

**From:** [John Henderson](#)  
**To:** [Brent Larmer](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mark it Red - request regarding awareness of dyslexia  
**Date:** September 16, 2020 6:26:11 PM

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Brent for GG agenda. Thanks John

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

**From:** Viola Lyons [REDACTED] (05:00)

**To:** John Henderson <jhenderson@cobourg.ca>, Suzanne Séguin <sseguin@cobourg.ca>, Nicole Beatty <nbeatty@cobourg.ca>, Brian Darling <bdarling@cobourg.ca>, Emily Chorley <echorley@cobourg.ca>, Aaron Burchat <aburchat@cobourg.ca>, Adam Bureau <abureau@cobourg.ca>

**Subject:** Re: Mark it Red - request regarding awareness of dyslexia

Dear Mayor Henderson and Council,  
I am hopeful that Cobourg will join the many other communities lighting up for the 2020 "Mark it Red" campaign. Check the updated link!

<https://www.dyslexiacanada.org/mark-it-read-2020>

Thanks,  
Viola Lyons

On Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 10:33 AM Viola Lyons [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Henderson and Council,

Several years ago, our son Alex Dickson was very proud to serve as a page at Victoria Hall. Dressed in shirt and tie, and wearing dark sunglasses, he took his job seriously. He actively listened to the ongoing debates, eager to discuss outcomes with Mayor Joan Chalovich when the meeting wrapped up. On one occasion, Alex offered his own opinion on a crossing guard issue although he was cut short by Rick Stinson who kindly explained he needed an advance request to speak!

Imagine being an incredibly bright 12-year-old, able to hold your own discussing municipal issues, yet struggling to read, write and spell at school. Imagine having to wear dark sunglasses due to disabling migraines brought on by the stress of having a disability that is not recognized or is misunderstood by the educational system that should be supporting you.

This, or some variation of this, is the reality that 15-20% of Canadians who live with dyslexia face. Dyslexia is a neurobiological, lifelong condition. With proper identification and specific instruction, it can be managed. Sadly, despite having scientific understanding of why some children struggle to read and knowing the methods that will help, most dyslexics do not get the intervention they need. The cost to Canadian society is monumental.

For the many kids struggling with dyslexia, the teacher's red pen is a constant reminder of the lack of awareness and support needed for them to learn to read, write and spell with their peers and be successful in school and in life. We have to change that..... and change starts with awareness.

In recognition of International Dyslexia Awareness month, Dyslexia Canada is asking communities across Canada to light up their City Hall in red for one night during their second annual campaign "Mark it Red for Dyslexia". Such a simple idea – yet what a great way to start a conversation about what dyslexia is and how we can support the learning of dyslexic kids so that they can reach their full potential.

For information about dyslexia as well as the "Mark it Red" campaign, I urge you to visit the Dyslexia Canada website. Photographs and a listing of participating communities across Canada including The CN tower, Niagara Falls, City Hall Halifax, the Calgary Tower and The Big Fiddle Sydney N.S. can be found at <https://www.dyslexiacanada.org/mark-it-read>.

If parents, community leaders, and teachers become aware of what dyslexia is, learn how to recognize it, and provide appropriate support, no child will have to hide behind dark sunglasses. This October, please consider lighting Victoria Hall in red for one night during the week of October 20 to bring awareness and shine a light on the kids in our classrooms who need our help.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to discuss this initiative further and look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Viola Lyons

