



Idak • Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston

The right to learn, the power to achieve

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Association Receives Spirit Award and Loses Funding, All In One Week

KINGSTON, Ontario (April 15, 2010) - It has been a very busy and challenging year for the Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston (LDAK) and it has become more challenging. On April 1st the board was informed by the United Way that their annual funding had ended with the fiscal year ending March 31st.

While the association will continue to provide support, guidance, education, resource materials as much as possible, we are aware of a growing sense of urgency to find a new location, and forge ahead with cultivating stronger community partnerships to better serve our clients.

The Association is now appealing to our members, community supporters, families, educators and all those who have benefited from our information and facilitation services over the years. We are actively seeking partnerships within the Kingston community where office space could be shared with another agency, offered by, or negotiated with, local supporters in the business or charitable associations communities

Research has indicated that approximately 10% of the general population has some form of a learning disability (LD), which translates into more than 20,000 people in the geographical area served by the LDAK.

The LDAK has provided leadership through advocacy, access to research, education and services for children, youth and adults with learning disabilities in this region for almost 30 years. We have worked diligently to facilitate full participation in school, at work, and within the broader Kingston community. The Board of Directors, with the community's support, remains fully committed to continuing to work with, and for, individuals affected by a learning disability.

LDAK has supported a growing number of requests over recent years, averaging 5-7% annually, with last year's office contacts totaling approximately 1,500 and over 2757 contacts including presentations and workshops from returning and new individuals, educators and family members. The association's resource lending library is well used by educators, and the resource facilitator has offered support to many individuals and families addressing the following Identified problems:

- Approximately 50% of children identified with special needs within the school system have an identified learning disability.

- Canadians with learning disabilities (in some ages) are twice as likely to report that they did not successfully complete high school (i.e. 28.3% of adults with learning disabilities aged 20 to 29 versus only 14.3% of the general population of the same age). People with learning disabilities are also more likely to drop out before graduation.
- Canadians with learning disabilities are less likely to report being employed (51% of adults aged 30 to 44, as compared to 89.1% of the general population of the same age, prior to the 2001 Census period).
- Canadians with learning disabilities are 2 to 3 times more likely to report high levels of distress, depression, anxiety disorders, suicidal thoughts, visits to a mental health professional and poorer overall mental and physical health compared to the general population.

LDAK is a vibrant, vital and active association providing a key service in the Kingston area for citizens affected by learning disabilities.

LDAK has a website at www.ldakingston.com and can also be reached by phone at 613-545-0373.

Contact Person:
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