration / Bookkeeping
Coordinator
780 492 5339
erc@ualberta.ca

Our role is to actualize our mission "**partners in adult learning for students' sake**", please call or email us as required.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS ERLC facilitates learning opportunities for parents and staff in 19 school districts, as well as charter schools, private schools and band schools in the Edmonton region. To ensure that the program interests and needs of these groups are met, ERLC seeks the input of district representatives and advisory committees.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS INCLUDE:

Aspen View Regional Division
Black Gold Regional Division
Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord
Edmonton Catholic Schools
Edmonton Public Schools
Elk Island Catholic Schools
Elk Island Public Schools
Evergreen Catholic Separate Schools
Fort McMurray Public School District
Fort McMurray Regional Catholic Schools
Grande Yellowhead Regional Division
Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools
Living Waters Catholic Regional Division
Northern Gateway Regional Division
Parkland School Division
Pembina Hills Regional
St. Albert Protestant Schools
St. Thomas Aquinas R.C.S.
Sturgeon School Division

BAND SCHOOLS INCLUDE:

Alexis Elementary Jr./Sr. High
Edmonton Institute for Women
Ermineskin Elementary Junior High School
Ermineskin Kindergarten Community School
Ermineskin Primary School
Kipoptakaw Education Centre
Kisipatnahk Community School
Kitaskinaw School
Meskanank Ka-Nipa-Wit School

CHARTER AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS INCLUDE:

Alberta Centre for Chinese Studies
Alberta College
Aurora Charter School
Boyle Street Education Centre
Canadian College International
Columbus Academy
Concordia Continuing Education High School
Concordia High School
Covenant Canadian Reformed School
Covenant Christian School
Dante Alighieri Italian School
Devon Christian School
Don Bosco Academy
Edmonton Academy
Edmonton Khalsa School
Edmonton Menorah Academy
Elves Child Development Centre
Faith Lutheran School
Fort McMurray Christian School
German School Edelweiss – MacDonald
German School Edelweiss – Pentecostal
Harvest Baptist Academy
Headway School
Ivan Franko Ukrainian School
Lakeland Christian Academy
Living Waters Christian Academy
Meadowlark Christian School
Moberly Hall Charter School
Morinville Christian School
New Horizons School
Norquest College
Parkland Immanuel Christian School
Phoenix Academy
Progressive Academy
St. James Lutheran School
St. John's School of Alberta
St. Luke's College
St. Matthew Lutheran School
Suzuki Charter School
Tempo School
Thomas More Academy
Trinity Christian School – Grande Centre
Victory Christian School
Yellowhead Koinonia Christian School



EDMONTON
Regional Learning
CONSORTIUM

Partners in adult learning for students' sake

REPORT FROM THE EDMONTON REGIONAL LEARNING CONSORTIUM

The 2003-04 year provided an opportunity to demonstrate “**partners in adult learning for students sake**”! ERLC was involved with more collaborative PD events and learning opportunities than ever. The quality of the learning opportunities provided continued to be high – as is expected by our community and as shared through the session evaluations.

Highlights for the year are shared throughout this annual report and include personal “highs” such as:

- Opportunity to meet and collaborate with an outstanding education community in our region. Contacts include; board representatives of our partner organizations, our partner organizations, school district ERLC contacts, advisory committee members, presenters, and session participants. All should be proud of how they have advocated for adult learning for students sake.
- Opportunity to “apply” our new logo and name. We have found that the new logo and name has assisted us in communication about who we are. (i.e., the 7 stars on the logo represent our education partners who we report to on our board, the addition of “learning” describes what we are doing)
- Opportunity to learn about strategies that support implementation, through a wide variety of professional development events. I value the chance to use a backward design and learn and lead about approaches that will further support effective and shared responsibility for implementation.
- The 2003-04 year also provided for learning opportunities in our office with a variety of team member changes. We thank all those that assisted, past and present, in ensuring the quality of service from ERLC remains high. Together we look forward to continuing to provide the level of service and programs that you should expect from your consortium.

The success of ERLC is dependent on so many partners and participants. We would like to pass on professional thanks to two groups that have supported the consortium in “behind the scenes” sort of ways and should be acknowledged for long-term commitment.

Professional thanks to:

Faculty of Education – Acting Dean Dr. Fern Snart and previous Dean Larry Beauchamp. The Faculty of Education has been a supporter and partner of ERC/ERLC since the beginning - including the provision of office space. As ERLC has expanded the faculty has provided for more space. We look forward to continued good relations and partnership with the Faculty of Education – our mutual aim of “learning” will allow for ongoing and new collaborative ventures.

Parkland School Division – Secretary Treasurer Tom Olson and accountant Claire Jonsson. Parkland has also been a supporter and partner and agreed, since inception of ERC/ERLC, to be the agent board for the consortium. We value and appreciate the role they have taken, including the financial leadership and advice we receive from their team.

In the spirit of learning – please continue to let us know how we are doing so that we may continue to be **partners in adult learning for students’ sake**. Looking forward to all opportunities to work together.

Sincerely

Val Olekshy
Executive Director

Suzanne Cartier
Administrative Assistant

Tasha Blumenthal
Executive Assistant

Janice Cardinal
Registration Coordinator



ARPDC ASSESSMENT

In the 2003-04 year the Alberta Regional PD Consortia model was reviewed to determine how well the original purposes of the consortium have been achieved, to determine if the model continues to be effective, to make recommendations for the future role of the consortia and to ensure that the accountability process measures reports the degree to which stakeholders needs are met.

The review was guided by an advisory committee with representation from ASBA, ATA, CASS, ASBOA, AHSCA, the consortia, Universities and Alberta Learning. The review process included an

examination of annual reports, surveys of school staff, central office staff and parent representatives and a series of focus groups held in each region.

The final report concludes that the existing model works well and recommends continuation of both the model and the funding arrangements currently in place. Recommendations from the report are being reviewed and actions are being planned to address the suggestions. For a complete copy of the report please contact the ERLC office or the School Improvement Branch at Alberta Learning.

EDMONTON REGIONAL LEARNING CONSORTIUM 2003-04

This summary offers one highlight for each of the 6 original goals that were identified in the guidelines for establishment of consortia. If you would like further information about how ERLC meets these goals please contact the executive director.



GOAL #1: Support for the implementation of school jurisdiction goals, and the goals and strategies of Alberta Learning three-year plan.

Strategies: District contacts and advisory committees, representing the 18 districts ERLC serves, provide direction to program offerings and implementation plans. Programs were offered based on: jurisdiction needs as identified by representatives on advisory committees and review of 3 year plans, feedback from

participant's evaluation forms, district contacts input, Alberta Learning implementation schedule and business plan goals, grants and emerging needs.

Results:

- ERLC offered 163 different learning opportunities with 6275 learners participating in the sessions.
- Sessions were offered in a

variety of areas/curriculum (e.g., Aboriginal students, assessment, English, French, health, physical education, instructional strategies, differentiated instruction, leadership, early and middle literacy, math, programming for student success (formerly special needs), science, technology) based on jurisdiction goals, Alberta Learning goals, advisory committee direction and participants' evaluation feedback.

- 9 Advisory committees provided direction to ERLC, (i.e., early literacy, middle literacy, aboriginal student success, French, health, programming for student success, teacher assistants, social studies and daily physical activity). Over 125 district leaders are represented on these committees.
- 22 different advisory committee meetings were held with over 300 "lead learners" attending and representing their districts.
- ERLC delivered learning opportunities in at least 8 different Pd approaches.*

* These Pd sessions were either 1/2 day, full day or a series of sessions, conferences or study groups. Other Pd approaches also occurred. Six districts were involved in support for implementation of K-9 health using an "Action research" model with the focus being on extending consortium Pd sessions into districts. This modeled "follow-up" activities that were more "job/district" embedded after being initiated at the consortium level. ERLC middle

"Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Advisory committee meetings this year. I appreciate the manner in which you conducted the meeting as I felt we moved along at an excellent pace and covered a great deal in the time available. You also asked a lot of questions and listened to our needs. Over time I saw our requests reflected in the programs ERLC provides." ERLC Advisory committee/district representative

literacy committee were also involved in a “workshop development” pd initiative that provided an in-depth form of pd and resulted in a “learning strategies in science” workshop being developed.

GOAL #2: Broker, coordinate, evaluate and act as a clearinghouse for available training and development of resources.

Strategies: Participant’s session evaluations, conversations with other Pd service providers including the regional consortia executive directors from across the province, allow for an ongoing review and evaluation of programs. Reviewing the literature is another strategy used to identify programs that align with stakeholder needs.

Results:

- ERLC continues to provide information and respond to requests for information about professional development resources and learning opportunities. We brokered the Lenses on Learning series last year and offered advice and ideas about potential workshops or presenters for local Pd events.
- When requested, we post partner organizations programs, as well as other pd providers programs that support our communities learning needs and interests on our website. We adapted our brokering procedures last year and do not charge a fee for brokering a session which most often includes facilitating contracts for presenters.
- Our session evaluation includes the use of many of T. Guskey’s ideas for evaluating professional development. Our evaluation summaries are analyzed and inform future program plans. As well, the summary is sent to the presenters for their own review and reflection and provides a complete evaluation cycle that can inform presenters practice.
- A number of ERLC programs initiated through our programming are now evident in individual school districts Pd programs. (i.e., Learning strategies in math)

GOAL #3: Undertake the development of professional development programs to meet the emerging needs. *

Strategies: Based on consultation in our region ERLC takes the leadership role in facilitating the actual development of Pd programs to meet emerging needs. *ERLC interprets this goal as the development of Pd materials –the “delivery of learning opportunities” is reported in the first goal.

Results:

- Advisory committees input, AISI lessons learned or new curriculum suggest a need for new Pd experiences that align with student learning. We believe that developing materials in a collaborative manner, adapting as we go based on committee input and pilot experiences, provides for the development of high quality learning experiences based on the collective wisdom of our community and focusing on emerging needs of the education community.
 - In the past we have developed the following series of workshops that are still being delivered across our region and via ERLC; Learning Strategies in Math (2 day workshop), Assessment for Learning (3 part series) in collaboration with Alberta Assessment Consortium and Health workshops (4 part series).
 - During the 2003-04 year ERLC worked with leaders in our community to develop a:
 - Learning strategies in science workshop,
 - A health workshop focused on integration across the curriculum,
 - A session to support the new Alberta learning heart health resource.
 - We began work in June and over the summer to create workshops to support implementation of the Daily Physical Activity Initiative.
- All of these workshops will be delivered during the 2004-05 year as well as be shared with the districts that were involved in the development work.
- ERLC believes that being



“This week turned out to be a good week for me. It has allowed me to drop into Edmonton at the end of my family vacation and still get back home with a week before starting work. Thus I can put my new learning into my year plans. Your team is extremely organized. This is the best conference for teachers that I have attended. Since this is my 2nd year I feel like I am building it into an annual trip. Thanks for all your hard work. Keep it up.”
(Participant from 2004 Early Literacy Symposium)

involved in this development work demonstrates our Pd leadership (e.g., effective pd strategies and adult learning processes), as well as makes use of our retained earnings. Workshop development also models the board's belief about the value of the consortiums role in facilitating district Pd leadership capacity. These workshops are most often developed so that district leaders can make use of in their own community.

GOAL #4: Provide a collaborative and coordinated approach to the delivery and support of ongoing professional development opportunities for all participants in education.

Strategies: We rely on our advisory committees, 19 district contacts and partner organizations to collaborate and consult with in relation to program plans. Feedback received from our participant evaluation also provides input into future program needs. Whenever possible we strive to collaborate to offer professional development opportunities with other organizations as well.

Results: Specific examples of collaboration to provide a coordinated approach to Pd would include:

- Greater St. Albert Catholic DuFour presentation
- Performance Assessment series in Health and with Alberta Assessment Consortium
- Alberta ASCD Art Costa session
- Edmonton Public Schools Early Education sites conference
- Faculty of Education AISI team and the faculty club networking conversations.

“Thank you for the wonderful day of learning! I have received excellent comments from my staff about the speaker, the session organization, the food and the ERLC team.”
ERLC principal

“As always, you planned a high quality learning experience, but also took the time to create a high quality learning environment. The attention to detail made everyone welcome and supported.” ERLC district curriculum facilitator

- Elk Island Public Michelle Borba session
- When the opportunity to work together occurs the benefits to both groups and others in our region are evident. Those that have worked with us have shared they value the coordination we can take care of, the Pd leadership we can provide in suggesting approaches and ideas.

- Our region benefits when we are involved with one organization or district as we are only involved if we can open the opportunity for others in the region to attend.

GOAL #5: Help implement school based decision – making, school councils, and the functions included in redefined roles and responsibilities.

Strategies: Network with the parent community, including through the Alberta Home and School Association to determine needs and interests for learning opportunities.

Results:

- We were successful in offering a few sessions specific to the essential role parents have in student success.
- We also cancelled many sessions as a result of low enrollment.
- This area remains a target for the coming year in determining approaches that will support parent learning and school council involvement.
- We look forward to collaborating with the Alberta Home and School Council Association and other parent representatives to coordinate school council learning opportunities.

GOAL #6: Through collaboration and coordination, the consortium will provide improved access to in-service, training and professional development programs at a reasonable cost.

Strategies: All programs are based on a cost recovery formula, an anticipated number of participants, actual costs for presenters, facility and food, presenter handout costs and additional costs incurred by the consortium. (E.g., registration, accounting and administration support costs)

Results:

- The average cost per day for consortium sessions was \$59.25.
- We received excellent in kind support from the University of Alberta (office, meeting and classroom space), which allow us to offer programs at a lower cost.
- Many of our programs are held at the ATA - Barnett House, which also provides for costs savings.

- We appreciate when programs can be further subsidized through Alberta Learning conditional grants as well as the willingness of organizations such as Alberta Learning, the Alberta Teachers Association, and other community groups that can deliver programs without charging for presenters time.

Additional Highlights for the 2003-04 year:

- ERLC office team includes 4 full time staff (executive director, executive assistant, administration assistant and registration coordinator/bookkeeper). The French language Pd coordinator is contracted through our office as well as other contractors that support our work for specific projects and initiatives.
- ERLC is the lead consortium for the provincial French language Pd initiative, the Support for implementation of the Daily Physical Activity Initiative, and the support for implementation of the heart health initiative. Provincial leadership includes being the contact with Alberta Learning provincial leads, accountability reports for grant funds and leadership in relation to program offerings/approaches.
- ERLC initiated new communication approaches this last year. Sharing our yearly program in June is intended to support teachers professional growth plans. As we are adding programs weekly the need for a more current update was required. The “month at a glance” brochure shares an overview of upcoming programs – usually for a 2-3 month period. ERLC has a new updated website which includes a searchable database of programs. You can view the new website at www.erc.ualberta.ca. We continue to send our program flyers directly to schools as well as electronically through our email subscription list and via district contacts and advisory committee members.
- Accumulated revenue was used to benefit program offerings. Increased number of session were offered and funding was provided to develop the Learning Strategies in Science workshop.

Targets for 2004-05 *(Measures to be further developed and include items italicized in brackets)*

- A plan to provide enhanced inclusive programming for administrative support personnel, teacher/education assistants, school councils and parents. *(Increased program offerings, positive comments from participants)*
- Increased incidence of collaboration and partnership to coordinate delivery of learning opportunities in our region. *(Increased examples of collaboration with jurisdictions and organizations as demonstrated through programs, partner qualitative comments)*
- Increased opportunity to facilitate professional development leadership capacity for districts. *(Development of comprehensive Pd models to support implementation. Advisory committee structure and opportunities to meet, program offerings related to school leadership. Collaborative opportunities for leadership with the faculty of education)*
- Board review, development and clarification of the Mission, Vision and Goals based on outcomes of learning commission, and the provincial ARC assessment. *(Evident in board minutes and annual report for 2004-05)*
- Develop an assessment model to determine if programs are making a difference to support implementation. *(Assessment model developed, implemented and data analyzed)*
- ERLC will cancel fewer sessions than in previous years. *(Will compare 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 program report for next year’s annual report)*

“It has been so nice working with all of you, the co-operation and support is terrific. I look forward to working together to bring off another successful combined effort.” ERLC partner

“A huge thank-you to ERLC – the opportunity to present was great for our team. Your organization models the underpinnings of a true learning community – as we work and learn about ways to deliver quality pd.” ERLC presenter



“Excellent partnership. I learned so much today. I really feel I would love to do this more often.” Participant from Early Education Conference, partnered with Edmonton Public Schools

“This was a totally uplifting experience for me. So much to learn and put into practice.”

“Thank you for putting together this amazing experience.”

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Alberta
LEARNING

REGIONAL CONSORTIUM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the Year Ended August 31, 2004
(in dollars)

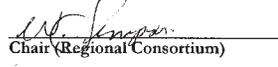
NAME: **Parkland School Division #70**
Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium

	Aug. 31, 2004	Aug. 31, 2003
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and temporary investments	520,407	406,258
Accounts receivable (net after allowances)		
Province of Alberta	5,918	75,000
Other Alberta school jurisdictions	4,950	-
Other	7,830	32,618
Prepaid expenses	110	150
Other current assets (GST receivable)	9,645	8,668
Total current assets	548,860	522,694
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Bank indebtedness	-	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		
Province of Alberta (deferred revenue)	255,062	155,058
Other Alberta school jurisdictions	10,003	10,723
Other	130,231	43,379
Total current liabilities	395,296	209,160
NET ASSETS		
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		
Uncommitted surplus (deficit)	153,564	313,534
Operating reserves	-	-
Total net assets	153,564	313,534
Total net assets and current liabilities	548,860	522,694

CERTIFICATION

I certify to the best of my information and belief that the information identified above is correct.


Financial Officer/Agent Board
Parkland School Division #70
Date: Oct 14/04


Chair (Regional Consortium)
Date: Nov 22/04

Alberta
LEARNING

REGIONAL CONSORTIUM STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

For the Year Ended August 31, 2004
(in dollars)

NAME: **Parkland School Division #70**
Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium

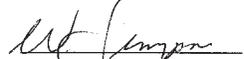
	Budget 2003-04	Actual 2003-2004	Actual 2002-2003
REVENUES			
Alberta Learning			
Regional Consortium			
Establishment and Maintenance	163,106	163,106	159,908
Alberta Learning: Other Grants	224,205	263,349	232,155
Total Alberta Learning	387,311	426,455	392,063
Other Revenue	274,817	292,073	303,033
Subtotal			
Funds from Accumulated Surplus	313,534	313,534	396,050
Total Revenues	975,662	1,032,062	1,091,146
EXPENSES			
Professional Development & In Service			
Salaries, wages and benefits	170,500	188,611	184,089
Services, contracts and supplies	565,405	686,809	592,235
Other	-	-	-
Board of Director Expense			
Meeting fee	-	-	-
Services, contracts and supplies	-	-	-
Travel and Subsistence	2,400	3,078	1,288
Total Expenses	738,305	878,498	777,612
Surplus (Deficit)	237,357	153,564	313,534
Transfer to reserve	-	-	-
Surplus (Deficit) after reserve	-	-	-

Note: Please ensure that any current year deficit is offset by sufficient funds in the Accumulated Surplus as shown in the Statement of Financial Position.

CERTIFICATION

I certify to the best of my information and belief that the information identified above is correct.


Financial Officer/Agent Board
Parkland School Division #70
Date: Oct 14/04


Chair (Regional Consortium)
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Partners in adult learning for students' sake

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