



In-Psyghts

Spring 2007

Volume 18, Number 3

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Special Edition

This Special Edition of In-Psyghts is a response to the following motion passed at the 2006 Annual General Meeting:

That the executive of BCASP undertake, or assign a subcommittee to undertake, to develop a best practices document intended to:

- a) harmonize the assessment, identification and documentation of learning disabilities across school districts in BC, and*
- b) recognize the value of the discipline of school psychology and the unique skills and contributions of school psychologists as they relate to that process.*

An LD Subcommittee was established with following BCASP members: Michael Scales (Vancouver), Jeannie Markowsky (Sooke), Cheryl Ainsworth (Langley), Sharon Malone (Maple Ridge), and Emily Brooks (Campbell River). Over the last several months the committee has met several times and has developed the Preliminary Working Paper for the “Best Practice Guidelines for the Assessment, Diagnosis and Identification of Students with Learning Disabilities.”

Following a review by the BCASP Executive, every member of BCASP has been sent a copy of the Preliminary Working Paper for their inspection and review. It is the wish of the LD Subcommittee and the BCASP Executive that over the next several months every member will read the Working Paper carefully and discuss it with their colleagues in their districts, both BCASP and non-BCASP members. As a result of those discussions, BCASP members are strongly encouraged to give feedback to members of the Executive or the LD Subcommittee on the reactions to the document around the province.

The LD Subcommittee will then use the feedback that they receive by the end of the school year to develop a Final Working Paper in the Fall. That paper will then be submitted to the 2007 Annual General Meeting for adoption by the membership. Therefore, if you would like to have some input regarding the details of this document, you should give your feedback to the LD Subcommittee in the next three months. As you can imagine, any proposed changes to the Final Working Paper at the 2007 AGM will be greatly constrained by the natural limitations of a well attended AGM.

Please read the enclosed Preliminary Working Paper carefully and give the Executive or the LD Subcommittee your feedback as soon as possible.

Thank you.