



## Season's Greetings

It is the season of giving, and we find ourselves filled with gratitude to see the Brain Story reaching new audiences globally. Coast-to-coast and continent-to-continent, we extend our thanks to the communities of purpose who've worked to make the new year (and all years to come) brighter for families and individuals worldwide.



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## Brain Story around the World

The AFWI's drive to embed the Brain Story in new communities continues globally with recent initiatives in Australia and Prince Edward Island.

In August, Nancy Mannix and the AFWI spent over two weeks travelling through Australia to deliver training, share learnings and strategize with key change agents. Hosted by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth and the Minderoo Foundation, the AFWI developed and delivered four unique training offerings: The Resilience Masterclass, Orientation to the Brain Story, Indigenous Orientation to the Brain Story and the 30-Minute Orientation to the Brain Story. Upon return, we created teams of change agents in Alberta to advise our Australian partners on continuing to embed and integrate the Brain Story in theory and practice, ensuring new understanding would grow into lasting change.

In November, the AFWI travelled to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, invited by PEI Alliance for Mental Well-Being. Two days of workshops, strategy discussions and meetings took place with the distinguished faculty at UPEI, senior policymakers and the Premier of PEI. The PEI Resilience Masterclass was the centrepiece of the trip, bringing together over 120 diverse members of the Charlottetown community to discuss embedding the Brain Story at individual, organizational and systems levels across the many professions the Brain Story touches.

It has been a great pleasure to see the work embraced worldwide as we come together to improve physical and mental health outcomes globally.

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## AECEA Announcement and Theory-to-Practice Sessions

On August 8th, 2022, the Governments of Alberta and Canada announced that they will provide \$5.2 million in funding to the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta (AECEA) and the Alberta Resource Centre for Quality Enhancement (ARCQE). This money will go toward providing early childhood educators (ECEs) with opportunities to build their understanding of early childhood development and brain science. \$3.6 million will reimburse over 3,000 ECEs for their time spent completing the Brain Story Certification course. ECEs will also be offered the opportunity to engage in theory-to-practice sessions co-designed with the AFWI. For more information, please see the [press release](#), or visit the AECEA [website](#).

*“Alberta is a global leader in translating the science of brain development into positive life outcomes for citizens, families and communities. This grant makes this crucial body of knowledge available to early educators, ensuring they have the tools they need to help children grow into resilient adults with good mental and physical health.”*

*—Nancy Mannix, founder, Palix Foundation & Alberta Family Wellness Initiative*