



LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL ALBERTA

WHEREAS Lights on Afterschool Alberta is a province-wide initiative, celebrating school age care programs and their role in keeping kids safe, inspiring them to learn, and supporting working families; and

WHEREAS Afterschool programs build stronger communities by bringing together families, schools and community partners to ensure the well-being of our children; and

WHEREAS Working families have peace of mind, knowing their school aged children are safe and productive before and after the regular school day; and

WHEREAS Afterschool programs focus on developing skills and building resilience in our young people, giving them the tools to become responsible and engaging members of the community.

NOW THEREFORE Members of Okotoks Town Council do hereby proclaim April 19, 2024 as “Lights on Afterschool Alberta Day”.

-- ORIGINAL SIGNED --



Proclamation, Lighting or Flag Request at the Municipal Centre

Town of Okotoks Corporate Services

5 Elizabeth Street

Okotoks AB T1S 1K1

Inquiries: Phone 403.938.8900 or cao@okotoks.ca

Please Note: Please ensure your request has come in no less than 10 business days prior to the requested Start Date.

Name of the Requesting Organization *

SCHOOL AGE CARE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF
ALBERTA

Occasion Title *

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL ALBERTA DAY

Request Type *

- ☒ Proclamation
- ☐ Lighting of the Municipal Centre
- ☐ Honorary Flag Raising

If requesting a proclamation, the proclamation document must be uploaded below.

Proclamation Start Date *

4/1/2024

Proclamation End Date *

4/21/2024

Please provide comments to support your request below:

SACDA (School Age Care Directors Association of Alberta) would like to formally request for your support and partnership with SACDA's annual Lights On Afterschool Alberta initiative.

Description of Event: Our entire intention is to "shine a light" on the positive impact out of school care programs create for children, families, and communities across the province. We want to educate policy makers on these impacts and have them focus their efforts to improving recognition, availability, affordability, accessibility and quality for our sector and the educators that work in it.

We are asking municipalities to "light up" Landmarks Yellow and Blue, and request a proclamation or possibly a video from the Mayors, recognizing the impact programs make for children, families, and communities, and to recognize for the educators who make these programs possible.

Last year, we had the Calgary Tower, High Water Bridge in Edmonton, red Dear City Hall, Lethbridge Town Hall, and Medicine Hat Tepee, Grand Prairie Sun Dial, and other monuments across the province lit to support the event/movement and proclamations from many of these municipalities as well.

SACDA's mission is to provide school-age care professionals with a province-wide network of community-based support and to advocate for greater availability of quality, affordable care in Alberta. We want the province to recognize the impact these programs make in their communities during the "Critical Hours" before and after school.

Any additional Promotion of the event is welcome.

We are asking municipalities to partner with SACDA by both recognizing April 19th, 2024 and "Lights On Afterschool Alberta Day" and put forward a proclamation for declaring the day to be " Lights On Afterschool Alberta Day" in their municipality.

You can see our promo video for programs here: <https://youtu.be/00KJ6bRFuT4>

Below is a copy of the requested wording of the proclamation- feel free to change as needed:

PROCLAMATION

Lights on Afterschool Alberta is a province-wide initiative, celebrating school age care programs and their role in keeping kids safe, inspiring them to learn, and supporting working families.

Whereas: Afterschool programs build stronger communities by bringing together families, schools and community partners to ensure the well-being of our children;

Whereas: Working families have peace of mind, knowing their school aged children are safe and productive before and after the regular school day;

Whereas: Afterschool programs focus on developing skills and building resilience in our young people, giving them the tools to become responsible and engaging members of the community.

On behalf of City Council and the citizens of Calgary, I hereby proclaim April 19th,2024 as:

"LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL ALBERTA DAY"

Previous proclamations , support, and other information can be found on our website:

<https://www.calgarysacda.com/lights-on-afterschool>

Please let us know if you can help us celebrate in your Municipality. Our goal is to recognize this work in all areas of the province!

Contact Information

First Name *

Last Name *

Phone *

KATE

LAW

825.365.5477

Email *

calgarysacdachair@gmail.com

Confirm Email *

calgarysacdachair@gmail.com

Address *

Street Address

425 78 AVENUE SOUTHWEST,

Street Address Line 2

City / Town

CALGARY

Province

ALBERTA

Postal Code

T2V 5K5

Please upload the proclamation document and any other documents or details supporting your request (i.e.: letter from organization, promotional material, etc.). *

LOASA2024.pdf

617.94KB

LOAS-SACDA-Letter Of Support_ 2024.pdf

410.62KB

The personal information on this form is being collected under the authority of Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act and will be used to respond to your request. Should you have any questions regarding the collection or use of your personal information, please contact the FOIP Coordinator at foip@okotoks.ca or 403.938.8944.



Re: School Age Care Directors Association – Lights On After School Alberta

Dear Esteemed Policymakers and Sector Leaders,

As representatives of the School Age Care Directors Association (SACDA) of Alberta, we are reaching out to invite your municipality and/or esteemed organizations to extend your support and recognition to Out of School Care (OSC) Programs in our province. Specifically, we cordially invite you to participate in our upcoming 8th Annual *Lights On Afterschool Alberta* celebration scheduled for April 19th, 2024. This occasion serves as a collective acknowledgment of the invaluable contributions made by OSC Programs to the well-being of children and families across Alberta.

Since its inception seven years ago in Calgary, our *Lights On Afterschool Alberta* initiative has rapidly expanded its reach, becoming a province-wide movement. This year, municipalities across Alberta will illuminate their iconic landmarks in vibrant **blue** and **yellow**, symbolizing their unwavering support for OSC programs. Notable landmarks such as the Calgary Tower, High Level Bridge in Edmonton, Saamis Teepee in Medicine Hat, and the Sun Dial in Grand Prairie will serve as beacons of recognition for the vital role OSC programs play in our communities. Moreover, many municipal leaders have officially proclaimed April 19th, 2024 as a day dedicated to honoring OSC programs, further demonstrating their commitment to this cause.

Past iterations of this event have proven to be instrumental in fostering community engagement and advocacy for OSC programs. Local events have provided platforms for OSC programs to showcase their impact, hosting elected officials and policymakers, thereby amplifying awareness of the invaluable services they provide to our communities and youth and showcasing policymakers who champion with thier support.

In light of the above, SACDA humbly requests your municipality/organization's support for the OSC community. This can be in the form of **a proclamation, a written letter of endorsement, or a brief video message**, which will be shared to OSC programs and parents across the province. Your





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A PROJECT OF THE SCHOOL AGE CARE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

solidarity in this endeavor will underscore the bipartisan commitment to championing OSC programs and ensuring their sustained support and advancement in Alberta.

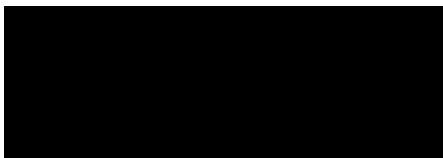
In considering our request, we invite you to reflect on the following questions:

- How do you perceive the value and impact of quality OSC programs on the well-being and success of children and communities in Alberta?
- What is your vision for the future of OSC in our province?
- How do you intend to integrate OSC into the broader conversation surrounding early learning and childcare, education or recreation?

We deeply appreciate the efforts you undertake to propel our sector forward and extend an invitation for you to visit one of our OSC member sites in the future. We also welcome your attendance at our annual conferences, where you can witness firsthand the dedication of our professional community and the transformative work being undertaken with Alberta's families.

For further information, dialogue, and support, please do not hesitate to **contact me directly**. Together, let us illuminate the path towards a brighter future for Alberta's children and families.

Warm regards,



Cody Topp (He/Him)
Chairperson / IGNITE Conference Chair

School Age care Directors Association Of Alberta
PO Box 72034 Glenmore Landing PO
Calgary, AB
T2V 5H9

(P) 403.710.8384
(E) calgarysacdachair@gmail.com
(W) www.calgarysacda.com

I would like to acknowledge that I am located on the traditional territories of the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) and the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Siksika, the Piikuni the Kainai, the Tsuu'tina, and the Stoney-Nakoda. I am on the land where the Bow River meets the Elbow River, and the traditional Blackfoot name of this place is 'Mokkinstsis' which we now call the City of Calgary. The City of Calgary is also home to Metis Nation of Alberta Region.



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LIGHTS ON

AFTERSCHOOL ALBERTA

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LIGHTS ON AFTER SCHOOL ALBERTA

Core Values: Families, Awareness, Advocacy, Opportunity, Empowerment,

The only province-wide event that highlights and celebrates how before and afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help Canadian working families.

Before and afterschool care programs provide an impactful time for children to learn and develop essential life skills, leadership, and engage in their communities in ways they may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience. While the hours children spend in out of school care are minimal, they have a powerful impact that lasts a lifetime.

Out of school care programs provide an essential service to families by providing safe environments and quality care for their children during the “critical hours” meeting the needs of all families, including low income and single parent households.

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-652-x/89-652-x2014005-eng.htm>

Lights On After School Alberta is an advocacy initiative that helps “shines a light” on the importance and impact of Afterschool care programs across the province-creating opportunities through community events geared to help programs develop connections with parents, schools, local businesses and advocates, helping build stronger foundations for Alberta youth.

To learn more visit: <https://www.calgarysacda.com/lights-on-afterschool>





SAMPLE PROCLAMATION FOR PRIEMIERS AND MAYORS

Keeping the Lights On After School: A Proclamation

WHEREAS, the citizens of [Name of town/city/district/state/community] stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

Provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills.

Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.

Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults. Engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children.

WHEREAS, [Name of Program] has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults.

WHEREAS, Lights On Afterschool Alberta, the provincial celebration of afterschool programs held this year on [date of national celebration], promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities.

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the country are facing a lack of supports and funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights.

WHEREAS, the [province/city] is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, [Name of Preimiere/Mayor] do hereby proclaim [date of provincial celebration], as "Lights On Afterschool Alberta Day"; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this [minister/primier/mayor] enthusiastically endorses Lights On Afterschool Alberta and commits our [province/community] to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.





SAMPLE PROCLAMATION FOR ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER OFFICIALS

Keeping the Lights On After School: A Proclamation

WHEREAS, [Name of Organization, Institution or Location] stands firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

Provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills.

Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.

Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults. Engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children.

WHEREAS, [Name of Program] has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults.

WHEREAS, Lights On Afterschool Alberta, the Provincial celebration of afterschool programs held this year on [date of national celebration], promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities.

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the province are facing a lack of supports and funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that [Name of Organization, Institution or Official] urges the citizens of [Name of Community or municipality] to ensure that every child has access to a safe, engaging place where the lights are on after school; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this [Title of Official] enthusiastically endorses Lights On Afterschool Alberta and is committed to innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure that the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.





LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL ALBERTA

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DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA



Check us out
youtu.be/00KJ6bRFuT4

April 19th, 2024

www.calgarysacda.com

Celebrate the impact Afterschool programs make to youth across Alberta



Lights On After School is the only province wide event celebrating Afterschool programs and their role in keeping kids safe, inspiring them to learn and helping working families. The effort is becoming a symbol of the Afterschool movement and allows programs and communities celebrate annually.

We need your support to help shine a light on the importance and effect of Afterschool programs with youth in our communities and to celebrate the positive partnerships with community stakeholders that help these programs thrive!

Afterschool programs have proven to be amazing neighbors within our communities, providing a safe place for youth during the critical hours before and after school and focusing on developing youth skills, responsibility and creating engaged citizens working to improve their community.



**AFTERSCHOOL
PROFESSIONALS**
APPRECIATION WEEK

APRIL 15th- 19th, 2024



CELEBRATE, ENCOURAGE, APPRECIATE THE **#HEARTOFAFTERSCHOOL!**

What can you do to support After School:

- Attend a Lights On Afterschool event
- Hand-write cards from you and your child
- Email the educators or administrator
- Gift cards for a specialty coffee, teacher supply store or bookstore
- Take a picture with monuments that are lit up around the province (High Level Bridge, Calgary Tower, and Saamis Tepee - Medicine Hat). Use the hashtag **#ABAFTERSCHOOL**.
- Focus your post secondary practicum placements with OSC programs
- Find a way to partner your business with a local OSC
- Support your local OSC by writing to your MLA (or elected official) to advocate for increased government funding models, and quality supports
- Volunteer your time to support OSC programs and youth development
- Host your own Lights On Afterschool event at your program

*We want to show the world
the impact Afterschool programs
have for youth, parents, and
communities across Alberta!*

Check out the ideas for your Lights On Afterschool Alberta Initiative online at www.calgarysacda.com