

LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES FULL TIME OFFICE



The Learning Disabilities Association of Sault Ste. Marie launched their full time office at a media event held on Monday, June 27th, 2016 at Northern Credit Union. Important partnerships with Sault College and Northern Credit Union were also announced. From left to right: Mr. Al Suraci (President and CEO, Northern Credit Union), Mr. Matt Trainor (Director of Student Services at Sault College and Chair of the Community Advisory Committee), Ms. Mary-Liz Warwick (Executive Director, NOCLD) and Ms. Sarah Anich (Resource Facilitator, Learning Disabilities Association of SSM).

(SAULT STE. MARIE, ON) – The Northern Ontario Centre for Learning Differences (NOCLD) is growing across the North. The NOCLD is a newly established organization tasked with the goal of increasing the reach of existing programs and services currently provided by the Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury (LDAS). At a launch event held yesterday, it was announced that the NOCLD has expanded the Learning Disabilities Association programs and services in Sault Ste. Marie thanks to a three-year, \$600,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation Grow Grant.

“Our government is committed to ensuring parents and educators have the resources and support they need to help the youth in our community reach their full potential,” said David Oraziotti, MPP for Sault Ste. Marie. “This grant will assist the Northern Ontario Centre for Learning Differences (NOCLD) improve the social and emotional well-being of children with learning disabilities right here in our community.”

The expansion of services and programs in Sault Ste. Marie will equip hundreds of children who have learning disabilities, and their families, with the tools needed to develop critical learning strategies. These strategies will lead to success in educational pursuits and eventually meaningful employment.

“We are very excited to officially launch a full-time Learning Disabilities Association here in Sault Ste. Marie,” said Mary-Liz Warwick, Executive Director of the NOCLD. “Thanks to the three-year, \$600,000 Grow grant our organization received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) earlier this year, the NOCLD has been able to hire a full-time Resource Facilitator for the office located in Sault College.”

The NOCLD has formed an important partnership with Northern Credit Union. This partnership will help build sustainability for the continuation of programs and services across Northeastern Ontario beyond the three-year OTF Grow grant. It was announced yesterday that the Northern Credit Union will provide two \$500 scholarships for students with learning disabilities to pursue their post-secondary education. It was also announced that the Northern Credit Union will launch a True North Strong Communities campaign in support of NOCLD. The NOCLD campaign will be called We Are Not Alone and will support the parents and families of children and youth with learning disabilities. This campaign will help fund a parent support program, produce a parent resource manual and develop parent workshops. The money raised in Sault Ste. Marie will stay in the community to help support local families.

True North Strong Communities is the first initiative of its kind here in the North. Launched by Northern Credit Union, True North Strong Communities is a gathering place to donate to local projects, programs and charities across the region. There are no administration fees which means that 100% of the donations made go directly to the campaign. Collection boxes will be located in branches across Northeastern Ontario and donations will also be accepted online.

“We aren’t just about financial products and services, we also want to have a positive impact in our communities and Northern Credit Union is very proud to support NOCLD,” said Al Suraci, President and CEO of Northern Credit Union. “To kick start this campaign, Northern Credit Union has announced a pledge of matching up to \$5,000.”

The NOCLD is also proud to partner with Sault College which has donated office space for the Learning Disabilities Association of Sault Ste. Marie District. The office is located in room A1280 and Sarah Anich, Resource Facilitator, is available to answer any questions you may have regarding the programs and services provided by the organization.

“The Ontario Trillium Foundation Grow grant has positioned our Sault Ste. Marie Learning Disabilities Association Office to provide more support to parents and educators to improve the social and emotional well-being of children with learning disabilities in our own community,” said Matt Trainor, Director of Student Services at Sault College and Chair of the Community Advisory Committee. “The grant also enabled the NOCLD and Northern Credit Union to establish a truly unique Northern Ontario partnership to work together on the “We Are Not Alone Campaign”. Our Resource Facilitator and Community Advisor Committee members are very excited to work with the Northern Credit Union.”

You can lend your support to the We Are Not Alone campaign by logging onto www.truenorthstrong.ca. You can reach Sarah Anich by calling 705-759-2554 ext. 2713 or by emailing ldaossm@gmail.com.

-30-

Media Contacts:

Mary-Liz Warwick
Executive Director,
Northern Ontario Centre for Learning
Differences
705-673-4126 ext. 207
maryliz@ldasudbury.ca

Sarah Anich
Resource Facilitator,
Learning Disabilities Association
of SSM
705-759-2554 ext. 2713
ldaossm@gmail.com