

LDAO Update for LDAC – April 2025

Advancing Advocacy, Mobilizing Knowledge, and Strengthening Community Support

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) continues to build momentum through strategic initiatives aligned with our three organizational pillars: Advocacy, Knowledge Mobilization, and Community Support & Outreach. Below is a snapshot of recent activities that reflect our shared mission to build a more inclusive and equitable Ontario for individuals with learning disabilities and co-occurring conditions like ADHD.

1. Advocacy: Influencing Policy and Reducing Barriers

LDAO actively engaged with Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs) across Ontario, recognizing them as critical voices in shaping local and provincial education policies. *SEACs are mandated advisory committees within Ontario's publicly funded school boards that include representatives from local organizations supporting students with exceptionalities. They advise school boards on special education programs and services to ensure the needs of all learners are addressed.* We also issued an Open Letter to SEACs, outlining key advocacy priorities including improved transition planning, equitable access to supports, and evidence-based literacy instruction.

To advance the work of SEAC representatives, we:

- Hosted LDA SEAC representative training sessions.
- Developed a new webinar on making motions at SEAC for effective advocacy.
- Distributed SEAC Circulars, including the April 2025 edition focused on special education budgeting and planning. *SEAC Circulars are short, accessible bulletins developed by LDAO to support SEAC members with timely, research-informed guidance on key topics, questions to raise at meetings, and strategies for effective advocacy.*

In addition, LDAO, in collaboration with LDAC, provided advocacy support in a current Ontario Human Rights Tribunal case involving access to accommodations for a student with a learning disability. This work reinforces our shared commitment to protecting the rights of students and ensuring equitable access to education.

2. Knowledge Mobilization: Strengthening Professional Learning and Research

LDAO continues to lead and expand its signature learning and knowledge-sharing events.

- The [Educators' Institute \(August 19–20, 2025\)](#) and [Colloque des professionnels de l'enseignement \(August 12–13, 2025\)](#) will return with updated research-informed content and dynamic, expert-led sessions.
- We partnered with LDA York-Simcoe (LDAYS) and participating Chapters to deliver the [6th Annual Parent Conference \(May 28, 2025\)](#), which will feature sessions on social anxiety, stigma, ADHD, and assistive technology.

Behind the scenes, we're nearing the launch of a major website refresh of LDAO.ca. This redesign will improve navigation, accessibility, and access to expertly curated content for educators, parents, and professionals across Ontario. We'll be launching this spring, with improved navigation, accessibility, and access to expertly curated content for educators, parents, and professionals across Ontario. The redesigns of LD@school and TA@l'école will follow.

As part of our continued knowledge mobilization efforts, here are some recent resource releases of interest:

- **The Writing Rope: A Framework for Evidence-Informed Writing Instruction – [Read it here](#)**
This article introduces Joan Sedita's "Writing Rope" model, breaking writing into five interwoven strands: critical thinking, syntax, text structure, writing craft, and transcription. It offers evidence-based strategies for inclusive writing instruction in both elementary and secondary classrooms.
- **AI in the Classroom: Teaching, Learning, and LD Support – [Read it here](#)**
This article explores the potential and limitations of artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT in supporting students with LDs. It provides practical tips for educators to use AI thoughtfully, ethically, and accessibly while enhancing critical thinking and digital literacy.
- **Teaching Grammar Through a Plurilingual Lens (*De quelques exemples pour enseigner la grammaire de façon plurilingue*) – [Watch it here](#)**
This French-language webinar presents practical examples of how educators can teach grammar in ways that value and incorporate students' diverse language backgrounds. It promotes inclusive grammar instruction rooted in plurilingual pedagogy.
- **Critical Literacy to Support Inclusive French Instruction (*La littératie critique au service d'un enseignement inclusif du français*) – [Watch it here](#)**
This webinar explores how critical literacy can foster equity and inclusion in French language classrooms. Educators are encouraged to reflect on their teaching practices and integrate diverse texts and perspectives to better engage all learners.

3. Community Support & Outreach: Empowering Chapters, Families, and Adults

LDAO continues to support and collaborate with its local Chapters in meaningful ways:

- Chapters continue to provide vital localized services such as parent support groups, tutoring programs, social skills development, and assistive technology training — offering hands-on help to families and individuals navigating learning disabilities and co-occurring conditions like ADHD in their communities.
- We have assisted Chapters engaging with school boards undergoing major shifts in special education delivery, including policy reviews, collaborative input on advocacy approaches, and the development of formal position statements addressing key issues such as tiered supports, placement options, transition planning, and equity.
- Planning is underway for new supports aimed at adults in the workforce, including self-advocacy tools, guidance on accommodations, and resources for employers.

Looking Ahead

LDAO's Board of Directors will issue a Call for Nominations this spring for new board members in advance of our AGM in September. We welcome suggestions for candidates who are passionate about equity, learning disabilities, and systemic change.

We are always grateful for the leadership of LDAC and for the continued collaboration, support, and shared expertise across the network of LDA provincial and territorial partners. Together, we are building stronger systems, more inclusive classrooms — and brighter futures for individuals with learning disabilities and co-occurring conditions like ADHD.

For more information or to connect, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,
Steven

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♥ **LDAO is a charitable organization** dedicated to empowering individuals with LDs. [Donate via CanadaHelps](#) to support our mission. Charitable Registration Number: 124367145RR0001

This update is submitted on behalf of the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario as part of the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDAC)'s April 2025 Newsletter.