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For Immediate Release

Longstanding Celebration to Recognize Excellence in Early Learning

Niagara's annual Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence, hosted by local charity Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC), takes place on Thursday November 23, 2023 at Club Roma, St. Catharines. In addition to recognizing the dedication and commitment of dozens of early childhood educators and administrators of local early learning and child care programs, students and volunteers, this year's event also commemorates the ECCDC's 30th Anniversary.

More than 460 guests will attend this year's celebration, featuring primary event sponsor Louise Kool and Galt, a longstanding supporter of the gala. Many local businesses are supporting this year's event, including Mountainview Building Group, The District School Board of Niagara, The YMCA of Niagara, A Child's World Family Child Care Services, Niagara Catholic District School Board, Frontier Distributing, Beam Construction, Steele Contracting Inc., and Beatties. The ECCDC is excited to have Move 105.7's Aiko Iwashita host this year's event with a welcome reception offered by local Indigenous Drumming Group Strong Water Singers and musical entertainment provided by Duo Leepa.

The Awards of Excellence Celebration highlights the significant contributions that high quality early childhood education programs make to children and families here in Niagara. The Early Childhood Community Development Centre is pleased to have many community partners sponsoring and presenting awards, including Niagara College, Brock University, Quality Child Care Niagara, Niagara Region Children's Services, Niagara Children's Centre, Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee, Niagara's Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee, District School Board of Niagara, Niagara Catholic District School Board, and Niagara's EarlyON Programs.

The event will also celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the ECCDC. Executive Director Lorrey Arial Bonilla is delighted to commemorate this special achievement among Niagara's early learning and child care community. "Since 1993, the ECCDC has been honoured to have the opportunity to serve Niagara's early learning community offering resources, training and coaching and mentoring services to support the important work of providing quality early learning environments for Niagara's youngest citizens. We are delighted to celebrate this organizational milestone amongst our community partners and stakeholders here at the Awards of Excellence."

The ECCDC is an independent charitable organization dedicated to providing Niagara's early learning and care programs and providers with affordable access to the specialized learning resources, training and supports they need to deliver high quality care. The ECCDC's services are available to all educators and others involved in the care and education of children.

For further information, please contact Lorrey Arial Bonilla at 905.646.7311 ext.321 or larial@eccdc.org.