

2025 EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE CONFERENCE

IGNITE

FUEL YOUR WHY

ELIGIBLE FOR PD &
RELEASE TIME FUNDING

SNACKS, LUNCH, &
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

VENDORS, DOOR PRIZES, &
EXCLUSIVE SWAG BAGS FOR ALL
PARTICIPANTS

 SATURDAY MARCH 15, 2025

 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
*DOORS OPEN @ 7:45AM

 COAST HOTEL CONFERENCE CENTRE
526 MAYOR MAGRATH DR S
LETHBRIDGE, AB

350

SEATS
AVAILABLE

DIGITAL CERTIFICATES TO BE
ISSUED UPON COMPLETION



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**DR. JODY
CARRINGTON**

PSYCHOLOGIST, MOTIVATIONAL
SPEAKER, BEST-SELLING AUTHOR



BREAKOUT SPEAKER

**ANGELINA
ROBILLARD**

ACADEMY IN THE WILD FOREST
SCHOOL OWNER & WILDERNESS
SKILLS EDUCATOR



BREAKOUT SPEAKER

SHERRY DUNCAN

EARLY CHILDHOOD INDIGENOUS
NAVIGATOR



BREAKOUT SPEAKER

LAUNA CLARK

EARLY CHILDHOOD
PROFESSIONAL



BREAKOUT SESSION

TRUE COLORS®

TRAIN ALBERTA



BREAKOUT SPEAKER

DAVE VERHULST

DIRECTOR OF CANMORE
FOREST PLAY

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 2025

IGNITE

FUEL YOUR WHY

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY:
THE CHILDCARE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHWEST ALBERTA

Event Schedule

7:45 AM	Doors Open, Registration, Snacks & Refreshments
8:30 AM	Opening Remarks – Land Acknowledgment & Blessing
9:00 AM	Keynote Session
10:30AM – 10:45AM	Break
10:45AM – 12:15PM	Keynote Resumes
12:15PM – 1:15PM	Lunch Break with Launa Clark
1:30PM – 3:30PM	Breakout Sessions
3:30PM – 4:30PM	Refreshments, Survey, Networking & Door Prizes



SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Jody Carrington -

Reignite: Building Resilience in the Age of Burnout

Many organizations continue to witness the impact of burnout, with reduced morale, low productivity and a lack of innovation. Emotional exhaustion, a lack of compassion, and an experience of futility have become common experiences for many teams. Dr. Jody has begun walking hundreds of organizations through reconnection to combat burnout and build mental resilience. She provides specific strategies to shift culture, bringing hilarity and truth while reigniting purpose and productivity with this game-changing talk.

Dr. Jody Carrington is a renowned psychologist sought after for her expertise, energy, and approach to helping people solve their most complex human-centered challenges. Jody focuses much of her work around reconnection – the key to healthy relationships and productive teams. As a bestselling author, speaker, and leader of Carrington & Company, Jody uses humour, and all she has learned in her twenty-year career as a psychologist to empower everyone she connects with.



*Kindly note that Dr. Jody Carrington uses colourful language in her sessions

Sherry Duncan - Exploring your purpose: Beginning with Why.

Exploring your purpose, your beliefs and values as an educator will help you reignite your passion for the important work you do. Inspired Early Childhood Educators who understand their why are more likely to lead boldly and creatively. This session will help Early Childhood Educators explore their purpose by beginning with Why.

Objectives:

- Connect with your own play and creativity
- Connect with other early childhood educators to articulate beliefs and values
- Develop a personal statement that explores your purpose as an early childhood educator

Sherry is a Metis educator and elder with over 38 years of extensive experience from early learning and childcare to post-secondary education through various roles including; teacher, administrator, facilitator, RCSD manager, classroom support teacher, Child Care Center Director and curriculum developer.



SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS

Launa Clark - Leading with Kindness: Supporting Educator Mental Well-Being Through Connection and Empathy



In today's fast-paced and demanding environments, educators often balance heavy workloads, the emotional needs of children, and personal challenges, all while navigating the complexities of a team dynamic. This session delves into the heart of workplace wellness, emphasizing the importance of fostering a supportive, empathetic, and connected atmosphere among educators.

This session will help educators build a stronger, healthier team culture where connection and empathy lead the way. By doing so, we can create environments where educators thrive professionally and personally, ensuring that children and colleagues feel supported, valued, and understood. Let's work together to reimagine workplace wellness and lead with kindness—because when educators feel cared for, their impact becomes even more profound.

Launa Clark (she/her) – Launa is currently located in Calgary and has a depth of experience in adult education, curriculum development, and community engagement. Her expertise comes from teaching post-secondary and supporting provincial initiatives within human services sectors. Launa holds a Bachelor of Professional Arts in Human Services, an Early Child Development Diploma, and multiple related certificates in brain science, mental health, and creativity assessment. The heart of Launa's work is based on her strong commitment to helping people be the best they can be for the people they care about.

Angelina Robillard - Braving the Elements: Empowering Adults for **All-Weather Play and Risky Adventures**

Explore the opportunities and challenges of outdoor play, especially during its toughest season—winter! This session will equip you with practical strategies, tools, and tips to help educators embrace all-weather play while trusting children to engage in safe, meaningful risky play. Leave feeling empowered and prepared to make outdoor time easier to plan and more enjoyable for both children and educators in any setting.

Angelina Robillard is the owner of Academy in the Wild Forest and Nature School and an experienced Forest School and wilderness skills educator. She is passionate about fostering a love for the outdoors, and strengthening children's mental resiliency through meaningful play.



**Be prepared to spend time outdoors!*

*** Session limited to 50 participants*

SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS

Dave Verhulst – Forest Play: Curiosity Inspired Learning



Dave believes the natural world is one of our most powerful teachers and mentors. Through sharing stories and experiences in the landscape, he helps children and adults develop a strong connection with themselves and nature. In 2011, he co-founded Forest Play in Canmore based on Forest School models and the 8 Shields Mentoring Model.

Dave's session will provide participants with the opportunity to experience what it is like being part of a program that intentionally works towards building these attributes through the 8 Shields Mentoring Model. Participants will leave with games, songs, activities and strategies they can use to help children build a connection with nature.

**Be prepared to spend time outdoors*

*** Session is limited to 50 participants*

Keys to Personal Awareness and Success Workshop – Train Alberta Inc.

Each of us has our own style, preferences, and ways of working. So how can we all work/live together? The True Colors® Personal Awareness & Success Workshop helps participants explore their own and other's distinctive personality strengths and stressors. They learn to respect and appreciate differences in the ways people function and better understand relationship building, effective communication and team effort.

A True Colors International certified facilitator will lead participants in a workshop environment which encourages reflection, team building and Ah-Ha moments of insight into communicating with others!



**Session is limited to 25 participants*

FAQ

Q: How do I register?

A: Pre-registration will open to all members of the Child Care Director's Association (CCDASA) the week of January 6th, with public registration opening the following week. The public link will be emailed out by the CCDASA and posted on social media.

Q: What is the cost?

A: The conference fee is \$200 per person. This includes snacks, refreshments, lunch, and an exclusive conference swag bag for each participant. Ignite 2025 is approved for professional development (PD) and release time funding. Tickets are transferable through our registration partner, SAPDC, until February 28, 2025, but are **non-refundable**.

Q: What are breakout sessions?

A: Breakout sessions are an opportunity to select a speaker who resonates most with your interests for an engaging afternoon of learning. There are five options to choose from, with three sessions held in various rooms at the Coast Conference Centre. Additionally, Ecole La Verendrye (located across the street) will host two outdoor play sessions. *Please note that each session has limited capacity, so we encourage early registration to secure your spot.*

Q: What kind of vendors will be there?

A: We have a variety of vendors available for leisurely shopping during break times. Some vendors will accept cards, but payments may also be cash or e-transfer only.

Q: Where do I park?

A: The Coast Hotel has an onsite parking lot, or there is a large amount of on-street parking surrounding the venue.

Q: What if I have food restrictions?

A: We accommodate gluten-free, vegetarian, and dairy-free dietary restrictions. If you have additional needs, we recommend bringing any necessary items to ensure your comfort.

Q: I am a Director. Is there a Director's session available this year?

A: Absolutely! This year, we're hosting an exclusive wine and cheese networking evening for directors on March 14th. It's free for one CCDASA member per agency, while non-members or additional directors can attend for \$25. To secure your spot, please RSVP by emailing childcaredirectors@gmail.com.