



2026 Board Nominee

Melissa Haase

City/Prov/Territory:

Red Deer, AB

Place of Employment:

Red Deer, Polytechnic

Present Position:

Faculty Instructor & Practicum
Facilitator (ELCC Certificate &
Diploma Programs)

Area of Practice:

Polytechnic Instructor

Education:

- **Master of Education** – Early Learning (University of British Columbia, 2025)
- **Bachelor of Child and Youth Care with Distinction**, specialization in Child Protection (University of Victoria, 2020)
- **Early Learning and Child Care Diploma**, President's Honor Roll (Red Deer College, 2014)
- **Business Administration Diploma with Honors**, Major in Accounting (Southern Institute of Technology, 2003)

Participation in ECE

Organizations:

- **Alberta Resource Centre for Quality Enhancement (ARCQE)**: Board member since 2024; held positions as Treasurer, Vice-Chair, and current Board Chair.
- **Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta (AECEA)**: Member (2014–2021 intermittently, consistent 2021–2026).
- **Council for Early Learning and Care Alberta (CELC)**: Member, Strategy Advancement Working Group (August 2026).

Other Community Involvement:

Treasurer: Red Deer Native Friendship Center (2022–2024)

Candidate Statement

I am running for the CCCF Board because I have seen how provincial and federal change-makers can create conditions for our sector to build quality, capacity and professionalism. I believe I can meaningfully contribute to this work at a national level.

My experience crosses several parts of ELCC. I was a Family Day Home Educator from 2008–2019, giving me firsthand experience with home child care. I now work in ELCC at Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP), alongside emerging early childhood educators, and serve as Chair of the ARCQE governance board, contributing to quality, capacity building, advocacy and partnerships across Alberta. These experiences allow me to see how systems-level decisions impact educators, programs, communities, children and families.

At RDP, I have the privilege of working alongside diverse learners, many new to Canada and speaking English as an additional language. Learners have repeatedly identified me as an advocate—something I value deeply. Working alongside them continually shapes how I listen, understand different perspectives and approach my work.

My life and work also include a commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. Through the Friendship Centre and RDP's Reconciliation work, I continue to learn and reflect on Willie Ermine's concept of ethical space. I do not claim Indigenous leadership or perspectives that are not mine to claim; rather, I seek to walk alongside in response-able and care-ful ways.

I am ready to bring these intersecting perspectives to CCCF: a grounded understanding of Alberta ELCC, governance experience, curiosity, humility, and a commitment to listening while contributing meaningfully to the work ahead.