

The Career Development Association of Alberta

The Career Development Association of Alberta (CDAA) is a professional association governed by an elected volunteer Board of Directors. The association provides strategic leadership for the career development field by supporting practicing professionals who provide quality services. In support of lifelong career development, CDAA believes in:

- Leadership and Accountability
- Learning and Development
- Communication and Transparency
- Advocacy and Partnerships
- Growth and Viability
- Respect and Integrity

The focus of the Board is strengthening and growing the association, engaging the membership, and positioning CDAA in the community. Strategic leadership to a diverse membership base of approximately 300 practicing professionals is delivered through in person and online services as well as through an extensive network of industry leaders, organizations, and associations.

“Examples of Career Development Professionals include, but are not limited to: career practitioners, career educators, career information specialists, career management consultants, work development officers, employment support workers, work experience coordinators, job developers, placement coordinators, career coaches, and vocational rehabilitation worker.”

Source: Canadian Standards and Guidelines for Career Development Practitioners

Our Commitment:

- Working with members, community, and industry partners to advance the career development profession;
- Connecting members to current career development information, resources, and initiatives;
- Partnering with organizations to make a difference for Albertans;
- Engaging Career Development Practitioners in learning and networking opportunities;
- Setting professional standards, and;
- Participating in local, provincial and national career development projects.

Our History:

- The CDAA was established and registered with the Alberta Societies Act in 1997.
- CDAA became one of the stakeholders in the Canadian Standards and Guidelines for Career Development Practitioners project, participated in the development of the competencies required for core, specializations, and common skills and knowledge clusters in career development.
- CDAA also participated in the Common Language discussion nationally.
- The Certified Career Development Professional (CCDP) designation, the first voluntary certification for Career Development Practitioners in Canada, was officially launched in Alberta in 2005.
- The CDAA joined the now Canadian Council for Career Development (CCCD) as a Steering Committee member in 2008; CDAA representatives actively participate on a number of council working groups.
- In 2011 the CDAA contracted its first Executive Director on a trial basis and in 2013 a part time Executive Director was contracted on a more permanent basis.
- The Alberta Career Development Conference (ACDC) was launched in 2014 by the CDAA following its long term involvement with the Building Tomorrow Today (BTT) Consultation. The last BTT Consultation was held in 2009 after 15 years of success.

Our Staff and Governance Structure:

- The CDAA contracts three positions, an Executive Director, Administrator/Registrar, and Communications Coordinator to carry out the business of the association.
- A Board of Directors, elected by the membership, sets the strategic direction for the association.
- Working Groups/Committees made up of Board members and association volunteers work on specific projects related to registration, standards and certification, membership and chapter development, marketing and communications, and plan the Alberta Career Development Conference.
- The CDAA has six regional Chapters across the province including North of 60, Northern Alberta, Edmonton, Central Alberta, Calgary, and Southern Alberta.