

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



**October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month. Picture above are (left to right) Liz, Brett-Dickie, Chair LDAS Board of Directors, Hope Mackewn, MacLeod Public School student, Dr. Kevin McCormick, Chair, Northern Ontario Centre for Learning Differences (NOCLD) Board of Directors, Joscelyne Landry-Altman, Deputy Mayor City of Greater Sudbury, Abbas Homayed, NOCLD Board member and Mary-Liz Warwick, Executive Director, LDAS & NOCLD.**

The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury’s flag was raised this month at James Jerome complex. Deputy Mayor Joscelyne Landry-Altman 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 total number of students who have been identified with a learning disability within both the English and French school boards, Laurentian University and Cambrian College. These flags can be seen along Paris Street until the end of the month.

“We must remember that students with learning disabilities are intelligent and creative and process information in a different way,” says Liz Brett-Dickie, Chair of The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury’s Board of Directors. “It is extremely important that they are taught appropriate learning strategies and assistive technology that matches their strengths and needs. I know from personal experience that with parents, teachers, and peers offering understanding, support, and encouragement these students can complete post-secondary education and continue in a profession or career of their choice.”



**Students from MacLeod Public School helped plant 2,000 blue flags representing the number of students who have been identified with a Learning Disability in this community.**

The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury is proud to have Jayme Anderson and Chase Paquette as Honourary Co-Chairs of Learning Disabilities Awareness Month. Jayme, a student at Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School and Chase, a student at Lockerby Composite School are both members of our Youth Ambassadors Group.

“Children and youth with learning disabilities have a different way of learning, yet are fully capable of success in all aspects of their lives,” said Jayme Anderson, Honourary Co-Chair of Learning Disabilities Month. “I know from personal experience that if we are taught appropriate learning strategies and assistive technology we can be successful”, added Chase Paquette, Honourary Co-Chair of Learning Disabilities Month.

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)



**Students from MacLeod Public School help Deputy Mayor Joscelyne Landry-Altmann, and Honourary Co-Chairs Chase Paquette and Jayme Anderson raise The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury's flag.**

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 mission 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](http://www.ldasudbury.ca).