

Reimagining Pathways Forward...

Supporting Meaningful Participation in Times of Social Distancing



NEW DATE!

*Feb 9-11, 2021
Online Conference*

ARCQE | 11th Annual Conference
An opportunity to share knowledge and research
in many diverse fields of Early Education!

Register online: <http://arcqe.ca/services/professional-development/conference/>

ARCQE 11th National Child Day Conference

Reimagining Pathways Forward...

February 9th - 11th, 2021

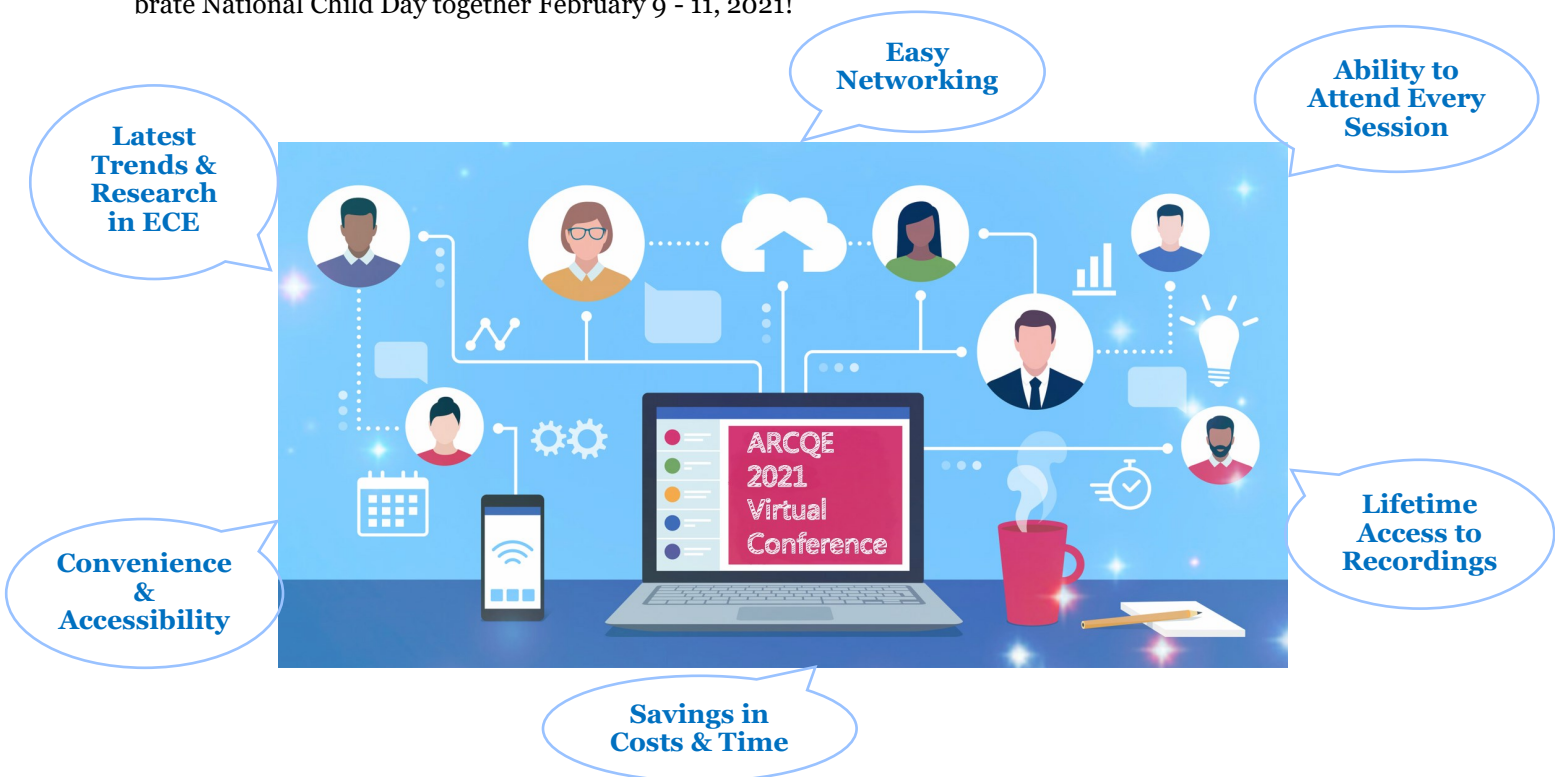
Virtually Online

Greetings to those near and far...

As we prepare to commemorate another National Child Day; hosting what will be ARCQE's 11th annual early learning conference, we reflect on the significance of gathering as a community at a time where social distancing has become a new norm. In a profession that places emphasis on "practice of relationships" no doubt the onset of a pandemic health outbreak has challenged all of us relative to how we continue to find new and meaningful ways to honour the rights of children at a juncture in our history where there is so much uncertainty and transition. For these reasons and knowing there is much wisdom and strength that can come from uniting in times of adversity, we felt taking pause to

- re-imagine responsive environments in welcoming the return of children & families to programs,
- renew our focus on authentic ways we support the practice of relationships and;
- reconsider ways we continue to nurture the process of reflective practice

was important as we adapt and redefine the spirit of "community" in new virtual ways. In so doing, and on days where it all feels impossible, we urge all of you to continue to take inspiration from the endless springs of resilience we have seen authentically exhibited in a million surprising ways from children over the past 6-month period. Looking forward- we embrace the opportunity to be in community with all of you as we celebrate National Child Day together February 9 - 11, 2021!



Who should attend? Administrators, providers & practitioners in family child care, early learning professionals working in child care, out-of-school care, preschool, and recreational programs; educators; advocates; and students.

Conference Overview

Dates: Recordings will be released on the following dates

Time: On-Demand (Anytime); each session is 1-1.5 hours in length

Platform: Accelevents

Day 1: Tuesday, February 9th

Opening Keynote — Dr. Heather Price:

The long-term effects of COVID-19 stress on kids' future health and development - What we should know post-Pandemic...

Re-imagining “Responsive Environments & Welcoming the Return of Children ...”

Session A1	Session A2	Session A3
Retaining Authentic Early Learning Practices Amidst Covid-19: Reimagining Our Environment Dr. Diane Kashin	Virtual Program Tour-1: Environments that Support Connection to Place Laura Salau, Tanya Andrejas, & Nicole Pierce, Seneca College ECE Lab School, Toronto ON	Living Places of Vitality with <i>Flight</i> Dr. Tricia Lirette, Brittany Aamot, & Lee Makovichuk MacEwan University

Day 2: Wednesday, February 10th

Renewing a Focus on “Practice of Relationships”

Session B1	Session B2	Session B3
Continuance of Quality Child-care: Resilience under our New COVID Reality Jasvinder Heran & Lindsay Campbell	Virtual Program Tour-2: Supporting Connection to People, Place & Things: Inspirations from New Zealand's Te Whariki Curriculum Chrissy Lepper, New Zealand	What Sound Does a Space Chicken Make: Using Technology to Strengthen Human Connections Greg Morgan

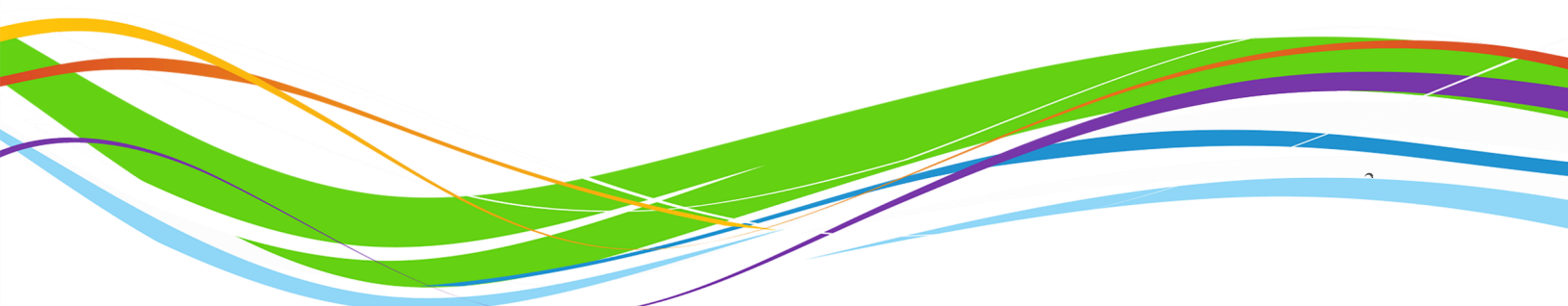
Day 3: Thursday, February 11th

Guiding Reflective Practice

Session C1	Session C2	Session C3
Reflective Practice in a “Social Distance” context: Why it's more important than ever... Dr. Christine McLean	Virtual Program Tour-3: Who we are in the Lives of Children? Alex Morgan, Boulder Journey School, Boulder CO	Exploring ‘Pedagogical Leadership’ in Real Time Dr. Joanne Baxter & Dr. Cathy Smey-Carston Mount Royal University

Closing Keynote — Don Geisbrecht:

Canada's ELCC Sector and COVID—It's (More Than) Time for a National Plan



Keynotes & Featured Speakers

Day 1 (Feb 9th)

Opening Keynote — *The long-term effects of COVID-19 stress on kids' future health and development - What we should know post-Pandemic...*

From the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, children's daily routines were disrupted and the predictability of central features of their world disappeared. In response, Dr Price's research team conducted hundreds of interviews with children around the world to learn about the pandemic's impact on their lives. These interviews, combined the implications of the pandemic for at-risk children, will be discussed in this keynote address.



Dr. Heather Price is a Professor of Psychology and Canada Research Chair in Children and the Law at Thompson Rivers University. Dr. Price studies children's memory, investigative interviewing, and children's involvement as victims and witnesses in the justice system. She regularly conducts research and training across Canada with police and social workers on investigative interviewing of children. Dr. Price has published more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and her research

is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Department of Justice.

Day 3 (Feb 11th)

Closing Keynote – *Canada's ELCC Sector and COVID—It's (More Than) Time for a National Plan*

The COVID pandemic has exposed the many cracks in the foundations of Canada's child care sector. Canada needed a high quality, national child care system years ago and the time is now to make it happen. This session will look at the pan-Canadian responses to ELCC in the early days of COVID up and until what is happening today—and why it matters.



Don Geisbrecht is CEO of the Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCCF), Canada's largest member based early learning and child care organization. Prior to his current role as CEO, he was President of the CCCC Board of Directors from 2006-2012. His is currently a member of the federal government's Expert Panel on Early Learning and Child Care Data and Research, the Province

of BC's Childcare Sector Labour Market Partnership and of the Vanier Institute for the Family Canadian Military and Veteran Family Leadership Circle. He was the Chair of the Alberta Resource Centre for Quality Enhancement, an expert panel member of the B.C. Universal Child Care Prototype Sites Selection Committee and a member of the Province of Manitoba's Early Learning and Child Care Commission. He is a past Board Executive Committee Member of the Child Care Human Resources Sector Council, served as the President of the Manitoba Child Care Association and was a member of the Federal Ministerial Advisory Committee on the Child Care Spaces Initiative. He was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his service on behalf of Canadian families in 2013.

Before working as the CEO of the CCCC, Don was the Executive Director of a non-profit, multi-age early learning and child care program in Winnipeg.



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Day 1 (Feb 9th) Sessions

A1: Retaining Authentic Early Learning Practices Amidst Covid-19: Reimagining Our Environment

Amidst the COVID-19 uncertainty and framed by the principles of Ontario's Pedagogy for the early years', this session will deconstruct and reconstruct knowledge and practices of those in the early years' programs with a focus on retaining authentic quality early learning practice. According to *How Does Learning Happen?* (2014) the environment is the context in which learning takes place. The environment was described by Loris Malaguzzi as "the third teacher" and is valued for its power to organize, promote relationships, and educate. It mirrors the ideas, values, attitudes, and cultures of those who use the space. In the world of pandemics, the question becomes, can the third teacher still teach? With rethinking and reimagining, the environment can provide optimal play, learning and engagement. This session will focus on the process of rethinking and reimagining and provide support to those working in this new normal!

Presenter: Dr. Diane Kashin is a registered early childhood educator and before retiring taught early childhood education at both the degree and the diploma level for over 30 years. Diane's doctoral thesis on emergent curriculum was published in 2009 and she has co-written three ECE textbooks with Dr. Beverlie Dietze. Diane is the past president of the Association for Early Childhood Educators of Ontario and the current coordinator of the York Region Nature Collaborative. Diane's areas of interest include forest and nature schools, risky play, loose parts, Reggio inspired practice, outdoor play and emergent curriculum. Diane writes a blog to support

professional learning in ECE: <http://tecribresearch.wordpress.com> and loves to engage in continuous professional learning face to face and through social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter. Diane presents workshops, webinars and keynote addresses in Ontario, across Canada and internationally.

A2: Virtual Program Tour-1: Environments that Supports Connection to Place (Seneca College ECE Lab School, Toronto ON)

Educators from the Seneca ECE Lab School will share a brief history of the transformation of their Environment as a Third Teacher over the last several decades. As we face uncertainty in the world of Covid-19, we all have an opportunity to reimagine our learning environments and spaces. Closed since March 2020, educators at the Lab School are contemplating responses to Covid-19, while reimagining how to continue to uphold their pedagogical values and principles. Educators will offer a Virtual Tour of our pre-Covid spaces alongside the current state of our spaces as we prepare to think with how we will return. Join us for a pedagogical dialogue on potentialities as we seek opportunities to focus on the possibilities that could emerge from these challenging times.

For more information on the Seneca ECE Lab School please visit <http://senecaecelabschool.ca>

Presenters: Laura Salau, RECE, Lab School Educator, began her journey at Seneca ECE Lab School over 20 years ago. She has had opportunity to work with many children, families, students and influential educators throughout the years; which in turn has transformed her pedagogical philosophy and continuous journey of learning. She lives each day with intent; reminding herself to slow

down, listen and notice. Cultivating spaces for children to be in relation with the environment, the earth and others is what guides her daily practice and pedagogical values.

Tanya Andrejas, RECE, BA, MA, Lab School Leader/Manager, began her journey in the field of ECE over 25 years ago as a student teacher placed in the Lab School. She fell in love with the philosophy, ways of being and knew it was a place she wanted to continue to grow, live and learn with. She has been blessed to work in all our classrooms, was a part-time faculty member in our school of ECE and recently took on the role as pedagogical leader and director in 2017. She was the proud recipient of the 2017 Prime Minister's Award in Excellence in Teaching and Learning. She is passionate about all things ECE, honoring and living our pedagogical commitments, both in her work and how she chooses to live her life. She is committed to lifelong learning, reflective practice and engaging in pedagogical dialogues and practices that inspire change.

Nicole Pierce, RECE, BA, Lab School Educator, was honoured to join the team at the Seneca ECE Lab School upon graduating 7 years ago. Since starting here it has become her home. She believes in creating environments as sanctuary for learning, beyond the rules that society places on what it means to be a child or teacher. A place where we all can truly flourish and have the time, space and respect we need to truly learn and be ourselves. She has a passion for co-learning with the children, researching how they think, test, and create meaning in the world around them. Through slowing down, and making time to think deeply about the moments we share together, her own pedagogical and philosophical views of not only ECE but living together in the world are transformed, reformed and become the way she lives her life.

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Day 1 (Feb 9th) Sessions (cont'd)

A3: Living Places of Vitality with *Flight*

In *Flight*, 'places of vitality' are described as strong, active, communities that welcome and invite participation of both children and adults. This idea is about living together—responsively and caringly—in the new here and now, where possibilities are abundant through our playing and participation. In this virtual session, Tricia, Brittany and Lee highlight voices of those who come together and form *places of vitality* through their individual and collective insights, appreciations and commitment for building connection to place.

Presenters: **Dr. Tricia Lirette** is the chair of MacEwan's Department of Human Services and Early Learning. **Brittany Aamot** is Senior Manager of Early Learning at MacEwan. **Lee Makovichuk** is an Assistant Professor who teaches early childhood curriculum at MacEwan. Together, they have collaborated to the research and development of *Flight: Alberta's Early Learning and Care Framework* (2014) from their respective roles for bringing together theory and practice in ways that keep early childhood curriculum current and relevant. Continuing this work in today's "new normal", Tricia, Brittany and Lee continue their efforts to make visible the significance of early childhood practice as relationally-based and meaningful in the lives of children, families and early childhood educators.

"Who could have ever imagined a time childcare programs would struggle to provide quality early learning services amidst a global pandemic health outbreak? What was it like being the calm in the storm, supporting children and their families in a time of uncertainty? Join us for a conversation with two early learning and care Administrators as they reflect on what it was like to re-open childcare programs while the rest of the world's services were closing down; how educators worked to shift environments to meet children's new evolving needs under dramatically changing health guidelines and protocols and the unanticipated impact the pandemic has had on viewing Early Childhood Educators as essential service workers in rural and urban communities.

Presenters: **Lindsay Campbell** has been the Executive Director of Building Blocks Day Care in Grande Prairie for the past 13 years. This centre was a part of Phase 2 for the ELCC \$25.00 a day Pilot Project. This site also remained open to essential workers during the pandemic. They were one of the few centres to reach the maximum allowed capacity at that time. She has been the recipient of 'Director of the Year' for Grande Prairie Regional College's Northern Alberta Child Care Awards twice in the last 3 years. Aside from the day care, she is working as a course facilitator for ECDV 0100 with Grant MacEwan. She is also currently a board member with ARCQE. She is the proud mother of two children, Noah (8) and Ava (5).

Jasvinder Heran has been in the field for 34 years, her journey started as an educator to owning and operating several private-run childcare centres 1986 till 2013. Presently enrolled in school pursuing a Master's in Business. Currently, her position is the Executive Director of two not for profit childcare facilities downtown. She strongly believes in the mission of AECEA and see families, parents, educators as being partners in

building equitable, quality, accessible, affordable Early Learning and Child Care programs.

B2: Virtual Program Tour-2: Enhancing Connection to People, Place and Things

Join colleague Chrissy Lepper of LEaP Education, Aotearoa, NZ as she transports us across the e-waves on a virtual "magic carpet ride" tour of early learning and care programs across parts of New Zealand. As programs around the world re-open following lengthy closures arising from Covid-19, and begin to welcome the return of children and families we look to the inspirations from the essence of New Zealand's Te Whariki bi-cultural curriculum and the meaningful ways educator practice focuses on supporting "Connection to People, Place and Things."

Presenter: **Chrissy Lepper** worked for Massey University for the past 15 years as the Project Director for Early Childhood Professional Development for Ministry of Education contracts until July 2015. Chrissy has recently established her own consultancy company, providing professional development and learning with the early childhood sector. Experiences visiting early childhood services in Edmonton in Canada and the Reggio Emilia and Pen Green (UK) Study Tours in 2014 have had a significant impact on Chrissy's thinking about community involvement and the purpose of early childhood education. Chrissy is relationship focused and engages participants to have a positive mindsets and a strong sense of agency. LEaP Professional Education Research and Consultancy is an organization that learns, engages and participates for change.

Day 2 (Feb 10th) Sessions

B1: Continuance of Quality Childcare: Resilience under our New COVID Reality

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Day 2 (Feb 10th) Sessions (cont'd)

B3: What sound does a space chicken make: Using technology to strengthen human connections

Knowing that children are going to interact with digital spaces and digital experiences, we feel that we have a responsibility as adult collaborators to offer experiences with technology that inspire and provoke active creativity, construction, and collaboration, rather than merely passive consumption. Join us as we examine a year-long investigation, researched by a group of 4- and 5-year-old children and their teachers, around connection in virtual spaces.

Presenter: Greg Morgan is entering his second year of teaching as a Mentor Teacher at Boulder Journey School. Before that, he taught at an expeditionary learning school in Denver called Joe Shoemaker School. While at Shoemaker he completed his Masters in Human Development and Education from the Boulder Journey School Teacher Education Program. Since then he has been happily learning and improving his teaching practice at BJS. Some of his interests as a teacher include finding meaningful and intentional ways of using technology with young children. As well as exploring how adults can play more and find joy in every experience, with or without children.

Day 3 (Feb 11th) Sessions

C1: Reflective Practice in a "Social Distance" context: Why it is more important than ever

This presentation will examine the new realities of early learning and child care

within the context of social distancing and increased public health and safety precautions. Specifically, we'll look at how reflective practice in early learning and child care settings can be used to create a secure, trusting, and respectful place where educators, children, and families can feel safe in bringing forward their ideas, questions, and concerns as they relate to programming, relationships, and the learning environment.

Presenter: Dr. Christine McLean is on faculty with the Department of Child and Youth Study at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Prior to her position at the Mount, Christine was active in the ECE field in Newfoundland and Labrador for 28 years and has presented at many provincial and national conferences across Canada. She has been involved with various child care provincial and national organizations and is currently on the Board of Directors of Canadian Association for Young Children (CAYC) and on the executive board of the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia. Christine has a Bachelor of Child Study from MSVU, a Bachelor of Education from Acadia University, a Master of Education from University of Cincinnati, and a PhD in early learning from OISE, University of Toronto.

C2: Virtual Program Tour-3: Who we are in the Lives of Children?

Based on stories from Boulder Journey School, this session will explore how can Reflective Practice support and inform who we are as educators in the lives of children and how we meaningfully refocus our work with young children going forward.

Presenter: Alex Morgan has acted as teacher, social media specialist, study tour program coordinator, common space and theater support for classrooms, and Hawkins Centers of Learn-

ing liaison for Boulder Journey School. In addition to supporting classroom work, she coordinates and develops Professional Development to support adult learning both locally in Colorado and at conferences around the country. Alex is passionate about using inspirations from Frances and David Hawkins and Reggio Emilia, Italy to support adults and children in discovering, uncovering, and Messing About. She has shared her work through Exchange magazine, conferences, Ignite Boulder, and TEDxBoulder.

C3: Exploring 'Pedagogical Leadership' in Real Time

This session will provide a time to reflect upon our thoughts and ideas around pedagogical leadership. We will begin with a discussion around the concepts of pedagogical leadership that have emerged in the Pedagogical Supports work with the Alberta Early Learning Curriculum Framework project, exploring how this leadership approach supported and challenged us over recent times of uncertainty. Voices from pedagogical partners will be incorporated into this conversation, sharing their perspectives and learning from the field.

Presenters: Cathy Smey-Carston and Joanne Baxter have both taught at Mount Royal University for many years in the Early Learning and Care Diploma and more recently, in the Bachelor of Child Studies Degree. Together they have created a Pedagogical Supports Model to support the implementation of the Alberta Early Learning Curriculum Framework into practice in child care centers across Alberta. Their experiences in conducting a four year pilot and multiple years providing professional learning supports for pedagogical partners will inform this session.

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Conference Rates

	Early Bird (Sep 24, 2020-Jan 8, 2021)	Regular (Jan 9-Feb 4, 2021)
Individual:	\$100+GST	\$150+GST
Individual—PTL Cardholder:	\$75+GST	\$115+GST
Group of 5: (Buy 4 and get the 5th half price)	\$450+GST	\$675+GST
Group of 10: (Buy 9 and get the 10th free)	\$900+GST	\$1,350+GST

Fees include: Access to 3-day full session offerings with recordings, virtual exhibitors, networking activities and Q&As, and digital certificate of completion.

Registration

All registration MUST be completed online at <http://arcqe.ca/services/professional-development/conference/>

Registration is based on a **first come, first serve** basis and **subject to capacity**. In order to avoid disappointment please register early. ARCQE reserves the right to restrict enrollment or to cancel any activity for which there is insufficient registration. We will make every effort to inform you prior to the start date.

Registration Deadline: 5 PM MST, Thursday, February 4, 2021

Early Bird Registration Deadline: 5 PM MST, Friday, January 8, 2021

Payment options

Online with MasterCard, Visa, at: <http://arcqe.ca/services/professional-development/conference/>

**We only authorize Visa and MasterCard payments online.*

Cancellation Policy

Registration fees, less a \$50 processing fee, will be refunded if a cancellation request is received **in writing** by **5 PM on Friday, January 8, 2021**. **After this date, registration fees are non-refundable.** Non-attendance does not constitute notice of withdrawal.

If you have registered for the conference but are unable to attend and wish to have someone else attend in your place, please contact the ARCQE office by **5 PM on Thursday, February 4, 2021** to give us time to update registration lists. If we have not received notification by the above deadline, we cannot accommodate delegate replacements during the week of conference.

Register Early for a Chance to Win a FREE iPad!

With this being ARCQE's first virtual conference, we are celebrating by way of a special draw for an iPad intended to guide educator practice relating to children's learning and exploration through use of digital applications (i.e. supporting documentation, observation & reflection, developing learning stories). Everyone who has registered by the Early Bird deadline **5 PM MST, January 8, 2021** will be automatically entered into a drawing to win **a FREE Apple iPad 32Gb with Wi-Fi!** The winner will be drawn at random and announced in the Family Day week (February 15-19, 2021) on ARCQE's website and [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/arcqe).



We invite you to join us and possibly win this awesome prize along the way!

PTL Program Information

Not a PTL cardholder? You can join our PTL program and be eligible for conference discounted rates quickly and easily. Visit <http://arcqe.ca/ptl-information/> for more information and online application.

PD Funding Information

Professional Development (PD) Funding is available to eligible registrants to cover the cost of ARCQE conference registration, up to \$500/year for Child Development Assistants and Child Development Workers, and \$200/year for Child Development Supervisors.

The updated [Alberta Child Care Grant Funding Guide](#) outlines the steps needed in order to obtain PD funding. All applications and questions regarding the new Alberta Child Care Grant Funding can be directed to:

Alberta Child Care Grant Funding Program
Sterling Place, 9940 – 106 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 2N2
Fax: 780-427-1258
For further information call 1-800-661-9754
Email: cs.childcarefunding@gov.ab.ca

We **strongly encourage those interested in attending and planning on accessing PD funds to submit PD applications as early as possible, as **funding might be depleted** prior to application deadline.*



We hope to see you online on *February 9th - 11th, 2021!*

Register online at <http://arcqe.ca/services/professional-development/conference/> today!

