
Early Childhood Educator Awards of Excellence

Early Learning and Child Care Division
Department of Education and
Early Childhood Learning

June 24, 2026

Manitoba.ca

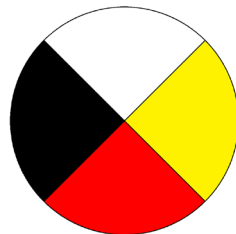
Manitoba 

Land Acknowledgement

We recognize that Manitoba is on Treaty 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 Territories and the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Anishinewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline, Ininiwak and Nehethowuk Peoples.

We acknowledge Manitoba is located on the *National Homeland* of the Red River Métis. We acknowledge northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are ancestral lands of the Inuit.

We respect the spirit and intent of Treaties and Treaty Making and remain committed to working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in the spirit of truth, reconciliation and collaboration.



Agenda

- Background
- Awards Overview
- Nomination Preparation
- Recipient Selection Process
- Questions

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR AWARDS

DO YOU KNOW AN OUTSTANDING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR?

Nominations are now being accepted for the Manitoba Early Childhood Educator Awards of Excellence under the following award categories:

- **OUTSTANDING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR**
- **COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AWARD**
- **LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD**
- **PREMIER'S AWARD FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION EXCELLENCE**

Special Recognition:

- **EXEMPLARY HOME-BASED EARLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AWARD**
- **EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE IMPACT AWARD**

For complete information on selection criteria and the nomination process, visit: manitoba.ca/ceecmca/

NOMINATION DEADLINE:
July 31, 2026

Manitoba

Background

- The Early Childhood Educator Awards of Excellence celebrate early learning and child care professionals who exhibit standards of excellence in early childhood education and recognize home-based providers for their contributions to enhancing children's growth and development.
- A reception honouring all recipients will be hosted in Fall 2026. Each award recipient will be presented with a certificate of recognition and a cheque for \$500.

Background

- There are 6 award categories with up to 15 recipients:
 - Outstanding Early Childhood Educator Award, including the Francophone, Indigenous and Rural/Northern Subcategories
 - Community Collaboration Award
 - Leadership Excellence Award
 - Premier's Award for Early Childhood Education Excellence Award
 - Exemplary Home-Based Early Learning Environment Award
 - ***NEW*** Early Learning and Child Care Impact Award
- Previous award recipients are eligible to be nominated again; however, individuals who have received an award in a previous year are not eligible to be nominated in the same award category.

Awards Overview

Outstanding Early Childhood Educator Award

Award Description

- Five awards will be presented to ECEs in a child care centre who demonstrate exemplary professional, inclusive practices and an ability to inspire children, families and colleagues by going above and beyond expectations.
- Three of the five will be presented to an:
 - Outstanding Indigenous Early Childhood Educator (one award)
 - Outstanding Francophone Early Childhood Educator (one award)
 - Outstanding Rural and Northern Early Childhood Educator (one award)

Criteria

- Demonstrates high-quality early learning practices that support children's holistic development
- Builds strong relationships with families and communities
- Engages in ongoing learning and applies Truth and Reconciliation principles (respect, inclusion, equity)
- Provides inclusive care for diverse needs and backgrounds

Awards Overview

Community Collaboration Award

Award Description

- This award honours ECE teams collaborating with schools and/or community organizations to enhance early childhood learning and development in innovative ways.
- These teams are based in licensed child care facilities and have developed an exceptional collaborative partnership to benefit the early learning and child care program and/or the community.

Criteria

- Work towards the shared goals or sustaining ongoing collaborative practices that demonstrate effective communication and meaningful partnership in support of children, families, and the community.
- Engages in innovative partnerships to support or deliver services, ensure inclusion
- Encourages diversity and support community efforts and continuous improvement of child care practices.

Awards Overview

Leadership Excellence Award

Award Description

- This award recognizes a centre director, assistant director or supervisor who is certified as an ECE II or ECE III and who embodies leadership by encouraging and guiding others, displaying exceptional dedication, collaboration, creativity, and vision.
- They also demonstrate knowledge and skills that support the delivery of high-quality child care.

Criteria

- Fosters a positive work environment
- Supports continuous improvement and staff development to ensure high-quality programming
- Strengthens governance (board/parent advisory support)
- Uses innovative approaches to recruit, retain, and support staff well-being
- Minimum 2 years' experience as Director, Assistant Director, or Supervisor

Awards Overview

Exemplary Home-Based Early Learning Environment Award

Award Description

- This award celebrates a licensed home-based child care provider who demonstrates exemplary commitment to play-based programming that nurtures children's growth and development while promoting early learning.
- The recipient demonstrates professionalism in a home based, high quality and inclusive environment and shows the utmost dedication to providing remarkable child care services.

Criteria

- Facilitates play-based learning that nurtures children while supporting their growth and development
- Demonstrates professionalism in a home based personalized, inclusive environment
- Creates and maintains a high-quality and inclusive environment for children

Awards Overview

NEW Early Learning and Child Care Impact Award

Award Description

- This award recognizes an ECE in the early learning and child care sector whose primary role is not within a licensed child care centre or licensed home-based child care provider (e.g., post-secondary Early Childhood Education instructor, researcher, sector advocate, health or community partner, etc.).
- The recipient demonstrates exceptional commitment to strengthening Manitoba's early learning and child care sector by advancing evidence informed practice, supporting workforce excellence, or supporting licensed early learning and child care programs across Manitoba to thrive.

Criteria

- Makes meaningful contributions that supports or strengthen Manitoba's early learning and child care system and/or workforce through research, education, advocacy, policy, or sector support.
- Supports high quality, inclusive early learning and child care through leadership, collaboration, or innovation.
- Builds effective partnerships and shares knowledge, resources, or expertise that benefit the sector.

Awards Overview

Premier's Award for Early Childhood Education Excellence

- The recipient(s) of this award will be selected from among the award recipients for the above-mentioned categories and must be classified as an ECE(s). This ECE or team distinguishes themselves by their most remarkable contribution to early childhood education.

How to Prepare a Nomination

- Package includes:
 - Award Nomination Form
The nominee and nominator(s) must complete and sign this fillable form. Signatures are required from the nominee and nominator(s).
 - A nomination description is required from each nominator. Nominators must complete award-specific questionnaire and use their responses to explain how the nominee demonstrates the criteria for the selected award category as outlined in the criteria and eligibility section. All text must be typed and include the name of nominee(s) and nominator.
- Submit a complete package by **July 31, 2026**, to:
 - eceawards@gov.mb.ca or Early Learning and Child Care Division 210-114 Garry Street, Winnipeg MB, R3C 4V4

Instructions for Nominators

- Respond only to prompts for the selected award category
- Required prompts are meant to guide responses
- Highlight how the nominee exceeds standard ECE expectations
- Include specific examples showing impact, creativity, and sustained excellence

Nomination Process and Selection

- A Nomination Review Panel will assess all submissions. The panel comprises representatives from Manitoba's early learning and child care sector, including:
 - Manitoba Child Care Association (MCCA)
 - La Fédération des Parents de la Francophonie Manitobaine (FPFM)
 - Manitoba Métis Fédération (MMF)
 - Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC)
 - Child Care Coalition of Manitoba (CCCM)

Contact Information

- For details, nomination form and prompts:

manitoba.ca/eceawards

- For additional inquiries, email:

eceawards@gov.mb.ca

Questions?



Thank you!