

**Ministry of Education**

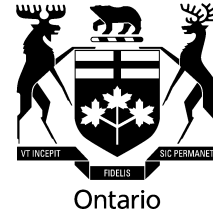
Minister

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**Ministère de l'Éducation**

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December 13, 2011

Dear Colleague,

You already know the difference an outstanding educator or support staff member can make in a child's life – you see it happen every day. I think others should know about those special people too.

That is why the Ministry of Education created the **Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence** – to recognize outstanding educators and support staff in Ontario.

To recognize the unique role that registered early childhood educators play in helping children and young students, this year I am delighted to introduce two new awards: Early Childhood Educator of the Year and Full-Day Kindergarten Team of the Year.

To date, we have honoured a total of 126 recipients. They have amazing stories to tell – and they go back to their communities energized and motivated to help more children and students. I am hoping you will continue to help build that energy.

Our nomination deadline this year is February 6, 2012.

You can help us promote the awards by:

- Sharing this information with your school communities.
- Joining our online conversations at [Facebook.com/ONteachingawards](https://www.facebook.com/ONteachingawards) and [Twitter.com/OntarioEDU](https://twitter.com/OntarioEDU).
- Distributing and posting promotional materials. You can find the nomination form and promotional materials at [ontario.ca/teachingawards](http://ontario.ca/teachingawards). More materials are on the way.

Materials have also been sent to schools and licensed child care settings across the province, so they can help spread the word.

Thank you for promoting the Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Laurel Broten'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurel Broten  
Minister