



November 2018: For Immediate Release

Celebrating Our Roots and Cultivating the Spirit of Collaboration! 22nd 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 achievements of Niagara's early years sector with an English Garden Style Gala. The event will take place today, from 5:30 to 9:00 pm at the Holiday Inn & Suites on Ontario Street in St. Catharines.

The Awards of Excellence recognizes the expertise and dedication of educators, students and volunteers involved in Niagara's early learning, kindergarten, and child care programs for their knowledge and commitment to children and families. This special ceremony will be hosted by 105.7 EZ Rock's Tami Jeanneret. Also present will be Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner of Community Services and Darlene Edgar, Director of Children's Services with the Niagara Region. Beth Deazeley, Registrar & CEO and Cynthia Abel, Manager of Registration and Member Services of the College of Early Childhood Educators will also be joining us. Also in attendance will be Amy O'Neil, Board Member of the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario. The Awards of Excellence are coordinated by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC).

More than 375 guests will attend this year's English Garden style gala, sponsored by Louise Kool & Galt, Canada's leading suppliers of educational resources and classroom equipment. Many local businesses also support the event, including; The YMCA of Niagara, A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara, Minuteman Press Niagara, Mountainview Homes, 105.7 EZ Rock and The St. Catharines Standard.

The ECCDC's Executive Director, Lorrey Arial Bonilla, is pleased to be celebrating the ECCDC's 25th Anniversary this evening as well. "We look forward to commemorating 25 years of service throughout the year beginning with this gala evening. We are grateful for the many business sponsors and not for profit organizations who make it possible for us to recognize the valuable contributions of Niagara's early learning sector each year with the Awards of Excellence."

The Early Learning and Child Care 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, Brock University, Quality Child Care Niagara, Niagara Region Children's Services, Speech Services Niagara, Niagara Child Care Sector Executive, Niagara's Inclusive Child Care Supports Committee, District School Board of Niagara, Niagara Catholic District School Board, 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.

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