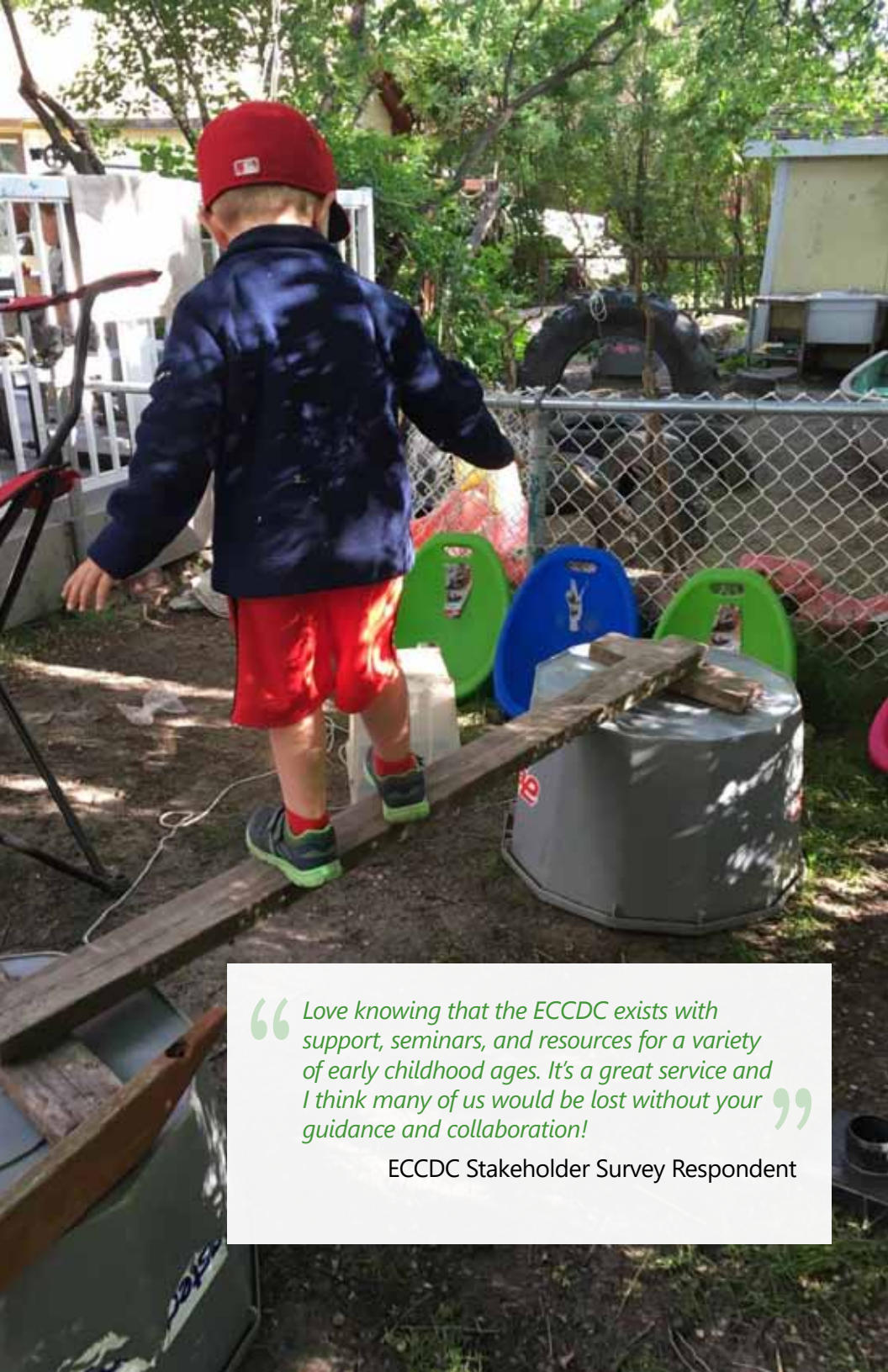


Early Childhood Community Development Centre
Annual Community Report
April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022

eccdc

Collaboration | Innovation | Leadership | Respect | Professionalism





Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC)

Pedagogy And Curriculum Resources ~ Professional Learning Opportunities ~ Coaching, Mentoring and Organizational Supports ~ Roots of Empathy Coordinating Agency ~ Accelerated ECE Program Partner

The ECCDC Board and Staff Team are pleased to present our **Annual Community Report for the year April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022**. We thank you for your ongoing engagement with the ECCDC and we look forward to having the privilege of serving you over the coming year.

While the pandemic brought many shifts in the delivery of our services, we remain grateful for all of the lessons learned that will carry forward as part of our regular operations. This includes offering virtual webinars, which will continue alongside in-person events, the online estore of resource materials, organizational support visits over Zoom when needed, and also the increased need for resource deliveries due to staffing challenges. We understand that we will need to continue to meet the needs of Administrators and Educators in different and unique ways over the coming year, as the early learning sector transitions into a new norm.

“ Love knowing that the ECCDC exists with support, seminars, and resources for a variety of early childhood ages. It's a great service and I think many of us would be lost without your guidance and collaboration! ”

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

During 2021 and into the early part of 2022 the ECCDC continued to receive many government supports which we are most grateful for, including from our primary funder Niagara Region Children's Services, alongside various federal and provincial grants. These subsidies supported organizational expenses, advanced ECCDC's technology capacity, supported no cost or low-cost professional learning opportunities, and enabled us to offer free memberships for local early learning programs. We sincerely appreciated having the ongoing support of Niagara Region Children's Services as we navigated new waters.

We extend deepest gratitude to Mountainview Properties for sponsoring the relocation of our office space and conference room to 3550 Schmon Parkway in Thorold at no cost to the organization. This relocation has enabled us to expand the ways in which we service administrators and educators including the availability of unique spaces for onsite planning, team building, and large events. While the construction and move took place in late 2020, we only began realizing all of the benefits in 2021.

In late 2021 and into 2022 we were so appreciative to once again partner with our longstanding supporter The Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara. Our local Kiwanis Club members work tirelessly to fundraise and engage in ongoing planning to assess the needs of Niagara's early learning programs and investigate solutions for supporting needs. In 2021 the Kiwanis Clubs collectively funded an infant and toddler Treasure Baskets project, which benefited over 170 child care programs and saw over \$30,000 invested in pedagogy materials and training to support our local child care sector. Additionally, at the end of our fiscal year in March 2022 the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara gifted ECCDC with a four-year financial commitment for a van lease to increase our capacity for resource deliveries and onsite community outreach across Niagara Region.

March 2022 brought new partnerships with Roots of Empathy as we embarked on trialling Seeds of Empathy in five early learning programs and with Niagara College to develop and implement an accelerated Early Childhood Education Diploma Program. We feel so fortunate to have established both of these outstanding new partnerships and we are excited to see how these programs shift and change over the coming year.

Most of all we are grateful to all of you: our members, community partners, and stakeholders, for continuing to work alongside our Team at the ECCDC on many initiatives and for providing ongoing feedback on how we may shift our services in new and unique ways. We couldn't do this work without you, and we feel privileged every day to be able to do so.

Thank you for being an exceptional group of educators, community planning partners and stakeholders. Thank you for caring so much about children and families and ensuring that they have the best possible opportunities to grow and develop. We appreciate all that you are, all that you do and all that you bring to the lives of children and families each and every day.

Respectfully Yours,
The ECCDC Board and Staff Team



Kim Cole,
Board Chair
on behalf of
the ECCDC
Board of Directors



Lorrey Ariel Bonilla,
Executive Director
on behalf of the
ECCDC Staff Team

Annual Community Report 2021-2022

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“Your training opportunities, especially around outdoor programming, are the top of the field. So glad we found you.”
ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

Get to Know the ECCDC

Our Mission, Vision, Purpose, and Values

Mission

Inspiring excellence in early learning and child care since 1993.

Vision

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

Purpose

The ECCDC exists so that early learning professionals are supported in offering children exceptional opportunities to grow, learn and develop and families are engaged and informed about early learning services.

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.



“ Again, I cannot say it enough, your organization is amazing. I love your commitment to the environment, as land as a learning tool, and outdoor play and learning. Near and dear to my heart. ”

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

Our Funders and Donors

*We have committed and supportive
Funders and Donors*

Our Primary Funder

Our Board and Staff Team extends ongoing appreciation and gratitude to our Primary Funder, Niagara Region Children's Services, for their longstanding funding commitment and support of the work of the ECCDC.



Our 2021/22 Project Funders

- Ontario Trillium Foundation - Resilient Communities Fund
- Roots of Empathy International Office - Coordinating Agency Services for Niagara
- Canada Summer Jobs - Summer interns
- Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara - Treasure Basket Training and Resource Kit
- Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development - Skills Development Funding for Accelerated ECE Program



Our 2021/22 Donors

- Mountainview Building Group - Sponsorship of New Office Relocation
- Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara - Community Outreach Van
- Louise Kool and Galt - Sponsorship of Exponential Power of Recognition: Love Your Job and Reject Burnout
- Niagara Catholic District School Board - Contribution towards Exponential Power of Recognition: Love Your Job and Reject Burnout
- Pathstone Mental Health - Supporting Educator Well Being Virtual Institute



“ Compliments to the hard work and dedication,
creativity and expertise the ECCDC team share
with the Early Learning and Care community! ”

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent



Our Board and Staff Team

We Have a Dedicated and Hard Working Team

Board of Directors

- Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Ex-officio • 7 years
- Kim Cole, Board President • 9 years
- Donna Dalglish, Vice-President • 7 years
- Shelley Fehrman, Secretary/Treasurer • 11 years (Retired December 2021)
- Jackie Kerry, Director • 8 years
- Dean Stunt, Director • 11 years
- Angela Wycimaga, Director • 2.5 years

Staff Members

- Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Executive Director • 26 years
- Kelly Bol, Early Learning Training and Events Consultant • 12 years
- Patricia Couroux, Coaching and Mentoring Services Coordinator • 8 years
- Darlene Drouin, Information Systems Administrator • 13 years
- Jennifer Mosher, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant • 15 years
- Katie-Lynn Parkinson, Early Learning and Child Care Program Consultant • 4 years
- Priyanka Tan, Quality Child Care Niagara Coordinator • 4 years
- Julie Thompson, Publications Administrator & Confidential Secretary • 22 years
- Marc Uger, Finance & I.T. Infrastructure Manager • 3 years
- Ginette Wilson, Early Learning and Child Care Program Consultant • 8 years
- Hayley Wutzke, Early Learning Training and Events Consultant • 5 years

We are Committed Community Planning Partners

We thank the International Office of Roots of Empathy and our partners at District School Board of Niagara and Niagara Catholic District School Board for the opportunity to coordinate Niagara's Roots of Empathy Programs.



Our Team is represented on the following committees to support ongoing planning across Niagara's early learning sector.

- Niagara Children's Planning Council
- Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Committee
- Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee
- Niagara College Early Childhood Education Program Advisory Committee
- Young Children Priority First with the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara

We are Grateful Hosts of many Students and Volunteers

We thank Brock University's Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Program and Child Studies Program for our student placement partnership. We also send sincere gratitude to Canada Summer Jobs for the funding to hire our valuable summer student interns.

“ Continue to do everything you are doing. The ECCDC is a wonderful support/resource for the Early Learning and Child Care community! ”

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent



Our Work

Our Group Members

We are excited to have the following agencies and programs hold memberships to the ECCDC Resource Lending Library. We also partner with many of these agencies for community planning, initiatives, and projects.

“ We appreciate the many resources available to us and are very thankful for the delivery service of the lending library. Everyone has been very helpful, encouraging, and available whenever we have a question. I'm sure we will use this wonderful resource more as we grow! ”

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara
ABC Daycare
Althorp Montessori School Inc.
Anna's Day Care
Au Coin des Petits – Centre Précolaire
Beacon Christian School
Beamsville Early Learning & Child Care Centre
Bethlehem Housing & Support Services
Beyond Montessori School Inc.
Boys & Girls Club of Niagara
Boyuan Children's Home
Brilliant Futures Montessori
C. Sisters of the Sacred Hearts Children's Day Care
Centre de santé communautaire Hamilton/ Niagara
Childs View Co-operative Child Care Services
Community Living Welland Pelham - Children's Services
EarlyONs - Niagara Catholic District School Board
École élémentaire catholique Notre-Dame-dela-Jeunesse
Family & Children's Services of Niagara
Fonthill Montessori School

Fort Erie Co-operative Preschool
Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre
Garden City Nursery School
Glendale Day Care Centre
Grapeview Day Care
Great Lakes Christian Preschool
Greenbelt Academy and Early Learning Centre Inc.
Grimsby Co-op Preschool
Heartland Forest Nature Experience
Kids & Company – Wee Care Daycare
Kids Kastle Co-op
Kids Place
Kidzdome Preschools
Kinder Academy
La Boîte à soleil Coopérative
La petite étoile de Niagara Inc.
Lakeview Public School
Les Coccinelles Zélées
Mini Retreat
Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre
Niagara Region Children's Services
Niagara Regional Native Centre
Niagara Support Services - Preschool Services
North End Co-op Preschool
Parents' Peace of Mind

Pathways Academy
Port Dalhousie Nursery School
Power Glen Early Learning & Child Care
Preschool Central
Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
St. Charles Catholic Elementary School
St. David's Cooperative Nursery School
St. James Catholic Elementary School
St. Thomas Children's Day Care
Smithville Christian Preschool
Stamford Green Day Nursery
Strive Niagara
The Chestnut Tree Pre-school Inc.
The Day Care Centre
Thorold Community Child Care Services
Toks Christian Daycare
Top of the Ridge Day Care
Tots n Tikes
Trail Ridge Montessori Preschool
Under the Rainbow - Wakanioten Child Care
Wainfleet Kiddy Kollege
Way to Grow Daycare Inc.
Wee Watch Private Home Day Care
West Lincoln Co-operative Nursery School
YMCA of Niagara

Our Work

Our Service Highlights

Resource Lending Library and Meeting Spaces

1345

Educators had access to resources, organizational supports, a technical workroom and meeting spaces through Library Membership

2064

Curriculum and pedagogy resources were borrowed or purchased

2761

Hours were made available for resource borrowing, staff collaborative curriculum planning, and networking

915

Visits were made by educators coming into the Resource Lending Library or visits were made directly to child care programs to deliver resource materials

2626

Curriculum and pedagogy resources were made available for borrowing

109

New Provocation for Learning Kits were designed for borrowing

Our Work

Our Service Highlights

Professional Learning and Networks

142 | Advertised community-wide training sessions were offered in person or virtually

2845 | Educators and Administrators attended customized professional learning in person or virtual training sessions

4134 | Educators and Administrators attended advertised community-wide training sessions

108 | Educators and Administrators were supported through **21** community of practice network sessions held virtually

123 | Customized professional learning and training sessions were offered in person or virtually to community early learning agencies upon request



“ Thank you for all the important work you continue to do to support the sector and to meet the ever-changing professional learning needs. Your sessions are intentionally planned, dynamic and impactful. The ECCDC team is always professional and collaborative to work with. ”

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

Our Work

Our Service Highlights

Recognizing, Celebrating and Supporting
the Early Learning Sector

131

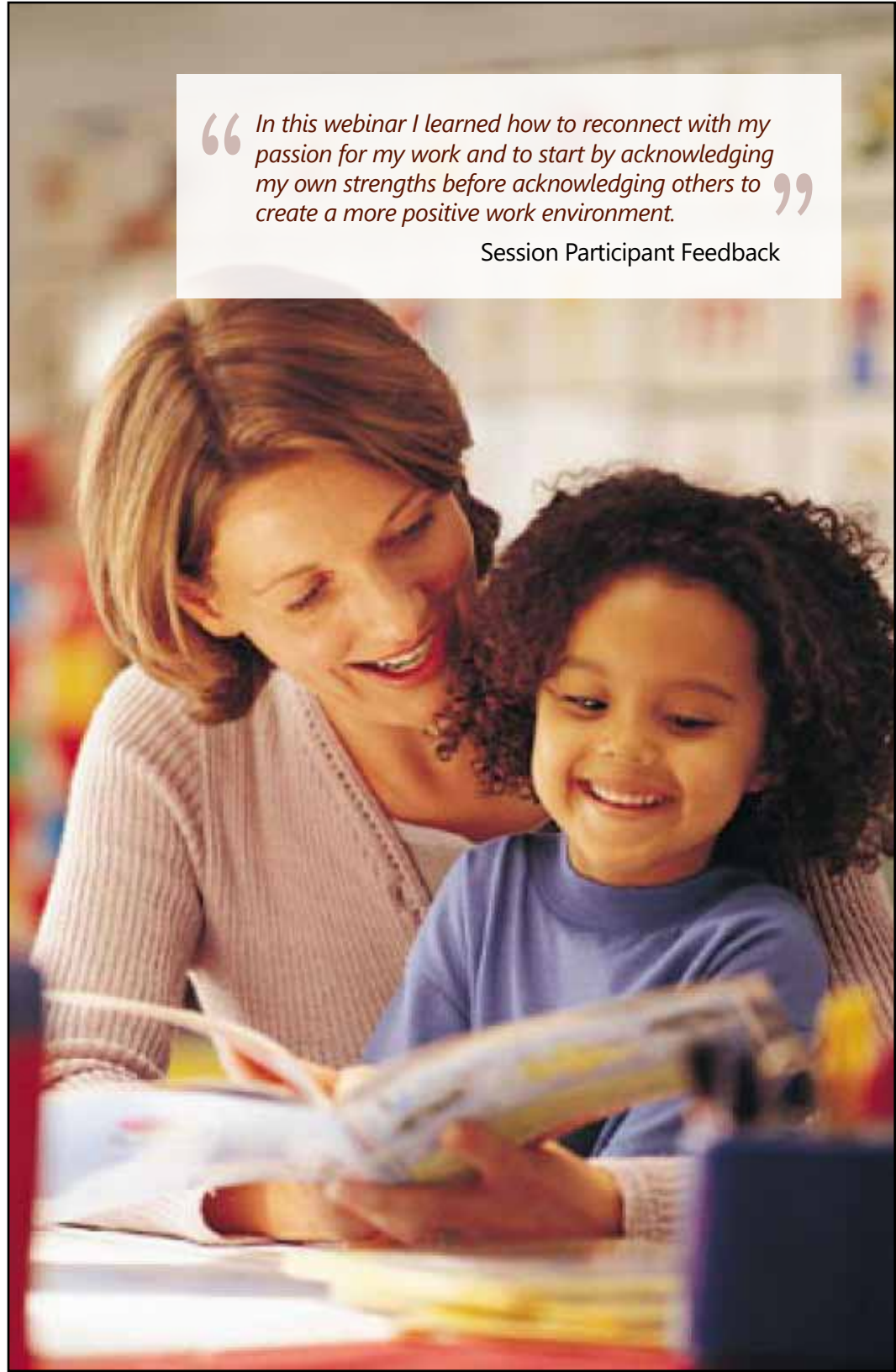
Educators participated in Exponential Power of Recognition: Love Your Job and Reject Burnout with Internationally Respected Sarah McVanel, Organizational Development, Training and Communication Specialist on March 23, 2022

“Inspiring conversation this evening with Sarah! You and the ECCDC team are amazing and your greatness as a team shines brightly in every session that you plan and whole-heartedly deliver! Thank you for all that you do in building relationships and connecting educators in such inviting and welcoming community events!”

Rose Perri-Gentilcore

“In this webinar I learned how to reconnect with my passion for my work and to start by acknowledging my own strengths before acknowledging others to create a more positive work environment.”

Session Participant Feedback



Our Work

Our Service Highlights

*Supporting the Health and Wellbeing
of the Early Learning Sector*

Supporting Educator Well Being During Times of Challenge – An Online Virtual Institute: May 20 to June 3, 2021

8

Days included interactive activities, draws, demonstrations and workshops to support the health and well-being of educators, families and children enrolled in their programs with **8** virtual webinars offered

1

Healthy eating food demonstration was offered

442

Educators and Administrators attended the virtual webinars

2021 Summer Educator Recharge

123

Educators attended **2** summer educator recharge workshops which offered experiences for recharging the body and mind, opportunities for networking and dialogue and time for reflection. The first 100 educators received a complimentary gratitude and mindfulness resource kit sponsored through Niagara Region Children's Services

“ Since 2021, Network Child Care Services (“Network”) had the pleasure of collaborating and sponsoring over 15 virtual workshops hosted by The Early Childhood Community Development Centre (“ECCDC”) for our staff and educators. ECCDC has continually proven that their team of facilitators are talented, engaging and knowledgeable in the content they deliver to our groups. ECCDC’s facilitators enable our educators to reflect upon their daily practice, engage in thought provoking discussions, consider ways of implementation, curriculum strategies, and action plan for moving forward with their learnings.

Throughout the pandemic, when in-person meetings were extremely limited and staff felt isolated, ECCDC’s virtual workshops gave our educators a much-needed sense of belonging and well-being as well as having opportunities to express themselves and engage in a meaningful and respectful manner with the wider groups.

Network hopes to continue its collaborative relationship with ECCDC into the future and would highly recommend their services to other agencies.”

-Spyros Volonakis, Executive Director,
Network Child Care Services



Our Work

Our Service Highlights

*Coaching, Mentoring and Organizational Supports
and Quality Child Care Niagara Training
and Program Visits*

446 | Connections were made with programs offering organizational supports

423 | Educators and Administrators were supported for curriculum planning, team building, playground naturalization, board development or technical needs

386 | Educators attended **12** QCCN Reflective Practice Training Modules or QCCN Conversation Cafés

68 | QCCN visits were offered either in person or virtually

Our Work

*Other Special Initiatives from
April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022*

ECCDC is a Roots of Empathy Coordinating Agency

16

Classrooms within the District School Board of Niagara and the Niagara Catholic District School Board were supported in hosting the Roots of Empathy recovery program for the 2021/2022 school year

“ The Early Childhood Community Development Centre has provided our centres with a great deal of supports over the years. The Staff at the ECCDC have kindly offered resources and supports that have not only sparked interest in our Educators but have truly made an impact in our centres. They have fostered our continuous education and have helped us offer the quality of care that our families deserve. From assistance with classroom arrangements, to participating in staff meetings, providing professional development workshops, Board of Director support, access to the lending library of resources.. and so much more! We are very appreciative and thankful for all that the ECCDC has done to help our staff learn and succeed. ”

Heather McRae and Jodie Mackie, Co-Executive Directors,
Parents' Peace of Mind Licensed Child Care Centres



Our Work

*Other Special Initiatives from
April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022*

The Commitment of Niagara's Kiwanis Clubs

“ We greatly appreciate the lending library
and its delivery service! ”

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

Supporting Niagara's Early Learning Programs with Greater Access to Curriculum Resources, Classroom Equipment, and Organizational Supports through a Community Outreach Van

The Early Childhood Community Development (ECCDC) was grateful to be the recipient of a four-year financial commitment of close to \$50,000 from the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara. The sponsorship - made in early 2022 - will increase the ECCDC's ability to support Niagara's early learning programs in having greater access to pedagogical materials, classroom equipment, and organizational supports through the availability of a community outreach van. The community outreach van will be utilized to deliver resources from the ECCDC's Resource Lending Library, located in Thorold, to over 170 licensed child care programs throughout the Niagara Region. The delivery service will make it easier and more affordable for child care centres to gain access to these unique materials for the thousands of children enrolled in their programs and will reduce mileage costs for programs, while saving staff time. With less time spent trying to access and purchase materials, educators will have more time to do the most important work of setting up nurturing and supportive environments and experiences to support the children enrolled in their programs.



Our Work

*Other Special Initiatives from
April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022*

The Commitment of Niagara's Kiwanis Clubs

“The treasure baskets are wonderful! I look forward to bringing it into the centre for the educators to use in the classroom. Also sharing information with educators to create heuristic bags for the preschool children.”

Treasure Baskets Session Participant

Kiwanis Club Sponsorship Provided Innovative Infant and Toddler Resources for Niagara's Licensed Child Care Centres

Approximately 172 licensed child care centres in Niagara received unique infant and toddler materials and complimentary training thanks to a generous contribution of more than \$20,000 from the Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara in early 2022. The infant and toddler materials are called “treasure baskets” and they provide sensory-rich play experiences for pre-verbal children and support the development of play schemas. The innovative resources will be sourced by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre, a longstanding charity offering resources, training and organizational supports to early learning programs within Niagara and across Ontario for close to 30 years. Research has shown treasure baskets provide infants and toddlers with valuable learning opportunities to support their fine motor skill development, mathematical skills, sensory development, and problem-solving skills. The rich materials also support children's innate desire to investigate and make sense of the world around them. In addition to receiving the treasure basket, Educator Teams will receive a workshop facilitated by the ECCDC's training team to explore strategies for offering meaningful experiences within early years programs.



Our Work

*Other Special Initiatives from
April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022*

Accelerated Early Childhood Education Diploma Program

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre and Niagara College (NC) submitted an application in January 2022 through the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development to design and deliver an accelerated Early Childhood Education diploma program for educators currently employed within Niagara's early learning programs. In March 2022 confirmation was received that the proposal was accepted. The Skills Development funding will enable 100 educators currently working within licensed childcare programs and EarlyON programs to participate in a year-long program through NC, while maintaining their current employment. Upon successful completion of the program, participants will earn an Early Childhood Education diploma and the necessary credentials to become a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE), through the College of Early Childhood Educators. The accelerated program will be delivered over 46 weeks and will fulfill all academic requirements by giving participants credit for their previous work experiences within child care settings. Participants will start the program with credit for two field placements (levels 1 and 2), or the equivalent of 250 employment hours, and will fulfill the remaining two field placements (levels 3 and 4) at their current place of employment. Overall, participants will complete 600 employment hours, just like students in NC's current ECE programs. The program will be delivered online through asynchronous learning to provide the greatest flexibility for participants who will continue working throughout their studies. Tuition, textbooks and other program-related fees are also fully funded for participants.



*A day of learning, exploration and play at
A Child's World Woodlawn licensed
child care centre in Welland*

“ I am very surprised how much ECCDC does in the Niagara Region and wish my community had such a great service with all the great staff I have met. You support the RECE field so much I am actually in awe sometimes. ”

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent



Our Work

*Marketing and Communications:
ECCDC Website and Social Media*

247,392 | Visits were made to www.eccdc.org

2775 | Likes were received on ECCDC's Facebook page

1,011,070 | Page views were made on www.eccdc.org

885 | Twitter followers

334 | Individuals viewed ECCDC's Facebook page daily

506 | Instagram followers

Our Work

*Supporting Families in Finding Early Years
Services through Parent Direct Niagara
Supporting the Early Learning and Child
Care Sector with Recruitment*

55,773 | Visits were made to
www.parentdirectniagara.ca

20,858 | Job listing views on the Employment Board

137,686 | Parent Direct Niagara page views

188 | Job postings submitted to ECCDC

691 | Parent Direct listings



“ Thank you for all that you do at the ECCDC. We appreciate and value you. ”
ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

Our Stories

“ I honestly don’t know what we do without you and your team’s assistance Lorrey! I regret it has taken me this long to truly understand the range of supports the ECCDC has to offer. I have always known how lucky Niagara is to have the ECCDC, but personally have been overwhelmed in a good way throughout this latest journey. ”

Janet Saunders, Executive Director
St. Thomas’ Day Care

“ To all the staff at ECCDC, thank you for the lovely plant and best wishes. Being able to access the resources and guidance through ECCDC helped me so much during my career, and it was a pleasure getting to know everyone. ”

Joanne Janzen

“ Thank you for being a leader in early childhood learning and support! Your resources are invaluable. We have a local resource program here, but I find ECCDC’s offerings to be top notch. I love how you have reached out beyond the Niagara area to offer supports all over Ontario. ”

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

“ I feel as though Quality Child Care Niagara has helped me broaden my knowledge and understanding of working in program, and planning programs. I appreciate the knowledge I’ve learned through the QCCN training modules, as it will make me a better early childhood educator now and for years to come within the field. ”

Our Stories

“ I would like to thank you for the resources that have been made available and for the much-needed support throughout the pandemic. ”

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

“ We, as an agency of 5 child care centres, were very thankful for the opportunity to participate in various webinars that the educators chose. ”

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

“ The ECCDC has been a great resource for the community of RECEs. The webinars are always informative, with personable presenters, and I have enjoyed the information that I am able to take away from them. ”

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

“ Thank you for listening to our needs and working so hard to cater to all of them. ”

ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

“ Keep up the good work! We appreciate the variety of learning materials. An example is the Pride learning kit. our children loved it and we were so impressed to see such relevant learning material. ”

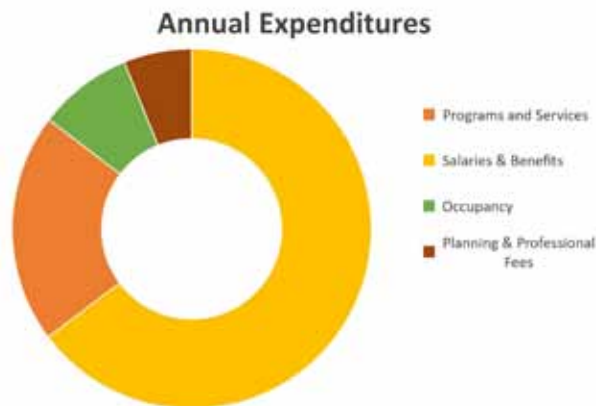
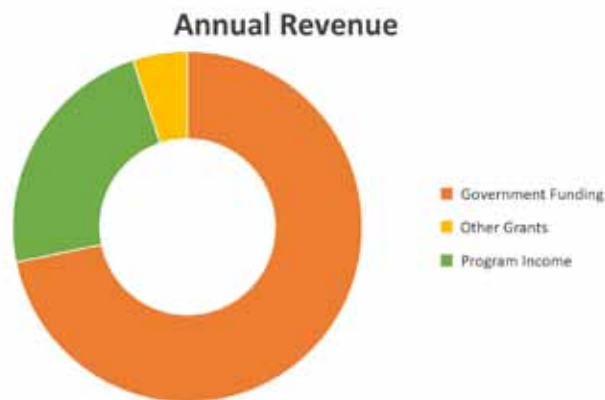
ECCDC Stakeholder Survey Respondent

“ I love being a member of the ECCDC community and I enjoy being able to attend the training sessions. It helps me with my CPL. ”

ECCDC Stakeholder
Survey Respondent



Financial Report



Year ending March 31, 2022	
Revenues	
Government Funding	864,698
Other Grants	60,844
Program Income	279,556
Total Revenues	1,205,098
Expenses	
Programs and Services	256,824
Salaries & Benefits	805,977
Occupancy	105,810
Planning & Professional Fees	76,341
Total Expenses	1,244,951
Operational Surplus (Deficit)	(39,853)
COVID-19 Recovery Benefits	297,296
Fund Allocation	
Research & Strategic Investment Fund	50,000
Program Termination Fund	14,500
Business Continuity Fund	192,750
Pandemic Recovery	193

During the fiscal year, ECCDC received several different forms of COVID-19 recovery benefits/assistance from various levels of government. Considering the unknown effects on the entity's revenue from service delivery, core funding and time-period of eligible pandemic relief programs, the entity qualified and successfully applied for and received the relevant funding.

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

eccdc

early childhood community development centre

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