



LIGHTS ON

AFTERSCHOOL ALBERTA

A PROJECT OF THE SCHOOL AGE CARE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

Re: School Age Care Directors Association – Lights On After School Alberta

Dear Esteemed Policymakers and Sector Leaders,

As representatives of the School Age Care Directors Association (SACDA) of Alberta, we are reaching out to invite your municipality and/or esteemed organizations to extend your support and recognition to Out of School Care (OSC) Programs in our province. Specifically, we cordially invite you to participate in our upcoming 8th Annual *Lights On Afterschool Alberta* celebration scheduled for April 19th, 2024. This occasion serves as a collective acknowledgment of the invaluable contributions made by OSC Programs to the well-being of children and families across Alberta.

Since its inception seven years ago in Calgary, our *Lights On Afterschool Alberta* initiative has rapidly expanded its reach, becoming a province-wide movement. This year, municipalities across Alberta will illuminate their iconic landmarks in vibrant **blue** and **yellow**, symbolizing their unwavering support for OSC programs. Notable landmarks such as the Calgary Tower, High Level Bridge in Edmonton, Saamis Teepee in Medicine Hat, and the Sun Dial in Grand Prairie will serve as beacons of recognition for the vital role OSC programs play in our communities. Moreover, many municipal leaders have officially proclaimed April 19th, 2024 as a day dedicated to honoring OSC programs, further demonstrating their commitment to this cause.

Past iterations of this event have proven to be instrumental in fostering community engagement and advocacy for OSC programs. Local events have provided platforms for OSC programs to showcase their impact, hosting elected officials and policymakers, thereby amplifying awareness of the invaluable services they provide to our communities and youth and showcasing policymakers who champion with their support.

In light of the above, SACDA humbly requests your municipality/organization's support for the OSC community. This can be in the form of a **proclamation**, a **written letter of endorsement**, or a **brief video message**, which will be shared to OSC programs and parents across the province. Your





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solidarity in this endeavor will underscore the bipartisan commitment to championing OSC programs and ensuring their sustained support and advancement in Alberta.

In considering our request, we invite you to reflect on the following questions:

- How do you perceive the value and impact of quality OSC programs on the well-being and success of children and communities in Alberta?
- What is your vision for the future of OSC in our province?
- How do you intend to integrate OSC into the broader conversation surrounding early learning and childcare, education or recreation?

We deeply appreciate the efforts you undertake to propel our sector forward and extend an invitation for you to visit one of our OSC member sites in the future. We also welcome your attendance at our annual conferences, where you can witness firsthand the dedication of our professional community and the transformative work being undertaken with Alberta's families.

For further information, dialogue, and support, please do not hesitate to **contact me directly**. Together, let us illuminate the path towards a brighter future for Alberta's children and families.

Warm regards,

Cody Topp (He/Him)
Chairperson / IGNITE Conference Chair

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ignite 
CANADA'S LARGEST SCHOOL
AGE CARE CONFERENCE

I would like to acknowledge that I am located on the traditional territories of the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) and the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Siksika, the Piikuni the Kainoi, the Tsuu'tina, and the Stoney-Nakoda. I am on the land where the Bow River meets the Elbow River, and the traditional Blackfoot name of this place is 'Mokinkstis' which we now call the City of Calgary. The City of Calgary is also home to Metis Nation of Alberta Region.





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LIGHTS ON AFTER SCHOOL ALBERTA

Core Values: Families, Awareness, Advocacy, Opportunity, Empowerment,

The only province-wide event that highlights and celebrates how before and afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help Canadian working families.

Before and afterschool care programs provide an impactful time for children to learn and develop essential life skills, leadership, and engage in their communities in ways they may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience. While the hours children spend in out of school care are minimal, they have a powerful impact that lasts a lifetime.

Out of school care programs provide an essential service to families by providing safe environments and quality care for their children during the “critical hours” meeting the needs of all families, including low income and single parent households.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-652-x/89-652-x2014005-eng.htm>

Lights On After School Alberta is an advocacy initiative that helps “shines a light” on the importance and impact of Afterschool care programs across the province-creating opportunities through community events geared to help programs develop connections with parents, schools, local businesses and advocates, helping build stronger foundations for Alberta youth.

To learn more visit: <https://www.calgarysacda.com/lights-on-afterschool>





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SAMPLE PROCLAMATION FOR PRIEMIERS AND MAYORS

Keeping the Lights On After School: A Proclamation

WHEREAS, the citizens of [Name of town/city/district/state/community] stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

Provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills.

Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.

Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults. Engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children.

WHEREAS, [Name of Program] has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults.

WHEREAS, Lights On Afterschool Alberta, the provincial celebration of afterschool programs held this year on [date of national celebration], promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities.

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the country are facing a lack of supports and funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights.

WHEREAS, the [province/city] is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, [Name of Preimiere/Mayor] do hereby proclaim [date of provincial celebration], as "Lights On Afterschool Alberta Day"; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this [minister/primier/mayor] enthusiastically endorses Lights On Afterschool Alberta and commits our [province/community] to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

