



Association of  
**Early Childhood Educators**  
Nova Scotia

# AWARDS BROCHURE

*Revised April 2024*

Recognizing excellence, professionalism and commitment in our ECE's is important and we believe one way to do that is by nominating an ECE or a program for one of these awards.

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## NOMINATION PROCESS

Overall, these rules apply to all nominations. Please see individual awards for specific requirements for each award.

Please select the award(s) for which you would like to nominate an ECE or program and then proceed to the award to find the nomination requirements for each award.

Please submit your nominations by email and send any supporting materials as attachments. Any documentation that cannot be attached, please send by mail or drop off to the AECENS office. Payments can be made by e-Transfer or cheque and must be received by the application deadlines.

**The application deadline for all awards is May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**Tickets to the awards luncheon are included in the Symposium registration. For award recipients who do not wish to attend the Symposium an option to purchase a ticket to the luncheon will be provided.**



## Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Program 20+ Service Award

### Description:

The ECCE 20+ Service Award honours licensed Early Childhood Education programs in Nova Scotia which have been providing services to children and families for 20 years or more. It recognizes the long-standing commitment that the ECE program has demonstrated to their community, families, children, and our province.

### Nomination information:

- Name of Centre
- Date opened
- Brief History of your Centre (one paragraph or 10 lines)
- Why your centre was founded
- Who was the founder
- How it has grown
- Dreams for the centre
- Anything else you would like to add

**Recipients will Receive:** Pewter Plaque and Certificate

**Nomination Fee: no fee**



## **Early Childhood Education Commitment to Care Service Award**

*Presented by the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia  
For AECENS members only*

### **Description:**

*Caring for* and educating young children is one of the most important occupations in our society. These awards are an extension to the ECLC Awards of Excellence for Program or Practice and the Caring at Work Awards in Nova Scotia.

The Association of Early Childhood Educators of Nova Scotia (AECENS) is offering the opportunity for ECEs to be recognized by colleagues for their years of dedication and service to Early Childhood Education. These practitioners and the programs they offer both provide care and nurturing to young children and have an impact on each child's life that lasts a lifetime.

Only AECENS members are eligible for the ECE Commitment to Care Award. To recognize your colleagues please submit the appropriate nomination form below.

Requirements for this award:

- Years of Commitment working in Early Childhood Education. Must currently work in a recognized early learning and care program in Nova Scotia and have been in the field for a specific number of years i.e.: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 or 26 and up.
- Workplace history (must provide names of work places, years of commitment, contact person) see form below.
- Nominee must be a current AECENS member to receive this award. To become a member now please click [here](#).

**Nomination Information:**

- Name
- AECENS Membership #
- Workplace
- University/College Name
- Diploma or Degree
- Graduation Year
- Current Classification Level
- Number of Years of Service

**Recipients will Receive:** Lapel Pin and Certificate

**Nomination Fee:**

If nominating 10 or more individuals at the same time you will receive a 25% discount.

Nominee holding a Level 2 or 3 Certification (receive a pin and certificate) \$15 + HST

Nominee holding a Level 1 (will receive a certificate) \$10 + HST



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## Early Childhood Learning and Care (ECLC) Awards of Excellence for Program

### Description:

Educating and Caring for young children is one of the most important occupations in our society. The programs that provide early learning and care to young children have an impact on each child's life that lasts a lifetime.

**The ECLC Award of Excellence for Program** honour will be awarded to a Nova Scotia early childhood education program that provides outstanding and high-quality early childhood care and learning to the children enrolled in the program.

### Nomination Information:

#### Nominee must:

- be an early learning and care program (regulated center, pre-primary or family child care agency) operating in Nova Scotia with no conditions on the license (if applicable).
- provide an Early Childhood Learning and Care program for at least nine months of the year
- have operated their program for at least five years.
- demonstrate a commitment to high-quality programs for children
- demonstrate a commitment to high-quality work environment for staff in their program
- demonstrate a commitment to involvement with parents, families and community
- demonstrate innovation and creativity in the provision of services

#### Nominator must:

- provide concrete examples and details to show how the nominee has met the selection criteria and explain the impact of the program
- highlight the overall achievements of the program
- illustrate the outstanding achievements of the nominee and clearly explain why the Program should receive the ECLC Award of Excellence

**Contents of the nomination package should include:**

- Signed application
- Nomination text
- Letters of support that provide evidence of the nominee's excellence and achievements under all of the selection criteria. A single letter may address one or several the selection criteria. Letters should not exceed one page and must be signed by the author. Letters may come from anyone with direct knowledge of the accomplishments of the nominee, however, letters from parents, children, peers, and professional associations are particularly effective.

**Description of program including:**

- Mission
- Program philosophy
- Numbers and ages of children
- Number of families served (currently)
- Program methodology (example, Montessori, Emergent, etc.)
- Number of staff
- Relevant history
- Evidence that the program holds a valid license issued by the NS Department of Education and Early Childhood Development with no conditions (not applicable for pre-primary programs)
- Evidence that the program has been in operation for five or more years.
- a description of the nominated program
- evidence that the nominated program has been in operation for more than 5 years.

A committee of Administrators will review and evaluate the nomination packages to select the winner.

**Recipients will Receive:** A framed certificate and a prize valued at \$300

**Nomination Fee:** There is no fee





## Early Childhood Learning and Care (ECLC) Awards of Excellence for Practice

### Description:

Educating and Caring for young children is one of the most important occupations in our society. The educators and programs that provide early learning and care to young children have an impact on each child's life that lasts a lifetime.

The Early Childhood Learning and Care (ECLC) Awards of Excellence for Practice honours the exceptional accomplishments and dedication of Educators.

This honour will be awarded to an individual Early Childhood Educator working in the Nova Scotia Early Childhood Education sector who consistently demonstrates best practices in their care of young children and an outstanding dedication to the children they care for and to the early childhood education profession.

### Nomination Information:

- The Nominee must work in an early learning and care program in Nova Scotia, either a regulated center-based program, pre-primary or family home attached to a licensed facility/agency
- The Nominee must work a minimum of 20 hours per week providing early childhood education and care to young children
- The Nominee must provide evidence of post-secondary training in early childhood learning and care in the form of:
  - Degree, diploma, or certificate in early childhood education or
  - Successful completion of the Early Childhood Education Recognition of Prior Learning Program or
- The Nominee from a family child care home must have proof of completion of training in family child care
- The Nominee must have worked in an Early Childhood Education Program for at least 3 years
- Nominators may be any person or group with direct knowledge of the nominee's contribution.

- A committee of Early Childhood Educators will review and evaluate the nomination packages to select the winner.
- Nomination text should include how the nominee exhibits the following selection criteria:
  - Commitment and support to Children’s growth & development
  - Commitment and support to Families
  - Commitment and support to their ECE Program
  - Commitment and leadership in the ECE Profession
  - Uses innovative and creative ECE program approaches
- Provide concrete examples and details to show how the nominee has met the selection criteria and explain the impact of the nominee’s efforts.
- Focus on the overall achievements of the nominee.
- Each nomination package must include a completed copy of the application.
- Applications must be signed by the nominee and nominator
- The nomination package illustrates the outstanding achievements of the nominee and clearly explains why the Practitioner should receive the ECLC Award of Excellence.

**Contents of the nomination package should include:**

- Signed application
- Nomination text
- Letters of support that provide evidence of the nominee’s excellence and achievements under all of the selection criteria. A single letter may address one or several the selection criteria. Letters should not exceed one page and must be signed by the author. Letters may come from anyone with direct knowledge of the accomplishments of the nominee, however, letters from parents, children, peers, and professional associations are particularly effective.
- Evidence of nominee’s training in ECE (copy of degree, diploma or certificate showing completion of training)
- Evidence of Nominee’s experience
- Type of setting
- Ages of children in the nominee’s care:
- The Nominee works for a minimum of 3 days per week providing ECE to young children.
- There is evidence included in this package that the ECLC setting in which the nominee works is licensed or a pre-primary program.

- There is evidence included in the package that the nominee has worked in an ECE program for at least three years.
- There is evidence of the nominee's training in early childhood education included in this package.

Additional optional support materials may be included such as, photos with captions, sample of children's work/activities, media activities, additional letters of support, a curriculum vitae etc.

**Recipients will Receive:** A framed certificate, pin, and a prize valued at \$300

**Nomination Fee:** There is no fee



## Caring At Work Award

### Description:

The **Caring at Work Award** is an opportunity to recognize individual early learning and care practitioners for their amazing work in our field. This is an opportunity for **YOU** to recognize your fellow practitioners for their excellence in Early Learning and Care. **You** can nominate that person from your Early Childhood Program or organization for a **Caring at Work Award!** Let's celebrate the amazing practitioners in our midst and share their stories of commitment and success!

When you nominate an Early Learning and Care Practitioner, you will receive a **Caring at Work Award** certificate and a pin to present to your nominee in recognition of their exceptional care and dedication! Your nominee's name will be listed along with other **Caring at Work Award** winners on our social media pages and will be shared in our promotions for ECE Appreciation Day.

### Nomination Information:

- Nominee's Name:
- Name of Centre:
- Nominators Name:
- How do you know the nominee: (Co-worker, Supervisor, Parent, Other)
- Nominators Email / Telephone
- Mailing Address to send the pin and certificate
- Nominee's Story (*Please provide a paragraph (8 – 10 lines) on why this ECE is being nominated*).

The nominee's name will be published in our promotions of ECE Appreciation Day and nomination stories may be shared as part of our celebration and promotion of ECEs and the inspiring and meaningful work they do each day.

**Recipients will Receive:** Lapel Pin and Certificate

**Nomination Fee:** \$5.75 (tax included) per nominee.

## SIGNATURE PAGE

Please indicate the award(s) for which you will be nominating candidates.

- The ECCE 20+ Service Award** recognizes the long-term contribution that your Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Program has made over the past 20+ years
- Early Childhood Education Commitment to Care Service Award** recognizes the years of commitment working in Early Childhood Education (*Must be an AECENS member*)
- Early Childhood Learning and Care (ECLC) Awards of Excellence for Program** recognizes outstanding high-quality best practices, professionalism and dedication in a Program.
- Early Childhood Learning and Care (ECLC) Awards of Excellence for Practice** recognizes outstanding high-quality best practices, professionalism and dedication in an Early Childhood Educator's Practice
- Caring At Work Award** recognizes individual early learning and care practitioners for their amazing work in their field

I affirm that the information contained in this nomination package is, to the best of my knowledge, complete and correct. I understand that the award-winning ideas, photos, and methods may be published, and I give my release for that purpose.

Signature:..... Date: .....

Name:.....

*(Jurors will only consider information received by the nomination deadline.)*

*All personal information collected in nominations is protected by the privacy act. Information is used by AECENS to process the nominations and may be used in promoting the value of ECE's and other promotions by AECENS. Information will be stored at the AECENS offices, 3845 Joseph Howe Drive, Suite 102, Halifax, NS B3L 4H9. Nominees may access, request correction of or have notations attached to the information about them at this address after the jury has selected the winner. Each recipient's name, ECE setting, community will be included in promotion of the awards and information materials used by the Awards.*