

### **Executive Director's Report 2017-2018**

The past year has flown by in a blink of an eye. It is amazing to look back at all we have accomplished in one year. To start, we founded our society in May 2017 and launched our new Facebook page under the name Strategic Alliance for Alberta Students with Learning Challenges.

We submitted a pilot project proposal to the Ministers of Education, Health, Community & Social Services, and Children's Services which would include a reading readiness screening tool, professionals that would provide direct intervention for children in school that require extra support and provide the professionals with the ability to build teacher capacity working in the classroom with the teacher and students as well as providing Professional Development. We also submitted a pilot project proposal that just had the reading readiness screening tool and a struggling readers program as a smaller scale proposal to be considered to the Minister of Education as a research project.

We met with the following people/organizations:

- John Cabral - Acting Assistant Deputy Minister for Community and Social Services
- John Stinson - New Assistant Deputy Minister - Community and Social Services taking over from John Cabral
- Bindi Ferguson, Carla Weyland and Andreia Moretzsohn - Alberta Innovates
- Joel French and Harold Neth - Public Interest Alberta
- Greg Jeffery - President - Alberta Teachers Association
- Joni Turville - Assistant Executive Secretary - Alberta Teachers Association
- Presented to the Star Catholic School Board during a board meeting
- Shelagh Dunn - Edmonton Public School Board
- Bridget Stirling - Edmonton Public School Board Vice-Chair
- Nathan Ip - Edmonton Public School Board
- Shari-Lynne Gidyk - Family Futures Resource Network
- Greta attended the Speech from the Throne as a guest of MLA Rod Loyola
- Karen McPherson - Alberta Party MLA
- Rick Fraser - Alberta Party MLA
- Colin Piquette - NDP MLA
- Mark Smith - UCP MLA
- Leela Aheer - UCP MLA
- Kim Schreinder - NDP MLA
- David Swann - Liberal MLA
- Wendy Boje - Assistant Deputy Minister of Education
- Allison Pike - President of ASCA
- Bruce Uditsky - CEO of Inclusion Alberta
- Marlin Schmidt - Minister of Advanced Education
- Irfan Sabir - Minister of Community and Social Services
- Terry Harris - Edmonton Catholic School Board Chair
- Trina Hurdman - Calgary Board of Education School Board Chair

We participated in the School Act Consultation held by Alberta Education to discuss the age of access, age of common entry, education service agreements between Boards and First Nations, school and transportation fees.

We participated in an I am a Parent Conference and the Millwoods Resource Fair. We had our first fundraiser on St. Patrick's Day where we raised just over \$1300 with no costs thanks to generous donations of food, venue and drinks provided by Patricia Grell.

Lastly, we launch our new website [www.strategicalliance4abkids.ca](http://www.strategicalliance4abkids.ca) in April 2018 and unveiled our new Logo designed by Sabrina Hazlett.

Our advocating has only just started. As we get closer to the Election in 2019 we will make sure that children with learning challenges and their parents/caregivers are heard. We hope to make mandatory early screening for learning and development challenges, enhanced teacher training and class size and composition election platform issues for every political party in Alberta.

It has been an honor to be the Executive Director of Strategic Alliance for Alberta Students with Learning Challenges this past year. I appreciate all the support and guidance provided to me as we continue to grow and learn.

Sincerely,

Greta Gerstner  
Executive Director  
Strategic Alliance for Alberta Students with Learning Challenges