

Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia Mid-Year Reporting Summary 2020-21



This 2020-2021 Midyear Summary of Supports serves to celebrate and summarize the accomplishments and progress of the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC) towards our **Shared Commitment to Achieving Excellence**, as outlined in our 2020/21 Annual Plan:

Shared Commitment to Achieving Excellence

The 7 Regional Consortia, who comprise the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia, provide direct service to school authorities, schools, teachers and stakeholders through their commitment and capacity to:

- **Support implementation of the Alberta Business Plan for Education by creating & applying shared provincial understanding of directions, policies and targeted outcomes to regional contexts.**
- **Collaborate to capitalize on our dual nature as a provincial and regional body to maximize engagement and impact with all education stakeholders.**
- **Provide multi-modal, high quality, research based, professional learning opportunities for education stakeholders to benefit Alberta students.**
- **Apply a transparent and engaging assurance process in demonstrating financial effectiveness and efficiencies in the use of resources.**

The Consortia's **Shared Commitment to Achieving Excellence** was implemented by Executive Directors during the 2020-21 year as we endeavour together, both at the provincial and regional levels, to apply the mission, values, and goals for Consortia to the Priority Areas identified for us by Alberta Education and to the emerging professional learning needs of the education community. Each commitment is reviewed in the balance of the document and draw from our mission, vision, goals and priorities areas as outlined below.

Vision and Mission

Mission: To provide high quality professional learning opportunities for Alberta's educational community.

Vision: The Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia contributes to excellence in the field of K-12 education through the provision of research based professional learning that supports continuous improvement and capacity building in education stakeholders for student success.

Goals for Consortia: PD that...

- supports the effective implementation of components of the Alberta Education Business Plan, Jurisdiction and school education plans, and Education Partner Strategic Plans
- supports the effective implementation of curricula, including instruction, assessment and student learning outcomes.
- assists partners to identify available professional development resources.
- is based on the identified and emerging needs of educational partners.
- promotes and supports the development of professional development leadership capacity.
- can be accessed at a reasonable cost.

2020/21 Priority Areas

Plans include support for high quality professional learning opportunities for all education stakeholders related to the provincial priorities approved by the Minister in the areas of:

- Inclusive Education, Mental Health
- Curriculum and Pedagogical Practice
- Literacy
- Numeracy & Mathematics
- First Nations, Metis and Inuit
- Instructional Leadership, and
- Other priorities based on the needs of the regions served by the ARPDC.

Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia Mid-year Summary of Supports, 2020-2021

The work of the Consortia is inherently dualistic. Our strength as a professional learning model lies in our ability to create shared understandings across the province. At the same time, we respond regionally to the needs of school authorities. We contextualize meaningful implementation of the Alberta Business Plan for Education and Division Education Plans. Our understanding of and fidelity to the Alberta government policy directions as well as our direct connection to the field through school authorities and individual teachers, best supports all stakeholders. The model of implementation and continuous improvement impacts learning for educators and students throughout the province.

Given the unique interconnected provincial and regional application of the work for each Consortium, this midyear summary begins with a celebration of our collective accomplishments and efforts, and then follows with individual summaries of the regional and provincial work of each consortium.

Commitment One Support implementation of the Alberta Business Plan for Education by creating & applying shared provincial understanding of directions, policies and targeted outcomes to regional contexts.

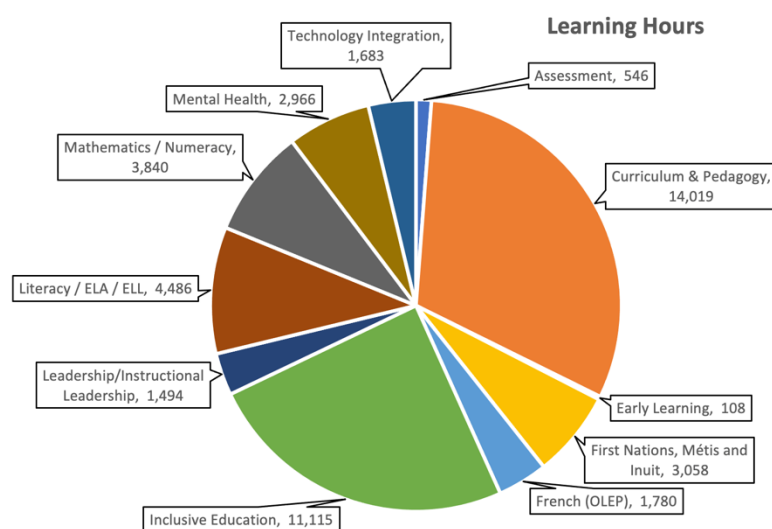
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Engagements to date with school authority partners to ensure a comprehensive understanding of learning needs across the province.

In addition to regular conversation with our school authority partners, ARPDC has actively engaged with education partners and professional learning vendors across the province.

As a result of these engagements with our partners, ARPDC has planned and delivered **124,878** total hours of learning across the province through **691** learning opportunities to **29,573** participants.

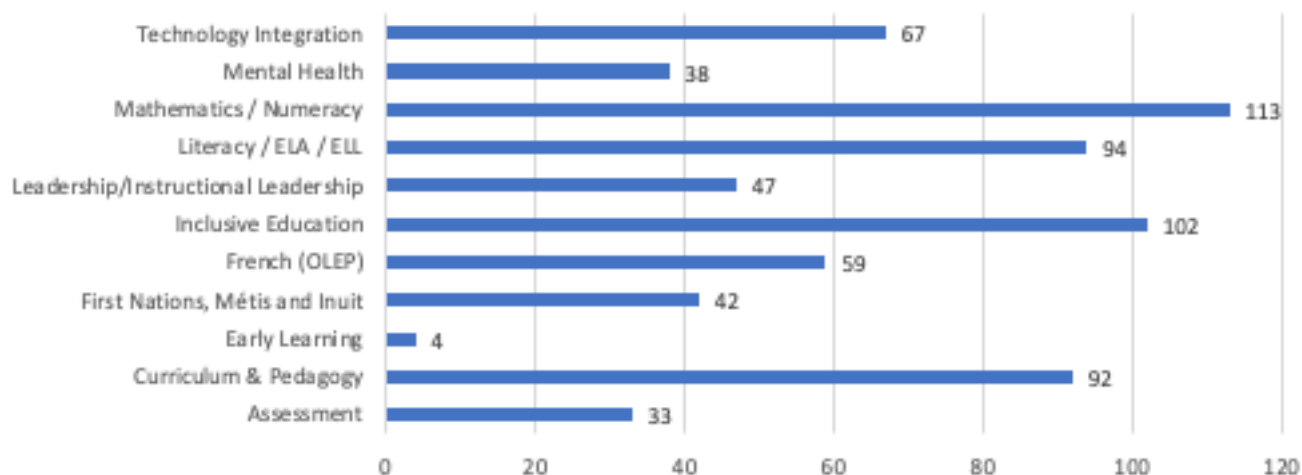
Over 79,000 hours are part of a special e-course initiative in support of Assessment, the remaining sessions providing over **45,000** hours of learning across 11 areas as illustrated in the graphic to the right.



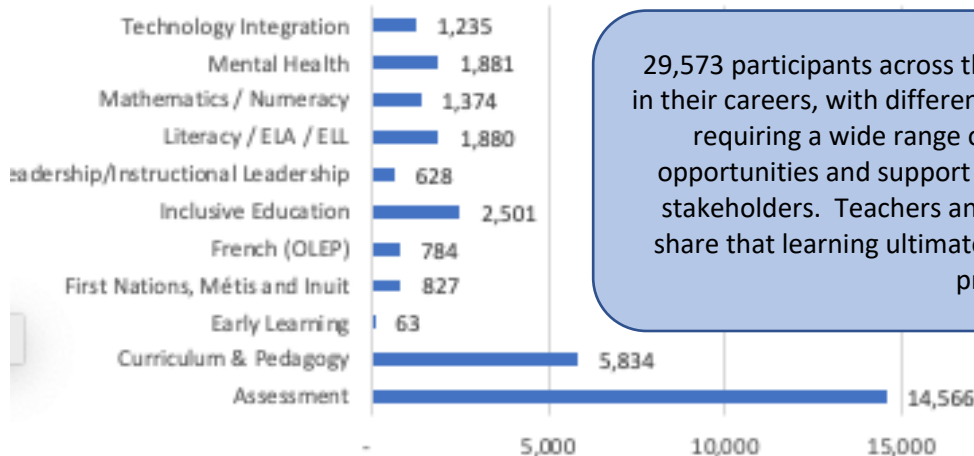
Provincially and Regionally Responsive

Our work within Priority Areas or areas of focus identified by Alberta Education, and our stakeholder partners, provincially and regionally, is consistently responsive to the emerging needs of the education communities we serve. The 691 learning sessions reported are identified in the table below across 11 large areas of focus. It is important to note that 236 of the sessions were provided provincially, 455 sessions are regional in nature attending to specific needs of districts, schools and regional partners.

Sessions



Participants



29,573 participants across the province are at different places in their careers, with different responsibilities and subject areas requiring a wide range of supports. We provide those opportunities and support learning to meet the needs of all stakeholders. Teachers and leaders attending our sessions share that learning ultimately impacting students across the province.

The impact of Covid is particularly different in the fall from our work in the spring. There was some opportunity for teachers to attend sessions mid-day in the spring working around their time with students. With the exception of division and school PD days sessions in 2020-21 have been largely from 4:00 – 6:00 PM. Recordings have been important as teachers access the learning when/where they can.

Commitment Two Collaborate to capitalize on our dual nature as a provincial and regional body to maximize engagement and impact with all education stakeholders.

A number of collaborative provincial projects are underway. These projects allow ARPDC to support shared understandings across the province related to key messages and common areas of need. We collaborate to leverage the work in one region to support similar needs across the province. We share resources and facilitate, broker and coordinate access to a variety of learning opportunities and modalities. As you can see below the range of work is extensive, timely, and in support of all our stakeholders across the province.

Provincial collaborations and Initiatives to date for the 2020-21 year

<p>Facebook Groups</p> <p>3054 members collaborate, share resources and meet together online to discuss self-selected topics in grade specific groups. Led by the CRC with support from learning leads across the consortia the groups were implemented at the onset of emergency remote teaching. The groups continue to support Alberta teachers in adapting and responding to the classroom conditions created by the global pandemic.</p>	<p>Podcasts & YouTube Channel & Zoom</p> <p>Three Podcast channels exist supporting the work of ARPDC in conversations with presenters and educators from around the world and across Alberta. Additionally, a growing collection of resources on YouTube on the ARPDC channel and individual Consortia channels. The videos, podcasts and the recordings of our sessions via our zoom account provide anytime, anywhere learning flexibility to the teachers across Alberta.</p>
<p>C2L – Assessment Project</p> <p>Partnership led by ERLC that provides the opportunity for all 40,000 teachers to access the Anne Davies developed assessment course through their individual school authorities supported by their regional consortia member.</p> <p>Millions of dollars of value demonstrating efficient and effective financial investment</p> <p>Breakthrough foundation of supporting implementation model that has the potential of province wide impact. (Curriculum Implementation)</p>	<p>eCourses</p> <p>This any time, any place, any pace initiative led by the CRC and CPFPP allows participants the opportunity to explore topics of interest with colleagues at their own pace. Currently, there are 4 eCourses available in topics related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives (French and English), • Conceptual Understanding, and • Literacy and Numeracy Progressions.
<p>OLEP – French & French Immersion Project</p> <p>As a result of a provincial collaborative effort, ARPDC engaging 41 teachers from across the province have initiated, curated and populated the K - 9 French Immersion Resource website which was launched on January 18, 2021. https://sites.google.com/erlc.ca/immersion-francaise/ressources-gr-m-9</p> <p>This resource site models the sharing of assignments, lessons, units, assessments and activities in French Language Arts, Etudes Sociales, Mathematiques and Science that classroom teachers have developed and use on a regular basis.</p>	<p>Francophone – French Joint endeavors</p> <p>Four webinar series were offered this fall to French Immersion and Francophone Educators. These series were launched at the bi-annual ARPDC – CPFPP conference: Le Symposium des Rocheuses. This was our first virtual edition, which allowed access to well recognized speakers, not only for the conference, but to continue the learning – Thierry Karsenti offered 4 sessions to 191 participants Steve Masson offered 5 sessions to 227 participants David Bouchard. offered 3 sessions to 41 participants The fourth series was in partnership with Scholastics Education to present a new resource : Passe à l'action pour la reconciliation</p> <p>Mélanie Smits offered 3 sessions to 41 participants.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Learn & Go's</p> <p>New for 2020-21 in response to anywhere, anytime, at your pace, learning we've developed the Learn & Go model and website: website. Learn and Go's are patterned on: One "learning", Two "applications" and Three "possible ways to go deeper in the learning". Some jurisdictions across the province are now exploring using the template for Learn and Go's to support differentiation for students.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PD Playlists</p> <p>Delivered directly to the inbox of registrants, and supported with opportunity for facilitated conversations, these curated lists of articles, blogs, videos and more support teachers and instructional leaders with high yield strategies and tools to further the learning and deepen the thinking of the students or teachers they work with.</p> <p>Offered originally by the CRC as a tool for instructional leaders in building conceptual understanding teaching capacity with teachers, the popularity of this model has encouraged us to branch out to new playlists this year offering FSL and ELL supports for classroom teachers.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">High School Redesign</p> <p>Due to COVID restrictions in the spring, 3 Spring Network Meetings were cancelled and replaced with a fall webinar series. Timely webinars during the pandemic were held: Quarterly System, Supporting Mental Health, Efficacy and Implementation, and (Re)Assessment webinars took place with a total of 238 participants. The resource website has also been updated. http://abhsredesign.ca/ CARC has lead this project for the province for the past 7 years to its conclusion this fall.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OSARS</p> <p>Alberta Education Office of Student Attendance Conditional Grant to provide sessions across the province on restorative justice and ways by which Divisions might better support student retention and reduce truancy.</p> <p>Sessions were planned at 6 locations for the Community Conferencing 3-day training events with a maximum of 30 participants per location.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Essential Outcomes Project</p> <p>ERLC Lead and ARPDC endorsed creation of a program of studies resource in a Google format with identified essential outcomes supporting teachers through the impact of COVID on curriculum delivery amidst compromised student attendance and engagement. Developed in collaboration with numerous teachers from across Alberta. This work was made available provincially to assist in a smoother start-up to the school year returning from the Covid impacted spring and summer.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Creating Pathways of Hope</p> <p>Considering life promoting cultures as part of suicide prevention planning allows us to see the bigger picture and interconnectedness of our efforts within our contexts. We ground this work in life promoting cultures because as one of our feedback group participants noted, "Living is more than not dying." Work lead by LNES and CRC has produced both the Creating Pathways of Hope Resource Guide and the Creating Pathways of Hope Toolkit which are available in both English and French.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ARPDC Resources and Learning Portal</p> <p>To date the ARPDC website has had 25,601 page views with 13,633 users and the Learning Portal has 142,705 page views. A large collection of free to all visitor resources has be created over time attending to the specific areas of need identified by Alberta Education and our Regional Partners.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Flexible Learning Plans</p> <p><i>(Under development)</i> In partnership with the Critical Thinking Consortium (TC2), and led by the CRC, the Flexible Learning Plans project will provide 10 ready to use classroom activities - spanning the core subjects across grade levels - that model the way for lesson designs which</p>

	<p>promote deep and transferable understanding while planning for continuity of learning as classroom communities navigate the current pandemic.</p>
<p>Partner Conferences and Presentations ASBA, ASCA, AISCA, ACSSA, CASS, ATA PD days and Teachers' Convention</p> <p>Regionally and provincially ARPDC works to support professional learning opportunities with our partner organizations. We have assisted in presenting, hosting, and organizing everything from one-time sessions to ongoing series and full conference support.</p>	<p>Ministerial Order Work</p> <p>Led by ERLC – ARPDC initiated the Creation of Resources, Learning Guide, Website and Presentations on the new Ministerial Order to support awareness and implementation of this document foundational to the Alberta Education Business Plan and readiness for the new curriculum across the province.</p>
<p>Leading Learning Initiative</p> <p>Website initiated by ERLC and collaboratively developed by ARPDC Consortia in response to COVID and the need to provide resources for Teachers, Administrators, Parents, and System Leaders. Articles, Response Plans, Ongoing challenges, successes and developments.</p>	<p>Jigsaw Learning Conference</p> <p>Led by CARC ARPDC has partnered with Jigsaw learning to schedule a series of webinars using their expertise, and also to provide registration and online support for their annual conference.</p>
<p>Alberta Rural Education Symposium</p> <p>CARC has taken the lead in providing the Alberta Rural Education Symposium registration and event planning details for the last 7 years. Members from CASS, ASBA, ASCA, ATA, and Alberta Education plan this event yearly for rural School Boards, rural School Central Offices, and rural municipalities. This year's event has been postponed. Planning for next year's symposium has begun.</p>	<p>Council of Catholic Schools Superintendents of Alberta</p> <p>CARC has partnered with CCSSA to provide registration and online support for their annual 'Marked by God' conference.</p>
<p>Mental Health and Wellness</p> <p>ERLC Partnership with AHS in moving system wide mental health and wellness through awareness, planning, resources and other implementation supports.</p>	<p>Hapara</p> <p>ERLC Partnership with Hapara in supporting Student Engagement Dashboard connected to Google platform for School Authorities already engaged and those interested in the Hapara capacity to impact student learning</p>
<p>Regional Advisory Committee</p> <p>Each Consortia initiated a Stakeholder Advisory Committee in line with our Governance Manual to maintain the opportunity to engage organizations at the local level for ongoing collaboration, networking</p>	<p>Developing Leadership Capacity</p> <p>Each consortium designs and implements specific sessions to support the development of leadership capacity in system authorities, schools and cohorts. This occurs through district contact meetings, subject cohorts, networking and targeted topic areas.</p>

<p>and advice in the formation of annual plans and the ongoing monitoring of directions and their impact.</p>	<p>Significant success was achieved in the initiation of curriculum implementation and will continue this year in curriculum, assessment and pedagogy. This plays a significant role in achieving the Alberta Business Plan.</p>
<p>Schools of Choice – Private and Charter Schools Building on past success in providing ongoing support, ARPDC is targeting enhanced efforts to support the professional learning of Private and Charter Schools. Historically, about 10% of registrants in ARPDC have been from these schools. We are Provincially supporting TAAPCS Leadership network through a series of sessions as well as supporting the AISCA conference and increased connections and supports for these schools is enhancing the impact of achieving the Business Plan.</p>	<p>Alberta Accredited International Schools In past years ERLC has facilitated professional learning in the areas of literacy and assessment. This year supports in all areas have been offered and assessment support has been provided. Further efforts are being made to provide greater connection to support the currency and fidelity to Alberta Curriculum. This support is typically provided on a cost recovery basis for customized sessions and at no cost for sessions free to Alberta School Authorities and teachers.</p>
<p>Post-Secondary Partnerships All regional consortia advisory or stakeholder meetings include representation from the post-secondary institutions in their regions. Many sessions are open to students, and partnerships our undertaken to support the work in curriculum, pedagogical practices, and assessment. ERLC has recently leading a partnership with the U of A in a research and development project called MILE - Math Interactive Learning Experience. MILE is an intervention program that supports math learning among children individually and in groups within a classroom setting. ERLC and ARPDC are supporting this project on an ongoing basis and will play a critical role in the communication, promotion and implementation of the final resources and strategies across the province.</p>	<p>Institute of Child Psychology CARC has partnered with the Institute for Child Psychology to schedule a series of webinars using their expertise, and also to provide registration and online support for their international conference in April. Discussions are underway to help support and plan a provincial conference in the fall.</p> <p>Technology in Schools I The Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta and ERLC announced a partnership in Professional Learning Opportunities for teachers across the province interested in receiving graduate level course credit in the area of Educational Technology. Teachers who complete twenty-four hours of educational technology professional learning through ERLC can now leverage their ongoing professional learning that they would normally be undertaking--toward the fulfillment of requirements of a University of Alberta graduate course, "Technology in Schools I".</p>
<p>Supporting First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education – Supporting Band Schools On-Site Where band school authorities and band schools have always been supported through inclusion of all open offerings and many custom designed supports – meeting the mandate of increasing First Nations, Metis and Inuit students across Alberta is an area of focused improvement. Success in Maskawacis, Kainai, Kiskatinaw, Kee Tas Kee Now TCEA, Dene Tha’ First Nation, Saddle Lake, and Tribal Chiefs Education Foundation are notable examples. On-site work has been significantly impacted during this Covid period, but direct online support continues to be available.</p>	

Commitment Three Provide multi-modal, high quality, research based, professional learning opportunities for education stakeholders to benefit Alberta students.

Prior to 2019-20 most of our work was in-person be it at the school, division or provincial level. Small group, staff, administration teams, and larger sessions drawing from geographic areas for day long learning sessions provided by presenters either from our own team of consultants or speakers from across the province, North America and abroad were physically transported to a venue and presented for one or more days or as part of a conference organized by a consortium or the consortia. The feedback on these sessions and conferences, while overwhelmingly favorable did provide much to consider in terms of ongoing learning.

While online materials had been developed for years and some resources were available on our YouTube channels and websites Covid 19 certainly provided greater impetus to finding multiple ways by which we could meet the learning needs of the stakeholders, divisions and teachers ARPDC serves.

Several of the provincial collaborative initiatives listed above demonstrate the adaptability ARPDC has in our collective work across the province. Unprecedented joint efforts, in part as a result of the virtual elimination of windshield time and the organization wide use of licensed zoom accounts, has helped focus our work on providing assistance any way, any time, any place to best meet the needs of our stakeholders, divisions and teachers. Synchronous and asynchronous materials, access to recordings of sessions, podcasts, webinars, e-courses, bite-sized learning with the capacity to go deeper, book studies, follow-up sessions to sustain the learning from international presenters, and bringing educators together to build lesson materials in both English and French all illustrate the flexibility and multi-modal approach ARPDC is taking to support the work.

The entirety of this work is designed with an eye to the research on adult learning, best practices, and stages of follow-up on the learning as highlighted by educational researchers across the world including Dr. Thomas Guskey, Joellen Killion, and Dr. John Hattie, John Fisher and Nancy Frey and Thierry Karsenti.

Commitment Four Apply a transparent and engaging assurance process in demonstrating financial effectiveness and efficiencies in the use of resources.

100% of provincial priority area learning opportunities were subsidized by AB Education Implementation Funding. We report all finances regularly to the Board and annually to the Government of Alberta. At the regional level we engage in open conversations with our partners about the resources we offer to reduce or eliminate costs in support of learning. We have become extremely adept at seeking the best options of delivery that maximize impact and cost efficiency. The use of any modality of learning is designed to be as cost efficient and effective as possible. Of particular importance has been the need to be flexible, archiving sessions and materials in a manner which supports anytime access to learning. The consortia are mindful of financial effectiveness and balances that against ease of use and access in supporting the learning across the province.

Our staffing models across the province provide us tremendous flexibility for time and access to expertise. We have the flexibility to support sessions with our regional staff across the province, offer high profile out of province expertise at a cost-effective point accessible to regions that otherwise would not have the opportunity. We would like to emphasize that we collaborate to draw on Albertan leaders in their field to share their knowledge regionally and provincially.

Concluding thought for the year(s) ahead...



The challenge of maintaining the right balance for both individuals and systems has likely never been so front and center in our work. Divisions large and small have expressed concerns around substitute availability necessitating significant offerings in the hours after school, some of which are subsequently accessed at a time convenient to the individual.

Educators and partners are feeling the pressure. Divisions have cancelled PD days replacing them with much needed wellness time at the direction of

the School Boards. Some system leaders are finding that continued learning actually increases teacher capacity to meet the needs of students and are moving forward purposefully. As educators and as leaders in learning in the education environment we know the value of sustained learning over time and accommodate system needs through thoughtful design of supports with our partners.

The entire ARPDC staff are committed to finding ways that allow divisions, teachers and our stakeholders to access the learning they are asking for and need, when they can, how they can and where they can at the best cost and value.

As we look to the second half of this school year, we are focused on supporting curriculum implementation with a coherent and integrated approach. Our 2020-21 plan continues over the balance of the year building on the foundation of the Ministerial Order on Student Learning connecting the new curriculum to assessment, pedagogy and resources throughout the coordinated implementation process. A multi-levelled plan that includes initiating communications and information resources for broad awareness, curriculum and essential outcomes in digital format, the development of leadership capacity in a facilitated networking approach, grade and subject level cohorts and a website with grade and subject level shared resources are elements of this plan. Our work with the French Immersion resources project has established one example we anticipate leveraging with the new curriculum.

Consortia are moving forward with enhancing their capacity to develop, curate and deliver both synchronous and asynchronous technology supported professional learning opportunities. There is significant awareness of the need for continuing to enhance online learning skill sets in teachers: pedagogy, design, student engagement, app integration, assessment and management etc. and consortia are positioning to continue to address and meet that need.

Another specific concern expressed by partners is addressing the “COVID” learning gap. Consortia are connecting closely with system leaders and teacher cohorts to support purposeful approaches to sustained learning in the immediate, the balance of the year and in preparation for 2021-2022.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the learning of thousands of outstanding educators and stakeholders engaged in the education of Alberta’s students.