

**eccdc**

early childhood community development centre



Commitment Dedication  
Collaboration Gratitude  
Success Professionalism  
Achievement Commitment  
Dedication Collaboration  
Gratitude Success  
Professionalism

Achievement Commitment  
Dedication Collaboration  
Gratitude Success

Professionalism  
Achievement

Commitment

Dedication

Collaboration

Gratitude Success

Professionalism

Achievement

Commitment

Dedication Collaboration

Gratitude Success

Professionalism Achievement

Commitment Dedication Collaboration

**2014/15**  
Annual Community Report

# Mission & Vision

2

2014/15  
annual  
community  
report | eccdc

## *Mission*

Inspiring excellence in early learning and child care.

## *Vision*

The leading source of innovative supports for early learning and child care.

# Contents

- 4 Our Commitment to Early Learning and Child Care
- 6 Our Dedicated Team
  - Board of Directors
  - Staff Members
  - Students and Volunteers
- 7 Fostering Community Collaboration
- 8 Extending Our Gratitude
- 12 The Reach of ECCDC's Services
  - Membership Services
  - Resource Lending Library Services & Specialized Workroom & Learning Café
  - Resource Library & Workshoom Exclusive Use Bookings
  - Grab `N Go Learning Activities
- 14 Enhancing Professionalism, Innovation and Success
  - Professional Learning Opportunities
  - Collaborative Events
  - Customized Training for Local Early Learning & Child Care Organizations
  - Celebrating Niagara's Early Learning & Child Care Community
- 20 Building Capacity in Early Learning and Child Care
  - iPad Project
  - Program Support for Early Learning & Child Care Programs
  - Community Professional Network Development
  - Quality Child Care Niagara Training
  - Increasing Assessibility of Resources and Training through Special Projects
  - Supporting Families in Finding Early Years Services
  - Computer Technical Support
  - Niagara Child Care Sector & Inclusive Child Care Supports Committees
  - Work Experience for Students of Early Childhood Education Programs
  - Helping to Inform the Early Learning & Child Care Sector
  - New Innovative & Informative Web Page
  - Supporting the Early Learning & Child Care Sector with Recruitment
  - Keeping Connected Through Social Media
  - ECCDC in the Media
- 27 2013/14 Financial Report

# Our Commitment to Early Learning & Child Care

## *A Message from the Board of Directors and Executive Director*

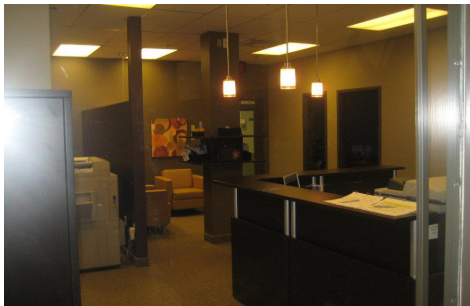
### Inspiring Early Learning Excellence For More Than 20 Years!

4

2014/15  
annual  
community  
report | eccdc

For more than 20 years now, the ECCDC board of directors and staff have had the privilege and pleasure of working with early learning and care providers in Niagara and beyond. Our goal since the beginning has been to inspire excellence while fostering professionalism, innovation, and success in the early learning and child care sector.

The ECCDC takes great pride in this work. We hope this pride shows in everything we do—from our coaching and mentoring services, to our carefully curated collection of play-based learning materials, to our leading edge professional learning opportunities. We not only want to connect you to best practices, resources, and peer networks that support your work and enhance your learning, but that contribute to your level of career satisfaction and achievement.



“ Our task is to help children communicate with the world using all their potential, strengths, and languages and to overcome any obstacle presented by our culture. ”

Loris Malaguzzi

At the core of the ECCDC's longevity is the fact that we love what we do. We also survey the community on a regular basis and think reflectively about how we do things, so that we always keep improving. Most of all, though, we love spending time with you, visiting your centres and listening to your ideas. Your passion for the work you do drives us to keep dreaming, to keep trying new things and to do our very best to help you give your best every day.

In 2014, your passion for delivering exceptional early learning opportunities for Niagara's children and families led the ECCDC board and staff to undertake a strategic renewal process that will guide the ECCDC's work through to 2019. The five strategic directions we identified included expanding our community outreach; enhancing the innovation of resources; increasing opportunities for coaching and support; providing quality professional learning experiences; and strengthening our organizational capacity. In the coming months, you'll see these strategic directions driving much of what we do.

In the meantime, please know that every member of the ECCDC board and staff team feels honoured to have earned your continued confidence, trust and encouragement. We share your understanding of the early years as a foundation for growth, development and lifelong learning. We share your vision for helping children and their families recognize and build on their competencies, realize their dreams and fulfill their potential. We are also deeply appreciative of your generosity of spirit.

In this report, you'll read about the many community partners, members, volunteers, suppliers and students who have contributed to the ECCDC's success in 2014. Our gratitude to you extends well beyond mere words on page. It lives in our hearts and our minds and motivates each one of us every day.

*Thank you for continuing to help us be our best!*

Kim Cole, ECCDC Board Chair

Lorrey Arial Bonilla, ECCDC Executive Director

Commitment

# Our Dedicated Team

6

2014/15  
annual  
community  
report | eccdc

## Board of Directors

Gay Douglas Broerse, Board President (April 1-October 31, 2014)  
Kim Cole, Board President (as of November 1, 2014)  
Kristine Flora, Vice-President  
Debbie Bent, Secretary/Treasurer  
Donna Dalgleish, Director  
Shelley Fehrman, Director  
Jackie Kerry, Director  
Dean Stunt, Director

## Staff Members

Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Executive Director • 19 years  
Kelly Bol, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 5 years  
Rachel Brown, Early Learning & Child Care Program Consultant • (April to December 2014)  
Patricia Couroux, Quality Child Care Niagara Coordinator • 1 year  
Darlene Drouin, Information Systems Administrator • 6 years  
Mary Joan Furtney, Part Time Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 9 years  
Shari Hill, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 7 years  
Jessie Jones, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 1 year  
Katelyn Robins, Early Learning & Child Care Program Consultant • 8 months

Stephanie Matthews, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 8 months  
Tammy McCormick, Executive Director (medical leave) • 22 years (April 2014-March 31, 2015)  
Cheryl McMillan, Finance & I.T. Infrastructure Manager • 20 years  
Jennifer Mosher, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 8 years  
Julie Thompson, Publications Administrator • 15 years  
Ginette Wilson, Early Learning & Child Care Program Consultant • 1 year  
Danielle Thom, Part Time Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 1 year

## Students and Volunteers

Partnerships with the Early Childhood Education Program at Niagara College, and the Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Program, Child Studies Program and Goodman School of Business at Brock University allow the ECCDC to offer local students innovative field internship opportunities. Thank you to all of the students who supported our work this year, and for all the expertise and enthusiasm you so willingly shared with our team.

*dedication*

# Fostering Community Collaboration

“ Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much. ”  
Helen Keller

Members of the ECCDC staff team participate on a number of community committees and planning bodies related to early learning and child care. This important aspect of the ECCDC's work allows us the honour of working with individuals who are exceptionally dedicated to supporting Niagara's early learning and child care sector, Niagara's youngest children, and their families.

- Niagara Children's Planning Council and Affiliate Pillar Committees
- Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Committee
- Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee
- Niagara College Early Childhood Education Program Advisory Committee
- Niagara's Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence Planning Committee
- Niagara Emergent Literacy Consortium
- Niagara Infant Mental Health Advisory Committee
- Young Children Priority First

*collaboration*

# Extending Our Gratitude

8

2014/15  
annual  
community  
report | eccdc

## Niagara Region Children's Services

Thank you for your support of the ECCDC's mission, vision and strategic priorities, and for your ongoing investment. As the ECCDC's primary funder, you make it possible for us to do many of the things we do. We appreciate having your confidence and trust and we value your ongoing commitment to Niagara's early learning sector.

## Our Project Sponsors

Thank you for providing the ECCDC with project funds that enable us to inspire excellence in Niagara's early learning and child care sector. Your support of our work and trust in us helps ensure Niagara's educators always have access to innovative, high quality resources, training and support: Branscombe Foundation; Human Resources Development Canada; Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara; Louise Kool and Galt; New Horizons for Seniors Program of the Federal Government of Canada; Niagara Community Foundation; Ontario Trillium Foundation; Ontario Ministry of Education; Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

## Our Partners

The ECCDC's success relies on developing and maintaining collaborative partnerships with a wide variety of community agencies. Without your support, expertise, guidance, services and other contributions, we could not fulfill our mission. We thank you for helping us be our best.

- A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara
- Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario

- Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds
- Brock University
- Business Education Council
- Centre de santé communautaire Hamilton/Niagara
- College of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario
- Contact Niagara
- Community Living Welland Pelham-Children's Services
- Community Living St. Catharines-Preschool Services
- District School Board of Niagara
- Family and Children's Services of Niagara
- Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara
- Literacy Link Niagara
- Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council and affiliate organizations
- Niagara Best Start French Language Advisory Committee and affiliate organizations
- Niagara College Canada
- Niagara Catholic District School Board
- Niagara's Licensed Child Care Programs
- Niagara Region Public Health Department
- Niagara's Public Libraries
- Niagara Children's Centre
- Niagara Support Services
- Ontario Early Years Centres, Family Resource Programs and Parent Family Literacy Centres of Niagara
- Ontario Ministry of Education
- Pathstone Mental Health
- Quality Child Care Niagara and Affiliate Organizations
- Ridley College
- Speech Services Niagara
- St. Catharines Preschool Services
- Strive Niagara
- YMCA of Niagara



## Extending Our Gratitude continued

### Strategic Renewal Process

In 2014, the ECCDC board and staff undertook a strategic planning process to guide the organization's activities through to 2019. The resulting plan represents the culmination of over a year of stakeholder consultation, community surveying, board/staff retreats, and ongoing conversations with partners. It includes a new mission and vision for the organization and five ambitious strategic directions.

### Our Strategic Directions

1. Expand our community outreach to better serve early learning professionals
2. Enhance the innovation of quality resources in early learning
3. Increase opportunities for coaching and support for early learning professionals
4. Provide quality professional learning experiences for the early learning community
5. Strengthen our organizational capacity to enable growth in services



*in gratitude*

## Extending Our Gratitude continued

### Our Members

The ECCDC could not fulfill its mission without the ongoing investment, engagement and participation of its members. Thank you to the many agencies and individuals who have trusted us to help them achieve their early learning and child care goals.

- ACW Child Care - Country Kids, Ferndale, First Friends, Forestview, Glenridge Hill, Lookout Ridge, Niagara Community, Oakwood, Tiny Travellers, Woodlawn
- ACW Child Care/Early Learning - Connaught, Crystal Beach, E.W. Farr, Kids World, Princess Margaret
- ACW Early Learning - Cherrywood Acres, McKay, Riverview, Sacred Heart, St. Andrew, Stevensville, Woodland
- Anna's Day Care
- Beacon Christian School
- Beamsville Early Learning & Child Care Centre
- Bethesda Services
- Beyond Montessori School Inc.
- Recreation Services
- Kids First Daycare
- Kids First Child Care Centre #2, #3, #4, #5
- C. Sisters of the Sacred Hearts Children's Day Care
- Sacre-Coeur
- Ecole elementaire catholique Saint-Francois-d'Assise
- Immaculee Conception
- Grandview Community Daycare
- Lakeview B&A School Program
- Lakeview Community Daycare Cooperative
- Community Living St. Catharines - Preschool Services
- Community Living Welland Pelham - Children's Services
- Richmond Street PS
- Ferndale PS
- Park PS
- Central PS
- St. David's PS
- Nelles PS
- OEYC Niagara Centre
- Bunting Child Care Program
- West Niagara Resource Consultants Group
- Western Hill Child Care Program
- Fort Erie Co-operative Preschool
- Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre/Aboriginal Headstart
- Nelephant Montessori School
- Nelephant Montessori Toddler Program
- Glendale Day Care Centre
- Grapeview Day Care
- Great Lakes Christian Preschool
- Grimsby Co-op Preschool
- Kidzdome Preschool and Kidzdome Preschool - Nelles

*in gratitude*

## Extending Our Gratitude continued

- La Boîte à soleil - Empress, Nouvelle Horizon, La Marsh, Fitch, Saint Joseph
- La Petite Etoile De Niagara Inc
- Les Coccinelles Zelees
- Maple Crest Early School
- Mini Retreat Child Care
- St. Anthony CES
- St. Christopher CES
- School Success Coordinators
- Niagara Children's Centre - Infant & Preschool Services
- Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre
- Niagara Region HCCPs
- Branscombe Early Learning & Family Centre
- Fort Erie Regional Child Care Centre
- Welland Regional Child Care Centre
- Niagara Region - Resource Teachers for Ch. w/ Sp. Needs
- Niagara Region - Program Support
- Infant & Child Development
- Niagara Regional Native Centre
- Niagara Support Services - Preschool Services
- North End Co-op Preschool
- OEYC - Niagara Falls (NCDSB)
- Parent & Family Literacy Centre - Fort Erie North, Niagara Falls, St. Catharines North, St. Catharines South, Welland
- Pathstone MH Resource Consultants and MH non RC s
- Power Glen Early Learning & Child Care
- Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
- Rose City Kids Ministry
- St. Catharines Home Child Care Network
- St. Thomas Children's Day Care
- Branscombe Early Learning & Parenting Centre
- CAPC Niagara Brighter Futures
- Greendale B&A School Care
- Quaker B&A School Care
- Sven H. Donhberg Centre
- Welland Parent Child Care Centre
- The Day Care Centre and The Day Care Centre 2 - A Special Place
- Thorold Community Child Care Services
- Under the Rainbow - Wakanioten Child Care
- Way to Grow - St. Davids, St. Martin, St. Nicholas, Pelham, St. Catharines
- Wee Watch Private Home Day Care
- OEYC St. Catharines
- YMCA Child Care - Alexander Kuska, Alexandra, Assumption, Canadian Martyrs, Cardinal Newman, Carleton, Central, College Street, Crossroads, Durdan/Loretto, Father Fogarty, Father Hennepin, Glen Ridge, Glendale, Glynn A Green, Gracefield, Grapeview, Henley House, Holy Name, Jacob Beam, Jeanne Sauve, Lockview, Memorial, Mother Teresa, Oakridge, Orchard Park, Our Lady of Fatima-Grimsby, Our Lady of Fatima-St. Catharines, Our Lady of Victory, Park, Parnall, Pine Grove, Port Weller, Power Glen, Prince Philip, Senator Gibson, Smith School, St. Alexander, St. Alfred, St. Ann, St. Anthony, St. Charles, St. Denis, St. James, St. John, St. Joseph, St. Mark, St. Michael, St. Peter, St. Philomena, St. Vincent De Paul, Walker Family Centre, Westdale, William Hamilton Merritt

# The Reach of ECCDC's Services

12

2014/15  
annual  
community  
report | eccdc

## Resource Lending Library & Membership

### Membership Services

- 172 programs with group members, encompassing 836 educators
- 60 other individual members not associated with a group

### Resource Lending Library

- Over 3,016 educational items made available to the community
- 4,571 resource loans to Niagara educators
- 75 new, bilingual play-based learning kits added

The ECCDC's lending library makes it possible for early learning and child care programs of any size and budget to access innovative, high-quality learning resources and classroom equipment items. Niagara's children benefit tremendously from this and Niagara's early years educators love being able to offer them meaningful learning opportunities in exceptional indoor and outdoor learning environments. The ECCDC's carefully chosen collection includes highly specialized items that are aligned with the Provincial early learning frameworks and suitable for

use with children of varying ages and abilities. Each of the resource items we offer supports an open-ended, emergent planning approach and stimulates children's imaginations, promotes language and cognitive development and facilitates social and emotional growth. We encourage members to *mess about* with materials before offering them to children to support their explorations.

### Workroom & Learning Café

- 1,897 on-site visits
- 5 group tours offering equipment and resource highlights
- 2,928 service hours provided

Educators, volunteers and others involved in Niagara's early learning and child care community utilize the ECCDC's workroom tools and equipment to design exceptional learning environments and engaging experiences for Niagara's children. The warm, relaxed atmosphere of the ECCDC's Learning Café enables educators to share ideas and expertise, network, and participate in informal professional learning and meetings.

“ Having the ECCDC come to our centre has been a huge support to our staff and children. The resource kits are used every day and have helped to enrich our program. The staff love having the opportunity to use the kits and die press on their lunch, as it doesn't require them going out at night after work. It has had such an impact on our indoor environments. We are thankful for the resource visits - the value these visits brings is not lost on any of us. Thank you ECCDC for supporting our staff and centre in this way!

Melissa Sparks, ACW – Tiny Travelers

## Resource Lending Library & Membership continued

### Resource Library and Workroom Exclusive Use Bookings

- 16 early learning and child care centre bookings
- 138 individuals in attendance

The ECCDC helps increase the knowledge base of Niagara's early years educators and the cohesiveness of its educator teams by making the ECCDC's Resource Library, Workroom and Learning Café available for special training, program planning and resource events. Wednesday evenings are set aside for this purpose, with ECCDC group members invited to book the facilities in advance for the exclusive use of their staff and volunteers. Amazing things result when Niagara's early learning programs have such convenient access to the latest resources, research materials and curriculum planning documents.

### Grab `N Go Learning Activities

- 3 "Grab 'N Go" campaigns developed
- Over 84 new learning experiences shared

ECCDC's Grab 'N Go Activities facilitate quick, engaging early learning experiences for children. Each



Grab 'N Go kit includes at least five different activities designed to inspire curiosity and wonder. The kits include natural resources whenever possible, support an open-ended approach to programming and align perfectly with the Provincial government's early learning frameworks.

*inspiration*

# Enhancing Professionalism, Innovation and Success

“ The workshop provided great hands-on activities using everyday materials. The photographs and examples helped make things realistic. ”

Participant of Bienenstock Series Session 1

14

2014/15  
annual  
community  
report | eccdc

## Professional Learning Opportunities for Early Learning & Child Care Professionals

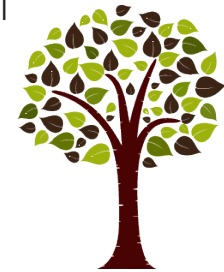
Meeting the needs of Early Childhood Educators, Full Day Early Learning Teams, Family Support Staff, Resource Teachers, Administrators, Early Years Professionals and Students, means that the ECCDC delivers community training sessions throughout the year. Events taking place between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015 included:

- 97 community-wide institutes, seminars, and training sessions
- 3,525 participants in attendance
- 247 professional learning hours delivered
- 107,501 views to Esteem on the ECCDC website

## Collaborative Events

In the fall of 2014, the ECCDC kicked off the professional development series: *Cultivating Natural Playgrounds that Nurture Children's Curiosity and Wonder*. Approximately 300 educators attended, in part due to the mounting body of research that emphasizes the vital role that nature plays in helping children develop their problem-solving, critical thinking and social and emotional skills. This unique training offering was made possible through the ECCDC's partnership with Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds. It

was designed to help Niagara's educators enhance their understanding about how they can safely provide children with diverse opportunities for unstructured exploration of the natural environment. Participants were enthusiastic and engaged in the workshop materials and were motivated to begin making changes within their own outdoor spaces. As a follow up, the ECCDC launched a special resource section on the [eccdc.org](http://eccdc.org) website to share key learning, resources, funding advice, website links and other useful information, so that all early years programs can explore ways to deliver enhanced, nature-based educational opportunities.



In November 2014, the ECCDC partnered with Brock University, Niagara College, the District School Board of Niagara and the Niagara Catholic District School Board to present a special collaborative professional learning opportunity facilitated by Karen Calligan and Rod Peturson of the Ontario Ministry of Education. Entitled *Reflecting Upon How Does Learning Happen: A Focus on Relationships*, this event attracted 211 professionals from numerous agencies involved in Niagara's early years sector.

## Enhancing Professionalism, Innovation and Success continued

On December 5 and 6, 2014 and February 27 and 28, 2015 the ECCDC featured two institutes; a *Pedagogical Leadership Institute* and *Infant and Toddler Institute*. Lorrie Baird and Anne Marie Coughlin of Harvest Resources facilitated each of these two-day conferences. The institutes attracted 131 participants and were very positively received. Participants reported having many opportunities to engage in conversations related to the practice of daily reflection, inspiring leadership at all levels, and the competencies of infants and toddlers. Participants also reported that the sessions gave them a greater understanding of the four foundations outlined in the Ministry of Education document *How Does Learning Happen?*

In January 2015, the ECCDC was thrilled to partner with Dad Central, Strive Niagara, Niagara Region Public Health and Niagara Region Children's Services to offer *Welcoming Dads*. The event provided participants with a toolkit and strategies for developing plans, policies and supports to promote the inclusion of fathers in community-based organizations involved in early years services. There were 102 participants in attendance. As a result of this session, a local Fathering Network is being developed



and the organizations involved will be supported in implementing the toolkit.

In March of 2015, the ECCDC teamed up with Strive Niagara, Niagara Region Children's Services, the Infant Mental Health Program of Toronto SickKids Hospital and Niagara Child Care Sector Executive to launch Niagara's Infant Mental Health Pilot Project. The launch event attracted 53 community partners and featured presentations by Dr. Robin Williams, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of Ontario; Dr. Chaya Kulkarni of Toronto SickKids Hospital; Commissioner of Children's Services Katherine Chislett; and Infant Mental Health Committee Members Sandy Toth, Tracy Belcastro, Laura Rasmussen and Lorrey Ariel Bonilla. This event helped increase awareness of the effects of toxic stress on infant brain development and offered insight into how families, caregivers, educators and service providers can help reduce this stress. It also marked the piloting of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and the Ages and Stages Questionnaire - Social Emotional (ASQ SE) in early learning and child care programs across Niagara.





Bienenstock Workshop Series Session One



Inspiring Outdoor Playspaces



Loose Parts



Elements - Earth

## Enhancing Professionalism, Innovation and Success continued

### Customized Training for Local Early Learning and Child Care Organizations

- 9 customized sessions were delivered
- 284 participants attended

During the year, the ECCDC offered a variety of innovative professional learning opportunities that were customized to meet the specific needs of many early learning and child care agencies. The sessions took place at the locations chosen by the host sites and were facilitated directly to staff teams.

### Celebrating Niagara's Early Learning and Child Care Community

- 368 participants attended the celebration
- 49 recognition awards were presented
- 10 local businesses sponsored the event
- 68 local silent auction donors contributed items

In the nearly 20 years since its inception, Niagara's annual Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence Celebration has grown to become one of the largest events of its kind in the country. The ECCDC is proud of the unique history and continued growth of this event. A special thank you to Louise Kool & Galt and the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario, both of which have been long-time supporters of Niagara's Awards of Excellence program.

The theme for the 2014 gala was "Niagara's EPIC Journey of Success." The event took place on November 20, with local radio personality Lori Love from 105.7 FM serving as emcee. Members of the ECCDC board of directors, its executive director, the Niagara Region Commissioner of Community Services and Director of Children's Services, and numerous other community partners helped with the hosting duties.



“ What a great night! They just get better and better.  
Hats off to all who helped make it an EPIC night!  
Lina VanEsch, Niagara College ECE Faculty ”

## Enhancing Professionalism, Innovation and Success continued

New for 2014 was the Commitment to Continuous Professional Learning Award sponsored by the ECCDC and Niagara Region Children’s Services. Other awards included the Contributor Award for Volunteers and Colleagues, the Eco-Friendly Award, the Speech Services Niagara Emergent Literacy Award, the Quality Child Care Niagara Exceptional Program Award, the Niagara Child Care Sector Administrator Award, the Family Support Program Award, the Full Day Early Learning Teams Award, the Margaret Hamilton Niagara College ECE Award and the Brock Outstanding Student Award.

As in other years, the 2014 Awards of Excellence celebration was widely supported by area businesses, many of which see the event as an opportunity to express their appreciation of Niagara’s early learning and care programs and the important role these programs play in the local economy.

**2014 Awards of Excellence Planning Committee**  
Many agencies across Niagara support the planning of the Awards of Excellence each year through

sponsoring a special award and having staff involved on the Planning Committee. Thanks to the following organizations for supporting this event and to all of our planning committee members for their insight, advice and enthusiasm.

- Kelly Bol, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Jennifer ETTY, Grapeview Daycare
- Heather Gorham-Nowell, District School Board of Niagara
- Shari Hill, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Christine Lever, Niagara Region Home Child Care Services
- Stephanie Mathews, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- Amira Mirdawi, A Child’s World
- Diana Rainford-Allen, YMCA of Niagara
- Katelyn Robins, Early Childhood Community Development Centre
- April Shaw, Speech Services Niagara
- Jen Smith, District School Board of Niagara

SUCCESS



## Enhancing Professionalism, Innovation and Success continued

### Event Sponsor

- Louise Kool & Galt

### Business Sponsors

#### Gold level

- A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara

#### Silver level

- PenFinancial Credit Union
- Skycomp Solutions Inc.
- YMCA of Niagara

#### Bronze level

- Minuteman Press
- Westpier Marine & Industrial Supply
- Henderson's Pharmacy
- Future Access Inc.
- University of Guelph-Humber – Early Childhood Degree Completion Program
- Sun Media

### Silent Auction Donors

- Americana Waterpark Resort & Spa
- Avon
- Azura Spa & Hair Studio
- Beechwood Golf & Country Club
- Linda Bell
- Brock University Department of Athletics
- Café Amore
- Cheeky Monkeys Indoor Playland
- Classic Touch Hair Salon
- Clifton Hill
- Chocolate F/X
- Coppola's Ristorante & Banquet Facility
- Curves
- Gypsy Alley
- District School Board of Niagara
- ECCDC
- Easy Spaces
- Fresco's Restaurant & Bar
- Forks Road Pottery

## Enhancing Professionalism, Innovation and Success continued

- Games A Lot
- Gay Douglas & Associates
- Greaves Jams & Marmalades
- Gymnastics Energy
- Heartland Forest
- Holiday Inn & Suites
- Irish Design
- Casey Jones, Arbonne Representative
- Joseph's Estate Wines
- Christine Lever
- Marolyn Lever Corriere
- Lina Linguini's Pasta & Grille
- Little Goobers Indoor Playground
- Mama's Kitchen & Pizzeria
- Mastermind Toys
- Andrea Mcgee
- Amira Mirdawi
- Neob Lavender Boutique
- Niagara Helicopters
- Niagara Ice Dogs
- Niagara Parks
- Niagara Waters Spa
- Nigh's Sweet Shop
- Ontario Science Centre
- Optimus
- Performance Mercedes Benz St. Catharines
- Petite Retreat
- Picard's Peanuts
- Pizza Hut (Niagara Falls)
- Pla Mor Bowling Lanes
- Diana Rainford-Allen
- Robert Nowell Photography
- Scholastic Canada
- Shaw Festival
- Small Talk Vineyards
- Jen Smith
- Speech Services Niagara
- Starbucks (Martindale Road)
- Suzy Shier (Seaway Mall)
- Swiss Chalet Vansickle Road
- The Centre of Training
- The Frosted Cupcake
- The Old Winery Restaurant
- The Willow Den
- Thirty-One Gifts
- Turtle Pond Toys
- Wright Brothers Produce
- Young Headz
- YMCA of Niagara

SUCCESS

# Building Capacity in Early Learning and Child Care

“ I plan on introducing the iPad® in the classroom to promote social and learning experiences with the children. ”  
iPad® Project Participant

20

2014/15  
annual  
community  
report | eccdc

## iPad® Project

In March 2014, the ECCDC in partnership with Niagara Region Children’s Services, Brock University and Speech Services Niagara, launched an iPad® Project that saw iPads® being trialled with 26 educators from child care programs across Niagara Region. The ECCDC supported the facilitation of four training sessions offered through Speech Services Niagara and the Brock University Research Team. All of the information gained through the research project, the training module information, as well as tips and strategies will be shared with the larger early years community through dedicated web pages on the ECCDC website: <http://eccdc.org/ipadproject/>. The ECCDC is grateful to Niagara Region Children’s Services for funding this exciting initiative, for the exceptional research conducted by Brock University, and for the dedication shown by the Speech Services Niagara team.



## Program Support for Early Learning and Child Care Programs

- 56 program/centre visits made
- Over 800 early learning staff supported

One of the most important ways the ECCDC contributes to the stability of early learning and child care programs

in Niagara and facilitates their ongoing success is through on-site visits to centres. These visits are customized to the specific needs and goals articulated by each centre team. ECCDC staff may provide advice for indoor or outdoor room design, curriculum planning, team building or observation and documentation strategies. ECCDC team members also share expertise in strategic planning, board development, program administration, financial management, engaging families and developing respectful and ethical relationships.

## Community Professional Network Development

- 20 professional network sessions were facilitated
- 287 network participants engaged

ECCDC staff provided coordination and facilitation services to the following network groups: Child Care Supervisors, Child Care Francophone Supervisors, Child Care Cooks, Co-op Teachers, Resource Teachers and Emergent Practice.

## Quality Child Care Niagara Training

- 18 training sessions coordinated
- 380 participants attended the training sessions
- 91 visits to programs to support the implementation of QCCN were completed.
- 1,200 QCCN website views and support in submitting statistical information 56 times

## Building Capacity in Early Learning and Child Care continued

In December 2014, the ECCDC was pleased to present *A Celebration of Quality Child Care Niagara: Reflecting on the Past, Embracing the Present and Shaping the Future*. This celebration of the 10th anniversary of Quality Child Care Niagara featured a keynote address on leadership, by Ontario's Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, Jim Grieve. It also provided Niagara's early years educators with opportunities to reflect upon the changes needed to align their work with *How Does Learning Happen?*

Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN) enhances the quality of licensed child care programs in Niagara, using a standardized, research-based approach. The ECCDC and Niagara Region Children's Services have worked together to coordinate QCCN for over a decade. We thank all of our community partners who develop and regularly facilitate a variety of QCCN training modules and who bring their insights and ideas to the Advisory Committee. Earlier this year, the ECCDC, Niagara Region Children's Services and a committee of community partners began meeting to integrate *How Does Learning Happen?* into QCCN.

### Increasing Accessibility of Resources and Training Through Special Projects

#### Licensed Child Care Science and Technology Project

Funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation enabled the ECCDC to continue coordinating the two-year Science and Technology Project it had undertaken

in partnership with the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara and Louise Kool and Galt. The ECCDC is grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for supporting this valuable project.



- 150 Science and Technology Kits were ordered, compiled and distributed to Niagara's licensed child care programs, valued at approximately \$150 each.
- 18 Kiwanis Club members contributed over 150 hours compiling the kits as well as providing a rental facility to store the materials for two years and moving vans to deliver materials to the hotel venues as required.
- 31 Science and Technology training sessions were offered in Welland, St. Catharines, and Niagara Falls.
- Over 93 hours of training was delivered through the Early Childhood Community Development Centre.
- 861 staff of licensed child care programs attended the training sessions.
- Over \$900 of science materials were included within the kits at no cost to programs.
- More than a \$40 value in training and materials were provided at no cost to programs.



## Building Capacity in Early Learning and Child Care continued

### Intergenerational Project for Preschool Children and Seniors

The purpose of the Intergenerational Pilot Project was to develop and trial tools that child care programs may utilize to establish intergenerational programs within local seniors' residences, in order to promote positive relationships and learning opportunities between children and seniors.

The ECCDC sought funding for the pilot project and was successful in being the recipient of a \$25,000 grant through New Horizons for Seniors Program of the Government of Canada. The New Horizons for Seniors Program is a federal Grants and Contributions program that supports projects led or inspired by seniors who make a difference in the lives of others and in their communities.

Four visits took place at the senior residence locations from January to April 2015 with approximately eight



seniors and eight preschool children visiting one another during each session. The visits were planned to be one hour in length and included a variety of sensory materials. To facilitate engaging activities, the child care centres and seniors' residences brought along materials from their Intergenerational Preschool Backpacks and Seniors' Information Packs to be used by the children and seniors in small groups. Links to Ontario's Early Learning Framework, *How Does Learning Happen?* were considered during the development of the program materials to ensure the visits aligned with Ontario's early years pedagogy.

*The ECCDC extends sincere thanks to the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program for supporting this heartwarming project.*



## Building Capacity in Early Learning and Child Care continued

### Supporting Families in Finding Early Years Services

#### Parent Direct Niagara

Launched in 2012, Parent Direct Niagara ([www.parentdirectniagara.ca](http://www.parentdirectniagara.ca)) is a Niagara-based web portal, designed to make it easier for parents to find information about programs and services for children and families. The website allows parents in Niagara to search for a wide variety of programs and services. This was made possible through the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Niagara Community Foundation, the Early Years Niagara Planning Council and Niagara Region Children's Services. Relaunched in 2014 through funding from the Niagara Community Integration Leader Project (CIL Project), part of the website was updated to include some of the website text, listings, and subcategories; made the website mobile-friendly; upgraded search capabilities; and added a consolidated Community Events Calendar and Resource Page for parents. The entire platform was also recreated in French through the support of the Niagara Community Foundation.

- As of March 2015, there were 765 listings on Parent

Direct Niagara [www.parentdirectniagara.ca](http://www.parentdirectniagara.ca)

- There were 139,486 visits to the website, an average of 10,790 visits per month or 961 per day
- The ECCDC engaged in a March break marketing blitz where 60 new listings were added to Parent Direct Niagara and over three thousand families and agencies received postcards and a promotional email regarding free March Break activities
- 90 listings were provided with administrative support for using the site to reach families



“ Thank you, thank you, thank you for the new equipment and all your support. ”  
IT Project Participant

## Building Capacity in Early Learning and Child Care continued

### Computer Technical Support

- 101 Programs Supported

The ECCDC helped Niagara's early learning and child care programs keep pace with technology by offering consultations on common hardware and software concerns, upgrades, repairs, and security issues. Additionally, in the summer of 2014, the ECCDC received funding through Niagara Region Children's Services for the purchase of laptops, printers/scanners and wireless routers for use in the area's licensed child care programs. A survey was developed to determine community need. Seventy-five programs received new IT bundles along with group training and on-site one-to-one training on how to use the new equipment. The project began in the fall of 2014, with installations completed by the end of December. The training took place in the winter of 2015.

### Niagara Child Care Sector Executive and Inclusive Child Care Supports Committees

- The Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee web page was viewed 486 times
- The Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee web page was viewed 848 times

The ECCDC contributes to the success of these important community committees by providing professional administrative supports, including the maintenance of minutes, reports and file archives in Web-accessible formats, email distribution, document design, updating webpages and sending out community messages.

### Work Experience for Students of Early Childhood Education Programs

- 7 student internship placements hosted

The ECCDC regularly hosts work placements for the Niagara College Early Childhood Education Department and the Brock University Bachelor of Early Childhood Education and Child Studies Programs. This year, we were also pleased to host an accounting student through the Goodman School of Business. These placements help build a sense of connection between students studying in Niagara and Niagara's early learning and child care community, providing the students with skills and contacts that will enhance their careers.



“ Thank you for all the updates! I love the new website, it is very easy to navigate and the colours are easy on the eye. ”  
Debra Swan, Community Consulting, Hartfield, NB

## Building Capacity in Early Learning and Child Care continued

### Helping to Inform the Early Learning and Child Care Sector

During the year, the ECCDC distributed close to 100 bulk emails on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Niagara Region Children’s Services and/or Niagara Region Public Health and the Niagara Child Care Sector Executive. These messages helped keep Niagara’s early learning and care providers informed about new research, sector-wide changes and upcoming events.

### New Innovative and Informative Web Page

- www.eccdc.org received 107,501 visits
- There were almost 100 percent more pages viewed on average per month, since the launch of the new website compared to the last two years’ monthly viewing averages

The ECCDC Team worked diligently during the Spring and Summer of 2014 to redesign www.eccdc.org. The site was officially re-launched in October 2014 and featured a new E-Store and online registration module. The new website better highlights the ECCDC’s on-

site facilities and learning café, membership benefits, and coaching and support services; particularly the areas of environmental design, pedagogy and curriculum and professionalism.



The announcements page continues to keep the community informed about important initiatives, services and legislative changes.

### Supporting the Early Learning and Child Care Sector with Recruitment

- The employment board web page was viewed 17,000 times
- There were 79 job postings submitted

The ECCDC employment page helps keep qualified early learning and care professionals here in Niagara, by providing them with a convenient way to connect with prospective employers.

“ Thank you very much for all your very helpful updates and information for early learning centres. ”

Marie Thomson, RECE, Executive Director, Queen's Park Child Care Centre, Toronto

## Building Capacity in Early Learning and Child Care continued

### Keeping Connected Through Social Media

- The ECCDC Facebook page currently has 540 likes
- The average number of daily views is 250
- We currently have 184 Twitter followers

The ECCDC keeps its members, stakeholders and community partners abreast of professional learning opportunities through the quarterly training magazine ESTEEM. We also share highlights of our workshops and seminars through our new Professional Learning Bulletin. Our Resource Bulletin shares information about new resources and library activities. Additionally, we engage with our fans through fun contests on Facebook and Twitter.

### ECCDC In the Media

- View event pictures from Moving Away From Themes: Embracing Inquiry-Based Learning that took place on April 18: <https://stcatharines.snapd.com/event/814343#/>
- View event pictures from the Intergenerational Project wrap-up celebration at Lookout Ridge on April 23: <https://stcatharines.snapd.com/event/827630#/>
- View the TVCogeco interview of the Intergenerational Project Wrap-up Celebration at Gilmore Lodge on April 29: <http://www.tvcogeco.com/niagara/gallery/the-source/7424-april-source-stories/99414-eccdc-pilot-project>
- View the St. Catharines Standard's article on the Tim Gill event, From Protection to Resilience: Why do educators need to take a balanced approach to risk, and what does it look like? that took place on May 13: <http://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/2015/05/12/playground-safety>
- View the TVCogeco interview with Tim Gill: <http://www.tvcogeco.com/niagara/gallery/the-source/7486-source-stories-may/99805-tim-gill>



# 2014/15 Financial Report

## April 2014 - March 2015

### Annual Revenues

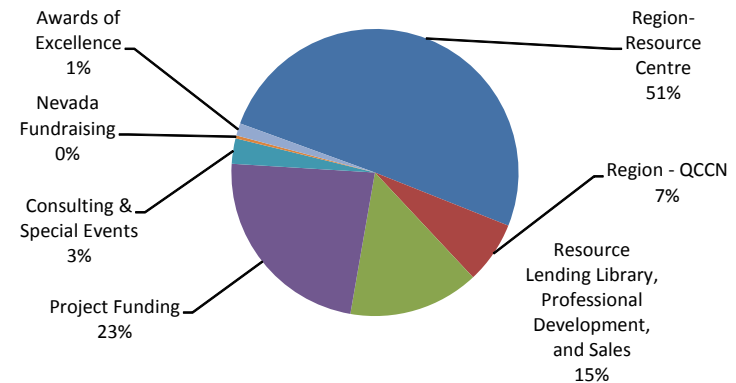
Regional Municipality of Niagara (Resource Centre)	747,007
Regional Municipality of Niagara (QCCN)	103,485
Resource Lending Library, Professional Development, Sales	217,840
Project Funding (Ontario Trillium, Kiwanis Clubs, Niagara Region, HRSDC)	343,788
Consulting & Special Events	42,289
Nevada Fundraising	4,925
Awards of Excellence	20,586
<b>Total Gross Revenues</b>	<b>1,479,920</b>

### Annual Expenses

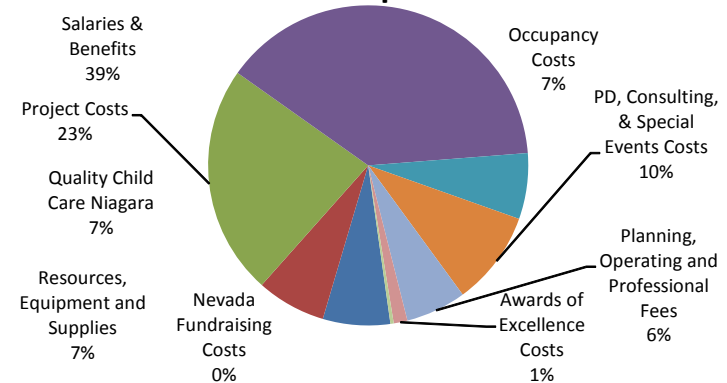
Resources, Equipment and Supplies (Resource Centre)	100,615
Quality Child Care Niagara	103,485
Project Costs	343,788
Salaries & Benefits	576,329
Occupancy Costs	98,477
Professional Development, Consulting, & Special Events Costs	140,907
Planning, Operating and Professional Fees	90,411
Awards of Excellence Costs	20,525
Nevada Fundraising Costs	4,925
<b>Total Gross Expenses</b>	<b>1,479,462</b>
<b>Gross Revenues over Expenses</b>	<b>458</b>
<b>Surplus to General Operating Fund Balance</b>	<b>458</b>

Auditors: Steinbachs & Chapelle, Niagara Falls. A complete set of audited statements is available upon request

### Annual Revenue



### Annual Expenses



**eccdc**

early childhood community development centre



Commitment Dedication  
Collaboration Gratitude  
Success Professionalism  
Achievement Commitment  
Dedication Collaboration  
Gratitude Success  
Professionalism  
Achievement Commitment  
Dedication Collaboration  
Gratitude Success  
Professionalism  
Achievement  
Commitment  
Dedication  
Collaboration  
Gratitude Success  
Professionalism  
Achievement  
Commitment  
Dedication Collaboration  
Gratitude Success  
Professionalism Achievement  
Commitment Dedication Collaboration