



November 2019

***For Immediate Release***

**Once Upon A Time: Celebrating the Story of Niagara’s Early Learning and Child Care Community  
23rd Annual Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence Celebration**

This year’s annual Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence will celebrate the accomplishments of Niagara’s early years sector with a Storybook Gala. The event will take place Tuesday November 19, 2019 from 5:30 to 9:00 pm at the Holiday Inn & Suites on Ontario Street in St. Catharines.

The Awards of Excellence recognizes the achievements of early learning educators, students and volunteers for their expertise and commitment to children and families. This special ceremony will be hosted by 105.7 EZ Rock’s Tami Jeanneret.

More than 375 guests will attend this year’s Storybook Gala, sponsored by Louise Kool & Galt, Canada’s leading suppliers of educational resources and classroom equipment. Many local businesses are also supporting this year’s event, including; The District School Board of Niagara, Niagara Catholic District School Board, the YMCA of Niagara, A Child’s World Family Child Care Services of Niagara, Minuteman Press Niagara, Mountainview Homes, Beatties Basics and 105.7 EZ Rock.

This year’s event will also recognize the culmination of the ECCDC’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. The ECCDC’s Executive Director, Lorrey Arial Bonilla, is delighted to host this important event to showcase the collective accomplishments of Niagara’s early learning community while acknowledging a year of celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. “We have enjoyed a variety of special events this past year to commemorate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and look forward to beginning the next chapter of our journey alongside our partners, working together to help ensure Niagara’s early learning community remains strong, vibrant and rich in potential.”

The Awards of Excellence Celebration helps raise awareness of the significant contributions that high quality early childhood education programs make to community prosperity and quality of life in Niagara. The Early Childhood Community Development Centre is pleased to have many community partners presenting awards, including: Niagara College; 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; Niagara’s EarlyON Programs; and Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds.

*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 340 larial@eccdc.org.**