

The Calgary Regional Consortium (CRC) provides professional learning for the Zone 5 education community, including:

18 K-12 Public & Charter School Districts and Education Authorities with a combined total of **559** schools

77
Independent Schools

Responsive, Timely, and Accessible Professional Learning

3 KEY MINDSETS and **3 CORE VALUES** guided our work with the educators and partners we serve in the 2020-21 year to ensure *responsive, timely, and accessible professional learning* that supported alignment between their emerging needs, the Business Plan for Education, Jurisdiction/School Education Plans and Education Partner Strategic Plans.

3 Core Values: Meaningful Relationships, Innovative Solutions, Shared Responsibility

3 Key Mindsets: Collaborate and Co-create, Support Alignment, Build Capacity in Context

Mindful of the educational landscape in the midst of the current global pandemic, **3 PRIMARY STRATEGIES** have shaped our application of the 3 Key Mindsets and 3 Core Values in approaching engagement with our partners this year as it relates to our mandate:

1. **Deliver Responsive Professional Learning that Connects Educators and Enhances Professional Practice.**
2. **Support Purposeful Professional Engagement with Credible Resources.**
3. **Find Innovative Solutions to Offer Accessible Professional Learning During the Pandemic**

How We Served the Education Community This Year

Organised by the 6 Goals for Consortia established by Alberta Education, the following summary provides highlights of our work in the region and province this year.

Goal 1: Facilitate professional development, which supports the effective implementation of components of the Alberta Education Business Plan, Jurisdiction and school education plans, and Education Partner Strategic Plans.



Goal 4: Deliver professional development based on the identified and emerging needs of educational stakeholders.

Over the course of the 2021-22 year, we met in collaboration **433** times with system and instructional leaders, education partners and ARPDC Executive Directors/Consortia consultants to understand local emerging needs and collaborate on innovative responses including resources, learning opportunities and strategies for implementation. Frequent purposeful communication and meaningful collaborations with schools and senior leadership in the Zone 5 region resulted in:

227 learning opportunities provided directly to schools in our region.

Comprehensive collaboration in **8** system learning days in the Zone 5 region, providing **10,637** hours of learning for Zone 5 educators.

128 schools participating in the Ministerial Order on Student Learning Project, a guided opportunity for all school administrators in the region to introduce the Ministerial Order on Student Learning to staff.

In these recordings, system and school leaders share about the impacts and outcomes of their collaboration with the CRC:



Video Recording
Length:12:42



Audio Recording
Length:18:40

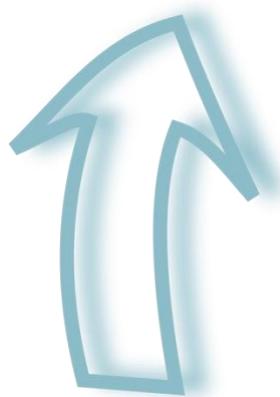
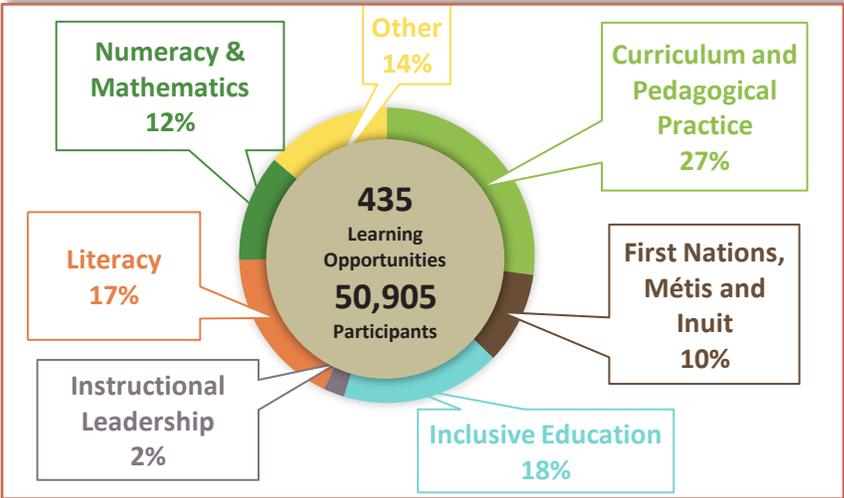
Goal 2: Facilitate professional development, which supports the effective implementation of curricula, including instruction, assessment, resources and student learner outcomes.

In this current year, Calgary Regional Consortium addressed multiple Priority Areas for professional learning both provincially and regionally through a dynamic menu of in-district and open registration synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities.

142,969 hours of learning provided, with **77%** Regional and **23%** Provincial learning.

97% of participants said that learning included practical strategies for applying the learning to their practice.

98% of participants said that learning opportunities contributed to their understanding of the topic.



2020-21 values represent a **31% increase** in learning opportunities provided, and a **233% increase** in learning participants.

Comparatively, in the 2019-2020 year, the CRC offered 333 learning opportunities to 15,270 participants. In a year plagued with uncertainty and heightened stress for educators at the mercy of ever evolving pandemic protocols, these gains are significant.

The following describes intentional efforts of the CRC team that likely contributed to these gains:

1. Extensive Social Listening and Communications Strategy: Over the past three years CRC has developed a specific marketing and communications approach to ensure that programming is responsive to the interests and needs of the education community that we serve, and to bolster awareness of our learning opportunities. Over the past 3 years, as a result of the marketing and communications strategy, CRC has accrued:

- 9984** eNews Subscribers
- 1227** Twitter Followers
- 539** CRC Facebook Friends

2. Flexible Learning Options: Providing variety in professional learning avenues for the education community has garnered success for our team this year. Asynchronous learning opportunities and eCourses have been popular choices provided by the CRC to the province.

1. The CRC offered 4 distinct eCourses in various Priority Areas with **784** participants across the province.
2. PD Playlists were another popular option this year in the region and across the province. This menu of 5 different on-your-own resources intended to be used with staff teams to guide their independent learning around various topics were accessed by **2426** educators or staff teams this year.

3. ARPD C2L Partnership: As a result of our collaboration with Connect2Learn, CRC provided **36,228** hours of learning to educators in 6 Zone 5 districts.

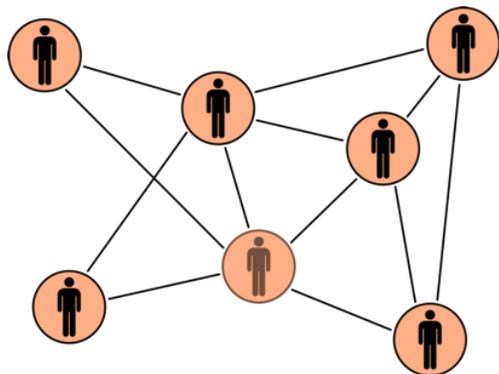
4. Increased Supports for System Learning Days: As noted above, CRC collaborated comprehensively in the design and delivery of 8 system learning days, in addition to various other supports for the system learning days in Zone 5 throughout the year.

5. AISCA Conference: For the 3rd year running, CRC led provincial support for the annual Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta (AISCA) Conference. This year, registration for the event more than tripled, going from the previous average of about 500 participants to **1620** participants this year.

6. *Layers of Reading Development Series* – as a result of our leadership in working with Michelle Bence and Miriam Ramzy to bring this series to the province, **1,138** educators benefited. The energy around this series has been tremendous, and is supporting shared foundational understandings and common approaches to powerful teaching and learning across the province.

Goal 3: Coordinate, broker, and act as a referral center to assist stakeholders to identify available professional development resources.

Calgary Regional Consortium maintains a large network of education partners and experts in the field to ensure the delivery of high quality professional learning. Partners in our network this year included:



- Alberta Education
- Alberta Health Services
- ARC Foundation
- Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta (AISCA)
- Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA)
- Canadian Assessment for Learning Network (CAFLN)
- Connect2Learning (C2L)
- Dairy Farmers of Canada
- Mathematics Council of the ATA (MCATA)
- Nelson Publishing
- Pearson Publishing
- Rupertsland Institute
- Scholastic Education
- Skipping Stone
- Solution Tree Education Canada
- Speakers' Spotlight
- TAAPCS
- The Critical Thinking Consortium (TC2)
- University of Calgary

A new approach to supporting literacy instructional leaders this year evolved in the spring with our Literacy Trickies. This was a unique new model of bringing together instructional leaders who have literacy as a part of their portfolio across the Zone to brainstorm together about problems of practice, emerging needs, and solutions to challenges. The Literacy Trickies group had a standing regular meeting, with a drop in if you can and want to. The literacy trickies was a new way of thinking about Goal 3 in particular response to the pandemic, and was tremendously popular.

Goal 5: Promote and support the development of professional development leadership capacity.

Designers of Professional Learning at the CRC are highly skilled in delivering adult professional learning, frequently attending professional learning themselves to help them advance their in-person and on-line skills. Intentional about supporting the development of professional learning leadership capacity in the region, we collaborate and co-design learning with the leaders we serve whenever possible.

97 learning opportunities were co-developed and/or delivered with school or system leaders.

Goal 6: Provide educational stakeholders with access to professional development at a reasonable cost.

92% of our learning opportunities were offered completely free of cost to participants.

One way that the CRC is creating fiscal efficiency is investing in high quality Designers of Professional Learning who offer the vast majority of our learning opportunities. Whenever our Designers of Professional Learning provide a learning opportunity directly to districts, it is free of cost with the exception of travel and sustenance. Fees for open registration opportunities on our website are dramatically reduced with this same strategy. Ensuring highly capable staff who can support the breadth of requests we receive, rather than focusing on brokering outside expertise is a model working in our region. The volume of on-going work we have with all of our districts indicates that this is an appreciated model.

Directions for the Year Ahead

The **3 Core Values** that CRC established this year have provided clarity for our team in how we focus all of our efforts. Meaningful Relationships that result in Innovative Solutions to our Shared Responsibility with education partners to continuously improve teacher practice for the benefit of students has framed all of this year's work. Significant increases in service provided, with demonstrated positive impact, tell us that we're on the right track. In the year ahead we will continue to apply this lens to our work. We will continue as well to be guided by our **3 Key Mindsets** of Collaborate and Co-create, Support Alignment, Build Capacity in Context in the design of our professional learning supports.