

**Ministry of Education**

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Dear Friend,

Last year you nominated someone for a Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence. I wanted to say thank you, and to encourage you to consider submitting a nomination again this year.

There are thousands of outstanding educators and support staff in Ontario's schools, boards and licensed child care settings.

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

Over the last five years, 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. However, simply being nominated can make a big impact – both on the nominees and on their communities.

A previous recipient called himself “truly blessed to have been part of the celebration.” The selection panel had a difficult task choosing just 24 recipients from all the nominations that were received last year. In fact, they asked us to encourage people to resubmit their nomination packages this year, as many were truly deserving of an award. All you have to do is complete a new nomination package and get permission from your nominee.

So please visit [ontario.ca/teachingawards](http://ontario.ca/teachingawards) to learn more and to download a new nomination form. The nomination deadline is February 6, 2012. You can also join our online conversations at [Facebook.com/ONteachingawards](https://www.facebook.com/ONteachingawards) and [Twitter.com/OntarioEDU](https://twitter.com/OntarioEDU).

Thank you for helping us celebrate excellence in Ontario's schools, boards and licensed child care settings.

Yours truly,

Laurel Broten  
Minister