



May 13, 2022

Alicia Smith, IDA Ontario
Annette Sang, Decoding Dyslexia
Keith Gray, Dyslexia Canada

Dear Alicia, Annette and Keith,

Thank you for your letter and your advocacy for the children in Ontario who experience dyslexia and other difficulties learning to read.

People with disabilities in Ontario still face considerable barriers to access to academic, professional, and economic opportunities. One of the core values of an Ontario Liberal government will be to establish an equitable and accessible province that offers a fair chance to everyone and adequate accommodation to anyone who needs it.

An Ontario Liberal government would work with the Ministry of Education, faculties of education and school boards on the OHRC's recommendations, including improving awareness of and explicit naming of dyslexia. Our government will ensure equitable and timely provision of effective reading interventions for students in need. We will expand access to training and learning materials for teachers to ensure that every student can realize their right to read.

Our government will hire a new special education worker for every school – more than 5,000 professionals in total – to reduce wait times for services and offer additional support for students with disabilities, including reading disabilities. We'll also undertake a comprehensive reform of special education and the needs of students with disabilities – including the Individual Education Plan – and ensure that as students enter into different phases of their academic and personal lives, they can get access to the required services to experience a smooth transition.

Our government will work with parents, service providers, not-for-profit organizations, teachers and community leaders to improve dyslexia awareness in the province. Our plan to reconvene the Education Partnership Table will provide stakeholders with an avenue to share best practices and recommendations to make Ontario's public education system more accessible for students with disabilities.

We'll also strengthen existing Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards and develop a new one for education based on the work done to date. An Ontario Liberal government will also increase the frequency of AODA inspections and regularly report on compliance. We'll appoint a stand-alone Minister for disability issues and include accessibility commitments in government mandate letters.



We look forward to working with your team and other stakeholders to build an equitable, prosperous and accessible Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Del Duca".

Steven Del Duca
Leader
Ontario Liberal Party