



Cover Letter

I am writing this letter as the Executive Director of the Centre for Diverse Learners (CDL), a longstanding community organization with roots dating back to 1967 and officially incorporated in 1997. CDL was established in response to a significant lack of support in the community for youth with learning disabilities and continues to be the largest support network for neurodiverse youth in the Halton-Hamilton area.

Over the years, CDL has provided essential services to Oakville's diverse learner community, offering targeted tutoring services in literacy, numeracy, social-emotional skills, executive functioning, employment, and advocacy skills for both diagnosed and undiagnosed children and youth with learning disabilities, ADHD, and level 1 Autism. Our commitment extends beyond direct services, encompassing support for parents, caregivers, educators, and the community at large through workshops, newsletters, information sharing, and an annual conference focused on increasing awareness and fostering support for neurodiverse individuals. We also offer support to help parents navigate a special education system that can be overwhelming to ensure their child receives the support they need in the school system.

However, one persistent challenge we face, as an organization, is the inconsistency in funding, which primarily relies on project and program-based initiatives. This financial instability hinders our ability to maintain and expand the vital services we provide to the Oakville community. We believe that obtaining a lottery license and establishing a charity-operated bingo will offer CDL a stable base level of funding. This financial support is essential to ensure the continued success of our organization and our ability to serve the Oakville community effectively.

We kindly request the council's consideration and support in granting CDL the lottery license, which will empower us to consistently and effectively meet the needs of the Oakville community. Your support will contribute to the sustainability of CDL and enhance our capacity to positively impact the lives of those we serve.

Best,

Alison Brindle