

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 9, 2018

“Don’t Dis My Ability” - Making the Invisible Visible!



Back row: Abbas Homayed (NOCLD Board of Directors), Ron Lessard (Vice-Chair, LDAS Board of Directors), Dr. Kevin McCormick (Chair, NOCLD Board of Directors), Mary-Liz Warwick (Executive Director, LDAS & NOCLD) and Mayor Brian Bigger. Front row: Students from MacLeod Public School

(SUDBURY, ON) The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury’s flag was raised this morning at James Jerome complex. Mayor Brian Bigger was on hand to officially mark October as Learning Disabilities Awareness Month in Greater Sudbury. Immediately following the flag raising event, students from MacLeod Public School planted 2,000 small flags representing the number of students who have been identified with a learning disability in our community. These flags can be seen along Paris Street until the end of the month.

“We must remember that students with learning disabilities have a different way of learning, yet are intelligent and capable of success in all aspects of their lives,” says Maureen Bartolucci, Honourary Chair of Learning Disabilities Awareness Month. “If students with learning disabilities are taught appropriate learning strategies and assistive technology that matches their strengths and needs there is no reason why they cannot be successful. With support, these students can complete post-secondary education and find meaningful employment.”



Students from MacLeod Public School help plant small blue flags representing the number of students identified with a learning disability in our community.

The following are some interesting facts and statistics about learning disabilities:

- By definition someone with a learning disability has average to above average intelligence;
- 1 in 10 people in Ontario have a learning disability;
- Learning disabilities impact certain skills, most of which can be improved with the right supports;
- Because learning disabilities usually exhibit in the school system, those with learning disabilities can be identified early in life. Early intervention improves confidence;
- When they do not receive appropriate support, individuals with learning disabilities have higher than the average rates of school dropout, unemployment and poverty;
- Learning disabilities can be inherited and through their child's diagnosis, many parents realize that they have been impacted by a learning disability themselves.

(Source LDAC PACFOLD survey)

The greatest hurdle a person with a learning disability often has to overcome is the feeling that they are not intelligent so they begin to hide their disability and struggle in silence. However, with their creative strengths and above average intelligence, some simple support can see them excel in their educational pursuits and eventually find meaningful employment. By giving our children and youth with learning disabilities the tools they need to succeed, we can help them create successful lives. Those with learning disabilities can become among the most creative, and productive members of our communities. Our hope is to see Sudbury become the leader in destroying the barriers misunderstanding creates.

About Us:

The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury is a registered charity dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth with learning disabilities. Our goal is to provide leadership in learning disabilities advocacy, research, education and services and to advance the full participation of children, youth and adults with learning disabilities in today's society. The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury receives no government funding for their work and relies on the generous support of donors and funders. Please check us out at www.ldasudbury.ca.

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