



April 17, 2023

Chris Schultz-Lorentzen, President
BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils
(BCCPAC)
chrisschultzlorentzen@bccpac.bc.ca

Dear *Chris*;

Dyslexia BC is writing today to give our full support to both resolutions that the *Kootney Lake DPAC* (SD8) has brought forward to the spring *BCCPAC* AGM. The first resolution is “*Replacing all Reading Programs to Align with the Science of Reading*,” and the second is for “*Literacy Centers, Funding and Policy*”.

We are really pleased that these resolutions have advanced to the table because it will help raise literacy rates across the province for all students and bring equitable access for our most vulnerable learners.

A year ago the *Ontario Human Rights Commission* released the “*Right to Read*”; *Public inquiry into human rights issues affecting students with reading disabilities*. *Dyslexia BC* hears from families on a daily basis about their struggles trying to access supports in the BC system. We have the same systemic issues in BC as Ontario does. Parents in BC have to pay out of pocket for resources for dyslexia because the system doesn’t support them.

On December 7th, 2022, the new *Education Mandate* was released and it included “dyslexia initiatives”. We should move ahead with this. There needs to be a shift in the BC curriculum toward the use of structured literacy with properly-tiered (or appropriately-tiered) interventions that begins with screening for dyslexia and other reading issues in kindergarten. As the parent voice in BC, *BCCPAC* could help BC move forward with this.

The prominent researcher, *Dr. Sally Shaywitz* (*Yale Center for Dyslexia*), states, “We do not have a knowledge gap, we have an action gap.”

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 Resolutions brought forward to BCCPAC by the Kootney Lake DPAC 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!”