

Position Paper

Early Childhood Education & Nova Scotia's Pre-Primary Program
April 2019



Association of
Early Childhood Educators
Nova Scotia

Association of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia

(formerly known as Nova Scotia
Child Care Association)

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Position Paper Early Childhood Education & Nova Scotia's Pre-Primary Program April 2019

Association of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia (AECENS) (formerly the Nova Scotia Child Care Association (AECENS)) understands and supports current initiatives by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in their staffing of Pre-Primary Programs with Early Childhood Educators.

The AECENS believes that Early Childhood Educators are the key to a quality Early Childhood Education programs. We represent and serve members from a diverse collective regardless of their work place or position. Our membership is inclusive of all cultures and communities and can be found throughout the entire early years sector including Early Childhood Educators who work in urban or rural centres, pre-primary, non-profit centres, private centres, early intervention services, family resource centres, early years centres, early childhood resource support centres, post-secondary training programs, family home agencies, and retired practitioners. As a membership-based organization, we strive to do our best in ensuring that the voices of all Early Childhood Educators are represented as they are the key ingredient in quality Early Childhood Education.

It is the position of the AECENS that the current staffing in pre-primary programs by Early Childhood Educators is appropriate and necessary. Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) have specialized training in early childhood development, developmentally appropriate programming, child-centred curriculum and play-based learning. ECEs in Nova Scotia are classified by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and participate in ongoing professional development in order to maintain their classification.

The AECENS supports Early Childhood Educators staffing pre-primary programs in Nova Scotia.

It is the position of AECENS that:

1. Quality Early Childhood Education must be delivered by trained Early Childhood Educators

High quality Early Childhood Education is best achieved through Early Childhood Educators. The practice of early childhood education requires specialized knowledge and skills. The scope of practice was defined by the Child Care Human

Resources Sector Council in 2010 as a national set of Occupational Standards for Early Childhood Educators¹.

2. Early Childhood Educators must be recognized as the key ingredient to providing quality Early Childhood Education programs

The AECENS believes that those individuals providing Early Childhood Education to children birth to five years are considered as Early Childhood Educators and the education and care for children birth to five years be considered as Early Childhood Education. Therefore, pre-primary programs are within the scope of practice of early childhood education and should be staffed by Early Childhood Educators.

3. Early Childhood Educators must be well educated, fairly compensated, and supported through a stable and professional workforce, in their provision of quality programming.

AECENS supports the ongoing development and support for a, professional, well remunerated and well-educated workforce that is recognized and supported in offering high quality early childhood education to children and families.

4. High quality Early Childhood Education is best achieved through Early Childhood Educators who engage in continuous growth and development.

We know that learning is a life-long, self-motivated commitment. The AECENS provides a wide range of quality professional development to Early Childhood Educators to support them in their continuous growth. We value and encourage ongoing professional development as a key indicator of enhancing and maintaining quality in practice for Early Childhood Educators.

Prepared By

Association of Early Childhood Educators Of Nova Scotia
Board of Directors

Association of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia

Our Organization

AECENS is a non-profit organization of Early Childhood Educators in Nova Scotia. In 2003, after a twelve year development period the Child Care Professional Association Development Society, CCPADS transferred its assets to a newly incorporated Society the Nova Scotia Child Care Association.

AECENS's foundation is the recognition that Early Childhood Educators are the most important ingredient in high quality Early Childhood Education, and the services they provide to society are extremely valuable.

In 2019, we changed our name to Association of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia to reflect who are members are.

Our Vision

The AECENS recognizes that Early Childhood Educators are the main ingredient in the provision of high-quality Early Childhood Education~ Quality Early Childhood Education through Quality Early Childhood Educators. AECENS is dedicated to increasing the recognition of the important role Early Childhood Educators play in providing quality programs for Nova Scotia's children and families.

Our Mandate

- Educate and facilitate the ethical practice of our members
- Educate and facilitate the use of standards of practice by our members, and
- Advocate for and support our members in their provision of quality early learning and care.

AECENS Membership:

Currently, 10% of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) in Nova Scotia are members of AECENS. We are the only early childhood organization in Nova Scotia that focuses on the individual ECE professional practice regardless of where our members work. Membership is voluntary, and members pay an annual fee. AECENS is an affiliate organization of the Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCCF) therefore AECENS members are also members of CCCC. The affiliate status connects our members to a national support network of colleagues and organizations across Canada and provides a voice for AECENS at the national level.

AECENS Services:

AECENS provides ongoing professional development, conferences, and resources to our members and the early learning and child care (ELCC) sector. The association

also give out annual awards recognizing excellence in the field and engages in initiatives supporting the recognition of professional practice.

Organizational Structure:

AECENS is governed by a Board of Directors elected by its membership. Board members are representative of Early Childhood Educators in Nova Scotia. AECENS has been incorporated since 2003. In 2014, AECENS opened its offices and currently has 3 staff members who carry out the operations of the association. In 2019, our name changed from NSCCA to AECENS to identify who our members are.

Resources

ⁱ Occupational Standards for Early Childhood Educators: How to Guide, <http://www.ccsc-cssge.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/ECE-Post-Secondary-docs/English-OS-How-To-Guide.pdf>