



## General Meeting

Hutton House

January 12, 2016

**Attending:** Amanda Burdick, Donna Moore, Matthew Routliffe, Jake Martell (Nokee Kwe), Gloria Pickering (Goodwill), Therese Crozier (City of London), Alison Sims (Fanshawe College), Karen Steinmann (Hutton House), Marilyn Neufeld (Hutton House), Janice Richmond from Hutton House, Eleanor McAlpine, Carmelita Tang (City of London), Deb Rosehart (Ontario Works)

**Speakers:** John Dyson, Dale Munro, Vito Mendonca

### Presenters:

Matthew welcomed the members to the presentation on learning disabilities. Three speakers presented on different aspects of learning disabilities for 20 minutes each.

**Vito Mendonca** from ATN spoke about the Delta Screener which is used to define a learning disability in a client/learner. He described the tool as a Psycho-educational assessment which determines learning strengths and weaknesses in the individual.

He reviewed the dimensions which he reviews with the person from birth up to the present. He looks at events which may have affected their learning such as illness, injury, trauma, education to name a few.

The assessment is administered by a professional and costs about \$2000 which is covered by ATN. The person can be referred to ATN if they have a clear educational or employment goal and demonstrate commitment to this goal. He suggested that it is best not mention that they are looking for a learning disability but just trying to understand how the person learns. This approach may reduce anxiety for the referral. Vito did emphasize that they have a limited number of these assessments available given the cost.

**Dale Munro** is a Psychologist who works with Teens and Adults with Asperger's and Autism through his private practice. He provided a power point presentation which is available to members. He gave us an overview of common myths and ASD learning styles. Dale spoke about how we can help people with ASD cope and he captures this in his power point presentation. He also provided a "Quick Analysis : Adults with ASD" which gives an overview of behavior triggers and vulnerabilities as strengths.

**John Dyson, an employee of TD/ Canada Trust** spoke about his personal journey living with a learning disability and how he was able to speak up for himself so he could realize his goals. He told us how he was able to have his educators' changed the way they taught so he could learn with ease. He also talked about his employer and how he is able to provide great customer service with TD Bank with the accommodations the employer put in place. He demonstrated his Dragon technology which is necessary for him in the work place. One of John's goals is to become a motivational speaker and he is well on his way to achieving this.

**2016 Learner Awards Committee:** Amanda will send out an email requesting volunteers for the awards on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Please email her if you are interested in volunteering. The Committee will begin meeting in February to plan the event.

**Member updates:** because of time constraints Amanda requested that members send you agency updates and she will email them out.

**Next meeting:** February 9<sup>th</sup> at Noke Kwe 1069 Wellington Road South.  
Jake Martell is our speaker