

2016-2017

# ANNUAL REPORT

# ABC

head start



# OPENING DOORS **FOR CHILDREN** AND FAMILIES

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It has been another successful and busy year at ABC Head Start. Our programs have served nearly 850 families in 2016 – 2017.

Seeing a global refugee crisis, ABC Head Start welcomed many refugee families into our programs. Recognizing the challenges these families faced our volunteers and staff assisted in accessing the supports they needed for their children and families while leveraging our partnerships with refugee serving agencies such as the Family Centre, Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, Multi-Cultural Health Brokers, and Catholic Social Services.

In 2016-2017 ABC Head Start Society expanded our commitment to children and families. We are honoured to have become one of the 22 pilot sites chosen by the Provincial Government to operate an Early Learning and Child Care Centre, offering child care to parents for \$25 per day. Our call to action came as a response to parent feedback which identified high quality, affordable child care among one of their top priorities and needs for their families.

In August of 2017, we welcomed a new Executive Director, Walter Lidster. Walter joins us with over 27 years of leadership and governance experience. He has a strong vision for the future of ABC Head Start Society and the Capital Region, one where families and children come first.

As we recognize the greater need in the region, we have proudly adapted and expanded our mission and vision to be more responsive to the dynamic vulnerabilities of the communities we serve. With this new mission, vision and direction of a new leader, ABC Head Start Society has limitless potential to reach even more children and families in new and exciting ways.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generosity and support of our funders, donors, partners, volunteers and tireless staff who truly open doors for children and families every day.

Thank you.  
Cyril Balitbit  
Chair, Board of Directors

## Board Of Directors

Cyril Balitbit - Chair

Scott Cuthbert - Vice Chair

Melissa Tirrell - Treasurer

Shirley Guest - Secretary

Aileen Campbell

Aimee Caster

Nancy Cumming

Will Giffiths

Joyce Purdy

Raina Rudko



ABC Head Start Society respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on Treaty 6 territory, traditional lands of Indigenous people.



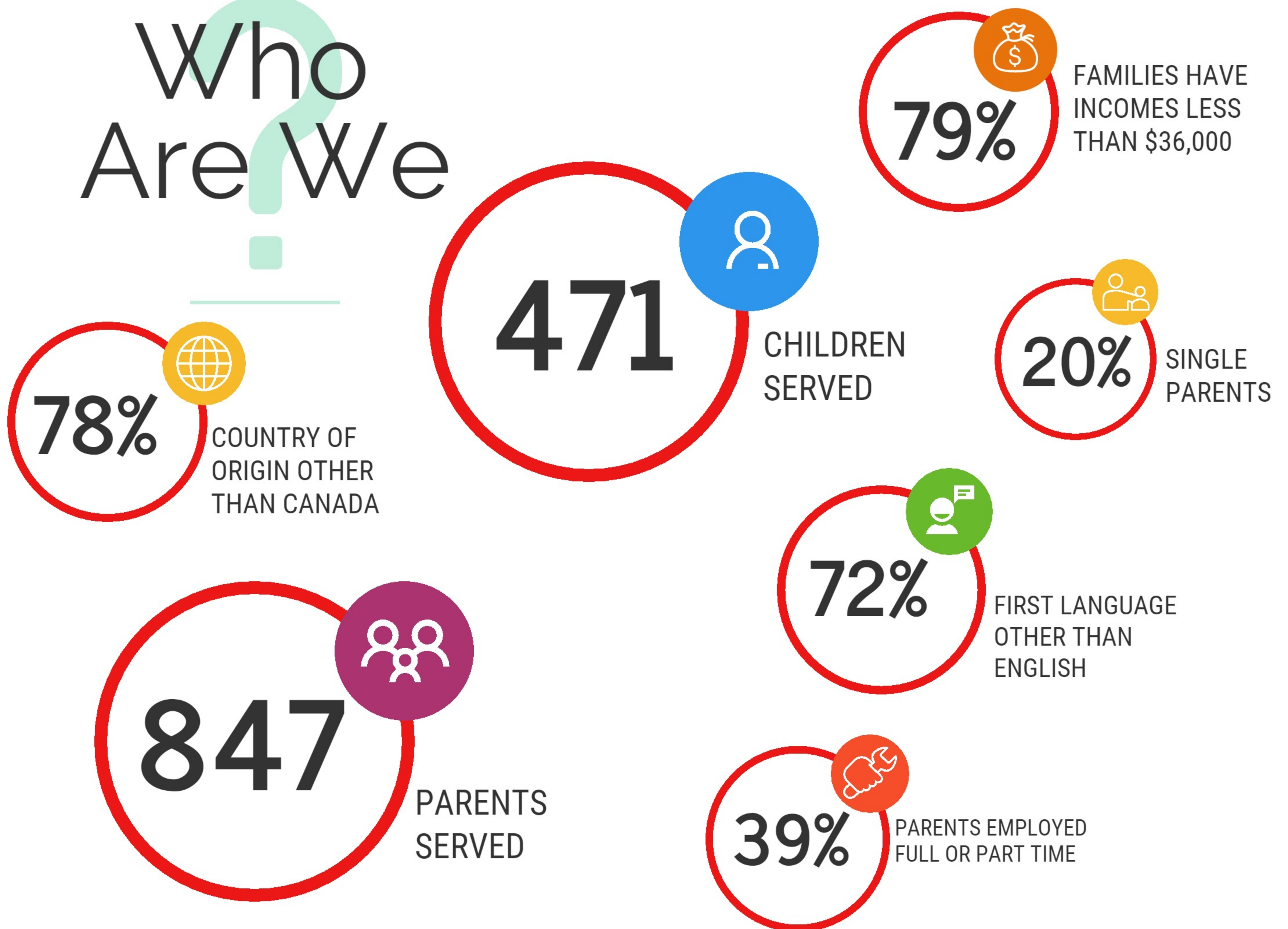
"With your love, patience, creativity and care, our daughter has achieved a lot this year. I can sincerely say that she has started off on the right foot by having you as her first Head Start teacher." - Parent of ABC Head Start Society

In 2017, ABC Head Start Society recognized the need to broaden the Society's scope in order to serve more children and families and address the needs in the communities in which we serve. The Board Of Directors approved a new Mission and Vision statement to be more responsive. Moving forward we will develop a new strategic framework and business plan to expand the scope and practices of ABC Head Start Society.

Our New Vision: Children and families thrive as actively engaged citizens of strong and inclusive communities.

Our New Mission: Opening Doors for children and families by building strong foundations in the early years.

## Who Are We







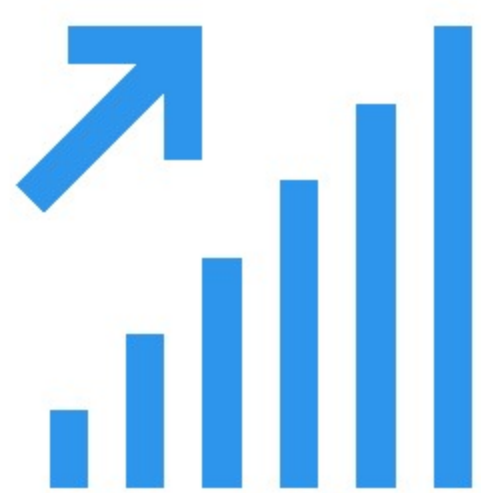
93%

I have formed trusting & supportive relationships with other ABC Head Start parents.

# What Do Parents Say

98%

Being involved with ABC Head Start has benefited my child.



89%



After participating in ABC Head Start I feel I have improved my parenting skills.



93%

Due to my involvement with ABC Head Start I am better able to support my child's Development.

93%



Due to my family's involvement with ABC Head Start I am able to make more informed decisions to support the health of my child.



90%

ABC Head Start has taught me about new resources for my family.

"The staff have done an amazing job. I'm so proud to have sent my daughter to ABC Head Start."





# Seeking Refuge



In 2016-2017 the world faced one of the biggest refugee crisis's in history. Since November 2015, Canada has welcomed more than 40,000 Syrian refugees. Many of the families who fled the war and violence walked through the doors of ABC Head Start Society.

One particular refugee family arrived in the winter of 2016. The young parents had 3 children and one on the way. They were facing considerable challenges in all aspects of their settlement into Canada. The trauma and malnutrition was evident in their faces and statures.

Our social workers started with the basic human needs - finding housing, clothing, food and health care for the family. Their young son who was supposed to join his sister in Head Start had to have open heart surgery. Mom delivered a healthy baby, and with the support of the Social Workers Dad started schooling – learning English and new skills. With the support of interpreters, the parents attended our weekly parent groups, and our workers regularly visited them at home to establish and work on their Family Goal Plan.

To support this family even further, and the other Syrian refugee families, ABC Head Start specifically recruited a program staff member who spoke their language. This became an integral piece of support as staff worked every day to meet the complex challenges the families faced.

The family is now thriving. After fully recovering from his surgery, their son is now in our Head Start program. With the support of our Social Workers the family has secured stable housing and employment. Their oldest daughter has transitioned into Kindergarten. The children are happy and confident. The staff feel honoured to support families like this everyday and be a part of their success story.



## Ways Parents Get Involved With ABC Head Start

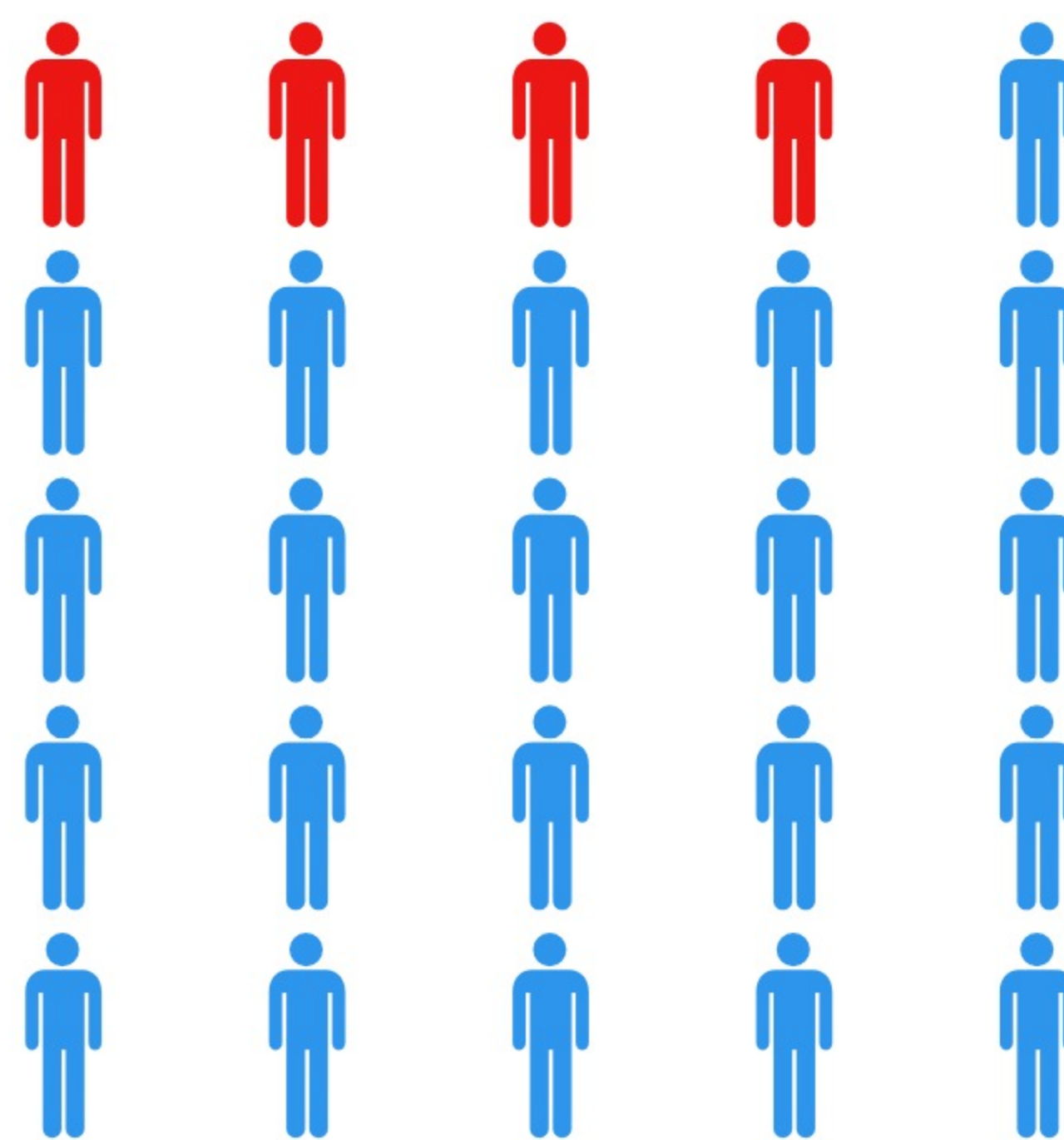




How Do  
We Do It

281  
VOLUNTEERS

111  
STAFF



7390  
VOLUNTEER HOURS



2680  
STUDENT PRACTICUM HOURS



## 25 Years of Giving Back

Every Tuesday afternoon for the past 25 years when you walked into one of our Northside classrooms you would have found Alice playing with the children, assisting with crafts, snack and reading stories. Alice loved volunteering at ABC Head Start. She volunteered because of the love for children that she had ever since she was a child. Alice was just recently interviewed by Edmonton Chamber of Volunteer Organization for the 150 Volunteer Voices. ABC Head Start Society nominated Alice to tell her story about why she loved volunteering for her community. When asked "why do you volunteer?" Alice replied "I am the youngest of 8 and when I was small I couldn't understand why my parents couldn't order me a baby. I always liked playing with children and taking care of them especially to give back for what they've always done for me."

We had the honour of presenting Alice with a certificate for volunteering with ABC Head Start for the past 25 years as she helped us to open doors for children and families.

It brings us great sadness that our beloved Alice Heaton has passed away at the vibrant age of 85. Alice will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. Thank you to all of those who made a donation to ABC Head Start in memory of Alice.



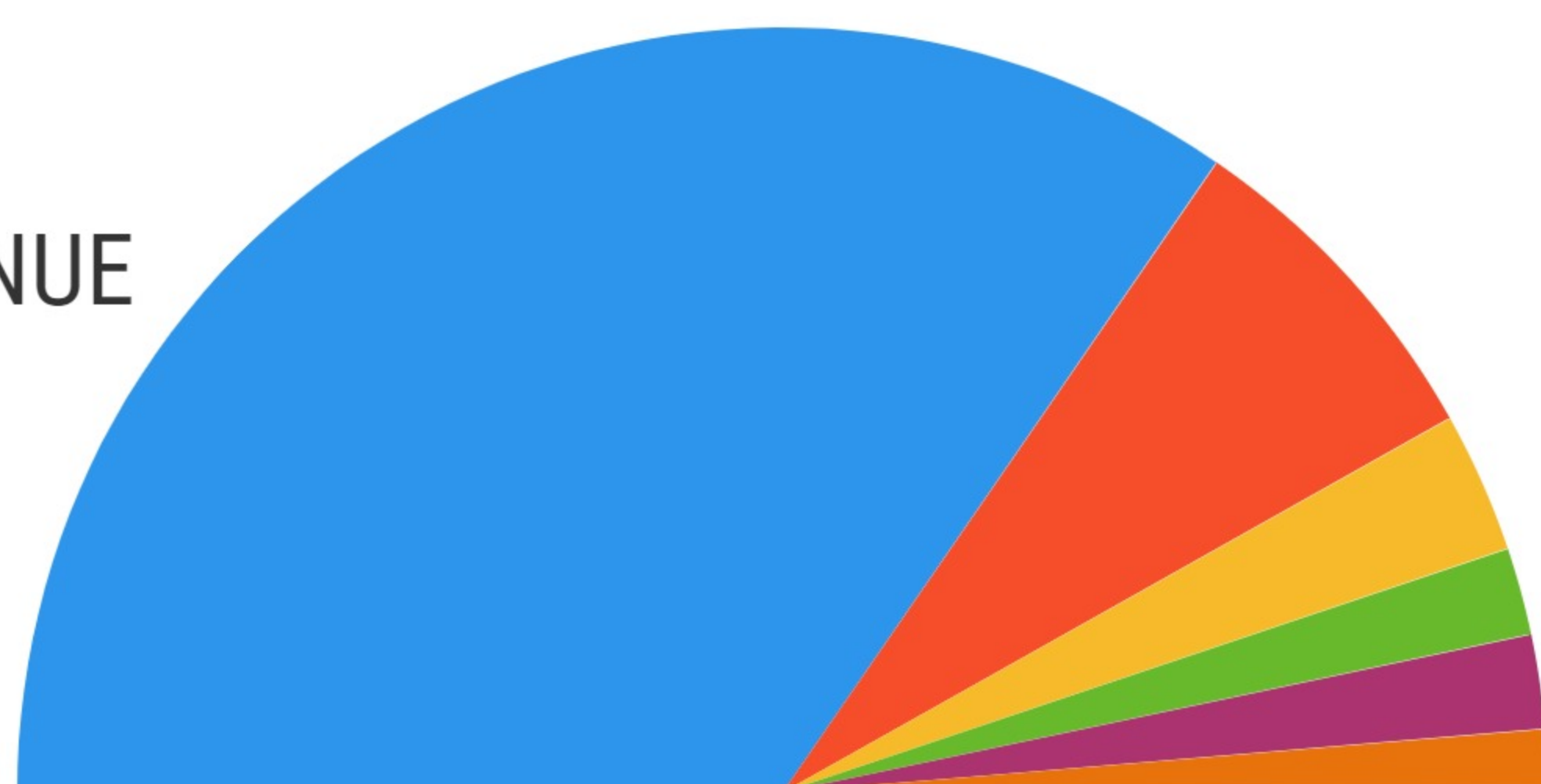


2016 - 2017

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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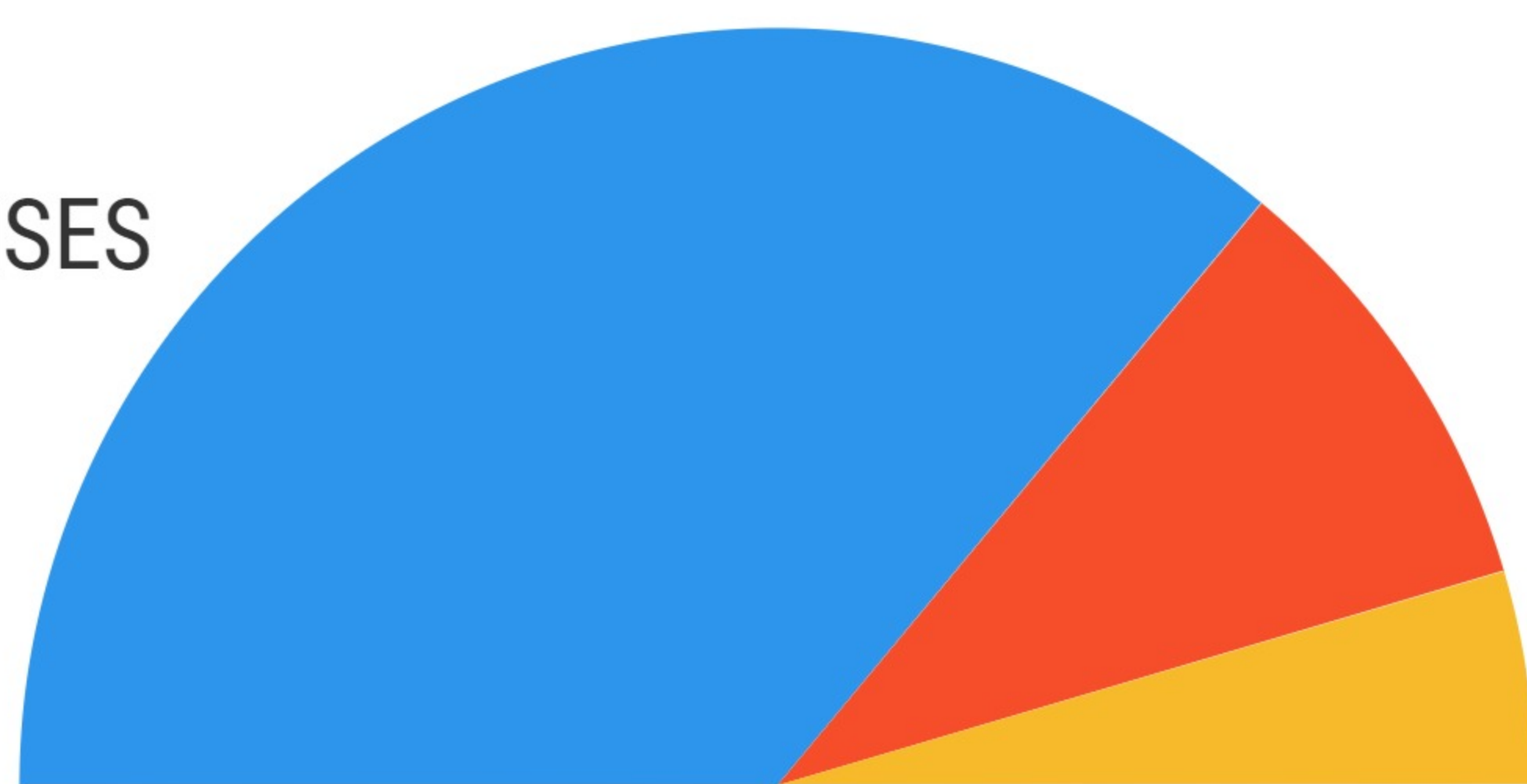
## REVENUE



TOTAL: \$5,048,150

● Alberta Education ● Children's Services ● City of Edmonton F.C.S.S.  
● Public Health of Canada ● Grants ● Donations & Fundraising

## EXPENSES



TOTAL: \$5,006,415

● Staffing ● Program Costs, Supplies & Transportation ● Rent & Building Maintenance

\*A complete set of audited Financial Statements are available upon request.

## Thank you to Our supporters

Angela Buck  
Ann McClusky  
ATB Financial  
ATCO Energy Ltd.  
ATCO Gas Corporation  
Brenda Ouellet  
Buchkowsky Family Charitable Fund  
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Sheri Lyster  
Shores Jardine LLP  
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The John & Dianne Storey Family Foundation  
Violet Poon



## **ABC Head Start Society**

Opening Doors For Children & Families

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