



March 25, 2011

Déirdre Smith
Manager
Ontario College of Teachers
121 Bloor Street East
Toronto ON L3T 6Z9

Dear Ms. Smith,

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) represents the interests of students with learning disabilities (LDs), who comprise by far the greatest number of exceptional students in Ontario schools. LDAO was pleased to respond in December 2010 to the consultation on the Schedule D: Special Education Part I, II and Specialist Additional Qualification (AQ) course guidelines. A copy of our response, which was sent electronically to James Moloney on December 1, 2010, is attached for your information.

In February 2008 LDAO responded to a consultation on revising the AQ course on Learning Disability. A copy of that response is also attached. We have been disappointed not to see any results of that consultation, and the LD AQ is apparently still not offered. As we discussed in our recent submission, Special Education II or Specialist should actually be a specialist course, specializing in one or two exceptionality areas. One way this could be accomplished is to make one or more of the individual exceptionality courses a requirement for completion of Special Education II and/or Specialist. We look forward to a revised version of the Learning Disability course which takes into account all the up to date research on learning disabilities.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to contribute to the development of revised Special Education and Learning Disability Aqs.

Sincerely,

Diane Wagner
Manager, Public Policy, Client Services & Training
Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario

c.c. John Wilhelm
Chair, MACSE