



early childhood community development centre

November 14, 2016

***For Immediate Release***

## ***“It’s a Roaring Good Time to Be A Child in Niagara”*: Twenty Years of Celebrating Niagara’s Early Learning Community**

This year’s annual Awards of Excellence, coordinated by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC) will celebrate the accomplishments of Niagara’s early learning and child care sector with a *Roaring Twenties Gala*. The event will take place on Thursday November 17, from 5:30 to 9:00 pm at the Holiday Inn & Suites St. Catharines. The Awards of Excellence recognizes the professionalism and commitment of educators, students and volunteers involved in Niagara’s early learning programs. The recognition evening also helps raise awareness of the important contributions that high quality early childhood education programs make to community prosperity and quality of life in Niagara. This year’s event celebrates the many reasons why “It’s a roaring good time to be a child in Niagara!”

More than 320 guests will attend this year’s gala hosted by 105.7 EZ Rock’s Lori Love and sponsored by Louise Kool & Galt, one of Canada’s leading suppliers of educational toys. Many other local businesses are also supporting the event; including PenFinancial Credit Union, A Child’s World Family Child Care Services of Niagara, St. Catharines Standard, Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds, The YMCA of Niagara, Pathstone Mental Health, Meridian Credit Union, Minuteman Press Niagara, and Jackson Triggs Winery. A number of special guests will be in attendance, including: Shannon Fuller, Assistant Deputy Minister with the Ministry of Education, Lois Mahon, Darlene Edgar and Cynthia Abel of the College of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario, Lyndsay MacDonald from the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario, and Carolyn Ferns from the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care in attendance.

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre is pleased to have many community partners presenting awards, including one that is new this year; Nurturing Children’s Connection to Nature Award. Awards will be presented by Niagara College, Brock University, Quality Child Care Niagara, Niagara Region Children’s Services, Speech Services Niagara, Niagara Child Care Sector Executive, District School Board of Niagara, and Niagara Catholic District School Board.

*The ECCDC is a charitable organization dedicated to providing early learning programs and educators with affordable access to the specialized learning resources, training and supports they need to deliver high quality care. Among the ECCDC’s services are a lending library of play based resources, coaching and mentoring services and innovative professional learning opportunities. The ECCDC’s services are available to all educators involved in the care and education of children.*

**For further information, please contact ECCDC Executive Director, Lorrey Ariel Bonilla at 905.646.7311 ext.321 or [larial@eccdc.org](mailto:larial@eccdc.org).**