

*Cheers to 30 Years: Celebrating the
Commitment of Niagara's Early Learning
& Child Care Community Since 1993*

2023 Niagara Early Learning & Child Care Awards of Excellence

November 23, 2023

presented by
Early Childhood Community Development Centre



primary event sponsor
Louise Kool & Galt



Welcome & Greetings

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

On behalf of the ECCDC Board and Staff Team, we would like to thank you for joining this year's awards of excellence celebration. We were honoured to coordinate this special event to celebrate the accomplishments that each of you have made within Niagara's early learning and child care community. We recognize and appreciate the commitment and passion you bring to your work each and every day.

This year, we were also delighted to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Early Childhood Community Development Centre. We are honoured to have the opportunity to offer resources, training, and organizational supports in Niagara for three decades and counting!

We also recognize that this event would not have been possible without the generous contributions of our business sponsors. We would like to extend gratitude to our Primary Event Sponsor, Louise Kool and Galt, as well as our business sponsors, award sponsors and silent auction donors for their ongoing support of Niagara's Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence.

We would like to extend our sincere congratulations to all of the 2023 award winners, as well as recognize the outstanding accomplishments of all early learning professionals in attendance. Your collective spirit and efforts are certainly something to celebrate, and we look forward to planning an event that you will be excited to attend this coming year.

Lorrey Ariel Bonilla,
Executive Director

Kim Cole, Chair,
Board of Directors



Welcome & Greetings

Thank you to the following guests for offering greetings during this year's event, as well as offering celebratory remarks to commemorate the ECCDC's 30th anniversary. We are grateful for your ongoing support Niagara's early learning and child care community!

- Chris Bittle, Member of Parliament for St. Catharines
- Terry Ugulini, Mayor of Thorold
- Beth Deazeley, Registrar & CEO, College of Early Childhood Educators
- Erin Filby, Community Organizer, Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario
- Angela Hayes, Early Childhood Education Program, Niagara College
- Megan Robinson, Manager, Six Nations Polytechnic
- Dr. Mary Louise Vanderlee, Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Program, Brock University
- Dr. Dane Marco Di Cesare, Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Program, Brock University
- Jackie Van Lankveld, Manager of Clinical Services, Niagara Children's Centre



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Entertainment

Event Emcee

We were delighted to welcome back Aiko Iwashita of Move 105.7 Niagara to emcee this year's event!



The Strong Water Singers and Duo Leepa

Thank you to the Strong Water Singers for their special performance to open the 2023 Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence celebration! We would also like to extend gratitude to Duo Leepa for offering fantastic musical entertainment throughout the evening!



Sponsors

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre is grateful to the following businesses for their generous financial contributions to the 2023 Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence celebration. We appreciate the support of our sponsors in celebrating Niagara’s early learning professionals for the incredible work they do each day. Your contributions to this event are reflective of your recognition of the commitment and hard work that educators do to support children and families in Niagara.

Primary Event Sponsor: Louise Kool & Galt | www.louisekool.com

For more than 60 years, Louise Kool & Galt has worked alongside Canadian educators with a goal to provide quality resources, furniture, classroom equipment and early years materials.

We are delighted to celebrate the ongoing commitment and accomplishments of Niagara’s early learning community at this year’s Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence as the Primary Event Sponsor!

We are also grateful for our longstanding partnership with the Early Childhood Community Development Centre, and wish them much continued success as they celebrate their 30th anniversary as an organization!

We also wish to congratulate all of this year’s award winners! Thank you for the valuable work you do to support children and families in Niagara!



Sponsors

Pearl Sponsors

District School Board of Niagara | Mountainview Building Group

Gold Sponsors

A Child's World Family Child Care Services | YMCA of Niagara

Silver Sponsor

Niagara Catholic District School Board

Bronze Sponsors

Beam Construction | Frontier Distributing | Steele Contracting Inc.

Event Donor

Beatties



Sponsors

Silent Auction Donors

We are grateful to the following businesses for their generous donations to this year's Awards of Excellence Silent Auction!

13th Street Winery
Art Gallery of Ontario
Big Red's Market
Brand Blvd.
CAA Niagara
Carpaccio's Restaurant
City of St. Catharines
David's Tea
Greave's Jams & Marmalades
Horse Play Niagara
Let's Roam
Niagara College Teaching Brewery & Winery
Niagara Ice Dogs
Port Colborne Golf & Country Club
Shaw Festival
Tammy Horton
The Cookie Bag
The Lake House Restaurant
Way to Grow Daycare

Angela Carter Enterprise
Beechwood Golf & Country Club
Bird Kingdom
Brock Golf Course
Cardinal Lakes Golf Club
City of Niagara Falls
Colour Connection
Farm Boy
Helen's Deli
Irish Design
Little Ones Lunches
Niagara Helicopters
Niagara Parks
Reif Estate Winery
Sunshine Express Garden Centre
The Buffalo Bisons
The Keg St. Catharines
The Watering Can
YMCA of Niagara



Award Presentations

Congratulations to each of the individuals and programs recognized for their extraordinary accomplishments at this year's Awards of Excellence celebration!

EarlyON Child and Family Centre Practitioner Award

This award category recognizes a staff member from an EarlyON Child and Family Centre in Niagara that have made a significant influence in the program while supporting the Four Foundations of *How Does Learning Happen?*



Nurturing Children's Connections to Nature Award

Sponsored by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre, this award category recognizes a program that has excelled in nurturing children's connections to nature.



Early Childhood Educator Professionalism Award

This award category honours the outstanding efforts of Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) who model professionalism and excellence in applying Ontario's Early Learning Framework *How Does Learning Happen?* in his or her daily work.



Award Presentations

Margaret Hamilton Student Award

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



Eco-Friendly Child Care Practices Award

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



Exceptional Volunteer & Contributor Award

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 a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) who 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.



Award Presentations

Licensed Child Care Centre Administrator Award for Exceptional Leadership and Commitment

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.



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.



Kelly Albanese Child Care Program Inclusion Award

This category recognizes a child care program that demonstrates exceptional inclusive practice, and is sponsored by the Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee.



Licensed Home Child Care Professionalism Award

Sponsored by Niagara Region and Wee Watch, this award recognizes the outstanding practices of home child care providers.



With Gratitude

The Early Childhood Community Development Centre wishes to offer sincere thanks to many individuals and businesses for their support of the 2023 Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence. Your commitment to this year's celebration is valued as we honour the achievements of Niagara's early learning and child care community.

- **Satinder Klair** and **Niagara Region Children's Services**
- The **team at Club Roma** for their venue coordination
- **2023 Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence Planning Committee:**

Kristy Penlington, District School Board of Niagara

Lisa MacKay, District School Board of Niagara

Olivia O'Reilly, YMCA of Niagara

Stephanie Perdue, Niagara Region

Tammy Horton, A Child's World Family Child Care Services



Post-Awards Media Release

[Click here](#) to read the 2023 Awards of Excellence post-event media release.

Article in "Inside NC"

[Click here](#) to read the article "Accelerated ECE team, alumna recognized with Awards 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 2024 Awards of Excellence planning committee, please contact the ECCDC at eccdc@eccdc.org

To receive a copy of any award winner photos, please connect with us at eccdc@eccdc.org

