

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$149,900 OTF Grant from Ontario Government Expands Community Meeting Spaces, Training Facilities and Resource Lending Library Services for Niagara's Early Years and Child Care Sector

Thorold, ON – On Friday, local MPP Jeff Burch met with the team at The Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC) to celebrate a \$149,900 Capital grant from the provincial government's Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to enable the ECCDC to offer enhanced community learning and networking spaces.

"I am so happy to see funding go to this incredible organization. It most certainly is a welcome investment. As Niagara's population grows, it's very important that the ECCDC can continue to provide the proper resources to ensure our children and youth are equipped with the tools and knowledge to succeed in this ever-changing world," said Jeff Burch, MPP for Niagara Centre.

Awarded in September 2023, the grant was used to create an additional training space and expanded resource lending library and technical workroom for Niagara's early learning sector and local not for profit organizations to utilize. The new training room has been equipped with state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment, making it ideal for presentations, workshops, and other events. The enhanced resource lending library and technical workroom offers specialized space for early childhood educators to curriculum plan and network with colleagues.

"We are so grateful to receive this funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, which will allow us to better serve our early learning community," said Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Executive Director of the ECCDC. "The expansion of the training room, educator workroom, and resource lending library will provide Niagara's early years and child care community with more opportunities to learn, grow, and connect with one another."

The ECCDC is a charitable organization inspiring excellence in early learning and child care through thought leadership, cutting edge training, innovative resources, and coaching services highlighting best practices and emerging trends. The ECCDC exists so that early learning professionals are supported in offering exceptional opportunities for children to grow, learn and develop. In the 30 years since its creation by local volunteers, the ECCDC has become a leading early learning training, resource, and referral organization. For further information, please contact Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Executive Director, Early Childhood Community Development Centre at 905.646.7311 ext. 321 or larial@eccdc.org.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Ontario government with a mission to build healthy and vibrant communities across the province. Last year, OTF invested more than \$110M into 1,044 community projects and multi-sector partnerships. Projects aim to enhance economic well-being, foster more active lifestyles, support child and youth development, provide spaces for people to come together and connect, and create a more sustainable environment. Visit otf.ca to learn more.