



February 24, 2009

To our members and stakeholders:

**Re: Leadership and Capacity Building in the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) sector**

The AECEO has launched the “**Leadership and Capacity Building in the ELCC sector**” project that will engage members and stakeholders in a province-wide consultative process over the coming months. The project has been funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario. The project’s end goal is to strengthen leadership within the early learning and care sector.

The AECEO has contracted the services of Holly Nimmons of Opis, who will consult our members and the leaders and stakeholders within our sector, in order to determine the key issues facing our communities. She will facilitate focus groups, coordinate a survey, conduct personal interviews and gather feedback. Through the consultation process, she will identify existing areas of strength and excellence. Through listening and dialogue, she will recommend strategies to engage volunteers, to foster new leaders and to build the capacity of our sector to maintain excellence and to grow our profession into the future.

I am pleased to introduce Holly Nimmons of Opis, as the Project Coordinator and Facilitator of this project. Holly is a dynamic, achievement-focused consultant with an established performance record of 20 years of management excellence. Through Opis, Holly has successfully worked with leaders to determine their strategic priorities, to develop organizational standards, to strengthen governance and to motivate excellence within staff and volunteer teams. Her clients include member and service organizations, regulatory colleges and arts agencies.

Her career experience includes YWCA Canada, the Canadian Association of Adult Education and the College of Midwives of Ontario (CMO). She also has a history of varied volunteer experience, including Board membership on advocacy and community groups. Of particular interest is Holly’s experience with the midwifery profession, before and after regulation. Formerly CMO Executive Director and a consumer activist, Holly was actively involved in the transition towards regulation. During her years in leadership positions, she has led several membership consultation activities to engage

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communities in determining and strengthening their futures. She engages and empowers, by educating and guiding individuals towards successful achievements. Her work fosters confidence and change.

Holly will present on the project at regional conferences, where she will have the opportunity to meet members in person. She will regularly report on the project's progress in the AECEO's *eceLINK*, membership e-bulletins and on our website, [aeceo.ca](http://aeceo.ca). In order to provide objectivity during the process, you may also directly contact Holly at: [Leadership.AECEO@gmail.com](mailto:Leadership.AECEO@gmail.com)

We are excited about where this project will lead us and enthusiastic about working with Holly and the sector to get us there! We encourage you to let Holly know if you would like to actively participate in the consultation process. Please contact her with your comments and questions.

Sincerely,

Eduarda Sousa  
Executive Director  
AECEO Provincial Office

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