

FW: Check-in prior to 2nd YE Grants briefing with MO

From: Pratt, Megan SDPR:EX <Megan.Pratt@gov.bc.ca>
To: Keene, Jeff SDPR:EX <Jeff.Keene@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>, McKinnon, Adam D SDPR:EX <Adam.McKinnon@gov.bc.ca>, Christensen, Suzanne SDPR:EX <Suzanne.Christensen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 25, 2023 12:47:15 PM PST
Attachments: 22-23 Year End Request Template SDPR Grants Request 2 20230126.xlsx
Hi Jeff,

David has asked for this to go to the MO asap in advance of our 3:30 briefing

Thank you,

Megan

From: Pratt, Megan SDPR:EX
Sent: January 25, 2023 12:29 PM
To: Keene, Jeff SDPR:EX <Jeff.Keene@gov.bc.ca>; Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>; McKinnon, Adam D SDPR:EX <Adam.McKinnon@gov.bc.ca>; Christensen, Suzanne SDPR:EX <Suzanne.Christensen@gov.bc.ca>; Marko, Liz SDPR:EX <Liz.Marko@gov.bc.ca>; Turcott, Sam R SDPR:EX <Sam.Turcott@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Check-in prior to 2nd YE Grants briefing with MO
Importance: High

Here is the updated grants list (part 2) with today's grant requests added. Sorry David, nothing on Dyslexia for \$100K!

Thank you,

Megan

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Keene, Jeff SDPR:EX <Jeff.Keene@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 25, 2023 10:47 AM
To: Keene, Jeff SDPR:EX; Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX; McKinnon, Adam D SDPR:EX; Christensen, Suzanne SDPR:EX; Pratt, Megan SDPR:EX; Marko, Liz SDPR:EX; Turcott, Sam R SDPR:EX
Subject: Check-in prior to 2nd YE Grants briefing with MO
When: January 25, 2023 12:30 PM-1:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Microsoft Teams meeting

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An architectural rendering of a modern building complex. The main building is a tall, multi-story structure with a facade of vertical glass panels and dark frames. It has several cantilevered balconies and a rooftop garden with trees. The building is situated in an urban environment with other buildings, trees, and a parking lot in the foreground. In the background, there are mountains under a cloudy sky. The text "Think dyslexia. Think potential." is overlaid in large white letters on the left side of the image.

**Think dyslexia.
Think potential.**

Centre for Dyslexia

December 2022

Challenges of Dyslexia

- Dyslexia has outsized impacts on a person's ability to lead a fulfilling life.
- People living with dyslexia are at a significant greater risk of mental health challenges and experiencing homelessness and poverty.
- 80% of homeless youth and 50% of all homeless live with dyslexia.
- Indigenous students 66% more likely to have a diagnosed learning disability and have a graduation rate 23% lower than non-Indigenous students



Think dyslexia. Think potential.



What is Dyslexia?

- Learning disability impairing ability to read, write, or spell, as well as other cognitive abilities
- Most common learning disability
 - 20% of people having symptoms
 - about 1 million could be affected in B.C.
 - about 185,000 children in B.C.
- 80% of those with symptoms are un/misdiagnosed
- Impacts of the condition include
 - lower lifetime incomes
 - poverty
 - increased risk of homelessness
 - mental health challenges
 - substance use
 - lower graduation rates

Think dyslexia. Think potential.

Impacts of Dyslexia

- High school dropout rates of 33%
- Postsecondary completion of 39% vs 64% average
- Income is 51% less than average
- Up to 60% of youth in substance treatment programs have dyslexia
- 50% of young offenders have dyslexia



Think dyslexia. Think potential.



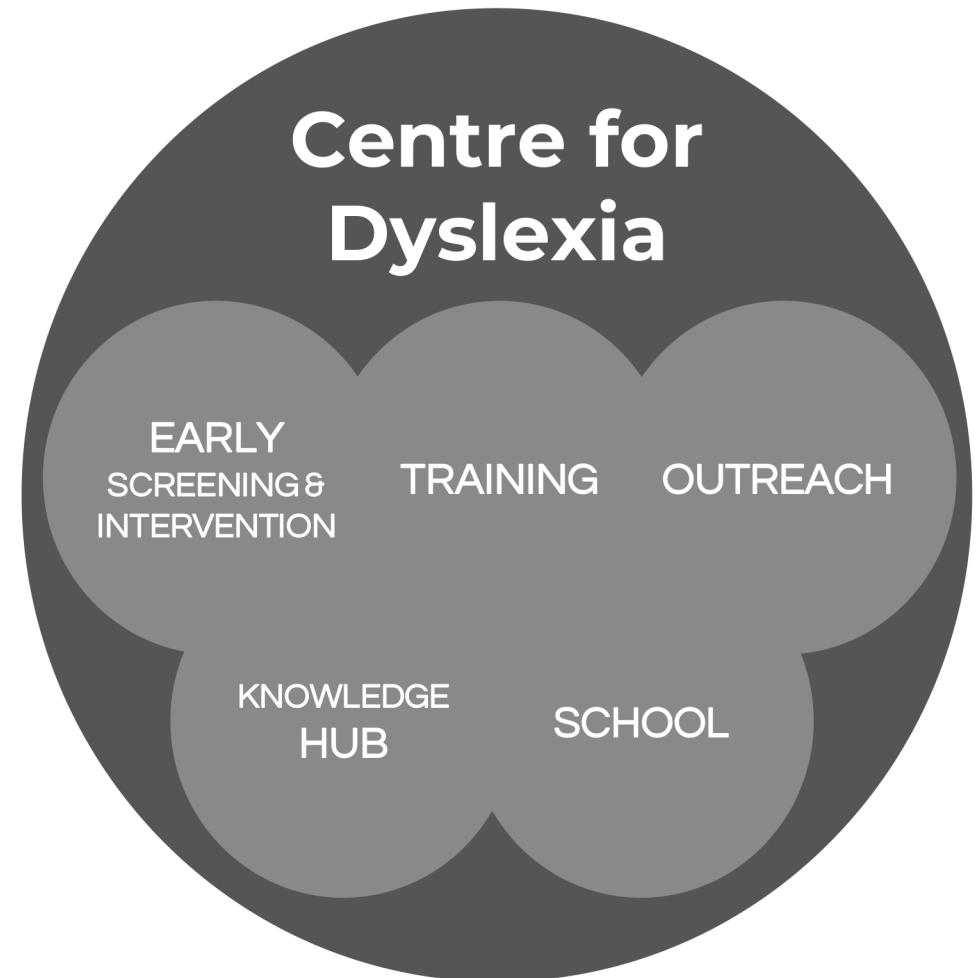
Centre for Dyslexia

- Purpose-built not-for-profit facility delivering in-person and virtually programs for youth, their families, adults, and professionals in every part of the province.
- Will be B.C.'s hub of dyslexia expertise, integrated education, and therapeutic intervention.
- Grounded by the data-driven experience of 40-years of teaching students at the not-for-profit Fraser Academy.

Think dyslexia. Think potential.

Centre's Key Pillars

1. Early literacy screening for at-risk students to make early intervention possible
2. Accredited training institute to build the capacity of educators and professionals
3. Outreach services to support youth and adults across the province
4. Knowledge hub offering thought leadership, resources, and expertise
5. Day school specializing in dyslexia serving up to 500 students.





Ensuring Impact

- Increased partnerships with Indigenous organizations so programs and supports tackle the higher dyslexia rates in Indigenous populations
- Reducing human and social impacts and job barriers by increased interventions directly with youth, adults and work with professionals across B.C.
- Teacher training will ensure students with dyslexia across the school system will benefit from the Centre's efforts

Think dyslexia. Think potential.

Aligned with B.C. priorities

- Identify opportunities to expand services and interventions for kids with dyslexia and related learning differences (*Education and Child Care*)
- Ensure all students have the supports they need to be successful (*Education and Child Care*)
- Offering clear and available opportunities for meaningful health interventions at every turn (*Mental Health and Addictions*)
- Deliver StrongerBC's Future Ready Skills plan with clear actions to continue expanding access to affordable, accessible, and relevant training (*Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills*)



Think dyslexia. Think potential.



Financial Plan

- Operationally self-sustaining

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Think dyslexia. Think potential.

Thank You

More information:
Neil Johnston | Chief Executive Officer
Mobile: 604-831-9366
email: njohnston@centrefordyslexia.ca



Think dyslexia. Think potential.

Request to meet / Centre for Dyslexia

From: Neil Johnston <njohnston@centrefordyslexia.ca>
To: Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 3, 2023 12:58:49 PM PST
Attachments: 2022-12_Gov_of_BC_CentreforDyslexia_Briefing Notedocx.docx.pdf

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

Dear David,

I'm writing on behalf of Neil Johnston, CEO of the Centre for Dyslexia.

He is hoping to meet with you this month to discuss an exciting new project which will have immeasurable public benefit for all British Columbians. Dyslexia is a learning disability with a disproportionate effect on people's lives. Approximately 20% of British Columbians have dyslexia; it compromises not only their ability to read, but also to plan, manage their lives, and fully participate in society.

When unsupported, it impacts a person's ability to be educated, gain employment and be successful in life with shocking statistics from the dire social and emotional fallout. For example, 80% of youth who experience homelessness are dyslexic; that statistic is 50% for adults.

We are creating a Centre for Dyslexia for BC, to provide early intervention, screening and other program support to those who live with dyslexia, and training for professionals. It will be the first of its kind in Canada. While it will be located in Vancouver, it will provide in-person and virtual services to the entire province.

I've attached a briefing note which summarizes the challenge and the proposed solution, which we were encouraged by our MLA to develop and submit to the province.

Neil is available at your convenience, but also has times on:

- Friday, January 20 between 1pm and 3:30pm.
- Monday, January 23 between 1pm and 3pm.
- Tuesday, January 24 between 9am and 11am.
- Wednesday, January 25 between 12pm and 2pm.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Caoimhe de Paor

Executive Assistant to the CEO

--

Neil Johnston (He/Him/His)
Chief Executive Officer

Centre for Dyslexia
2294 West 10th Ave
Vancouver BC, V6K 2H8
T. 604 831 9366

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Briefing Note – Improving Lives, Reducing Homelessness and Poverty through new Centre for Dyslexia

Introduction

Dyslexia has outsized impacts on a person's ability to lead a fulfilling life. People living with dyslexia are at a significantly greater risk of mental health challenges, homelessness and poverty. The proposed Centre for Dyslexia will assist in preventing these negative outcomes for the 20% of people with dyslexia, improving their lives by ensuring access to vital supports. The Centre will offer a range of tailored, specialized programs for dyslexic British Columbians, including early screening, intervention, outreach, and other key resources, and be a leading training institute for individual educators, schools, school districts, and universities.

Project Summary

20% of the population has dyslexia. The Centre for Dyslexia will be a first in B.C., tackling the outsized impacts this learning disability has on the lives of British Columbians. Over 80% of homeless youth and 50% of all homeless have dyslexia; the condition also drives increased mental health challenges, greater poverty/under-employment, higher high school dropout rates, lower post-secondary completion, and substance use and addictions. The Centre will increase early screening, intervention, and programs for children, youth and adults, onsite and offsite, at the centre in Vancouver and throughout B.C. (including virtually and through partnerships). It will also play a critical role in addressing dyslexia provincially by providing research-based, specialized training for individual educators, schools, school districts, universities, and other professionals. Together, these programs and resources will create a centre of excellence to reduce the impacts of dyslexia and help dyslexics overcome barriers to realizing their potential.

Background

- Dyslexia is a learning disability that impairs a person's ability to read, write, and/or spell; it can also impact other cognitive abilities that help people plan, finish tasks, and meet goals.
- With 20% of people having dyslexia, as many as 1 million British Columbians could be affected, including 185,000 children. Approx. 80% of those with dyslexia go undiagnosed.
- Undiagnosed or poorly managed dyslexia has significant and long-term implications for individuals and society, including lower lifetime incomes, poverty, increased risk of homelessness, mental health challenges, self harm, substance use, school dropout, and lower graduation rates. It is the most prevalent learning disability and genetic.
- There is a scarcity of effective services for dyslexics in B.C., Canada and across the globe. It is a known issue and one that continues to be highlighted as being in need of urgent action.
- Dyslexics have average to high intelligence. The key skills required for the jobs of tomorrow outlined in the World Economic Forum's *Future of Jobs* report – including creativity, problem solving, leadership, and critical thinking – are directly aligned with the strengths of those with

dyslexia. However, the accompanying challenges that come with the condition are a barrier to workforce entry and success.

- Comparative statistics of those living with dyslexia:
 - Homelessness: approx. 80% of homeless youth, and 50% of all homeless, live with dyslexia.
 - High school dropout rates: 33% vs. 13% average.
 - Completion of post-secondary education: 39% vs. 64% average.
 - Poverty & underemployment: income is 51% less than average.
 - Mental health challenges: up to three times more likely.
 - Substance abuse & addiction: up to 60% of youth in treatment programs have dyslexia.
 - Delinquency: 50% of young offenders have dyslexia.
 - Indigenous students are 66% more likely to have a diagnosed learning disability and have a graduation rate 23% lower than non-Indigenous students.

About the Centre for Dyslexia - a new centre of excellence for B.C.

- The Centre for Dyslexia will be a non-profit and charitable organization. It will provide crucial leadership in B.C. to address the gaps in early screening and intervention, support programs for children, youth and adults, training for educators and other professionals, and additional crucial resources and services.
- The Centre will have a purpose-built facility in Vancouver that will offer world-leading expertise to deliver programs for children and youth, their families, adults, and professionals in-person and through virtual platforms to reach across the province, including to remote and rural communities.
- B.C.'s charitable, not-for-profit Fraser Academy has 40-years of experience in teaching students with dyslexia, and its research/evidence based data-driven approach will ground the practice of the new Centre for Dyslexia.
- The Centre will serve as British Columbia's hub of dyslexia expertise, integrated education, and therapeutic intervention by offering five key program pillars at the Centre and remotely across B.C.:
 - **Early Literacy Screening** to help identify at-risk students to enable early intervention;
 - **Accredited Teacher Training Institute** to build the capacity of educators and other professionals, with exponential impact on children and youth in the public system;
 - **Outreach learner & family consulting services** supporting students and adults;
 - A **Knowledge Hub** offering and sharing thought leadership, resources, and expertise while convening partners for change such as through summits; and,
 - A **Day School** specializing in dyslexia serving up to 500 students.
- The Centre for Dyslexia will increase partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations to ensure programs and supports are available to help tackle the higher rates of dyslexia in their populations.

- The new Centre's increased interventions – both directly with children, youth, adults, and professionals and through province-wide outreach and supports – will help reduce the material human, social and financial impacts of dyslexia in B.C. They will also help people with dyslexia overcome barriers and inequities and develop the skills needed to succeed in the job market.
- A working business plan is in place and shows the new Centre will be operationally self-sustaining (see also the addendum). The public benefit of the Centre and its business plan is informed by two economic impact studies completed by MNP -- i) *Costs of Dyslexia in BC* and ii) *Economic Impact of Fraser Academy Current and Future Operations*.

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- The Centre and its goals are aligned with a number of government priorities, including:
 - Identify opportunities to expand services and interventions for kids with dyslexia and related learning differences (Education and Child Care)
 - Ensure all students have the supports they need to be successful (Education and Child Care)
 - Offering clear and available opportunities for meaningful health interventions at every turn (Mental Health and Addictions)
 - Deliver StrongerBC's Future Ready Skills plan with clear actions to continue expanding access to affordable, accessible, and relevant training (Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills)

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- **Recommendation**

The Government of B.C. supports the creation of the Centre for Dyslexia through one-time capital funding of ^{s.21}

Contact

Neil Johnston, Chief Executive Officer
 Centre for Dyslexia
 E: njohnston@centrefordyslexia.ca
 T: 604 831 9366

Heather Altas, Chief Advancement Officer
 Centre for Dyslexia
 E: haltas@centrefordyslexia.ca
 T: 778 875 5924

centrefordyslexia.ca

Centre for Dyslexia - Financials and Assumptions Addendum

Financial Pro-Forma Project Budget

Gross Building Area 182,385 sq ft*
* including parking

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Construction Period Sources and Uses of Funds

Sources of Funds	\$ M	Uses of Funds	\$ M
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Construction Cash Flows

\$ Millions	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Sources of Funds									

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Uses of Funds

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Operating Projections - Occupancy in Centre for Dyslexia

Year Ended June 31										
\$ Millions	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039

Revenues

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Expenses

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Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	s.21
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* Includes Admin & Fundraising Salaries

Financial Conclusions

The output from the Financial Pro-forma demonstrates that based on the current plans and assumptions, the Centre for Dyslexia would be financially sustainable and would not require any new provincial support.

Key Assumptions

Program Requirements

Program Description	Sq ft Area Requirement
Child & Youth Programs	15,047
Community & Training Programs	28,422
Arts & Applied Skills	13,324
Recreational Services	15,944
Remedial Services	16,063
Outreach Services	1,543
Atrium & Administration	11,047
Childcare (Early Literacy Screening)	4,280
Facilities/Mechanical	1,679
Total	107,351
Building Gross Up	1.25
Gross Building Area	134,188*
Efficiency Factor	80%

**Does not include underground parking*

Implementation Timelines
Summary Project Plan

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Financial Operating Model Assumptions

Key Coefficients / Change Factors

Community & Youth Services Growth

Outreach Volume Growth

Pricing Growth

Wage & Salary Growth

Programming Services Expenses - Fixed

Programming Services Expenses - Variable

Insurance Expense

Admin Expense

Child Care

Bursaries & Financial Assistance

Donations Growth

Building Repair & Maintenance

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Risks and Mitigation Summary

Category	Mitigation Strategies
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Centre of Dyslexia - Thank you / Follow up materials

From: Neil Johnston <njohnston@centrefordyslexia.ca>
To: Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>, Christensen, Suzanne SDPR:EX <Suzanne.Christensen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Heather Altas <haltas@centrefordyslexia.ca>
Sent: January 25, 2023 12:25:59 PM PST
Attachments: Centre for Dyslexia Deck Dec 23 (2).pdf, 2022-12_Gov_of_BC_CentreforDyslexia_Briefing Notedocx (1).pdf

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

David and Suzanne,

Thank you so much for taking the time to meet with Heather and I today.

We deeply appreciated the opportunity to share the vision for the Centre of Dyslexia. As we explained, for the approx. 20% of British Columbians who have dyslexia, this project will provide immeasurable and vital benefits.

Thank you for the positive feedback on our vision and plan. Attached, as requested, is the deck we presented today together with a briefing note with project financial details.

Please let me know if you need anything else at this time, or require any further information whether by phone, Zoom or email.

Best regards,
Neil

--

Neil Johnston (He/Him/His)
Chief Executive Officer

Centre for Dyslexia
2294 West 10th Ave
Vancouver BC, V6K 2H8
T. 604 831 9366

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Re: Centre of Dyslexia - Thank you / Follow up materials

From: Neil Johnston <njohnston@centrefordyslexia.ca>
To: Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Keene, Jeff SDPR:EX <Jeff.Keene@gov.bc.ca>, Christensen, Suzanne SDPR:EX <Suzanne.Christensen@gov.bc.ca>, Heather Altas <haltas@centrefordyslexia.ca>
Sent: March 6, 2023 1:28:27 PM PST

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

Thanks so much, David.

Jeff, we look forward to hearing from you.

Neil

On Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 9:15 AM Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Neil,

I will ask Jeff to find us a time. cheers.

David Galbraith

Deputy Minister

Ministry of Social Development and

Poverty Reduction

“A British Columbia where everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in their communities and reach their full potential”

I am grateful to be living, learning, and working on Lekwungen traditional territories.

From: Neil Johnston <njohnston@centrefordyslexia.ca>

Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 9:14 AM

To: Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Christensen, Suzanne SDPR:EX <Suzanne.Christensen@gov.bc.ca>; Heather Altas <haltas@centrefordyslexia.ca>

Subject: Re: Centre of Dyslexia - Thank you / Follow up materials

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

David,

I hope you and Suzanne are well.

Would you have 15 mins for a zoom call later this week (Thursday or Friday), next week or the week of March 27?

Following our last conversation, we'd love to give you a quick update on the Centre for Dyslexia.

Thank you,

Neil

Centre for Dyslexia
2275 West 10th Ave
Vancouver BC, V6K 2H8
T. 604 831 9366

centrefordyslexia.ca

On Fri, Jan 27, 2023 at 2:44 PM Neil Johnston <njohnston@centrefordyslexia.ca> wrote:

David,

Thank you for the quick follow-up.

We understand that there may be a cross-ministry committee formed to look at the project, so I look forward to keeping in touch.

Have a good weekend.

Neil

On Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 12:54 PM Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Thank you Neil for the additional information. It was great to talk with you and Heather this am! My understanding is that another ministry is responsible for the next steps with your project.

Regards,

David Galbraith

Deputy Minister

Ministry of Social Development and

Poverty Reduction

“A British Columbia where everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in their communities and reach their full potential”

I am grateful to be living, learning, and working on Lekwungen traditional territories.

From: Neil Johnston <njohnston@centrefordyslexia.ca>

Sent: January 25, 2023 12:26 PM

To: Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>; Christensen, Suzanne SDPR:EX <Suzanne.Christensen@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Heather Altas <haltas@centrefordyslexia.ca>

Subject: Centre of Dyslexia - Thank you / Follow up materials

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Best regards,

Neil

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Neil Johnston (He/Him/His)
Chief Executive Officer

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--

Neil Johnston (He/Him/His)
Chief Executive Officer

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RE: Request to meet / Centre for Dyslexia

From: Zacharuk, Christina ECC:EX <Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca>
To: Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>, Plecas, Bobbi PSFS:EX <Bobbi.Plecas@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 19, 2023 3:16:46 PM PDT

Thanks for this – let me run to ground at my end as this was pulled as a YE request for the reasons I texted about.
Thanks, CZ

From: Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 17, 2023 2:05 PM
To: Zacharuk, Christina ECC:EX <Christina.Zacharuk@gov.bc.ca>; Plecas, Bobbi PSFS:EX <Bobbi.Plecas@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Request to meet / Centre for Dyslexia

FYI

David Galbraith
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Social Development and
Poverty Reduction

“A British Columbia where everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in their communities and reach their full potential”

I am grateful to be living, learning, and working on Lekwungen traditional territories.

From: Keene, Jeff SDPR:EX <Jeff.Keene@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 1:14 PM
To: Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Request to meet / Centre for Dyslexia

Here is what we received for the initial meeting. Doesn't look like we prepared a note ourselves I'm guessing because it wasn't a meeting with the Minister.

From: Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 3, 2023 1:05 PM
To: Keene, Jeff SDPR:EX <Jeff.Keene@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Request to meet / Centre for Dyslexia

Hi Jeff,
If you could see which would work best and respond for me please. Maybe Suzanne could attend too. Thanks!

David Galbraith
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Social Development and
Poverty Reduction

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From: Neil Johnston <njohnston@centrefordyslexia.ca>
Sent: January 3, 2023 12:59 PM
To: Galbraith, David J SDPR:EX <David.Galbraith@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Request to meet / Centre for Dyslexia

Dear David,

I'm writing on behalf of Neil Johnston, CEO of the Centre for Dyslexia.

He is hoping to meet with you this month to discuss an exciting new project which will have immeasurable public benefit for all British Columbians. Dyslexia is a learning disability with a disproportionate effect on people's lives. Approximately 20% of British Columbians have dyslexia; it compromises not only their ability to read, but also to plan, manage their lives, and fully participate in society.

When unsupported, it impacts a person's ability to be educated, gain employment and be successful in life with shocking statistics from the dire social and emotional fallout. For example, 80% of youth who experience **homeless** are dyslexic; that statistic is 50% for adults.

We are creating a Centre for Dyslexia for BC, to provide early intervention, screening and other program support to those who live with dyslexia, and training for professionals. It will be the first of its kind in Canada. While it will be located in Vancouver, it will provide in-person and virtual services to the entire province.

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- Monday, January 23 between 1pm and 3pm.
- Tuesday, January 24 between 9am and 11am.
- Wednesday, January 25 between 12pm and 2pm.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Caoimhe de Paor

Executive Assistant to the CEO

--

Neil Johnston (He/Him/His)
Chief Executive Officer

Centre for Dyslexia
2294 West 10th Ave
Vancouver BC, V6K 2H8
T. 604 831 9366

We gratefully resides on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱m̱əθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation and səlílwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation. Honoured to learn and play on these beautiful lands, we endeavour to be partners in truth and reconciliation. In creating shared understanding and opportunities, we hope to help foster a more equitable and inclusive society for all.

Briefing Note – Improving Lives, Reducing Homelessness and Poverty through new Centre for Dyslexia

Introduction

Dyslexia has outsized impacts on a person's ability to lead a fulfilling life. People living with dyslexia are at a significant greater risk of mental health challenges, and experiencing homelessness and poverty. The proposed Centre for Dyslexia will increase early screening and intervention for young British Columbians, outreach programs to children and young adults, and provide vital resources and training to individual educators, schools, school districts, universities, and other organizations.

Background

- Dyslexia is a learning disability that impairs a person's ability to read, write, and/or spell, as well as other cognitive abilities that help people plan, finish tasks, and meet goals.
- With 20% of people having dyslexia, as many as 1 million British Columbians could be affected, including 185,000 children. Approx. 80% of those with dyslexia go undiagnosed.
- Undiagnosed or poorly managed dyslexia has significant and long-term implications for individuals and society, including lower lifetime incomes, poverty, increased risk of homelessness, mental health challenges, self harm, substance use, school drop-out, and lower graduation rates. It is the most prevalent learning disability.
- The key skills required for the jobs of tomorrow outlined in the World Economic Forum's *Future of Jobs* report – including creativity, problem solving, leadership, and critical thinking – are directly aligned with the strengths of those with dyslexia. However, the accompanying challenges that come with the condition are a barrier to workforce entry and success.
- Comparative statistics of those living with dyslexia:
 - Homelessness: approx. 80% of homeless youth, and 50% of all homeless, live with dyslexia.
 - High school dropout rates: 33% vs. 13% average.
 - Completion of postsecondary education: 39% vs. 64% average.
 - Poverty & underemployment: income is 51% less than average.
 - Mental health challenges: up to three times more likely.
 - Substance abuse & addiction: up to 60% of youth in treatment programs have dyslexia.
 - Delinquency: 50% of young offenders have dyslexia.
 - Indigenous students are 66% more likely to have a diagnosed learning disability and have a graduation rate 23% lower than non-Indigenous students.

About the Centre for Dyslexia - a new centre of excellence for BC

- The Centre for Dyslexia will provide leadership in B.C. to address the gaps in early screening and intervention, youth programs, adult programs, training for educators and other professionals, and other crucial resources.

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- The Centre will have a purpose-built facility in Vancouver that will offer world-leading expertise to deliver programs for youth, their families, adults, and professionals in-person and through virtual platforms to reach across the province, including to remote and rural communities.
- B.C.'s charitable, not-for-profit Fraser Academy has 40-years of teaching students with dyslexia, and its research/evidence based data-driven approach will ground the new Centre for Dyslexia.
- The Centre will serve as British Columbia's hub of dyslexia expertise, integrated education, and therapeutic intervention by delivering five key pillars at the Centre and remotely across B.C.
 - Early Literacy Screening to help identify at-risk students to enable early intervention;
 - Accredited Teacher Training Institute to build the capacity of educators and other professionals with exponential impact on children and youth in the public system;
 - Outreach learner & family consulting services supporting students and adults across B.C.;
 - A Knowledge Hub offering thought leadership, resources, and expertise; and,
 - A day school specializing in dyslexia serving up to 500 students.
- The Centre for Dyslexia will increase partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations to ensure programs and supports are available to help tackle the higher rates of dyslexia in their populations.
- The new Centre's increased interventions – both directly with youth, adults, and professionals and through province-wide outreach and supports – will help reduce the material human, social and financial impacts of dyslexia in B.C. They will also help overcome barriers and inequities that dyslexics face to have the skills and opportunities needed to succeed in the job market.
- A working business plan is in place and was informed by two economic impact studies done by MNP -- i) *Costs of Dyslexia in BC* and ii) *Economic Impact of Fraser Academy Current and Future Operations*. It shows the new centre will be operationally self-sustaining and the Centre has investments to assist with this.
- s.21
- The Centre and its goals are aligned with a number of government priorities, including:
 - Identify opportunities to expand services and interventions for kids with dyslexia and related learning differences (Education and Child Care)
 - Ensure all students have the supports they need to be successful (Education and Child Care)
 - Offering clear and available opportunities for meaningful health interventions at every turn (Mental Health and Addictions)
 - Deliver StrongerBC's Future Ready Skills plan with clear actions to continue expanding access to affordable, accessible, and relevant training (Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills)

Dec 23, 2022

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Recommendation

- The Government of B.C. supports the creation of the Centre for Dyslexia through one-time funding of^{s.21}

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