



April 17, 2023

Carolyn Broady, President
British Columbia School Trustees Association
Email: cbroady@bcsta.org

Dear *Carolyn*;

I am writing today with great enthusiasm to support a motion that is to be brought forward by *the Board of Education of School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)* to *the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) AGM 2023* titled "*Learning Disability (Dyslexia) and Policy/Guidelines for Screening in Kindergarten.*"

As you probably know, early literacy scores are directly related to future academic success and failure; so it is imperative that we are proactive with our approach to addressing struggling students.

Early screening and targeted interventions using structured literacy starting in kindergarten will improve results and best outcomes for more students to reach their academic potential. It takes 4 times longer to remediate a struggling student or someone with a learning disability if the disability is not remediated by the end of grade 3. This makes it impossible for that student to catch up to grade level with academic skills. The result is plummeting mental health and self esteem to the point of no return for the student.

It is very important and massively more cost effective to catch students before they fall thus retaining their self esteem and ensuring the best outcomes for academic achievement, graduation rates and mental health. I am hopeful that BCSTA can pass the above motion to advocate to the BC Ministry of Education for policy, guidelines and for screening starting in kindergarten for learning disabilities like dyslexia.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy McMillan".

Cathy McMillan, B.Sc.
Founding Director,
Dyslexia BC
DyslexiaBC.cm@gmail.com

Further support for the motion; *“Learning Disability (Dyslexia) and Policy/Guidelines for Screening in Kindergarten.”*

Rick Moore

Recipient of the BC Children and Youth Representative’s Award of Excellence in Advocacy for 2013

Vicki Nelson, B.Sc.

Executive Director, Learning Disabilities Association Fraser South Chapter

Cathie Camley

Former Board of Directors for the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDA Canada), Former Board of Directors for Learning Disabilities Association of BC (LDABC), Former Chair of Education Committee for LDA Canada, Former Chair of Education Committee for LDABC, Former Board of Director for the Federation of Invisible Disabilities (FIDS), Former Director for Special Education Coalition of British Columbia

Dr Steve Truch

Director, The Reading Foundation

Gloria Ramirez, Ph.D., she, her

Professor

School of Education

Faculty of Education and Social Work

Kim Block

Disability Advocate- Speaking Up BC

Jim and Jill Sully

Retired Special Education Teachers

Port Moody, BC

Jim and Jill Sully wrote -

“We are writing in support of the Motion brought forward to BCSTA by the SD44 Board to support students with learning disabilities. The continuing erosion of adequate services for these students has been a terrible travesty! Without proper assessment, training and services, these students are extremely at risk. With support we know that students with learning disabilities can thrive and enjoy a well deserved quality of life! Success means good mental health, career opportunities and avoiding the issues that haunt those without the proper care in the school system. We look forward to seeing this motion move forward and reclaiming the services that have been lost over too many years! It is long overdue!”