



Board Nominees—2020

Name: Blust, Lea
Lives In: Calgary, AB
Current Job: Contract Faculty, Bow Valley College, Mount Royal University
Area of Practice: College/University Instructor

Education

Program	Educational Institution	Year
M. Ed Early Childhood Education	University of Calgary	2016
Bachelor of Arts	University of Calgary	2000

Participation in Early Childhood Education Organizations

Position	Association/Organization	Date
Member	Alberta Leaders Caucus	2019-Present
Member	Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta	2010-Present
Member	ECE Faculty Forum	2020-Present

Other Community Involvement

Position	Association/Organization	Date
Member	Calgary Reggio Network	2013-Present

Nominee's Statement

Childcare is not just a sometimes place where children go for a little while. It is part of the fabric of our society, a place where children are living their childhoods. While we may be nostalgic for our own memories of childhoods spent in neighborhoods and backyards, this is not the common reality anymore. Children now will remember fondly the relationships and experiences they had in childcare programs as vital parts of their childhood.

By not valuing and supporting the important work of childcare, we are depriving children of vibrant, complex and meaningful childhoods in favour of custodial care. We must accept the shared responsibility of childcare and recognize that early childhood educators are not short-term 'mother-substitutes', but educated professionals who value childhood in its own right and accept the responsibility of supporting children's development as citizens within a family and a society. They don't work alone in substitution of a parent, but in deep partnership with caregivers and families to create communities of care.

I am passionate about pedagogy and policy in Early Learning and Childcare, and want to help build systems that support the best possible experiences for children and families. I believe in children's rights as a government, societal, and personal responsibility. I have worked with children, families, and educators with a range of diversities, and want to continue advocating for early learning and child care as a necessary and vibrant aspect of a functional and thriving society. Participating in the CCCF Board provides a key opportunity to do this.