

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

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Collaboration

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Professionalism

Achievement

Commitment

Dedication Collaboration

Gratitude Success

Professionalism Achievement

Commitment Dedication Collaboration

2016/17
Annual Community Report



“

Our community looks to the ECCDC as a centre of excellence and information. I appreciate that you endeavour to ensure that resources for families and professionals are up to date and relevant. Keep up the awesome work!

”

Julie Michell, RECE-Resource Teacher, Niagara Children's Centre

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“

The ECCDC is an amazing resource. I can always count on a successful planning week because no matter what my children are interested in, they always have what I need. From die cuts to toys and books, they make planning so much easier! The children always get so excited when they come in and see a new kit from the ECCDC on the table or shelf. So, on behalf of myself and the children thank you so much for making learning fun!

”

Stakeholder Survey Respondent



The Work of Our Organization: Our Mission, Vision & Values

Mission

Inspiring excellence in early learning and child care.

Vision

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

Values

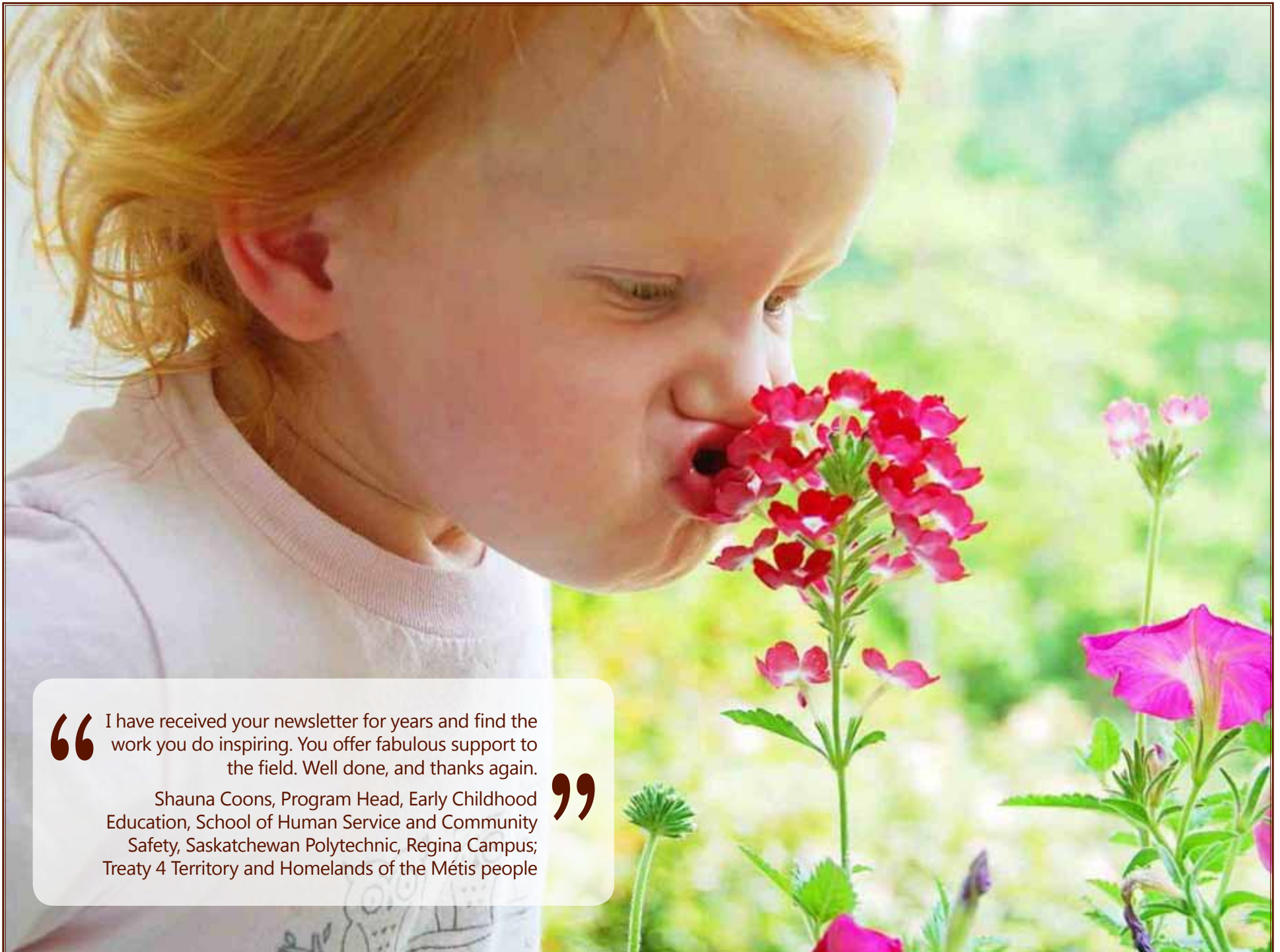
Collaboration • We work with like-minded organizations to respond to the emerging needs of the early learning and child care community.

Innovation • We are dedicated to pursuing the development of quality products and services that stimulate early learning in young children.

Leadership • We bring our courage, conviction and guidance to creating supports that nurture the healthy development of children.

Respect • We support, recognize and honour the early learning professional as pivotal to the healthy development of children.

Professionalism • We bring together knowledge and expertise to mentor those working in early learning and child care settings to be at their best.



“ I have received your newsletter for years and find the work you do inspiring. You offer fabulous support to the field. Well done, and thanks again.

Shauna Coons, Program Head, Early Childhood Education, School of Human Service and Community Safety, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Regina Campus; Treaty 4 Territory and Homelands of the Métis people

”

Inspired by Each of You and the Contributions You Make to Children and Families Across Ontario:

A Message from the ECCDC's Board Chair and Executive Director

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre is proud to work alongside so many inspiring educators, administrators, boards of directors, school boards, family support teams, and students to support their most valuable work with children and families. Like others, we continue to consider approaches to supporting the ongoing journey of bringing *How Does Learning Happen?* and legislation changes to life within our daily work.

Throughout 2016 and the beginning of 2017 the ECCDC team continued to engage in planning and many activities to support the organization's ongoing strategic planning into 2019. The five ambitious strategic directions that we continue to focus on include:

1. Expanding our community outreach to better serve early learning professionals
2. Enhancing the innovation of quality resources in early learning
3. Increasing opportunities for coaching and support for early learning professionals
4. Providing quality professional learning experiences for the early learning community
5. Strengthening our organizational capacity to enable growth in services

Throughout the year we turned our attention to enhancing the Provocation for Learning Kits available for borrowing, considering the equipment most effective in aligning with the philosophies of *How Does Learning Happen?* and materials that may be purchased through the E-store. We've also planned more convenient resource deliveries and surveyed the needs of members for our library's hours of operation.

Our organization's Coaching and Mentoring Services Team continues to look for innovative strategies for supporting programs with indoor and outdoor environmental design, pedagogy and planning, team building, and transitions. We were honoured to work alongside Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds in rolling out our Naturalized Playground Initiative to 22 sites cross Niagara through generous funding provided by Niagara Region Children's Services. There has been no greater joy for us than seeing the transformation of outdoor playgrounds into beautiful naturalized landscapes. The unique initiative has helped create spaces where children and educators may thrive; through playground designs, outdoor loose parts and training to help educators rethink their outdoor pedagogy.

Inspired by Each of You and the Contributions You Make to Children and Families Across Ontario

This year was also a very exciting time for the ECCDC in becoming a coordinating agency for Roots of Empathy. Having the pleasure and privilege of working with Mary Gordon's International Office Team and our local school boards and agencies to coordinate the program locally has been a wonderful experience.

We were thrilled to have so many Educators join professional learning opportunities from across the province. The ECCDC continues to offer these events at a low cost, which affords Educators an opportunity to see internationally and nationally known speakers, researchers and authors. To observe Educators engaging in conversation with one another, researching new perspectives, and sharing their views and perspectives with new colleagues helps to build strong communities of practice.

Ensuring that our team has the knowledge and skills necessary to support an increasingly sophisticated sector continues to

be a strategic priority for us. We accomplish that through developing ongoing professional development plans, looking for opportunities to gain new international perspectives and increasing our capacity to research emerging trends.

We were grateful to have worked with each of you in supporting Ontario's early learning transformation and look forward to another year of inspired directions.



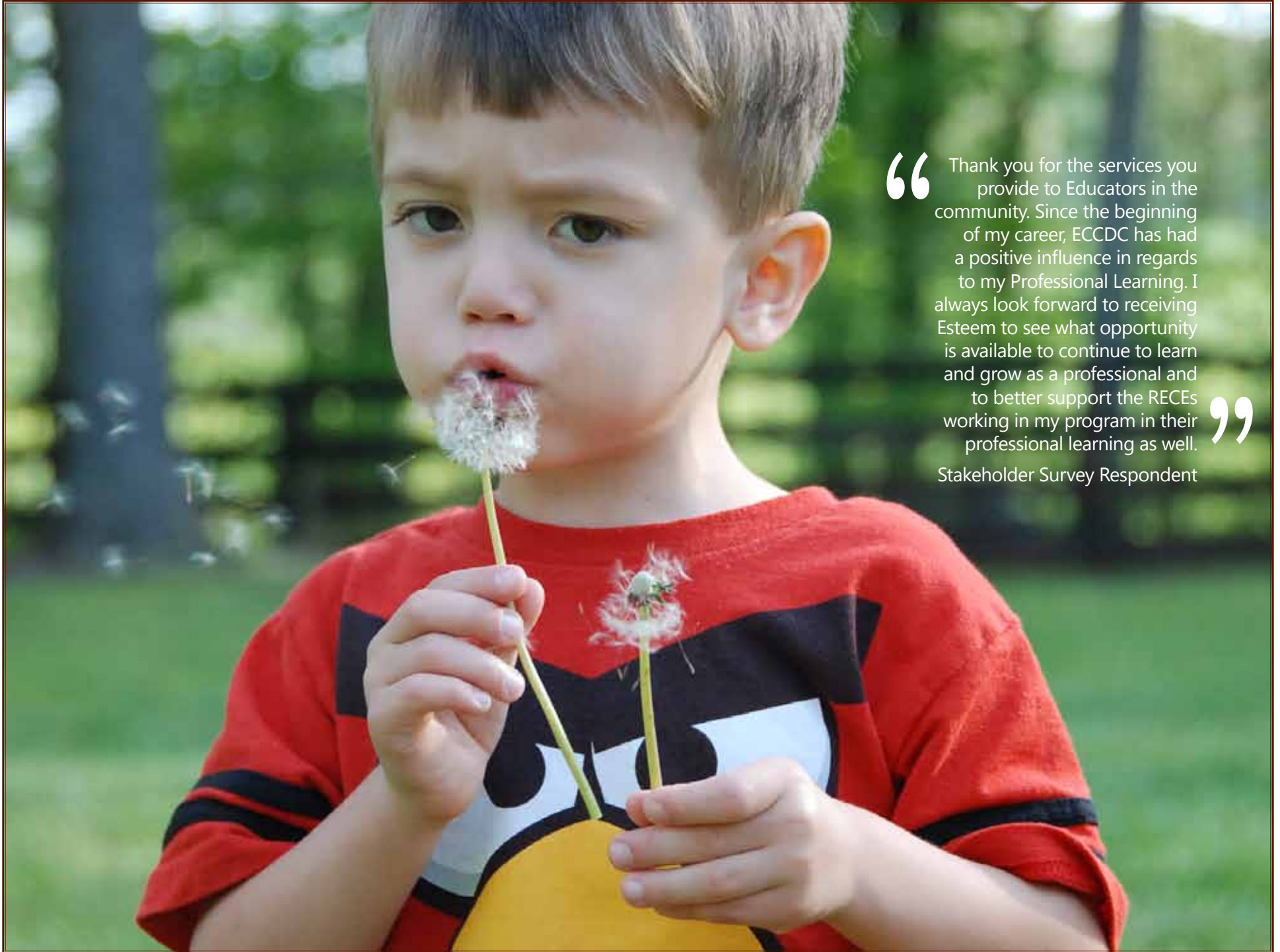
Kim Cole
ECCDC Board Chair



Lorrey Ariel Bonilla
ECCDC Executive Director

“ I want to thank you for your time this week supporting my program. It was encouragement to me and I feel I'm more on track after spending that time with you. ”
Great Lakes Christian Preschool

“ The ECCDC provides unique learning opportunities and supports to all of us in the ECE profession. The professional development opportunities are stellar and the costs associated with the training are reasonable. I also appreciate the support that is available through the ECCDC by way of network meetings and rotating curriculum kits that are delivered to our door. The ECCDC has been instrumental in supporting the four foundations of *How Does Learning Happen* throughout our daily practice. ”
Stakeholder Survey Respondent



“ Thank you for the services you provide to Educators in the community. Since the beginning of my career, ECCDC has had a positive influence in regards to my Professional Learning. I always look forward to receiving Esteem to see what opportunity is available to continue to learn and grow as a professional and to better support the RECEs working in my program in their professional learning as well.”
Stakeholder Survey Respondent

A Team Honoured to Work on Behalf of Our Early Learning Community in Niagara and Beyond

Board of Directors

Kim Cole, Board President
Kristine Dionne, 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 • 21 years
Patricia Couroux, Coaching and Mentoring Services/Quality Child Care Niagara Coordinator • 3 years
Darlene Drouin, Information Systems Administrator • 8 years
Mary Joan Furtney, Part Time Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 11 years
Shari Hill, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 9 years
Jessie Jones, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 3 years
Natalie Lane, Early Learning & Child Care Program Consultant • 7 months
Stephanie Matthews, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 3 years
Cheryl McMillan, Finance & I.T. Infrastructure Manager • 22 years
Jennifer Mosher, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 10 years

Kelly Rempel, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 7 years

Julie Thompson, Publications Administrator • 17 years

Hayley
Tonner, Part
Time Early
Learning and
Child Care
Resource
Consultant

Ginette
Wilson, Early
Learning &
Child Care
Program
Consultant • 3
years



Students and Volunteers

We are grateful for our 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. We take great pride in offering students innovative field internship opportunities and we gain so much in return from the students through our rich dialogue and exchange.



“ I really am always so impressed with your professional learning sessions, it is so worth the drive! Thank you to the staff for all you do! ”

Kathy Boelsma

In Gratitude to Our Funders and Supporters

Niagara Region Children's Services

The ECCDC has an incredibly supportive primary funder and we couldn't be more grateful to work alongside such a dedicated Team. Thank you to Director of Children's Services Darlene Edgar and her passionate management team for all your recommendations, for each of the contributions you make to our work, and for having such confidence in our directions.



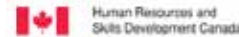
Ministry of Education Team

The ECCDC is grateful for the opportunity to work with such knowledgeable and committed colleagues in supporting Niagara's early learning sector. Thank you for your connections and advice and for entrusting us with such important referrals and recommendations.



Our Project Funders

Thank you for providing the ECCDC with project funds that enable us to inspire excellence in Niagara's early learning 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 supports: Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara, Louise Kool and Galt, Niagara Community Foundation, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Lawson Foundation and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.



“ I've had the wonderful opportunity to work with the ECCDC in several capacities over a number of years including being a workshop presenter, member of the QCCN Team and collaborating with ECCDC Staff in community committees. The experiences have been rewarding both personally and professionally and have been a pleasure ”
Stakeholder Survey Respondent

“ The hands-on materials brought authenticity to the overall message of the workshop and experience. ”

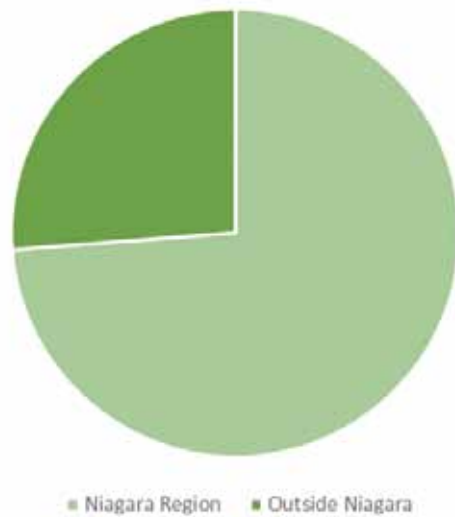
Exploring the Reggio Emilia Approach
with presenter Rosalba Bortolotti



The Voices of Our Stakeholders

The ECCDC distributed a **Stakeholder Survey** May 1, 2017 to assess our services from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017. The following is a snapshot of the feedback from survey respondents.

Where are ECCDC's Stakeholders Located?



93% reported engaging in ECCDC's services once a month or more.

88% reported that they consider the ECCDC as the "go to" source for cutting edge tools, resources and specialized equipment to support program excellence.

87% who had used ECCDC's environmental design and curriculum planning supports within the year reported the services as being accessible or very accessible.

87% reported that being involved in ECCDC's services and supports believe they make them more confident and effective.

89% effectiveness rating for advertised training.

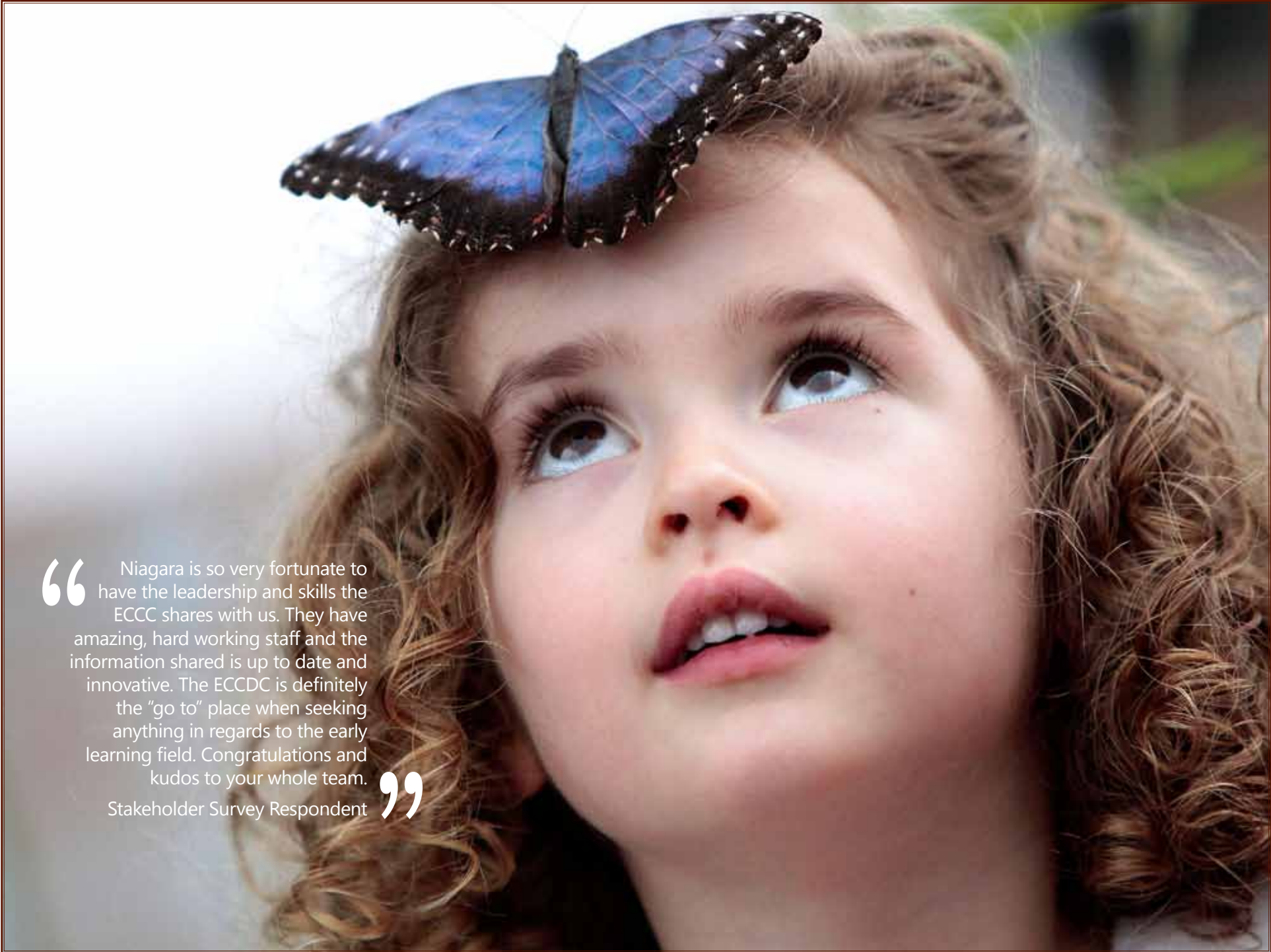
87% effectiveness rating for customized training.

89% effectiveness rating for lending library materials.

84% effectiveness rating for the learning café and specialized equipment.

83% effectiveness rating for coaching and mentoring support services.

91% who used ECCDC services and supports reported that being involved in the ECCDC contributes to them being a more informed early learning professional.



“ Niagara is so very fortunate to have the leadership and skills the ECCC shares with us. They have amazing, hard working staff and the information shared is up to date and innovative. The ECCDC is definitely the “go to” place when seeking anything in regards to the early learning field. Congratulations and kudos to your whole team.
Stakeholder Survey Respondent ”

Building Rich Relationships with Community

Community Planning

Our staff team participates on several community committees to support collaborative planning. This important aspect of the ECCDC's work allows us the privilege of working with individuals who are dedicated to supporting Niagara's early learning and child care sector, Niagara's youngest children, and their families and helps ensure our work aligns with community planning.

- 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
- Niagara Fathering Network
- Young Children Priority First with the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara
- Niagara's Collaborative Training Coalition
- Comité de la petite enfance
- Niagara Nature Alliance, Executive Director Network, Child Care Supervisor Network, Reflective Practice Emergent Network and Child Care Cooks Network
- Ontario Reggio Association

ECCDC's Group Members

- A Child's Worlds Family Child Care Services of Niagara: ACW Child Care - Country Kids; ACW Child Care - Early Learning - Connaught; ACW Child Care - Early Learning - Ferndale; ACW Child Care - Early

- Learning - Riverview; ACW Child Care - First Friends; ACW Child Care - Forestview; ACW Child Care - Glenridge Hill; ACW Child Care - Lookout Ridge; ACW Child Care - Niagara Community; ACW Child Care - Oakwood; ACW Child Care - Ross; ACW Child Care - Tiny Travellers; ACW Child Care - Wellington Heights; ACW Child Care - Woodlawn; ACW Child Care- Woodland; ACW Child Care / Early Learning - Princess Margaret; ACW Child Care/ Early Learning - John Brant; ACW Child Care/ Early Learning - Kids World; ACW Early Learning - Cherrywood Acres; ACW Early Learning - McKay; ACW Early Learning - Sacred Heart; ACW Early Learning - St. Andrew; ACW Early Learning - Stevensville; and ACW Early Learning - Twenty Valley
- Boys & Girls Club of Niagara: Kids First Daycare; Kids First Child Care Centre 2; Kids First Child Care Centre 3; Kids First Child Care Centre 4; and Kids First Child Care Centre 5
- Childs View Co-operative Child Care Services Corporation: Grandview Community Daycare; Lakeview Before & After School Program; and Lakeview Community Day Care Co-operative
- Family & Children's Services of Niagara: Bunting Child Care Program; Western Hill Child Care Centre; Family & Children's Services (FACS) - St. Catharines; Family & Children's Services (FACS) - Welland; OEYC - Coin des familles Mobile Resource Program Site; OEYC - Fenwick Satellite Site; OEYC - Niagara Centre Mobile Resource Program; OEYC - Welland Main Site; OEYC - West Niagara Family Centre Satellite Site; West Niagara Resource Consultant Program
- Kidzdome Preschools: Kidzdome Preschool; and Kidzdome Preschool - Nelles
- La Boîte à soleil Co-operative Inc.: Dalewood; Empress; Fitch; La Marsh; L'Héritage; Nouvel Horizon; and Saint Joseph

Building Rich Relationships with Community

ECCDC's Group Members continued

- Garden City Nursey School: Nelphant Toddler Program; and Nelephant Casa Program
 - Niagara Falls Ontario Early Years Centres: OEYC - Mary Ward Catholic School Main Site; OEYC - Sacred Heart Catholic School Satellite Site; and OEYC - St. Patrick Catholic School Satellite Site
 - Niagara Region Children's Services: Branscombe Early Learning and Family Centre; Fort Erie Regional Child Care Centre; Port Colborne Regional Child Care Centre; St. Catharines Regional Child Care; Welland Regional Child Care Centre; Resource Teachers for Children with Special Needs; Niagara Region Childrens Services - Program Support; and Niagara Region Home Child Care Practitioners
 - Parents Peace of Mind: Parents Peace of Mind - East; and Parents Peace of Mind - West
 - Strive Niagara: Blessed Mother Teresa House; Branscombe Early Learning Centre & Parenting Centre; CAPC Niagara Brighter Futures - Welland Site; CPNP Healthy from the Start - St. Catharines Site; Greendale Before and After School Care; Notre Dame Elementary Before & After School Program; Pine Grove Child Care; Quaker Before and After School Care; St. Catharines Outreach Program; Sven H. Dohnberg Centre; and Welland Parent Child Care Centre
 - Valleyway Day Care Centres: Pettit Avenue Nursery School; Valleyway Day Care Centre; and Valleyway Day Care II - St. Ann's
 - Way to Grow Daycare Inc.: Way to Grow Daycare - St. Catharines (Hartzel); Way To Grow Daycare - St. David's; Way To Grow Daycare - St. Martin; Way To Grow Daycare - St. Nicholas; Way To Grow Pelham; and Way To Grow St. Catharines (Arlington)
 - YMCA of Niagara/OEYC St. Catharines: Alexander Kuska School; Assumption School; Canadian Martyrs School; Cardinal Newman School; Carleton School; Central School; College Street School; Crossroads School; Durdan/Loretto Centre; Father Fogarty Centre; Father Hennepin School; Glendale School; Glynn A. Green Centre; Gracefield School; Grapeview Centre; Harriet Tubman School; Holy Name School; Jacob Beam School; Jeanne Sauve School; Lockview School; Mother Teresa School; Orchard Park School; Our Lady of Fatima School - Grimsby; Our Lady of Fatima School - St. Catharines; Our Lady of Victory School; Park School; Parnall Centre; Parnall School; Pine Grove School; Port Weller School; Power Glen School; Prince Philip School; Senator Gibson School; Smith School; St. Alexander School; St. Alfred School; St. Ann School; St. Anthony School; St. Charles School; St. Denis School; St. James School; St. John School; St. Joseph School; St. Mark School; St. Peter School; St. Philomena School; St. Vincent de Paul School; Walker Family Centre; Westdale School; William Hamilton Merritt School; OEYC - Walker Family YMCA; OEYC - Bunting Road Centre; OEYC - Grantham Centre; and OEYC - Thorold Centre
- ABC Day Care
 - Anna's Day Care
 - Au Coin des Petits – Centre Prescolaire
 - Autism Ontario- Niagara Region Chapter
 - Beacon Christian School
 - Beamsville Early Learning & Child Care Centre
 - Bethlehem Housing & Support Services
 - Beyond Montessori School Inc
 - Boyuan Children's Home
 - Canadian Martyrs Catholic Elementary School
 - C. Sisters of the Sacred Hearts Children's Day Care
 - Community Living St. Catharines - Preschool Services
 - Community Living Welland Pelham - Children's Services
 - CSDCCS - Ecole elementaire catholique Notre-Dame-de-la- Jeuness et Ecole elementaire catholique Immaculee-Conception

Building Rich Relationships with Community

ECCDC's Group Members continued

- District School Board of Niagara - School Support Services, Parenting & Family Literacy Centres, and Youth Counsellors
- Ferndale Public School
- Fonthill Montessori Preschool
- Fort Erie Co-operative Preschool
- Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre/Aboriginal Headstart
- Glendale Day Care Centre
- Grapeview Day Care
- Great Lakes Christian Preschool
- Grimsby Co-op Preschool
- Heartland Forest Nature Experience
- John Brant Public School
- Kids & Company
- Kids Kastle Co-op
- Kinder Academy
- Kinder Haus Day Care
- La Petite Etoile De Niagara Inc
- Les Coccinelles Zélées
- Loretto Catholic Elementary School
- Maple Crest Early School
- Mini Retreat
- Niagara Area Homeschool Group
- Niagara Children's Centre - Infant & Preschool Services
- Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre
- Niagara Region Public Health - Infant & Child Development
- Niagara Support Services - Preschool Services
- North End Co-op Preschool
- Park Public School
- Parnall Public School
- Pathstone Mental Health
- Pine Grove Public School

- Plymouth Public School
- Port Dalhousie Nursery School
- Power Glen Early Learning & Child Care
- Preschool Central
- Prince Philip Public School
- Richmond Street Public School
- Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
- St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School
- St. Catharines Home Child Care Network
- St. Charles Catholic Elementary School
- St. David's Nursery School
- St. David's Public School
- St. Michael Catholic Elementary School
- St. Thomas Children's Day Care
- Stamford Green Day Nursery
- The Day Care Centre
- The Day Care Centre- A Special Place
- Thorold Community Child Care Services
- Top of the Ridge Day Care
- Trail Ridge Montessori Preschool
- Under the Rainbow - Wakanioten Child Care
- Wee Watch Private Home Day Care
- Wheatley School

Our Other Community Partners

- Algonquin College
- Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario
- Back to Nature Network
- Bethesda Services
- Big Bay Publishing
- Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds

Building Rich Relationships with Community

Our Other Community Partners continued

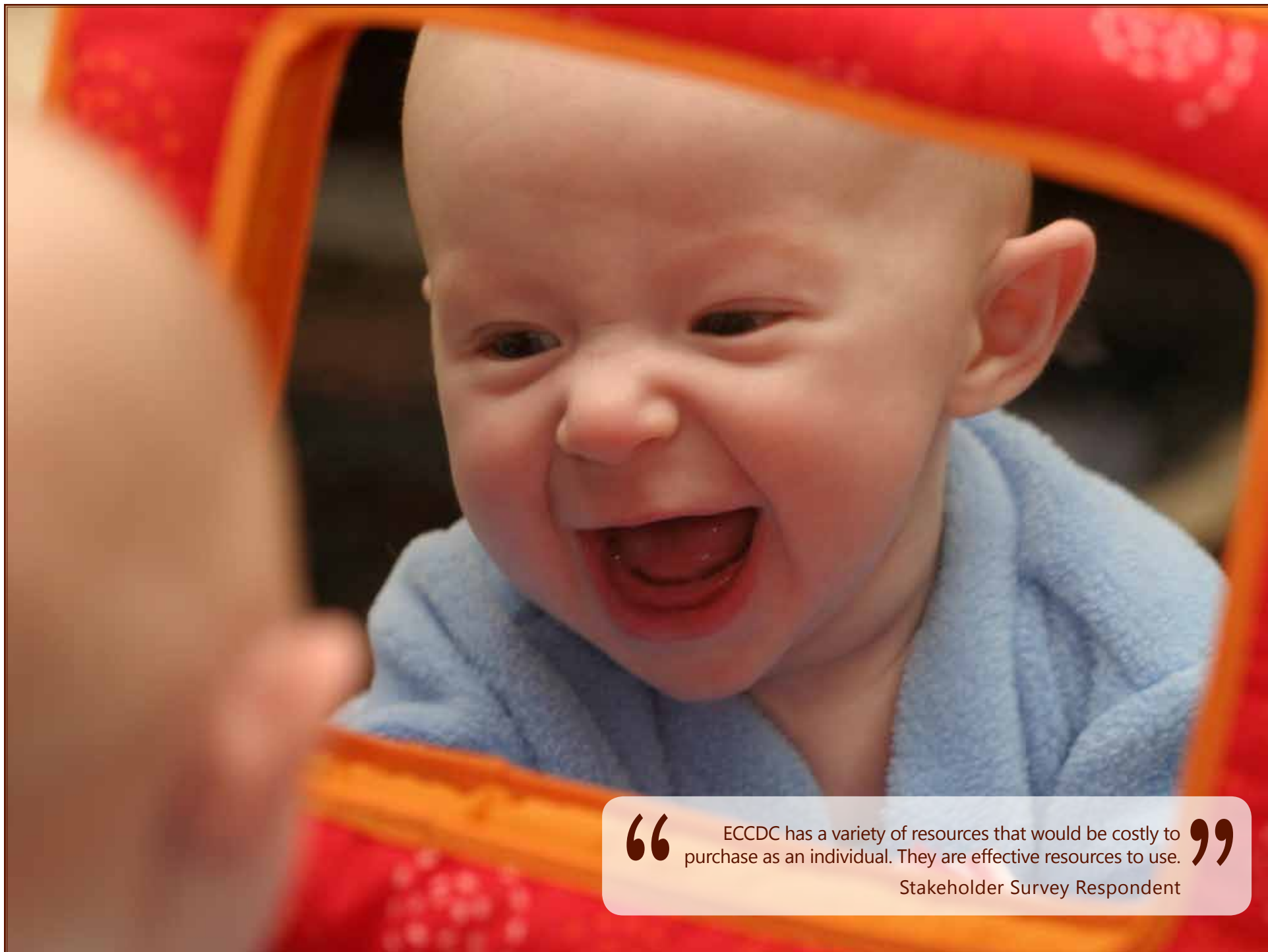
- Brock University
- Canadian Wildlife Federation
- Centre de santé communautaire Hamilton/Niagara
- College of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario
- Contact Niagara
- District School Board of Niagara
- Emmett and Associates
- Future Access
- Gay Douglas and Associates
- Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara
- Literacy Link Niagara
- Michael Lewis Training
- Niagara Best Start French Language Advisory Committee and affiliate organizations
- Niagara Catholic District School Board
- Niagara College Canada
- Niagara Indigenous Children's Planning Council and affiliate organizations
- Niagara Region, Children's Services and Public Health Department
- Niagara Regional Native Centre
- Niagara's Public Libraries
- Ontario Ministry of Education
- Ontario Reggio Association
- Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Committee and Affiliate Organizations
- Skycomp Solutions
- Speech Services Niagara
- TransformED

“ I have supported and used the ECCDC for training and resources since it first opened. This resource has had such a positive impact on my professional journey, supporting my career from every angle. The variety of resources and the training have been so beneficial. I am very proud to share this with all of my colleagues in child care. ”

Stakeholder Survey Respondent

“ I was a participant in the mentoring pairs for child care program and have attended several workshops. I have been on the mailing list and am always envious of the quantity and quality of workshops offered and wish they could be offered up North. We do occasionally book the ECCDC for our conference workshops and they are always a great success. ”

Stakeholder Survey Respondent



“

ECCDC has a variety of resources that would be costly to purchase as an individual. They are effective resources to use.

”

Stakeholder Survey Respondent

Our Commitment to Early Learning and Child Care: Service Highlights

The ECCDC as the Go to Source for Cutting Edge Tools, Resources and Specialized Equipment to Support Program Excellence

Membership Services

- 1,246 members, which includes 221 programs with group memberships

Provocation for Learning Kits and Speciality Resources

- 2,851 educational items made available to the community
- 5,148 resource loans to Niagara educators
- 67 new provocation for learning kits designed

The ECCDC's provocation for learning kits are aligned with Ontario's early learning frameworks and are suitable for use with all young children. The kits support an open-ended, emergent planning approach and stimulate children's imaginations, promote language and cognitive development, and facilitate social and emotional growth. We encourage members to *mess about* with materials before offering them to children to support their explorations.



Learning Café, Beautiful Stuff Shop, Grab & Go Materials, E-Store

- 2,928 service hours provided
- 1,634 on-site visits
- Over 300 Grab and Go Learning Materials, Provocation for Learning Kits and Beautiful Stuff Bags made available to educators

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

The E-store on www.eccdc.org includes a variety of innovative resources available for purchase.

Exclusive Use Bookings, Group Tours and Off Site Information Displays

- 27 early learning and child care centre on site bookings, group tours and off site information displays
- 230 individuals in attendance at these events, borrowing close to 100 provocation for learning kits or other materials

The ECCDC helps increase the cohesiveness of Niagara's educator teams by making the ECCDC's Resource Library, Workroom and Learning Café available for training, program planning and resource events. ECCDC group members are invited to book the facilities in advance on an exclusive basis for their teams to access the latest resources, research materials and curriculum planning documents.

Our Commitment to Early Learning and Child Care: Service Highlights

Leading Edge Professional Learning Experiences to Enhance Pedagogy and Practice

- 584 institutes, seminars, and training sessions offered
- 3,456 participants in attendance
- Hundreds of hours of collective training received by ECCDC Staff Members outside of ECCDC events.
- 949 views to Esteem on the ECCDC website

During the year, the ECCDC offered a variety of innovative professional learning opportunities that were either open to the larger community or were customized to meet the specific needs of early learning and child care agencies. These sessions included internationally and nationally known speakers, researchers, and authors to Niagara and highlighting a variety of leading edge early learning perspectives.

Professional Development Sessions Offered Throughout the Year

- ABC and Beyond Hanen for Building Emergent Literacy in Early Childhood Settings, Learning Literacy Together Within an Authentic Environment and Learning Two Languages: Understanding Bilingualism with Speech Services Niagara
- An Educator Toolbox to Applying the Four Foundations from How Does Learning Happen for Building Strong Relationships in Your Program
- Mediating: How to Make Things Right, When Things Go Wrong
- Down and Dirty
- Children and Anxiety: How to Nurture Anxious Children within Early Years Settings with Julie Christensen
- Documentation as Relationship with Karyn Callaghan and Jason Avery
- Ecologies of Childhood: Linking Place, Play and Pedagogy and

- Intrinsic Connections: Nature and Ecological Literacy in Early Childhood with Sinéad Rafferty
- Executive Director Series - Managing and Leading an Intergenerational Workplace, Creating a Place Where Your Team Will Love to Come to Work, and Value Based Budgeting
- Exploring the Reggio Emilia Approach with Rosalba Bortollotti
- Fall and Winter Collaborate and Create Make and Take Workshop
- Forts and Dens for Infants and Toddlers
- Gardening with Kids: From Seed to Table
- Greater Employee Engagement: Pathways to Ensuring Positive Attitudes and Sustainable Morale
- Including the Voices of Children Within Your Pedagogy
- Inspiring the Love of Food within the Early Years Workshop Series - Grocery Store Tours and Things We Plant, We Eat
- Invitations to Play for Infants and Toddlers
- iPad Training Series - *How Does Learning Happen?* A practical approach Seminar, Introduction to the iPad, Data Collection, Management, and Organization, Maximizing the Potential of iPads in the Early Years Classroom with the Evergreen iPad and Using Apps to Foster Language and Literacy in the Early Years
- Moving from Theory to Practice Professional Learning Institute: Implementing Ontario's Early Learning Frameworks into Daily Practice - 2-part series
- Observing and Documenting Professional Learning Series - 2-part series
- Pedagogical Leadership Series for Child Care Centre Supervisors - 2-part series
- Provocations and Invitations to Play
- Reflection, Conversation and Creativity ~ ECCDC Winter Educator Recharge Extravaganza
- Sharing the Value of Unstructured Play Experiences with Families and Colleagues

Our Commitment to Early Learning and Child Care: Service Highlights

Professional Development Sessions Offered Throughout the Year continued

- Strengthening Your Creative Art Program through Open-ended Art Experiences
- The Board: A Winning Team - Board Basics: Developing a High Performing Team, Choosing & Designing Your Board Governance Style, Call to Order: Strategies and Tools for Productive Board Meetings, and The Art of Chairing: Leading for Results
- The Hundred Languages: Mini studio experiences with Joanne Babalis
- Tools and Strategies for Hosting an Intergenerational Program with Local Seniors' Residences
- Treasure Baskets for Infants and Toddlers
- Winter and Summer Collaborate & Create Make & Take Workshop
- Wonder of Learning Exhibit Bus Tour and Summer Recharge



“ After attending several weekend workshops put together by the ECCDC, to me, the organization’s name is now synonymous with quality. Rather than simply having scratched the surface, I leave each session having dove deep into the subject including learning theoretical underpinnings, practical strategies, as well as extensive self-reflection. Thank you for your continued efforts in supporting my journey as an ECE. ”

Stakeholder Survey Respondent

Our Commitment to Early Learning and Child Care: Service Highlights

Recognition and Celebration through Niagara's Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence

- 356 participants attended the celebration
- 47 recognition awards were presented
- 68 local businesses sponsored the event
- 61 local silent auction donors contributed items

In 2016 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of Niagara's Annual Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence with a 1920s themed gala. This unique event proudly captured the spirit of the many reasons why *"it's a roaring good time to be a child in Niagara!"*

The ECCDC is honoured to host such an important event each year, and is grateful to our long-standing primary event sponsor, Louise Kool and Galt, for their unwavering support of Niagara's Awards of Excellence celebration.



In accordance with the Roaring Twenties theme, guests dressed in their best 1920s attire and were entertained by both the St. Francis Jazz Band

and Fascination Dance Studio. We were delighted to have 105.7 EZ Rock morning show host Lori Love serve as the event emcee.

Also in attendance and bringing greetings were Shannon Fuller from the Ministry of Education, Lois Mahon from the College of Early Childhood Educators, Lyndsay MacDonald from the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario and Carolyn Ferns from the

Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care, as well as members of the ECCDC's board of directors, executive director, and staff team.

The following awards were presented

- **Nurturing Children's Connections to Nature Award** sponsored by the ECCDC in partnership with Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds
- **Early Childhood Educator Professionalism Award** sponsored by the ECCDC
- **Margaret Hamilton Student Award** sponsored by the Niagara College Early Childhood Education Program
- **Brock University Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Outstanding Student Award** sponsored by the Brock University Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Program
- **Emergent Literacy Award** sponsored by Speech Services Niagara
- **Eco Friendly Child Care Practices Award** sponsored by Niagara Region Children's Services
- **Contributor Award for Volunteers & Colleagues** sponsored by the ECCDC
- **Commitment to Continuous Professional Learning and Community Collaboration Award** sponsored by the ECCDC and Niagara Region Children's Services
- **Family Support Program Practitioner Award** sponsored through our local Family Support Coordinator Planning Table
- **Licensed Child Care Centre Administrator for Exceptional Leadership & Commitment** sponsored by the Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee
- **Full Day Early Learning Team Excellence Award** sponsored by the District School Board of Niagara and Niagara Catholic District School Board
- **Quality Child Care Niagara Exceptional Program Award** sponsored by the Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Committee

Our Commitment to Early Learning and Child Care: Service Highlights

As in other years, the 2016 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.

Event Sponsor: Louise Kool & Galt



Business Sponsors

Black Box: PenFinancial Credit Union

Gold: A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara, Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds, and St. Catharines Standard

Silver: Pathstone Mental Health, YMCA of Niagara

Bronze: Minuteman Press, Meridian Credit Union, and Jackson-Triggs Winery



The 2016 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.

- Krystal Bateman, A Child's World – Cherrywood
- Jennifer ETTY, Grapeview Daycare
- Jessie Jones, ECCDC
- Christine Lever, Niagara Region Home Child Care Services
- Stephanie Matthews, ECCDC
- Rose Marie Perri-Gentilcore, Niagara Catholic District School Board
- Kelly Rempel, ECCDC
- April Shaw, Speech Services Niagara
- Jennifer Smith, District School Board of Niagara



Our Commitment to Early Learning and Child Care: Service Highlights

Innovative Environmental Design and Curriculum and Mentoring Supports

- 252 visits to programs delivering curriculum and pedagogy resources with 489 educators in attendance
- 141 visits to programs offering a variety of coaching and mentoring services with 627 individuals in attendance

One of the most important ways the ECCDC contributes to the stability of early learning and child care programs in Niagara is through on-site visits to centres. These visits are customized to meet the specific needs and goals articulated by each centre's team. ECCDC staff provide advice for indoor or outdoor design, curriculum planning, or team building, as well as observation and documentation strategies. ECCDC team members also share expertise in strategic planning, board development, program administration, engaging families, and developing respectful relationships.

Facilitation of Niagara's Communities of Practice

- 16 professional network sessions were held
- 284 network participants engaged

ECCDC staff provided facilitation support to the following network groups: Child Care Supervisors, Child Care Francophone Supervisors, Child Care Cooks, Co-op Teachers, Resource Consultants, Reflective Emergent Practice, Executive Directors Network, and Niagara Nature Alliance. These meetings provide an open forum for educators to have discussions and support one another.

Quality Child Care Niagara Training

- 95 visits to programs to support the implementation of QCCN
- 420 educators were supported during the QCCN Program visits

Quality Child Care Niagara (QCCN), with support and advisement from the QCCN Advisory Committee and QCCN Task Group, moved forward with the roll-out of the QCCN Two Day Reflective Practice Institutes for early learning and child care teams in licensed child care, home child care programs, and Resource Consultants. As a result of changing legislation and a new pedagogy framework, further considerations were given to the content of the training materials to ensure the Reflective Practice Institutes aligned with Ontario's child care transformation.

Throughout the year, the QCCN Team worked in partnership with six (6) QCCN Community Mentor Consultants to support programs as they participated in the institutes. We extend our deepest gratitude to the mentors and to Niagara Region Children's Services for their long-standing support in funding Quality Child Care Niagara.



“ You are such a professionally organized group that never ceases to inspire. ”
Stakeholder Survey Respondent



Enhancing the Capacity of Early Years Programs

Computer Technical Support

- Approximately 100 technical support inquiries received including the re-design of a child care centre's website

The ECCDC is committed to providing relevant information on technology tools that support the work of early learning professionals through increased opportunities for training, networking, and resource sharing. We've been proud to work with the community on practical, high-impact initiatives that directly support the culture of technology; for example, the iPads in the Early Years Project and the Niagara Child Care Technology Project were both supported through Niagara Region Children's Services.

Additionally, 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.

Niagara Child Care Sector Executive and Inclusive Child Care Supports Committees

- The Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee web page was viewed 339 times
- The Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee web page was viewed 702 times
- The Niagara Infant Mental Health homepage was viewed 550 times
- Naturalized Play Spaces homepage was viewed 5,887 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

The ECCDC regularly hosts work placements for the Niagara College Early Childhood Education Department and the Brock University Bachelor of Early Childhood Education, Child Studies Programs and the Goodman School of Business. These placements help build a sense of connection between students studying in Niagara and our early learning and child care community, providing the students with skills and contacts that will enhance their careers.

Helping to Inform the Early Learning and Child Care Sector

During the year, the ECCDC distributed approximately 200 bulk emails on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Niagara Region Children's Services and/or Niagara Region Public Health, Niagara Child Care Sector Executive, Niagara Inclusive Supports Committee and the Infant Mental Health Committee. These messages help keep Niagara's early learning and care providers informed about new research, sector-wide changes and upcoming events.

Supporting the Early Learning and Child Care Sector with Recruitment

- The employment board located on www.eccdc.org web page was viewed 9,670 times
- There were 150 job postings submitted

The 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.

Enhancing the Capacity of Early Years Programs

Naturalizing Play Spaces www.eccdc.org/naturalizing-play-spaces/

We've been on a mission to reconnect the children of Niagara to nature! Over the last two years, the ECCDC has been working hard on innovative ways to support Niagara's early learning and child care programs with naturalizing their playgrounds.

The ECCDC and Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds joined forces in Fall 2015 to offer a Playground Consultation & Training Service. This pilot project offered ECCDC Member programs the opportunity to receive playground design recommendations from the Bienenstock team, customized nature education through the ECCDC, and support with the selection of innovative materials for creating inspiring outdoor experiences for children. The four pilot sites were: Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care, St. Thomas Day Care, and Bethlehem Place Early Learning Centre in St. Catharines, as well as ACW Child Care – Woodlawn in Welland, the first to launch its new playground, May 2016.

After the very successful pilot, the ECCDC and Bienenstock teams created a new initiative in the Spring of 2016 that would change the landscape of Niagara for decades to come. This new community-wide project allowed an additional 22 child care centres to receive one-time funding from Niagara Region Children's Services for playground design, an installation plan, and training to help support child care centres with gaining valuable knowledge and tools to help transform their traditional playground into a naturalized one. Additionally, all sites, including the four pilot sites from the initial project, received an outdoor loose parts kit and curriculum materials to use in their new playgrounds.

“ I found by identifying our own ideologies/philosophies about nature and realizing everyone is in a different place to be imperative to support the development of a connection to nature for children. ”
Intrinsic Connections: Nature and Ecological Literacy in Early Childhood with presenter Sinéad Rafferty





“

When we have any question around anything from new legislation requirements to environmental recommendations for children, we know we will get the best and most up to date information from the ECCDC!

”

Stakeholder Survey Respondent

Keeping Connected with our Stakeholders

Informative Website www.eccdc.org and Publications

- Received 99,149 visits, an average of 271 visits per day
- There were 1,125,582 page views, an average of 3,093 per day

The ECCDC website highlights its on-site facilities, membership benefits, and coaching and support services. The announcements page continues to keep the community informed about important initiatives, services and legislative changes.



The site features online registrations and E-store with pedagogy and curriculum materials. We were pleased to continue updating the naturalized playgrounds pages and technology area which both feature informative resources, websites of interest, and strategies.

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 workshops and seminars through Professional Learning Bulletins. Our Resource Bulletin shares information about new resources and library activities. Additionally, we engage with our followers through Facebook and Twitter.

Social Media

- 1,251 Facebook page likes
- 661 is the average number of individuals who viewed ECCDC's Facebook page daily
- 9 is the average number of clicks received on daily posts
- 531 Twitter followers
- 210 Instagram followers

“ Thank you so much for all that you do. Having such a welcoming environment for teacher, staff and professionals to get their work done effectively has been amazing. Such a nice calming place to relax and get work done. Beverages, kits, cutting tools, workshops! They have all been very helpful and educational for furthering my knowledge and creative ideas flowing! ”

Stakeholder Survey Respondent



“

ECCDC = Everyday contributing countless dedication to the community. Whether you want to further your professional development with a training opportunity, enhance your classroom environment with materials that were borrowed through the lending library or if you simply just need a space to work quietly with like minded people, the ECCDC is the place to be.

”

Stakeholder Survey Respondent

Supporting Families in Finding Early Years Services

Parent Direct Niagara www.parentdirectniagara.ca

- 615 program listings
- 162,575 visits, an average of 445 visits per day
- 593,674 page views
- Administrative support provided for 74 inquiries from service providers or parents

Launched in 2012 and further developed in 2014, Parent Direct Niagara 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 in one convenient location. The development of the site 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.



“ Being new to the field of ECE, each ECCDC workshop I've attended has greatly benefited me and the children I work with by providing information that is readily understood and is immediately applicable within the classroom. ”

Stakeholder Survey Respondent

“ I have enjoyed attending all the professional development and networking sessions provided by the ECCDC. As a director, they help me feel more confident and effective in my job. I have felt refreshed and revived after any of the sessions provided by the ECCDC. ”

Stakeholder Survey Respondent



“ The Fort Erie Co-operative Preschool has existed in Fort Erie since 1984 and have found the resources and staff from the ECCDC to be extremely helpful and supportive through all the changes that have taken place in the field of Early Childhood Education. The workshops offered have been great sources of information. The QCCN programs and support staff have been very helpful throughout the years, making these transitions manageable and affordable especially for a school of our size where staff of one wears many hats! Thank you.”

Stakeholder Survey Respondent

Spreading the Seeds Through Roots of Empathy

Roots of Empathy in Niagara

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC) was honoured to be appointed to serve as the local Coordinating agency for the International Roots of Empathy Program in Fall 2016.

Through the program respectful and caring relationships are fostered along with decreased levels of bullying and aggression and increased levels of social and emotional competency in children. Long term, Roots of Empathy also promotes responsible citizenship and responsive parenting.

Through the year we liaised with the District School Board of Niagara and Niagara Catholic District School board in hosting Roots of Empathy Programs, we connected with family members who had newborns who were interested in participating as the program's youngest teachers, and planned for a spectacular Roots of Empathy Baby Celebration to take place in June.

The Roots of Empathy Baby Celebration helps emphasize the impact of the program by bringing attention to the respectful and caring relationships fostered due to the decreased levels of bullying and aggression as well as the increased levels of social and emotional competency in children.



News about Roots of Empathy in Niagara

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC) is honoured to be providing **Roots of Empathy Key Point Services in Niagara**. We are proud to be continuing the diligent work of our colleagues at the Business Education Council.

We are looking to our community partners to reach out to us. Please connect with us if you are:

- a **Principal** interested in learning more about hosting a Roots of Empathy program within your Niagara school;
- a **family residing in Niagara** who is interested in finding out how to participate in the Roots of Empathy Program with your newborn;
- a community partner that could help us expand Roots of Empathy within your **Francophone or Indigenous Program** across Niagara; or
- a **local child care centre** that could help us recruit families interested in learning more about the Roots of Empathy program.

We would be happy to offer presentations to principals, parent councils or others interested in learning more. Please contact the ECCDC at **905.646.7311 ext. 300**, eccdc@eccdc.org or visit our website at www.eccdc.org/community/projects/roots-of-empathy/. To connect with the Roots of Empathy team and/or Mary Gordon, please visit www.rootsofempathy.org



Roots of Empathy is a registered trademark of the Roots of Empathy Foundation.



“ Thank you so much for all the loose parts from last night, very exciting this morning to go through everything. Also thank you for all your hard work, I know you’ve put a lot of time into this project. It’s very much appreciated! Thanks again. ”

Lori, Top of the Ridge Day Care

Inspirational Messages from Our Stakeholders

“ Thank you for hosting wonderful informative sessions. I find them so beneficial. Everyone at the ECCDC does such an amazing job. Lakeview Daycare staff are very thankful for all the resources and training the ECCDC has to offer! ”

Terri Matthews, Supervisor, RECE, Lakeview Community Daycare

“ To think outside the box we often do things regarding light and sound, however, this experience has opened my eyes to new ways to explore them. ”

The Wonder of Learning Bus Tour

“ I found this workshop to be informative, it strengthened my connection and fuelled my passion for more outdoor learning and to teach the children to see their surroundings as part of them. ”

Intrinsic Connections: Nature and Ecological Literacy in Early Childhood with presenter Sinéad Rafferty

“ I really feel that not only do I know what the four foundations are all about, but I really understand them and see how well they all related to children’s learning. The Four Part *How Does Learning Happen* Series has helped me to become a better educator. ”

Kids Island

“ I now know ways to incorporate other languages and cultures in our everyday learning and activities. ”

Learning Two Languages: Understanding Bilingualism with presenter Maria Ramos



“ The ECCDC is a leader in Niagara and one of a kind in the province. I am proud to continually access services and have the full support of the ECCDC Staff in engaging home child care providers on an individual basis, which is so appreciated. ”

Stakeholder Survey Respondent

2016/17 Financial Report

April 2016 - March 2017

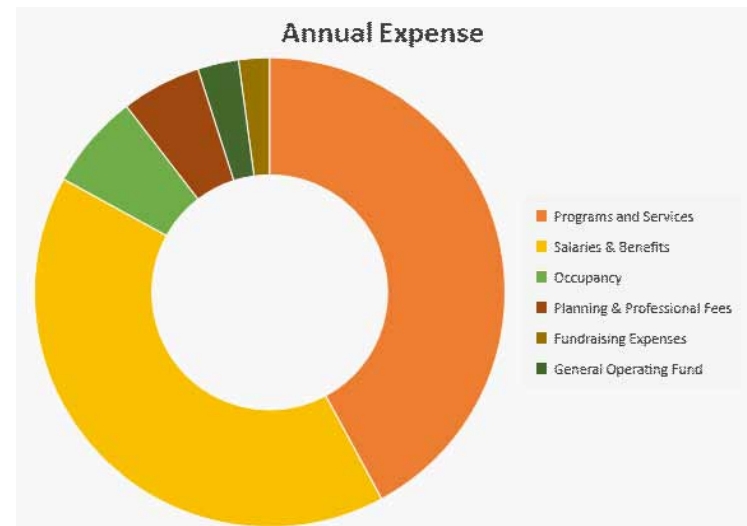
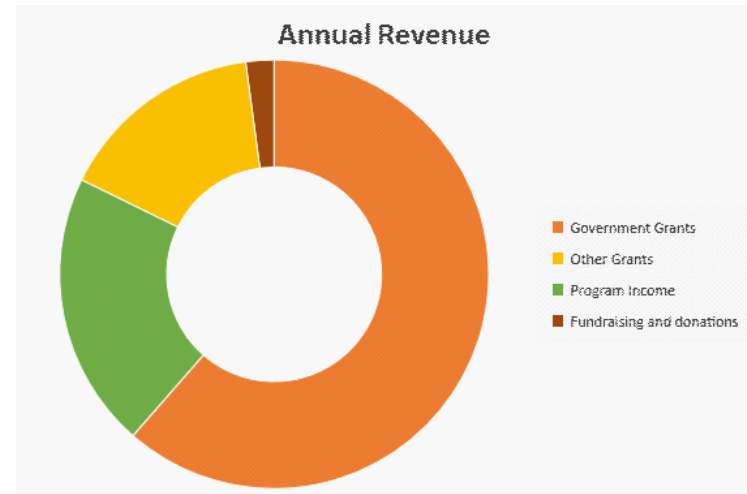
Revenues

Government Grants	958,787
Other Grants	243,795
Program Income	325,234
Fundraising and donations	33,182
Total Revenues	1,560,998

Expenses

Programs and Services	657,175
Salaries & Benefits	638,490
Occupancy	102,580
Planning & Professional Fees	85,627
Fundraising Costs	31,274
General Operating Fund	43,944
AOE/Nevada Fund	1,908
Total Expenses	1,560,998

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



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

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Dedication Collaboration

Gratitude Success

Professionalism Achievement

Commitment Dedication Collaboration