



early childhood community development centre
ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT

April 2012 to March 2013



Mission

The ECCDC helps early learning and care providers achieve their early learning and care goals by making it easier and cost effective for them to obtain the highly specialized products, services, training, and technologies they require.

Vision

We envision that early learning and care programs and providers are:

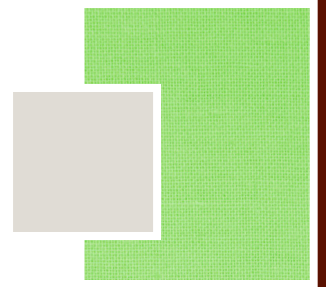
- successful, innovative, and professional; and
- respected by their community for their contributions to the healthy development of children, the wellness of families, and the prosperity of their communities

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OUR COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY



A Message from the Board of Directors and Interim Executive Director

Thank you for inspiring us to be our best!

Niagara's early learning and child care sector is the envy of many communities across Canada. The ECCDC takes great pride in being a part of this success and we are honoured to belong to such an outstanding team of community partners. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services and Niagara Region Children's Services were instrumental in the founding of the ECCDC and as we celebrate our 20th anniversary year, we are thrilled these ongoing partnerships continue to be based on collaboration, support, and deep respect. We are also fortunate that we have been able to work with so many other amazing organizations and individuals through our project partnerships, community initiatives, and the day-to-day operation of the Centre itself.

Looking back on all that the ECCDC and Niagara's early learning and child care community has accomplished in the last year is bittersweet for many of us. The ECCDC's founding executive director, Tammy McCormick Ferguson has had to take time away from the role she so loved in order to pursue treatment for a rare and debilitating medical condition. While staff transitions are a fact of life in all organizations, they often resonate more deeply in a close-knit community like ours. Staff transitions at the ECCDC and among our community partners have been amplified by the rapidly changing landscape of early learning and child care across the province.

In considering what has sustained the ECCDC during this period of accelerated change, we have come to the conclusion that it is the same thing that will help Niagara's early learning and child care sector continue to lead the way and serve as a role model for other communities. It is more than our ongoing passion and commitment to being at our best every day for one another and for the organizations, individuals, families, and children we serve. It is also more than our deeply held belief that it is always possible to be even more successful tomorrow than we are right now. It is the care and attention we put into the work we do each day to sustain this momentum.

As you review the highlights of the ECCDC's activities this past year, we're confident you'll see the many ways we've enhanced the services we provide, while building on our strategic directions of being responsive to the changing needs of early learning and child care, strengthening and expanding stakeholder relations, while maintaining continued service excellence and a professional reputation. Additionally, you'll see how these enhancements have been inspired by you — our project partners, stakeholders and members, and by Niagara families themselves. You are truly the source of all of the ECCDC's innovation, professionalism, and success. Thank you for helping us be at our best!

Gay Douglas Broerse, ECCDC Board Chair
Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Interim Executive Director



Board of Directors

Debbie Bent, Secretary/Treasurer
 Kendall Cappellazzo, Director
 Lisa DeGasperis, Director
 Gay Douglas Broerse, Chair
 Shelley Fehrman, Director
 Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Ex-officio
 Kristine Qua, Vice-president
 Dean Stunt, Director
 Kim Cole, Director

Staff Members

Lorrey Arial Bonilla, Interim Executive Director, 17 years
 Judy Arnott, Program Support Manager (retired June 2012), 17 years
 Kelly Ann Bol, Early Learning and Child Care Resource Consultant, 3 years
 Darlene Drouin, Information Systems Administrator, 4 years
 Heidi Fallowfield, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant, 5 months
 Kristin Fox, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant, 1 year

Mary Joan Furtney, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant, 7 years

Andrea Hannen, Communication/Marketing Consultant (contract)

Jennifer Havens, Early Learning & Child Care Program Consultant, 5 years

Shari Hill, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant, 5 years

Jodi Lacasse, Early Learning & Child Care/QCCN Program Consultant, 5 years

Tammy McCormick, Executive Director (medical leave September 2012), 20 years

Cheryl McMillan, Finance & I.T. Infrastructure Manager, 18 years

Jennifer Mosher, Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant, 6 years

Casey Perreault, Bilingual Early Learning & Child Care Resource Consultant, 1 month

Christina Ramanauskas, Administrative Assistant, Training & Resource Services, 1 year

Glory Ressler, Community Development & Projects Manager (contract ended May 2012), 7 years

Julie Thompson, Publications Administrator, 13 years

Students & Volunteers

The ECCDC is pleased to partner with Niagara College Early Childhood Education Department and Brock University Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Department to offer students innovative field placement/internship opportunities.



With Gratitude

The ECCDC wishes to recognize Niagara Region Children's Services for its ongoing partnership, support and investment in the ECCDC's mission within Niagara's early learning and child care community

Project Partners

- Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario
- Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara
- Louise Kool and Galt
- Niagara Community Foundation
- Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- Ontario Ministry of Education
- Ontario Trillium Foundation

Awards of Excellence Event Sponsor

- Louise Kool & Galt

Awards of Excellence Business Sponsors

- Sun Media Niagara
- MinuteMan Press
- Pen Financial
- Meridian Credit Union
- Westpier Marine & Industrial Supply
- A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara
- Henderson' Pharmacy
- Gay Douglas & Associates

Awards of Excellence Silent Auction Donors

- Antipastos
- Beatties Fresh Flower Market
- Beechwood Golf & Country Club
- Bikefit Inc.
- BP Sports Park
- Broadway Lights Dance Studio
- Brock University
- Canyon Creek Chophouse
- Charlie's General Maintenance Inc.
- Cheeky Monkeys

- Classic Touch
- Cock A Doodle Diner
- Coppola's Ristorante
- Cornelia's Hand Made Beaded Jewelry
- Cosell-Dorken
- Duffs Pizzeria
- Easy Spaces
- Fabricland
- First Choice Hair Cutters
- Fresco's
- Games-A-Lot
- Gymnastics Energy
- Gypsy Alley
- Holiday Inn Suites St Catharines
- Jeelee Joolery
- Kissing Bridge
- Lina Linguine's Pasta & Grille
- Little Goobers Indoor Playground
- Manhattan Hair Studio
- Marriot Courtyard
- Midas Muffler
- Needle Magic
- Niagara Clifton Group
- Niagara Helicopters
- Niagara Parks Commission
- Norwex
- One Source Moving Solutions for Seniors
- Ontario Science Centre
- Pharmasave Carlton
- Pinnacle Restaurant
- Play Mor Bowling
- Puddy's Bar & Grill
- Purseonally Yours
- Ricochet Water
- Rossi Glass
- Royal Bank of Canada
- Rozie's Breakfast Café
- Runner's Edge
- Shaw Festival Theatre
- Shop4you Niagara
- Speech Services Niagara
- Tammy's Creative Cakes & Treats
- Tangled Yoga
- The Blue Star

Awards of Excellence Silent Auction Donors

- The Book Depot
- The Willow Den
- Thirty-One
- Thread Tales
- Turtle Pond Toys
- Volcano Pizzeria
- Whirlpool Jet Boat
- Wright Brothers
- YMCA of Niagara
- Yoga by Nadia
- Yoga by Sarah
- Young Headz

Community Partners

- A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara
- Adolescent's Family Support Services of Niagara
- Autism Spectrum Disorders School Support Program, McMaster Children's Hospital
- Awards of Excellence Planning Advisory Committee *and affiliate organizations*
- Brock University
- Business Education Council
- Centre de santé communautaire Hamilton/Niagara
- Centre Éducatif les p'Tigroux
- College of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario
- Contact Niagara
- District School Board of Niagara
- Early Years Niagara Planning Council *and affiliate organizations*
- Family and Children's Services Niagara
- Garderie les Coccinelles Zélées
- Kiwanis Clubs of Niagara
- La Boîte à Soleil Coop Inc
- Literacy Link Niagara
- Niagara Aboriginal Children's Planning Council *and affiliate organizations*
- Niagara Best Start French Language Advisory Committee *and affiliate organizations*

- Niagara Child Care Sector Executive Committee *and affiliate organizations*
- Niagara College Canada
- Niagara Catholic District School Board
- Niagara Nursery School
- Niagara Region Children's Services and Public Health Department
- Niagara's Public Libraries
- Ontario Early Years Centres, Family Resource Programs and Parent Family Literacy Centres of Niagara
- Quality Child Care Niagara *and affiliate organizations*
- Pathstone Mental Health
- Ridley College
- Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care
- Speech Services Niagara
- YMCA of Niagara

Members

- 160 group memberships, encompassing nearly 1000 educators
- 142 individual members

The ECCDC couldn't fulfill its mission without the ongoing investment and involvement of:

- Licensed child care centres
- Licensed home child care agencies
- Ontario Early Years Centres, Parent Family Literacy Centres, and Family Support Programs
- Special Needs Agencies
- Early Years Support Agencies
- All School Boards in Niagara
- Early learning & child care practitioners
- Individuals involved in home child care and home schooling
- Recreational services for children

We thank each and every one of you for your ongoing commitment to providing quality early learning and child care services for Niagara families.

Professional Learning Opportunities for Early Learning & Child Care Practitioners

- 3,243 participants served
- 163 sessions offered
- 414 training hours delivered

In 2012, the ECCDC delivered community training sessions for RECEs, teachers, managers, supervisors, administrators, and home child care practitioners.

Customized training for local child care organizations

- 570 participants served
- 21 sessions delivered

A collaborative professional learning opportunity was also offered in partnership with Brock University, Niagara College, District School Board of Niagara and Niagara District School Board, attracting an additional 152 professionals from Niagara's early years sector.

Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence

- 332 participants involved
- 66 awards presented
- 9 local business sponsors
- 90 local silent auction donors

The ECCDC partnered with the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario (AECEO) to host this annual event, which has grown to be one of the largest of its kind in the country. The Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence provides an important opportunity for our early learning and child care community to recognize all of the exceptional efforts of Registered Early Childhood Educators and other early years professionals who support Niagara's youngest children and their families and also offers area businesses an avenue to express their appreciation of Niagara's early learning and child care programs and the important role these programs play in the local economy.



Relationships for Early Learning & Child Care with Rod Peturson and Karen Calligan of the Ministry of Education, May 2012



2012 Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence

Resource Lending Library Services

- 3,000 educational items made available to the community
- 4,972 resource loans to Niagara educators
- 162 new, bilingual play-based learning kits added

The ECCDC's lending library of developmentally appropriate materials provides Niagara's early learning and child care community with access to a wealth of learning resources that can be integrated into educators' daily program planning activities. These resources are designed for use with a range of ages and abilities and have been carefully selected to stimulate children's imaginations, promote their language and cognitive development, and advance their self-help skills and social and emotional growth.

Each of the ECCDC's play-based learning kits now contains a reference page that early learning and child care professionals may use to link resources and materials to the College of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario's *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*, Quality Child Care Niagara's (QCCN) Developmental Reference Charts (and other QCCN tools), Ontario's Early Learning Framework: Early Learning For Every Child Today, and The Full-Day Early Learning-Kindergarten Program. This reference page also includes a description of each play-based learning kit's overall learning concept, to assist educators in supporting children's development and interests in a variety of curriculum areas.

"Today, various African themed books were displayed for the children as well as African costumes that were brought in by the ECCDC. Some of the children decided to try on the costumes, as did some of

the parents. I played the African music CD and provided those children dressed in costumes, several of the authentic African instruments to explore and play with. The children quickly began to dance around the room. Collectively these children had cooperated in the creation of their own village community. The children's individual imaginations would assist in inspiring not only the construction of the "African Village" but also each other ... This is a perfect example of social constructivism, learning collectively based on previous knowledge."

The Team at the OEYC Niagara Falls

Workroom & Learning Café

- 2,457 user visits
- 7 group tours
- 2928 service hours provided

Educators, volunteers and others involved in early learning and child care count on the ECCDC workroom for access to all of the tools and supplies they need to plan and prepare engaging, play-based learning opportunities for Niagara's children. Some of the tools available include: die press shapes and cutters, laminators, colour photocopier and printer, button-makers and a poster printer. The adjacent learning café is also an important hub for sharing ideas and expertise, networking and informal meetings. Some of the groups visiting the ECCDC workroom and learning café in 2012 include: the Niagara College ECE Program, Niagara College Aboriginal Pre-Apprenticeship Program, St. John Centre's English Language Training for Child Care, Brock University Bachelor of ECE Program and Bachelor of Education Program, and Niagara College French ECE Program.

Resource Library and Workroom Exclusive Use Bookings

- 15 early learning and child care centre bookings
- 173 individuals in attendance

ECCDC group members have the option of booking the ECCDC Resource Library, Workroom and Learning Café facilities for special training, program planning and resource identification events exclusively for their staff and volunteers. These events are vital to the ongoing success and advancement of Niagara's early learning and care sector, as they allow programs and centres of all sizes and budgets to stay current on the latest classroom innovations and build the cohesiveness of their educator teams in ways that wouldn't otherwise be possible.

Grab 'N Go Learning Activities

- 4 "grab 'n go" campaigns developed
- 200 new learning activity ideas shared

ECCDC Grab 'N Go kits include everything an educator needs to deliver a fantastic early learning experience for children, including at least five different activities per kit, all for one low purchase price. The ECCDC also developed a variety of other specialty products and made them available for purchase on a cost-recovery basis, including Observation & Documentation Tools, Mentoring Toolkits, Occupational Standard Checklists, and more.

Child Care Choices

- 90 families supported

Every year, the ECCDC team responds to calls from parents looking for information related to child care. Common questions

include the types of care available; how to choose quality; finding care for children with special needs; and accessing child care subsidy and family resource programs.

Program Support for Early Learning and Child Care Programs

- 102 program/centre visits made
- 1,000 early learning staff supported

One of the most important ways the ECCDC contributes to the stability of early learning and child care programs in Niagara and facilitates their ongoing success is through on-site visits to centres. These visits are customized to the specific needs of the client. ECCDC staff may highlight developmentally appropriate materials, provide program planning support, assist with environmental scans and room arrangement, or offer guidance with teacher/child interactions with CLASS and CIS. The ECCDC may also share expertise in strategic planning, program administration, staff scheduling, financial management, team building, communicating with parents and/or in maintaining ethical relationships. During this service period, a number of board development consultations were also conducted.

"Parents and staff love the suggested room design changes. The children have so much more space to play in the areas they love most, and they absolutely love the large blocks you suggested. It has been something we have wanted to do for so long and we really appreciated your insight and expertise."

The Team at Grapeview Daycare

Professional Networks Developed and Maintained

- 15 professional networks received support
- 131 network participants engaged

ECCDC staff provided coordination and facilitation services to the following network groups: supervisors, Francophone supervisors, cooks, frontline staff, nursery school co-op teachers, and early years emergent practices.

Quality Child Care Niagara Training

- 44 training sessions coordinated
- 619 participants served

Now in its tenth year, QCCN has benefited thousands of children in Niagara by enhancing the quality of early learning and care provided within licensed child care programs. The standardized, research-based approach has provided training sessions to support the development of high quality child care environments, developmental and behaviour focused screening for all children, standardized documentation inclusive of parent surveys, developmental program planning, and coordinated access to supports and services through Speech Services Niagara, Pathstone Mental Health Services, and other community agencies. The ECCDC has been a proud partner in the design and implementation of QCCN and the coordination of training sessions.

Computer technical support and software training

- 75 individuals supported

The ECCDC helped Niagara's early learning and child care programs keep pace with technology by offering consultations on common hardware and software concerns,

upgrades, repairs, and security issues as well as support with Quality Child Care Niagara Statistical Reporting and Parent Direct Niagara.

Parent Direct Niagara

- 452 unique service listings
- 8,973 site visits
- 4,095 page views

The official launch of Parent Direct Niagara took place in the spring of 2012. This new community resource has become a well-used one through a comprehensive marketing plan that saw 63,000 posters, brochures, magnets and referral cards distributed and a radio announcement and newspaper advertisement campaign. Community agencies and library CEOs from across Niagara were engaged via presentations and all District School Board of Niagara and Niagara District Catholic District School Board kindergarten students received magnets and flyers to take home.

Niagara Child Care Sector Executive & Inclusive Child Care Supports Committees

The ECCDC contributes to the success of these important community organizations by providing professional administrative supports, including the maintenance of minutes, reports, and file archives in Web-accessible formats, email distribution, document design, and much more.

Work Experience for Students of Early Childhood Education Programs

- Four student placements hosted

The ECCDC regularly hosts work placements for the Niagara College Early Childhood Education Department and the Brock University Bachelor of Early

Childhood Education and Child Studies Service Learning Opportunities. These placements help build a sense of connection between students studying in Niagara and Niagara's early learning and child care community, providing the students with skills and contacts that will enhance their careers.

"I enjoyed coming into placement and always working on something new, every day was a surprise. I appreciate how every person at the ECCDC made me feel like a valued member of the centre. In seminars they teach about work relationships and how to work as a team, and this centre is a perfect example of a team that works well together and accepts each other's differences. I hope that someday when I am out in the field I will get the pleasure to work with many of you. I know that this is my last day of placement and as sad as I am to be finished I know that once the new year comes and I'm back in school I'll be around to gather resources to use in my next placement. Thank you to everyone for making my third term placement successful and enjoyable."

Niagara College Early Childhood Education Student, Danielle Thorn

Supports for Home Child Care Providers

- 600 home child care providers served
- 9 professional learning opportunities offered
- 4 issues of Quiet Times published

Informal care providers working from their homes have long counted on the ECCDC to help them launch their businesses, keep enhancing their skills and maintain their ongoing commitment to quality care.



Past is Present Wrap-up Celebration
March 2013

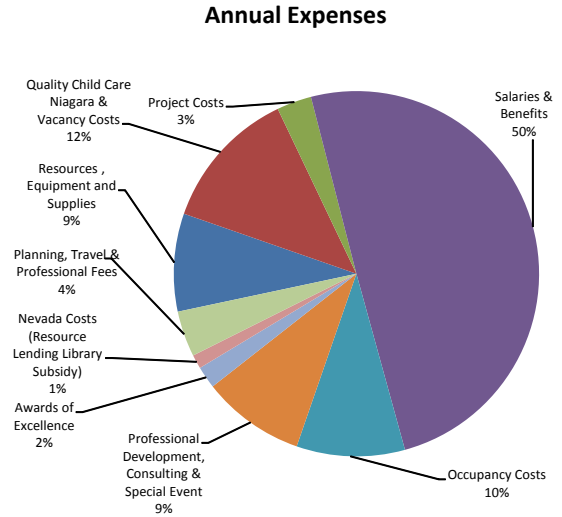
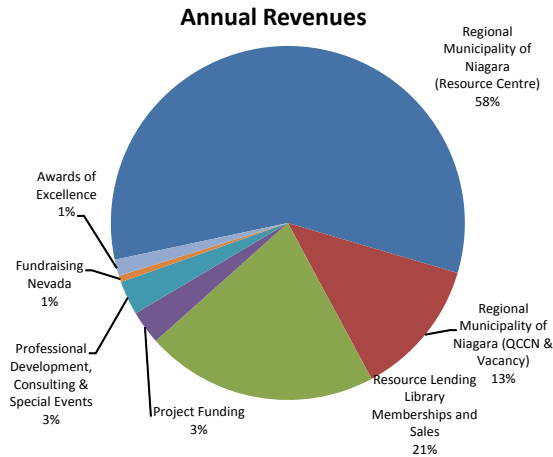


Bullying is Not a Game Session
November 2012



Let's Get Physical Workshop
October 2012

2012/13 FINANCIAL REPORT



ECCDC Statement of Operations Year ended March 31, 2013

Annual Revenues

Regional Municipality of Niagara (Resource Centre)	657,890
Regional Municipality of Niagara (QCCN & Vacancy)	143,089
Resource Lending Library Memberships and Sales	241,392
Project Funding (Ontario Trillium Foundation, Ministry of Children and Youth Services and Niagara Community Foundation)	34,998
Professional Development, Consulting & Special Events	35,341
Fundraising Nevada	6,716
Awards of Excellence	16,980
Total Gross Revenues	1,136,406

Annual Expenses

Resources, Equipment and Supplies (Resource Centre)	98,544
Quality Child Care Niagara & Vacancy Costs	143,089
Project Costs	34,998
Salaries & Benefits	565,477
Occupancy Costs	109,042
Professional Development, Consulting & Special Event Costs	103,632
Awards of Excellence Costs	22,307
Nevada Costs (Resource Lending Library Subsidy)	14,078
Planning, Travel & Professional Fees	46,054
Surplus General Operating Funds allocated to Emergency & Technology Funds	
Total Gross Expenses	1,137,221
Gross Revenues over Expenses	(815)

Awards of Excellence and Nevada previous year's Funds allocated to 2013	12,689
General Operating Surplus	11,874
General Operating Surplus allocated to Technology and Emergency Funds	(11,874)

Auditors: Steinbachs & Chapelle, Niagara Falls. A complete set of audited statements is available upon request



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