

Roger Casgrain

Chair of LDAC

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to each of you. The past year has been a testament to our collective strength, resilience, and the spirit of collaboration that defines The Learning Disabilities Association of Canada. In 2024, let us continue to build upon the foundation we have laid together. May this New Year bring fresh opportunities for growth, camaraderie, and accomplishing shared goals. Let's celebrate our diversity, foster inclusivity, and work hand in hand to make an even more vibrant and supportive community. Here's to a year of meaningful connections, shared achievements, and the realization of our common vision. I wish you and your loved ones a Happy New Year filled with joy and prosperity and the fulfillment of your aspirations.

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Researchers Highlight

Dr. Jamie Metsala

A Professor and the Gail and Stephen Jarislowsky Chair in Learning Disabilities in the Faculty of Education at Mount Saint Vincent University. Her research and dissemination activities focus on reading achievement and effective instruction for all children and youth, including those with or at risk for learning disabilities. She engages with community and education systems to address the link between instructional approaches in our schools and social justice issues. Dr. Metsala's research includes studies on the development of phonological awareness, phonological processing in students with reading disabilities, oral language contributors to reading comprehension, fluency development, effective remediation of reading disabilities, and teachers' self-efficacy for teaching in the inclusive classroom. Dr. Metsala is a registered psychologist who previously held tenured faculty positions at the Universities of Maryland and Western Ontario. Recently, Dr. Metsala was a one of two content area experts on the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Right to Read Public Inquiry.

Take a look at Dr. Jamie's work and contribution to the LD world:

[Metsala, J. L., & David, M. D. \(2022\). Improving English reading fluency and comprehension for children with reading fluency disabilities. Dyslexia](#)

[Metsala, J. L., & David, M. D. \(2017\). The effects of age and sublexical automaticity on reading outcomes for students with reading disabilities. Journal of Research in Reading](#)

[Metsala, J. L. \(2023, June\). Longitudinal contributions of morphological awareness, listening comprehension, and gains in word reading fluency to later word-and text-reading fluency. In Frontiers in Education](#)

Great minds think differently

Bill Gates

Bill Gates, renowned for spearheading the microcomputer revolution in the 1970s and 1980s, served as Chairman, CEO, President, and Chief Software Architect at Microsoft, where he was also the largest individual shareholder until 2014. After leaving his daily role at Microsoft in 2008, Gates focused on various business and philanthropic efforts. He founded and led companies like BEN, Cascade Investment, bgC3, and Terra Power, and notably steered the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the world's largest private charity, to make significant global health impacts. A highlight of his philanthropy is The Giving Pledge, co-founded with Warren Buffett in 2010, which encourages billionaires to donate a majority of their wealth to charitable causes.

Gates, who has openly discussed his struggles with ADHD, serves as an inspiring figure showing that personal challenges can be surmounted. His journey is a testament to resilience, demonstrating that success and personal growth can coexist despite learning difficulties.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Gates

<https://www.inspiremalibu.com/blog/mental-health/9-famous-people-with-adhd-attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder/>

Dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, ADHD... The new children's book BORN TO BE ME! Presents 15 true stories of amazing Canadians from all walks of life who live with a learning disability or difficulty.

Dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, ADHD... The new children's book BORN TO BE ME! Presents 15 true stories of amazing Canadians from all walks of life who live with a learning disability or difficulty.

"We distributed "Born to Be Me" to grade 6 and 7 families for parents and kids to read the testimonials and experiences of Canadians with Learning Disabilities. The book can help individuals with their own self-perception, esteem and confidence". Simon Williams, Executive Co-Director, Foothills Academy Society

[Click Here to Purchase](#)

Published by Dominique & Friends, in collaboration with all of the 9 provinces and territories of the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada, this new book follows the publication of the French books " Non aux étiquettes! " and "Mission : Non aux étiquettes!" Jennifer Couëlle's lively texts are illustrated in full color by Phil Poulin. Adapted fonts make reading easier for dyslexic persons. A glossary at the end of the book explains the different diagnoses.

YOUR DONATION IS IMPORTANT!

Despite progress, obtaining necessary services and tools for education remains a struggle for parents and young adults with learning disabilities. Working adults also face difficulties revealing their LD for fear of negative consequences.

Your donation can help us continue our work and expand our reach. With your support, we can

- Advocate for policies and programs that promote inclusion and accessibility for people with learning disabilities
- Conduct research and disseminate knowledge on learning disabilities issues and solutions
- Educate and train parents, teachers, employers, and professionals on how to support people with learning disabilities
- Provide services and resources to individuals and families affected by learning disabilities

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LDAC, where together, we can make a difference!

Sincerely,

The LDAC Team