

## **MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT MEETING NOTE**

**DATE:** April 21, 2023

**CLIFF#:** 278186

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Mitzi Dean, Minister Responsible for Children and Family Development

**DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF MEETING:** May 24, 1:00-1:30pm, via MST

**ISSUE:** Meeting with Dyslexia BC to discuss dyslexia initiatives in BC.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Dyslexia BC is a parent-led grassroots movement that organized in 2014. They are concerned with the limited access to interventions for dyslexia within the public and private education systems, and organize to inform policy makers about the needs of individuals with dyslexia and other learning disabilities in BC. They work to empower parents and individuals with dyslexia and other language-based learning disabilities to access the resources they need to be successful and reach their potential.

Dyslexia BC has engaged with MCFD recently, as a part of BC Disabilities Collaboration meetings. On February 10, 2023, Dyslexia BC participated in a meeting led by Autism BC that worked to identify how they might best engage as a part of deeper engagements. On March 1, 2023, Dyslexia BC attended another BC Disabilities Collaboration meeting that served as a budget announcement debrief.

Staff at the Ministry of Education and Child Care are currently preparing briefing materials for the meeting with Minister Dean, Minister Singh, and Dyslexia BC. They will share materials with MCFD once approved.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Neurodiversity is a non-medical term that refers to the variation of cognitive functioning in all people. Neurodivergent is a non-medical umbrella term that refers to individuals whose thought patterns, behaviours, or learning styles fall outside of what is considered "typical", which can include conditions such as autism, dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

MCFD funds a range of programs and services for children and youth with support needs (CYSN), and their families which provide direct support and intervention to children who have - or are at risk of - a developmental delay or disability, and their families. Services and supports are focused on supporting children and youth and intended to promote children's healthy development, maximize their quality of life, assist families in their role as primary caregivers and support full participation in community life.

MCFD does not currently provide direct intervention supports to children and youth with learning disabilities such as dyslexia. Learning supports for students with learning disabilities falls within the scope of the K- 12 education system. Those with learning disabilities, however, commonly experience other developmental delays or developmental disabilities that may be supported through CYSN services.

In pilot areas, children and youth with developmental delays and developmental disabilities may access a range of therapy, behaviour, and family supports through family connections centres and depending on the child/youth's adaptive functional needs, may be eligible to access Disability Services and/or Provincial Services such as At Home Program Medical and Equipment benefits.

In non-pilot areas, children/youth with developmental delays and developmental disabilities may access programs such as early intervention and school age therapies, inclusive child care, autism funding, At Home Program Medical and Equipment benefits, School Age Extended Therapy, and key worker program.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care provides non-targeted funding to Boards of Education to support the needs of all students enrolled in their school district, including students with disabilities or diverse abilities. A medical diagnosis or designation in one of the twelve Special Needs Funding categories is not required for students to access supports and services (e.g., learning assistance, speech language pathology services, counselling, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychological assessment services, and hospital homebound services) in the BC K-12 public school system.

Additional supports are available through the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Provincial Outreach Program for Early Years (POPEY). The program's mandate is to increase K-3 educators' capacity to support all primary English literacy learners, particularly diverse and struggling students in the classroom.

## s.13

**Contact:****Danielle Smith**

*Executive Director  
Early Years and Inclusion  
Policy, Communications  
and Engagement  
778-698-7368*

**Alternate Contact  
for content:**

*Colleen Hobson  
Director of Operational  
Inclusion Policy  
250-475-7457*

**Prepared by:**

*Erica Steele  
Policy Analyst,  
Inclusion Policy  
778-445-4764*

**Staff Consulted:**

*Kate Evans  
Manager, Inclusion  
Policy  
778-698-7128*

**From:** Green, Jesse MCF:EX (Jesse.Green@gov.bc.ca)

**To:** Dean, Mitzi MCF:EX (Mitzi.Dean@gov.bc.ca); Gunn, Paula MCF:EX (Paula.Gunn@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** FYI: Slides from Dyslexia BC Mttg

**Sent:** 05/25/2023 18:21:40

**Attachments:** Hon Rachna Singh and Hon Mitzi Dean May, 2023.pptx.pdf

**Message Body:**

FYI – slides from yesterday's meeting

Jesse

**From:** Cain, Krista A MCF:EX (Krista.Cain@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Gunn, Paula MCF:EX (Paula.Gunn@gov.bc.ca); Morton, Kaitlin MCF:EX (Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca)  
**Cc:** Flamank, Brittany FIN:EX (Brittany.Flamank@gov.bc.ca); Green, Jesse MCF:EX (Jesse.Green@gov.bc.ca); Bathea, Kenna MCF:EX (Kenna.Bathea@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** RE: Dyslexia Initiatives in the Province of BC  
**Sent:** 04/25/2023 23:22:39  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg, image003.jpg, image004.jpg, image005.jpg  
**Message Body:**

Carolyn has advised a short 20 min joint pre brief is a good idea and can be in addition to the already planned individual briefings.

Kaitlin, perhaps we can work on that as well as the individual one, if MO agrees.

Thanks

**From:** Gunn, Paula MCF:EX <Paula.Gunn@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 1:39 PM  
**To:** Cain, Krista A MCF:EX <Krista.Cain@gov.bc.ca>; Morton, Kaitlin MCF:EX <Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Flamank, Brittany MCF:EX <Brittany.Flamank@gov.bc.ca>; Green, Jesse MCF:EX <Jesse.Green@gov.bc.ca>; Bathea, Kenna MCF:EX <Kenna.Bathea@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Dyslexia Initiatives in the Province of BC

Fine with me!

**From:** Cain, Krista A MCF:EX <Krista.Cain@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 1:34 PM  
**To:** Gunn, Paula MCF:EX <Paula.Gunn@gov.bc.ca>; Morton, Kaitlin MCF:EX <Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Flamank, Brittany MCF:EX <Brittany.Flamank@gov.bc.ca>; Green, Jesse MCF:EX <Jesse.Green@gov.bc.ca>; Bathea, Kenna MCF:EX <Kenna.Bathea@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Dyslexia Initiatives in the Province of BC

Hi

Carolyn and Danielle would like to move this briefing to around Mid May (week of may 8 or 15)so that they have more time to connect with ECC staff around it.

Kaitlin – can we figure out a good time for this one?

Thanks!

**From:** Gunn, Paula MCF:EX <Paula.Gunn@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 12:29 PM  
**To:** Cain, Krista A MCF:EX <Krista.Cain@gov.bc.ca>; Morton, Kaitlin MCF:EX <Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Flamank, Brittany MCF:EX <Brittany.Flamank@gov.bc.ca>; Green, Jesse MCF:EX <Jesse.Green@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Dyslexia Initiatives in the Province of BC

This is a separate pre-brief for MMD from our staff. ECC be doing the same with their Minister I think – but it sounds like there is value on the 2 Ministers having a joint pre-brief?

**From:** Cain, Krista A MCF:EX <Krista.Cain@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 12:27 PM  
**To:** Morton, Kaitlin MCF:EX <Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Gunn, Paula MCF:EX <Paula.Gunn@gov.bc.ca>; Flamank, Brittany MCF:EX <Brittany.Flamank@gov.bc.ca>; Green, Jesse MCF:EX <Jesse.Green@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Dyslexia Initiatives in the Province of BC

Hello

Please see attached note for this pre brief happening this afternoon. Is this a joint pre brief with ECC? Carolyn had advised they should both be briefed but I don't see them included in the calendar.

Also [here](#) on SP.

Thanks

**From:** Lajoie, Nicole E MCF:EX <[Nicole.Lajoie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Nicole.Lajoie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 31, 2023 8:31 AM  
**To:** Cain, Krista A MCF:EX <[Krista.Cain@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Krista.Cain@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Bathea, Kenna MCF:EX <[Kenna.Bathea@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kenna.Bathea@gov.bc.ca)>; Morton, Kaitlin MCF:EX <[Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Dyslexia Initiatives in the Province of BC

Hey Krista,

Yes I have been trying to lock this down with Jane Constable.. The ECC AC! Do you have any input on timing? Its been hard with all three houses open during session but we can try! Also should be we offering 30 mins? I know ECC has the lead on this but thought I would double check!

Nicole

**From:** Cain, Krista A MCF:EX <[Krista.Cain@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Krista.Cain@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2023 4:41 PM  
**To:** Lajoie, Nicole E MCF:EX <[Nicole.Lajoie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Nicole.Lajoie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Bathea, Kenna MCF:EX <[Kenna.Bathea@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kenna.Bathea@gov.bc.ca)>; Morton, Kaitlin MCF:EX <[Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Dyslexia Initiatives in the Province of BC

Hello

I just rec'd another email from Carolyn on this. She says we need to pre brief Deputies and both Ministers – either individually or together. Please ensure this meeting is booked with sufficient time to allow for these briefings to occur. Once scheduled by MO can you pls confirm when it is scheduled, so I can ensure my ECC colleague ADM is aware and can help initiate briefings to her executive?

So Perhaps Kenna and Nicole can work on timing for the briefing (ideally together with both DMs and ministers) before the meeting. Can you also let me know when the meeting is booked so I can let Carolyn know?

Thanks!

**From:** Cain, Krista A MCF:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 29, 2023 2:24 PM  
**To:** Lajoie, Nicole E MCF:EX <[Nicole.Lajoie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Nicole.Lajoie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Bathea, Kenna MCF:EX <[Kenna.Bathea@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kenna.Bathea@gov.bc.ca)>; Morton, Kaitlin MCF:EX <[Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Dyslexia Initiatives in the Province of BC

Hi Nicole

Advice from Carolyn is:

Yes to join with ECC. Education system supports learning disabilities so it would be good for ECC to discuss what they do.

Krista

**From:** Lajoie, Nicole E MCF:EX <[Nicole.Lajoie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Nicole.Lajoie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 4:08 PM

**To:** Cain, Krista A MCF:EX <[Krista.Cain@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Krista.Cain@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Bathea, Kenna MCF:EX <[Kenna.Bathea@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kenna.Bathea@gov.bc.ca)>; Morton, Kaitlin MCF:EX <[Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: Dyslexia Initiatives in the Province of BC

Hi Both,

Hoping to get staff advice on this one, should MMD be joining this?

Thanks,

**Nicole (Hansen) Lajoie**

Administrative Coordinator

The Office of the Hon. Mitzi Dean

Minister of Children and Family Development

Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

C: 778-679-3134 E: [nicole.lajoie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:nicole.lajoie@gov.bc.ca)

**From:** Lajoie, Nicole E MCF:EX

**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 11:14 AM

**To:** Green, Jesse MCF:EX <[Jesse.Green@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jesse.Green@gov.bc.ca)>; Flamank, Brittany MCF:EX <[Brittany.Flamank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brittany.Flamank@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Morton, Kaitlin MCF:EX <[Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kaitlin.Morton@gov.bc.ca)>; Gunn, Paula MCF:EX <[Paula.Gunn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Paula.Gunn@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: Dyslexia Initiatives in the Province of BC

Flagging this! Like Jane said, she was gone this week so once we talk about this as an office I will reach back out to her!

Nicole

**From:** Minister, ECC ECC:EX <[ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2023 2:31 PM

**To:** Lajoie, Nicole E MCF:EX <[Nicole.Lajoie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Nicole.Lajoie@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: Dyslexia Initiatives in the Province of BC

Hello Nicole,

Looking to set up a joint with MMD with Dyslexia BC.

I don't have much to go on as I can't seem to track down the original that, I believe, was sent to MCFD initially?

Let me know when you've got some time to discuss this, and we can set something up.

I'm away next week, so might have to wait until the week of the 27<sup>th</sup> – but I wanted to put the bug in your ear ??

Have a great weekend,

**Jane Constable**

Administrative Coordinator

**The Hon. Rachna Singh**

Minister of Education and Child Care.

Email: [jane.constable@gov.bc.ca](mailto:jane.constable@gov.bc.ca)

Room 346 / Parliament Buildings / Victoria, BC

Acknowledging that the land on which we live, work and play is within the traditional territories of the Lək'wəḡən, Malahat, Pacheedaht, Scia'new, T'Sou-ke and WSÁNEĆ peoples.

**From:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <[Premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Premier@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 5, 2023 2:50 PM

**To:** Minister, ECC ECC:EX <[ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: Dyslexia Initiatives in the Province of BC

Hi there, forwarding the attached letter for your handling. Please let me know if you have questions.

Kind regards,

Jenelyn

Office of the Premier  
Scheduling Branch  
Premier@gov.bc.ca

-  
-  
-  
-  
-  
-

**From:** Cathy McMillan <dyslexiabc.cm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** January 4, 2023 1:33 PM  
**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Dyslexia Initiatives in the Province of BC

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Please find attached a letter of response by Dyslexia BC to the new Education Mandate from the Honourable Premier David Eby dated December 7, 2022.

Thank you for letting me know that the link would not be viewed!

Regards,  
Cathy

Cathy McMillan,  
Founding Member  
Dyslexia BC  
778-839-1540  
DyslexiaBC.cm@gmail.com

On Wed, Jan 4, 2023 at 12:35 PM OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca> wrote:  
Dear Cathy:

Thank you for writing on behalf of Dyslexia BC. For security reasons, the Office of the Premier is unable to open documents sent as links. If you are able to resend the document as an attachment, we can ensure that it is relayed to the appropriate officials for review and consideration.

Thank you, again, and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Office of the Premier



**From:** Cathy McMillan <dyslexiabc.cm@gmail.com>

**Sent:** December 31, 2022 3:26 PM

**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>; Minister, ECC ECC:EX <ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Sturko.MLA, Elenore LASS:EX <Elenore.Sturko.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Kirkpatrick.MLA, Karin LASS:EX <Karin.Kirkpatrick.MLA@leg.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Dyslexia Initiatives in the Province of BC

Please find included a letter to the Honourable Premier David Eby. Dyslexia BC looks forward to the response provided.

Sincerely  
Cathy McMillan

Letter to Premier David Eby regarding Progress ...

*Cathy McMillan,*  
Founding Member

**Dyslexia BC**  
778-839-1540

DyslexiaBC.cm@gmail.com

# Dyslexia

The logo for Dyslexia BC features a dark grey rectangular background. The letters "BC" are prominently displayed in white, bold, sans-serif font on the right side of the rectangle. The rest of the rectangle is empty, creating a high-contrast design.

# BC

## Dyslexia Advocacy Society of BC

**Meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with Dyslexia BC and the  
Honourable Rachna Singh Minister of Education and Child Care and the  
Honourable Mitzi Dean Minister of Children and Family Development**

Page 11 of 18

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

Page 12 of 18

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright ; s.22

Page 13 of 18 to/à Page 15 of 18

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright

Page 16 of 18 to/à Page 18 of 18

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright ; s.22