

Learning Disabilities Month Flag Raising

Thank you Matt. Good afternoon everybody, I'm very pleased to be joining you here for today's flag-raising as we recognize Learning Disabilities Awareness Month. I'd like to begin by thanking the Learning Disabilities Association of Sault Ste. Marie for organizing today's event. I also want to thank Dr. Ron Common of Sault College for joining us.

As Matt mentioned, we are here today to raise awareness about the prevalence of learning disabilities and to break down the stigmas and misconceptions that sometimes surround them.

According to statistics from the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, one in 10 people in the province are impacted by a learning disability. Persons with learning disabilities are at greater risk of dropping out of school, having trouble with the law, or encountering mental health issues—including suicide.

Clearly, we all want Sault Ste. Marie to be an inclusive community. We want to be a community that includes and values the unique contributions and abilities of individuals with learning disabilities.

To that end, I'd like to commend the work of the Learning Disabilities Association of Sault Ste. Marie. The association provides many services and supports to students, parents, and other individuals with learning disabilities throughout the city. They and their partners are doing a lot of great work to ensure that everyone who needs support receives it, and they are helping many members of our community realize their full potential as individuals.

So on behalf of the Office of Mayor and Sault Ste. Marie City Council, I'm pleased to recognize October 2016 as Learning Disabilities Awareness Month in the City of Sault Ste. Marie. I'd also like to urge all citizens to support individuals with learning disabilities, in our educational institutions, in our workplaces and in our community.

Thank you.