



early childhood community development centre

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Celebrating Our Roots and Cultivating the Spirit of Collaboration Local Early Learning & Child Care Professionals Honoured in Special Ceremony

St. Catharines: More than 70 Early Learning Professionals, volunteers and students received recognition last evening at the 22nd Annual Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence celebration at the Holiday Inn & Suites in St. Catharines Conference Centre. The event was coordinated by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC).

There were close to 400 guests in attendance at the English Garden style gala, sponsored by **Louise Kool & Galt**, Canada's leading suppliers of classroom resources and equipment. Five local businesses also supported the event, including: **Gold Level Sponsors YMCA of Niagara and the St. Catharines Standard; Silver Level Sponsor A Child's World Family Child Care Services of Niagara and Bronze Level Sponsors Minuteman Press Niagara and Mountainview Homes.** Many other businesses contributed items for the silent auction fundraiser.

The ECCDC was pleased to have **Tami Jeanneret** of 105.7 EZ Rock emcee the event. We would like to extend gratitude to 105.7 EZ Rock for sponsoring her attendance. The entertainment for the evening was provided by **Ryan Defoe and JAQ – Just Another Quartet.**

Two new awards were showcased at this year's celebration. **The Licensed Home Child Care Professionalism Award** was presented to Bernice Denning-Triepel, Hariana Martinez-Flores, Gabriela Mata and Arpana Nautiyal. The Catechist Sisters of the Sacred Heart Daycare was honoured with the very first **Kelly Albanese Memorial Inclusion Award** for their outstanding efforts to incorporate inclusive practices within their daily activities. Various longstanding awards were presented, including; **The Contributor Award for Volunteers and Colleagues.** This year's award winners were: A Child's World Administration Team – Katherine Martin, Marena Doucette, Chris McIntosh, Cathy Wittmaier, Jenn Thomas, Tammy O'Hara, Barb Archer & Maria Caro, Nicole Belair, Liz Beyer, Jeannine Ceravolo, Judy Feely, Aishe Fortune, Yvon Gratton, Stephanie Groff, Dana Jokic, Iman Kadourah, Ushany Kanagediran, Jennifer Lasovich, Brittani Morgan, Miranda Pavlik, Cory Porter, Emily Poulin, Rebecca Saylor, Saira Umar, and Peter Westveer. **The Brock Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Outstanding Student Award** was proudly presented to Maxeen Smith and the **Margaret Hamilton Graduating Student Award** was presented to Bele Kassa. A Child's World – Princess Margaret was the recipient of the **Eco Friendly Child Care Practices Award**, while Winnifred Willems and Hillary Rozon were honoured through the **Emergent Literacy Award.** **The Kindergarten Team Excellence Award** was given to Melissa Wigglesworth, Brenda Koch, Melissa Mead, Kay Clark, Mira Milicivec, Chelsey D'uva, Maria DiPietro, Stephanie Vandermeer, Katrina Grosman & Sandi Sherwood for their outstanding contributions, and Kim Cole was honoured through the **Licensed Child Care Administrator Award.** **The Commitment to Continuous Professional Learning Award** was extended to Kathryn Calcott for all of her meaningful contributions. Karen Colosi, Gloria Hincapie and Margaret White were recognized in the **EarlyON and Family Centres Practitioner Award** category, and the **Quality Child Care Niagara Exceptional Program Award** recognized Trail Ridge Montessori School for their outstanding contributions. A Child's World – Princess Margaret was honoured in the **Nurturing Children's Connection to Nature** category, and **The Early Childhood Educator Professionalism Award** was presented to Manon Brochu, Cathy Edkins, Laura Eldred, Heather Forrest, Alicia Gauvin, Joy Hibbs, Micki Horton, Melanie Huot, Tina Keza Namara, Johanna Kingdon, Lyndsay Newton, Katherine Parker, Desiree Plentai, Ashley Reeh, Fatma Shockry, Sarah Smith, Stephanie Woodcock, and Vicky Zhu for their meaningful contributions.



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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. In the more than 20 years since its creation by local volunteers, the ECCDC has become Canada's leading early learning training, resource and referral organization.

