



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2021

Don't DIS My ABILITIES! Cambrian College Marks Learning Disabilities Awareness Month

SUDBURY – Cambrian College is proudly partnering with the Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury (LDAS) to promote Learning Disabilities Awareness Month.

“This is such an important month, and as part of our philosophy here at Cambrian, we want to make sure every student is equipped for success the day they start their education,” says Mary-Liz Warwick, Student Success and Transition Navigator at Cambrian College. “Students with a learning disability are not only intelligent, they are also very creative. With proper accommodations they can excel in their educational pursuits. Our hope is to see Sudbury become the leader in destroying the barriers created by the misunderstanding of learning disabilities.”

“People with learning disabilities can study at the post-secondary level, whether it be a university or college pathway,” says Wendy Larouche, Resource Facilitator at LDAS. “When working with their strengths coupled with a passion for their fields of study, students with learning disabilities can find success in the careers of their choosing.”

The highlight event of Learning Disabilities Awareness Month in Sudbury is *Don't DIS My ABILITIES – Talking Trades with Paul Lafrance and his daughter Promise*, Thursday, October 14, 6 – 8 p.m., free on Zoom.

Full details are available at <https://cambriancollege.ca/talkingtrades>.

Paul is known as HGTV's “Deck Guy” from his many television programs, including Home to Win, Custom Built, Decked Out, Disaster Decks, Deck Wars and Canada's Handyman Challenge. Paul also heads Paul Lafrance Design.

Paul also has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Paul will be joined by his daughter Promise, who has become an accomplished welder. She found her calling when she put on the welder's helmet for the first time, utilized the Dual Credit program in high school, and eventually earned a college diploma in welding.

“We're so happy to be hosting Paul and Promise,” says Alison De Luisa, Cambrian's Vice-President of Human Resources and Student Services and the Honorary Chair for Learning Disabilities Awareness Month in Sudbury. “Promise is a shining example of how women can excel in the trades and Paul has always been an amazing advocate for those with learning disabilities. It's going to be a great event.”

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Don't DIS My ABILITIES – Talking Trades with Paul Lafrance and his daughter Promise is a presentation of Cambrian College, The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury, the Rainbow District School Board, the Sudbury Catholic District School Board, The School College Work Initiative, and the Ontario Post-secondary Access & Inclusion Program (OPAIP).

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Did you know?

- **10 percent of people in Ontario have a learning disability.**
- **People with learning disabilities have average to above-average intelligence.**
- **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, and early intervention improves confidence and outcomes.**
- **When they don't receive appropriate support, individuals with learning disabilities have higher than average rates of school dropout, unemployment and poverty.**
- **The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury provides support to people with learning disabilities in Greater Sudbury, www.ldasudbury.ca.**
- **Cambrian College's Glenn Crombie Centre for Accessibility, Counselling and Wellness (www.cambriancollege.ca/glenn-crombie-centre) offers a variety of supports and resources to students who need additional help academically.**
- **Cambrian College students can also access the services of the Learning Centre and the First Step Centre (www.cambriancollege.ca/academic-services).**
- **Cambrian College offers a one-year Graduate Certificate program - [Applied Learning Disability Studies](#) - for people seeking a career helping those with learning disabilities.**

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Cambrian College is Northern Ontario's largest college, with more than 90 programs. Cambrian's main campus is in Greater Sudbury, with satellite centres in Espanola and Little Current. For more information about Cambrian College, visit www.cambriancollege.ca

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