



# ldac•acta

Learning Disabilities Association of Canada

*The right to learn, the power to achieve*

## **LDAC NEWSLETTER**

**March 2024**



# **Catherine Dunn**

Legal Advocacy Committee chair

# English

(Français çï-bas)

LDAC's mandate is to work collaboratively with regional and local partners to raise awareness about LD nationwide and empower those with living with LD, helping them to achieve their educational, employment and personal goals. In 2012 LDAC intervened at the Supreme Court of Canada in Moore v British Columbia on behalf of a middle school student who had been denied education services by his local school district due to funding restraints. The family filed a human rights complaint under provincial human rights legislation and the Supreme Court of Canada agreed that students with LD were entitled to services needed to achieve the education milestones available to all students. The parents were entitled to reimbursement for tuition payments they incurred for their son through private school resources not available in public school.

The Moore case has been used in education as well as workplace accommodation disputes for persons with LD many times. LDAC provided legal accommodation and human rights webinar in October/ 2024 as part of its continuing education on-line Conference series.

---

## We need your help!

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

[Donate here](#)

---

The logo for LD NEWS is displayed in large, bold, black capital letters. The letters have a slight shadow effect, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The background is a light blue, textured surface that resembles water or a similar liquid, with some darker blue spots and ripples.



## Vancouver City News

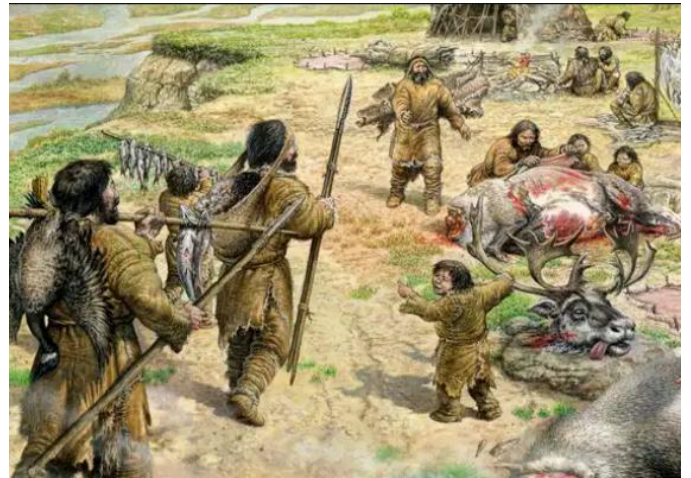
Dyslexia BC calls on the province to reassess budget plans to cover more student screening.

[Learn more](#)

## New Scientist

Did ADHD Emerge to Help Hunter Gatherers Survive?

[Learn more](#)



## Tatler

Princess Beatrice supports awareness for dyslexia

[Learn more](#)



## Today

MSNBC Stephanie Rule, host of the 11th Hour on MSNBC, opens up about her challenges with dyslexia, and life after school

[Learn more](#)



*The Learning Disabilities Association of Canada has no affiliation with the media outlets or organizations, and is not responsible for the content reported in each article. We are simply providing some highlights of the publicly available stories that hit the news this month. To keep all of us aware of what is happening in the world, we provide Canadian, US and global stories where relevant. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but hopefully it provides you with some food for thought:*

# RESEARCHERS HIGHLIGHT

## Dr. John McNamara



Dr. McNamara is an educational psychologist interested in studying young children with learning and reading disabilities. Currently his research involves working with various agencies across Province to develop and implement literacy intervention programs for vulnerable readers. Dr. McNamara also leads his LD Research Team in a number of applied research projects aimed at better understanding reading and reading disabilities. He has published numerous articles and presented internationally about how best to support children and youth with learning disabilities. John is also the author of Reading Rocks – a literacy program designed to motivate and support vulnerable readers. John's Reading Rocks program is currently in use in several regions in Ontario. In addition to his research, John currently a professor at Brock University and teaches a large first-year course in Child and Youth Studies. He has won several teaching awards and awards for his mentorship of students. John has emphasized his work in the community and following this, has worked with several Learning Disabilities Associations across Ontario. He is currently the President of the Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington Region.

A hand is shown holding a white piece of paper against a teal background. On the paper, there is a blue rectangular box containing the text 'GREAT MINDS THINK DIFFERENTLY' in white, bold, uppercase letters. The word 'DIFFERENTLY' is highlighted within the blue box. There are some black scribbles and arrows on the paper, suggesting a creative or thoughtful process.

**GREAT MINDS THINK DIFFERENTLY**

**John F. Kennedy**



Within the pages of history, John F. Kennedy's story stands as a testament to the resilience of individuals with learning disabilities. Despite facing significant challenges in reading and concentration during his school years, Kennedy's potential learning disabilities, such as ADHD and dyslexia, did not deter him from achieving greatness. His journey underscores the importance of recognizing, understanding, and supporting individuals with learning disabilities. As the 35th President of the United States, Kennedy's accomplishments illuminate the possibilities that await when we provide an

inclusive environment that embraces diverse learning needs. This narrative not only celebrates Kennedy's legacy but also serves as an empowering reminder to our community: with the right support and determination, every individual can transcend their limitations and contribute profoundly to our world.

#### Sources

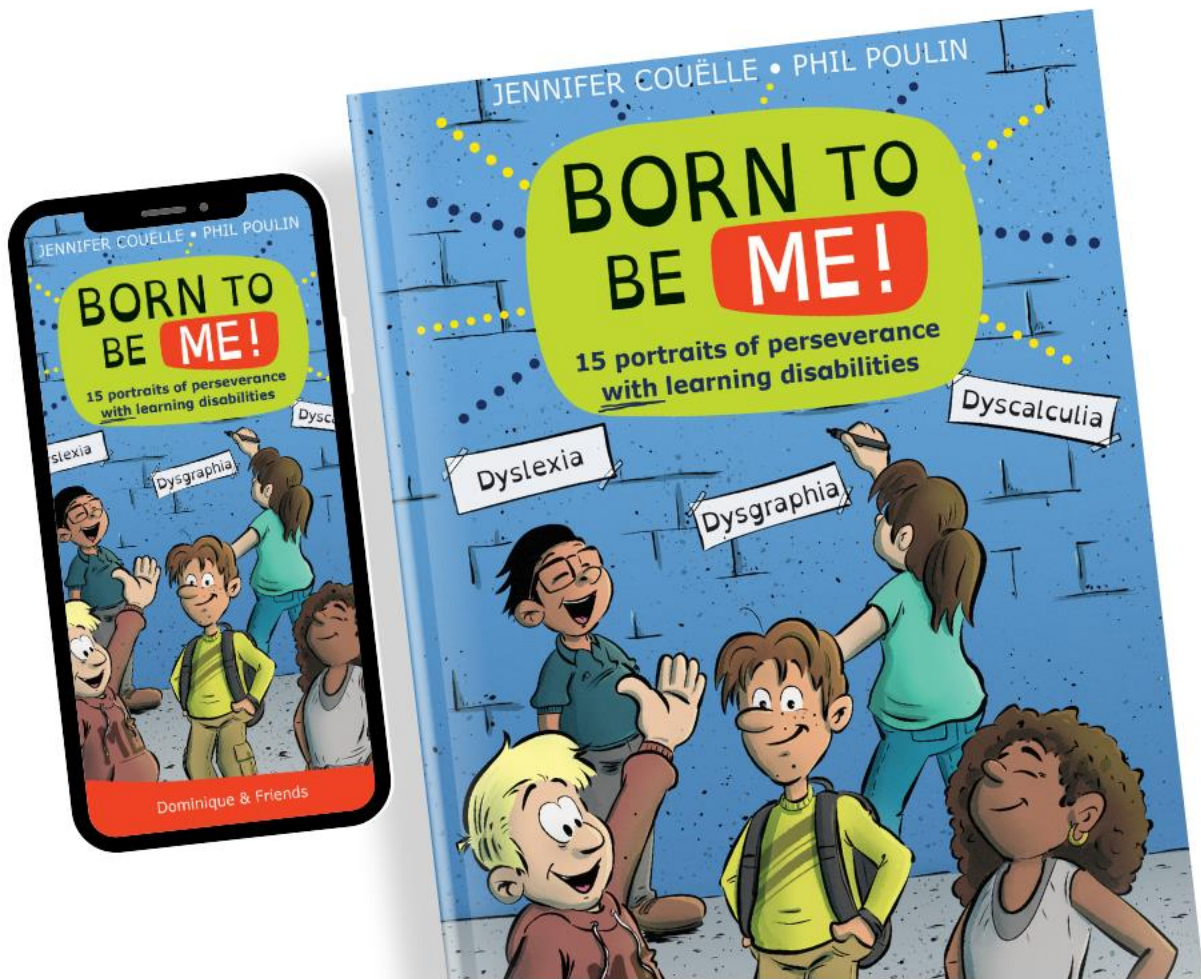
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad\\_Ali](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Ali)

<https://www.indiewire.com/2021/09/muhammad-ali-review-ken-burns-documentary-1234665255/>

---

**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.**

# BORN TO BE ME!



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.



## English

**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

# [Donate Here](#)

LDAC, where together, we can make a difference!

Sincerely,

The LDAC Team



**ldac•acta**

Learning Disabilities Association of Canada

*The right to learn, the power to achieve*