



*It's a Roaring Good Time to be a Child in Niagara!*

**2016 Niagara Early Learning and  
Child Care Awards of Excellence**

November 17, 2016

presented by

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre

primary event sponsor

Louise Kool & Galt



## Agenda

- 5:30 pm Doors Open • Cash Bar • Silent Auction • Signature Drink • Jewelry Fundraiser • Food Stations • St. Francis House Band
- 6:20 pm Welcome with Lori Love of 105.7 EZ Rock • Fascination Dance Studio • ECCDC Greetings • Door Prizes • Beginning Awards
- 7:30 pm Silent Auction and Black Box Raffle Close • A Tribute to 20 Years Presentation • Award Presentations
- 9:00 pm Black Box Raffle Draw • Closing • Silent Auction Winners



## Welcome & Greetings

### Greetings from the Board & Staff of the Early Childhood Community Development Centre

Welcome to the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence! Over the past 20 years we have had the great honour of hosting this special event to express our sincere gratitude for the remarkable achievements that each of you contributes to Niagara's children and families. The ECCDC could not host this celebration without the support and contributions of so many organizations including our Primary Funder, Niagara Region Children's Services. We are also so grateful for our community partners, business sponsors, silent auction donors, and Awards of Excellence Planning Committee, who all play such an important role in bringing an event of this magnitude to life. We are delighted each year to have Louise Kool & Galt as our Primary Event Sponsor. This year we are thrilled to have our colleagues from the Ministry of Education, College of Early Childhood Educators, Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario, and the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care in attendance to celebrate with us. We would like to extend our congratulations to all individuals and programs who are being honoured this evening, and extend our deepest appreciation to everyone in attendance for the contributions that each of you continue to make. These contributions are what truly make it a *Roaring Good Time to Be A Child in Niagara!*

Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Executive Director and Kim Cole, Chair, ECCDC Board of Directors



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### **Greetings from Jim Bradley, MPP, St. Catharines**

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for St. Catharines, I would like to take this opportunity to once again welcome everyone to the Annual Niagara Early Childhood Educators Awards of Excellence organized by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre on the evening of Thursday, November 17, 2016.

The support from the Early Childhood Community Development Centre for organizing this most worthwhile evening is deserving of the highest compliments, as the staff and volunteers of the ECCDC work diligently and are devoted to improving early learning experiences for children and helping child care professionals achieve their early child care goals.

The ECCDC was founded in 1993 by a group of local volunteers who shared a common vision of enhancing the quality, range and affordability of child care services in Niagara. It has now become Niagara's number one source for child care information, resources, equipment, technology and training.

The Annual Niagara Early Childhood Educators Awards of Excellence recognize outstanding contributions, both from individuals and organizations, in the field of children's early learning and care. The recipients of these awards are honoured for their hard work, professionalism and dedication to early childhood education and their contribution to educating the young children in our community cannot be underestimated.

With very best wishes for continued success in the years ahead,  
Jim Bradley, MPP St. Catharines

### **Best Wishes from Cindy Forster, MPP Welland Riding**

I am pleased to extend best wishes to everyone attending this year's Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence. Your time and expertise is being recognized and without your contributions the programs and learning environment for our children and their families would not be possible. You can all take great pride in your outstanding contributions to early learning and child care in Niagara. I commend the Board and Staff of ECCDC in holding this annual event to recognize these individuals who do indeed make a difference. Congratulations to everyone being honoured for their exceptional work

### **Niagara Region Children's Services**

On behalf of Children's Services management team and staff, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all those joining us and a heartfelt congratulations on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Niagara's Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence.

It is certainly a *Roaring Good Time to be a child in Niagara* and an exciting time to be an educator. While at times the changes are happening rather quickly, I believe Niagara is well poised to not just handle the changes, but rather excel, given the existence and strength of Niagara's early learning community.

Congratulations to all of this year's Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence recipients and their colleagues who continue to demonstrate their passion and commitment to our youngest citizens.

Darlene Edgar, Director, Niagara Region Children's Services





## Welcome & Greetings continued

### A Message from the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario

It is the AECEO's honour to once again be a part of the Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence Celebration to recognize the professionalism and commitment of educators, students and volunteers involved in Niagara's early learning programs.

The AECEO offers our most sincere congratulations to all of the honourees for their outstanding work with children, families and communities. The important contributions that high quality early childhood education programs make to community prosperity and quality of life in Niagara depend on a dedicated, knowledgeable and innovative early childhood workforce. ECEs are professionals who play a critical role in shaping the future of a child's life and we can also play an important role in shaping the future of our sector. Thank you for inviting us to celebrate excellence with Niagara's early learning and child care community

Lyndsay MacDonald  
Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario



### Greetings on Behalf of Niagara Children's Planning Council

On behalf of all members of the Niagara Children's Planning Council, I wish to extend congratulations to each of you for being recognized at the 2016 Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence. Your expertise and dedication to children contribute to giving each of them a 'best start to a good life' and setting them on the road to successful achievement. All of you are the reason why *It's A Roaring Good Time to Be a Child in Niagara*.

Darlene Edgar  
Chair, Early Years Niagara



## Extending Gratitude and Wishes of Congratulation from Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee

On behalf of the Niagara Child Care Executive Committee, we extend our sincere gratitude to all individuals in Niagara's early learning community for their continued enthusiasm and commitment to the children and families of the Niagara Region. The Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee serves as a voice supporting higher standards in child care for all children in Niagara, and we are thrilled to celebrate alongside you the many reasons *It's a Roaring Good Time to Be a Child in Niagara!* We would also like to acknowledge the remarkable milestone of 20 years that the Awards of Excellence has been recognizing early learning and child care professionals for their contributions in the field of early learning and care. This year's event is surely the *cat's meow*, and we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all of this year's Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence recipients, guests, and to all of those who dedicate their time to benefit our children and their families in Niagara.

Congratulations!

Kim Cole, Chair, Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee  
[www.eccdc.org/NCCS](http://www.eccdc.org/NCCS)



## Entertainment

### Event Emcee



**Lori Love** is celebrating 16 years of waking Niagara up as the host of the 105.7 EZ Rock Morning Show!

Monday to Friday, Lori does her best to provide listeners with a glimpse of the world right from your own backyard ... with a laugh or two along the way!

### The Saint Francis House Band



(from L to R)

Jacob Riganaelli - Drums

Andrew Mella - Piano

Jacob Dell - Guitar

Carson Greene - Bass

This talented group of students have been performing together for three years and love the opportunity to share their musical talents with the community!

We are grateful to Niagara Catholic District School Board for securing the Saint Francis House Band for this year's celebration.

### Fascination Dance Studio

Fascination Dance Studio has been servicing the Thorold and surrounding communities for over 30 years in dance education. Beginning with only 6 students, it has now flourished into a school containing over 200 students who study a variety of dance disciplines such as ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, hip hop, modern, lyrical, musical theatre, acro and ballroom.

*Fascination*  
DANCE STUDIO





## Business Sponsors

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre is grateful to the following local businesses for their generous financial contribution to the 2016 Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence celebration. Their donation towards this event reflects their sincere gratitude and understanding of the importance of early learning and child care for building a stronger Niagara.

### Primary Event Sponsor

**Louise Kool & Galt** • [www.louisekool.com](http://www.louisekool.com)

Louise Kool and Galt has worked alongside Canadian educators for more than 50 years providing quality resources, furniture, classroom equipment and early years materials. We are delighted to celebrate the exceptional commitment and achievements of Niagara's early learning community, and also to commemorate this very special 20th anniversary of the Awards of Excellence celebration.

Louise Kool and Galt is honoured to be the Primary Event Sponsor for this year's 1920s themed gala, celebrating the many reasons why *It's a Roaring Good Time to Be a Child in Niagara!* We are also grateful for our longstanding partnership with the Early Childhood Community Development Centre and are delighted to have shared this special journey with you. We wish Niagara's early learning community all the best in your remarkable work with Niagara's children and families!



presented by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre  
and primary event sponsor Louise Kool & Galt



## Business Sponsors continued

### Black Box Sponsor

PenFinancial Credit Union • [www.penfinancial.com](http://www.penfinancial.com)



### Gold Level Sponsors

A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara • [www.acw.on.ca](http://www.acw.on.ca)

Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds • [www.naturalplaygrounds.ca/](http://www.naturalplaygrounds.ca/)

St. Catharines Standard • [www.stcatharinesstandard.ca](http://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca)



**The Standard**

### Silver Level Sponsors

YMCA of Niagara • [www.ymcaofniagara.org](http://www.ymcaofniagara.org)

Pathstone Mental Health • [www.pathstonementalhealth.ca](http://www.pathstonementalhealth.ca)



### Bronze Level Sponsors

Minuteman Press • [www.niagara.minutemanpress.com](http://www.niagara.minutemanpress.com)

Meridian Credit Union • [www.meridiancu.ca](http://www.meridiancu.ca)

Jackson-Triggs Winery • [www.jacksontriggswinery.com](http://www.jacksontriggswinery.com)





## Silent Auction Donors

Amira Mirdawi • Azura Spa • Beatties Basics • Brand Blvd. • Brock University Department of Athletics • Carole Babin - Made Just For You • Cheeky Monkey's • Chocolate F/X • Christine Lever • City of Niagara Falls • City of St. Catharines • Classic Touch Hair Salon • Coppola's Ristorante • Criveller's Cakes & Pastries • Dairy Queen - Merritt Street St. Catharines • Divino Mucciante Art Photographer • DSBN - Parent & Family Literacy Centre • Embassy Suites • European Beauty Salon • Fitness Zone • Fresco's Restaurant • Irish Designs • Jennifer Mosher • Jennifer Smith • John Parker Detailing • Joseph's Estate Winery • Julie Christiannsen Counselling • Kelly Rempel - Independent Scentsy Consultant • Lina Linguine's Restaurant • Linda Bell • Lorrey Ariel Bonilla • Maria Gulla - HeART • Marolyn Carriere • Mastermind Toys • Mercedes Benz - St. Catharines • Natalie Lane • NEOB Lavender • Niagara Helicopters • Niagara Ice Dogs • Niagara Parks • OLIV Tasting Room • Ontario Science Centre • Picard's Peanuts • Pita Pit • Pla Mor Bowling • Reif Estate Winery • SCA - Barony of Rising Waters • Scholastic • Shaw Festival • Sparrow Lakes Golf Club • Steeped Tea • Stephanie Robinson - Independent Thirty One Consultant • The Willow Den • Turkstra Lumber • Turtle Pond Toys • VIA Rail • White Oaks Resort & Spa • Wright Brothers • YMCA of Niagara • Young Headz • Zippy Zoom

## Awards

A list of the winner names will be distributed at the end of the evening to insert within your memory book. Congratulations to all the individuals recognized for exceptional achievements.

### **NEW! Nurturing Children's Connections to Nature Award**

This award category honours the outstanding efforts of a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) who models professionalism and excellence in applying Ontario's Early Learning Framework *How Does Learning Happen?* in his or her daily work. This award is sponsored by Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds and the Early Childhood Community Development Centre.

### **Margaret Hamilton Student Award Winner**

Presented by the Niagara College Early Childhood Education program, this award commends a graduating student who has excelled in both academics and field placements and who is likely to make a major contribution to the early learning and child care profession during the course of his or her career.

### **Brock Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Outstanding Student Award Winner**

Presented by Brock University's Bachelor of Early Childhood Education program, this award prizes a student in his or her final year of studies who best demonstrates the standards of practice and ethics of care in both academic pursuits and contributions to the early childhood community.

### **Emergent Literacy Award**

Sponsored by Speech Services Niagara, this award recognizes a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) who demonstrates strong emergent literacy skills throughout the day and in all areas of the early learning environment.

## Awards continued

### Eco-Friendly Child Care Practices Award

This award, sponsored by Niagara Region, honours an early learning and child care program for demonstrating eco-friendly practices in all areas of its operations.

### Contributor Awards for Volunteers and Colleagues

This special award category commends the outstanding efforts of volunteers and staff members who make outstanding contributions to the success of Niagara's early learning and child care programs.

### Commitment to Continuous Professional Learning and Community Collaboration Award

Sponsored by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre and Niagara Region Children's Services, this award category recognizes the exceptional professional learning efforts of a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE). The winner of this award demonstrates remarkable efforts in the pursuit of ongoing professional learning opportunities, as well as engages in ongoing activities for the benefit of developing strong, collaborative relationships with community partners.

### Family Support Program Practitioner Award

This category prizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to family support programs in Niagara, while supporting the Four Foundations of How Does Learning Happen?

### Licensed Child Care Centre Administrator Award

Sponsored by the Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee, this award honours an exceptional administrator of a licensed child care centre who demonstrates a high level of skill and commitment in his or her administrative role as outlined by the Occupational Standards for Child Care Administrators.

### Kindergarten Team Award

This category commends teams who make outstanding contributions to strengthening Full Day Kindergarten in Niagara through the demonstration of the fundamental principles of Full Day Kindergarten amongst children and families.

### Quality Child Care Niagara Exceptional Program Award

Sponsored by the Quality Child Care Niagara Advisory Committee, this award recognizes a program that exemplifies the QCCN philosophy both within the program and in the broader community.

WE ASKED,  
YOU  
ANSWERED!

*It's a Roaring Good Time to Be a Child in  
Niagara. Because...*

- ◆ THERE IS A LOT OF CHANGE HAPPENING IN THE FIELD OF EARLY LEARNING!
- ◆ THERE ARE TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO LEARN, GROW, PARTICIPATE, AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL THAT NIAGARA HAS TO OFFER!
- ◆ THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO EXPLORE AND HAVE FUN!

## With Sincere Thanks

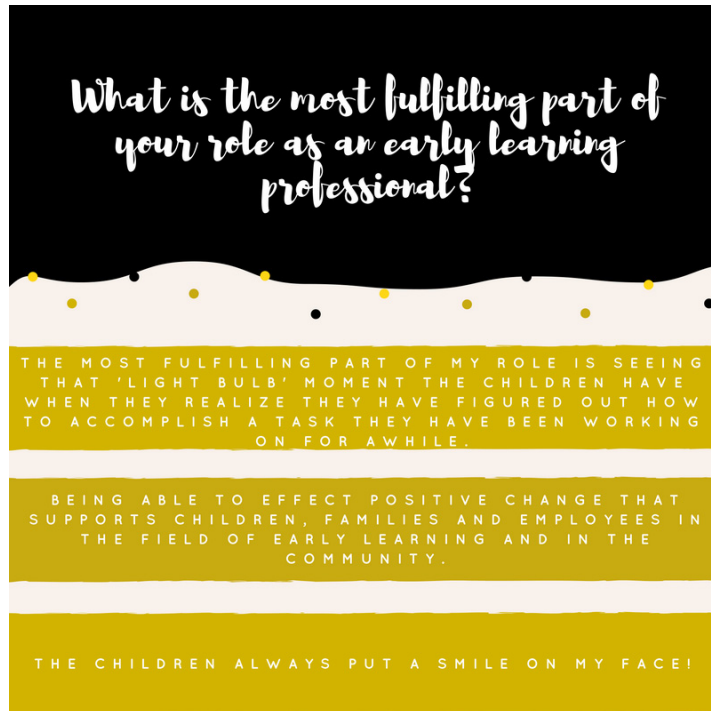
The Early Childhood Community Development Centre wishes to extend gratitude to the following individuals and agencies for supporting the 2016 Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence. Your time, support and dedication to this year's celebration is greatly appreciated and assisted us in recognizing and celebrating the outstanding achievements of Niagara's early learning and child care community.

### 2016 Niagara Early Childhood Educator Awards of Excellence Planning Committee

The ECCDC would like to express sincere thanks to this year's planning committee members and their respective organizations for ongoing advisement, support, creativity, enthusiasm and dedication in planning the evening.

### Additional Event supporters

- The Ministry of Education
- The College of Early Childhood Educators
- The Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario
- Niagara College
- Brock University
- Speech Services Niagara
- Lori Love, 105.7 EZ Rock
- District School Board of Niagara
- Niagara Catholic District School Board
- Darlene Edgar and Niagara Region Children's Services
- St. Catharines Standard for their long-standing support
- Victoria Davis and the team at the Holiday Inn and Suites St. Catharines Conference Centre for their venue coordination and longstanding support of the Awards of Excellence





## Celebrating 20 years of Excellence



If you would like to share your suggestions for next year's Awards of Excellence award categories, celebration plans, or if you are interested in participating on the 2017 planning committee, please contact the ECCDC at 905.646.7311 ext. 321 or email Lorrey Ariel Bonilla at [larial@eccdc.org](mailto:larial@eccdc.org)