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Dyslexia BC is Releasing a Groundbreaking Report on Dyslexia in British Columbia

Vancouver, November 8, 2023 — *Dyslexia BC*, Dyslexia BC is a strong advocate for individuals with dyslexia and their families. We have worked tirelessly to ensure their views are understood and are pleased to present a report which includes recommendations to ensure our public education system is truly inclusive and equitable. The report is titled "***Educational Experiences and Challenges: Dyslexia in British Columbia.***" This report not only highlights the importance of understanding the needs of dyslexic individuals but also underscores the pressing need for significant changes in the education system and various government systems within British Columbia to better support them and ensure equitable access to quality education and resources.

The report represents the culmination of extensive research and survey data collection, offering valuable insights into the unique challenges faced by dyslexic individuals and their families. It emphasizes several critical steps that can address these challenges and foster a more inclusive and supportive educational environment for dyslexic individuals in the province.

Here are the **key findings** and recommendations that have emerged from this in-depth report:

1. **Dyslexia-Specific Legislation and Policy:** The report strongly advocates for the development of dyslexia-specific legislation and policy within British Columbia. Such measures would provide clear direction for educational institutions and implement universal dyslexia screening, starting as early as kindergarten. This approach ensures early identification and intervention for dyslexic students, setting them on a path to success from an early age.
2. **Change to the Science of Reading:** Dyslexia BC's report champions a transformation in the education system to align with the science of reading. This means implementing evidence-based reading practices in all classrooms to ensure that students receive the most effective instruction. This change is crucial for supporting dyslexic individuals and creating a more inclusive learning environment.
3. **Intensive Literacy Centers:** Dyslexia BC emphasizes the need to establish literacy centers employing evidence-based practices in all school districts throughout British Columbia. These centers will serve as vital hubs for remediation, providing

much-needed support to dyslexic students, which is essential for their educational success.

4. **Government Funding and Teacher Training:** Adequate funding and teacher training are identified as crucial components of this transformation. Dyslexia BC stresses the necessity of equipping educators with the tools and knowledge required to effectively support dyslexic students, ensuring that they receive the tailored support they need.
5. **Post-Secondary and Workplace Access:** Recognizing that the impact of dyslexia extends beyond K-12 education, the report highlights the importance of addressing barriers affecting dyslexic individuals in post-secondary institutions and the workplace. The report calls for breaking down these barriers and ensuring access to necessary accommodations for dyslexic individuals to promote their success in higher education and professional life.
6. **Q Designation for Learning Disabilities:** *Dyslexia BC* calls for clarity and consultation regarding the **Q Designation** for all learning disabilities in legislation. This should include input from families and learning disability experts to ensure that the designation aligns with the needs of dyslexic individuals. The report raises questions about the discontinuation of **Individual Education Plans (IEPs)** for Q Designation students and seeks clarification to ensure that the needs of these students are met effectively.

Dyslexia BC was thrilled this year to see their advocacy take shape with the motions passed earlier this year. These motions focus on dyslexia screening in kindergarten, the adoption of evidence-based reading practices across British Columbia, and the establishment of specialized literacy centers in each district for remediation. These actions aim to pave the way for a more supportive and inclusive educational landscape for dyslexic individuals in British Columbia.

About Dyslexia BC

Dyslexia BC is a dedicated organization which brings a voice to individuals, children and youth and their families who need change and better support for dyslexia in British Columbia