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## OTF Helps ECCDC Improve Online Resources for Early Childhood Educators

In 2021, the Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC), a charitable organization based in Thorold, received a \$68,600 Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). This grant project, which concluded this spring, has allowed ECCDC to improve the affordability and accessibility of online training, resources, and supports for early childhood educators in Niagara and across Ontario.

“I’m very pleased that the Early Childhood Community Development Centre was successful in obtaining this grant,” said Niagara Centre MPP Jeff Burch. “Early Childhood Educators are integral to the growth of healthy families in our community. It’s important that those educators are able to keep up with the latest information to augment their skills. This grant ensured that could happen, despite the unique challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The ECCDC was established in 1993 and offers cutting edge training, educational resources, and organizational supports for early learning programs. ECCDC was awarded these funds to purchase a variety of technology tools to help meet the remote training and resource needs of early learning and child care communities in Niagara and across Ontario. The grant enabled 8,000 Early Childhood Educators to access a diverse range of online professional learning opportunities and classroom resources provided through a delivery service and remote organizational supports, which are needed for maintaining quality early learning environments during an ever-changing time.

ECCDC Executive Director, Lorrey Arial Bonilla, extends the organization’s gratitude. “We are grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for recognizing the critical role that early childhood educators play in supporting the growth and development of Ontario’s youngest children while ensuring that families can participate fully in the workforce. The COVID-19 pandemic created many barriers for early learning programs, and having access to remote services and online learning opportunities helped educators continue offering exceptional opportunities for children to learn, grow, and play”.

- 30 -

*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 28 years since its creation by local volunteers, the ECCDC has become Canada’s leading early learning training, resource and referral organization.*

*The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) mission is to build healthy and vibrant communities across Ontario. As an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada’s leading granting foundations, last year, OTF invested nearly \$209M into 2,042 community projects and partnerships, which included funding for the Government of Ontario’s Community Building Fund. Since 2020, OTF has supported Ontario’s economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit [otf.ca](http://otf.ca) to learn more.*

For more information please visit [www.eccdc.org](http://www.eccdc.org)



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