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# Our Mission

Advance awareness, education, opportunities, and support by:

- · Advocating at a national level on issues important to the brain injury community
- Establishing meaningful connections and collaborations with stakeholders
- Educating and empowering people living with acquired brain injury, families/caregivers, healthcare workers, researchers, and the general public

# Our Vision

A better quality of life for all people affected by acquired brain injury in Canada.

# Our Values

At Brain Injury Canada, we firmly stand behind our values:

- Accountability
- Compassion

Tamiko Hynes

- Connection/Collaboration
- Diversity
- Integrity
- Stewardship

# **Board of Directors**

Suzanne McKenna - Chair Pia Lindemann Kristensen

Heather Watkins - Secretary Mario Longo

Kristen Bailey John McGowan

James Cohen Graham Todd

# Greetings from the Board

As this years Annual General Meeting marks the end of my term as Chair, I want to take a moment to thank you for the many ways that each of you contributes to brain injury survivors nationwide. In addition, as I reflect on the opportunities and challenges of the last year, two things strike me: how Brain Injury Canada's heart has always been in the right place and how collaborative you all have been in moving the organization forward. A big thank you to my fellow Board members for carrying on the essential work during this lengthy COVID-19 pandemic.



Equally, I want to acknowledge our Executive Director, Michelle McDonald -- her zest, passion and work ethics are beyond the best.

Despite the global pandemic upending all our lives and plans, Michelle has consistently exceeded our expectations as Executive Director. Thanks to Michelle's dedication and hard work, Brain Injury Canada continues to be on the cutting edge.

This year has been a year of growth and successes for Brain Injury Canada accomplishing our strategic goals in launching our National Brain Injury resource site establishing a strong footing for Brain Injury Canada. This year's Brain Injury Awareness Month social media campaign continued with #BrainInjuryAcrossCanada and common messaging was developed with a focus on building awareness of the prevalence of brain injury. Our national conference was to take place in April, but due to the pandemic it has been postponed to June 2021. We will be holding our first event virtual conference and look forward to hosting and engaging Canadians from all provinces.

Finally, I am honoured to have had the opportunity to lead Brain Injury Canada and to be committed to serve as your Chair! I am pleased to pass the torch to our new Chair, Mario Longo and Vice-Chair, Kristen Bailey. Congratulations! I am thrilled to have such capable people fulfilling these important positions.

To close,

To our warriors/brain injury survivors, please know that you are the most extraordinary people surviving under the most terrible circumstances and each of you become more extraordinary because of it!

Suzanne McKenna, Chair Board of Directors

S. M. Kenna

# Message from the Executive Director

It is hard to believe there was a time before COVID-19. A time when we could have large in-person events or even small support group meetings. A time where wearing a mask did not feel normal and we were able to work together in the same space. Despite the challenges of the year, the staff and board at Brain Injury Canada didn't let the pandemic slow us down. We launched the resource website; continued to offer resources, education and information in a virtual format; and continued to connect and collaborate with our stakeholders across Canada more than ever. Our annual conference was a moving target as we had to go through numerous postponements due to uncertainty and changing public health requirements before finally transitioning it to a virtual conference. I want to thank our attendees, our sponsors and especially our speakers for their understanding and enduring patience.



We are a small but mighty team at Brain Injury Canada. Thank you to Rachel Newcombe and Karissa Fletcher, our dedicated staff that have risen to every challenge. I also want to thank our Board of Directors for their work and expertise. The strategic planning process we underwent during the pandemic was intensive, but it enabled us to create a clearer road map for the organization that will guide us for the next three years. I can't wait to keep moving forward with our goals.

I'd also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Scientific Advisory Committee. These researchers and clinicians have volunteered their time to review every piece of content on our resource website to ensure all content is credible and evidence-based. Thank you for your time and expertise.

To Suzanne McKenna as she completes her multiple terms on our board – thank you. Suzanne is about as dedicated as they come. She is a fierce advocate for brain injury. In addition to her role as a full-time caregiver to her amazing son who has been living with brain injury for 13 years, she is the Acquired Brain Injury Navigator for the Champlain region in Ontario, helping countless individuals and families connect with the services they need. We thank her for her unwavering support and dedication. She will be missed.

As we find our way through the pandemic thanks to safety measures and vaccinations, we can see more opportunities to be back with our loved ones, friends, and supports. I'm continually impressed with the resilience of individuals living with brain injury; the perseverance of families and caregivers; and the dedication and compassion of health care and service providers. I'm honoured to be a small part of this incredible community, and appreciate the support our organization has received.

Sincerely,

Michelle McDonald, Executive Director

# Strategic Plan 2021-2024

Brain Injury Canada is focused on impact, success and growth. We strive to build new partnerships; launch new programs; expand the reach of our existing programs; leverage technology; and improve our governance and infrastructure to support future growth.

The Brain Injury Canada Board initiated a strategic planning process in the fall of 2020 to guide the organization from 2021 to 2024. This Strategic Plan focuses on our strengths while acknowledging areas for growth and the need to adapt in a changing brain injury and health care landscape.

To oversee this important process, a Strategic Planning Steering Committee was established with Brain Injury Canada board members and executive staff. This committee was governed by a board-approved terms of reference and helped shepherd the board through this intensive process.

Our engagement process provided several perspectives. This process included:

- 9 Key Informant interviews
- Organization evaluation by staff and board members
- Input from 40 brain associations across Canada
- Input from our Scientific Advisory Committee
- Internal review
- Environmental scan
- Two working sessions with the Board of Directors

This led to a revised vision, mission and values which are as follows:

## Vision

A better quality of life for all people affected by acquired brain injury in Canada.

#### Mission

Advance awareness, education, opportunities, and support by:

- Advocating at a national level on issues important to the brain injury community
- Establishing meaningful connections and collaborations with stakeholders
- Educating and empowering people living with acquired brain injury,
   families/caregivers, healthcare workers, researchers, and the general public

#### **Values**

- Accountability
- Compassion
- Connection/Collaboration
- Diversity
- Integrity
- Stewardship

# Strategic Plan 2021-2024

Over the next three years, our four key priorities are:

#### Priority #1 Deliver national programs accessible to all Canadians

- Extend our reach and presence across Canada
- Increase awareness about Brain Injury Canada to those impacted by acquired brain injury
- Establish collaborative strategic partnerships to increase our effectiveness and ability to serve more people
- Increase engagement and impact within the brain injury community by delivering programs that are available and accessible

Priority #2 Become a technology-enabled, innovative organization that maximizes reach and impact as a knowledge hub, connector and partner

- Leverage technology to become the national knowledge hub and connector for the brain injury community
- Utilize accessible and informed technology to support our programs and enhance our presence and reach
- Facilitate and enhance knowledge translation and mobilization through partnerships and participation

#### Priority #3

Ensure sustainability and growth through effective governance and consistent, diversified funding sources

- Evaluate and implement a suitable, best-practice governance model
- Strengthen our long-term financial sustainability by growing and developing revenue streams
- Invest in organizational capacity

# **Priority #4**

Foster high awareness and trust through inclusivity and engagement of the pan-Canadian brain injury community and stakeholders

- Build brand awareness and trust through visibility and transparency
- Amplify the voices of those individuals and families with lived experience in education, awareness, advocacy and research going forward
- Enhance communication strategies to meet diverse needs of our stakeholders
- Strengthen federal government relations

# **Brain Injury Canada Resource Website**

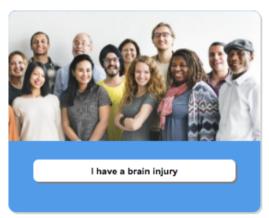
In November 2020, Brain Injury Canada completed the highly-anticipated launch of our Brain Injury Resource Website, funded in part by the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program-Disability Component. This site is universally designed for individuals with brain injury, as well as their family members/caregivers, health service providers and clinicians.

In February 2021, we launched the corresponding French version of the website, accessible through an onsite translation toggle, creating a more seamless multi-lingual experience.

Goals of this resource initiative include:

- Increasing the capacity of Brain Injury Canada to be a reliable and credible source of information related to brain injury;
- Consolidating and centralizing evidence-based information from across Canada;
- Improving the organization's leadership role in building collaborative relationships with partners and stakeholders from cross industries;
- Addressing regional disparities in access to information, ensuring Canadians have equal access to resources and information regardless of geographic location in Canada;
- Bridging the gap between individuals and families in locating relevant services and information in their communities; and
- Improving social inclusion for people with acquired brain injuries through enhanced access to supports and services

This initiative enables Brain Injury Canada to help build bridges in the brain injury community. This resource will provide a sense of community and a place where anyone can go 24 hours a day for information, support, and ideas.







We are a national charitable organization focused on education, awareness, and advocacy for individuals living with acquired brain injury and their family/caregivers.

This resource site has been developed to be universally accessible and easy to navigate. It supports those living with acquired brain injury and their healthcare professionals by providing current. evidence-based information about brain injury, treatment, and recovery. The site is overseen by a Scientific Advisory Committee of physicians, clinicians and researchers from across Canada.



# **Scientific Advisory Committee**

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) is comprised of physicians, healthcare professionals, researchers, stakeholders and thought leaders in the field of brain injury from across Canada. The SAC collaborative is an integral oversight body that has provided advice and recommendations regarding content on our resource website to ensure objectivity, relevancy, and a high standard of scientific excellence.

#### Shelina Babul, PhD

Associate Director, Sports Injury Specialist I BC Injury Research & Prevention Unit, BC Children's Hospital Director, CHIRPP, BC Children's Hospital Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, **UBC** 

Investigator, BC Children's Hospital Investigator, Djavad Mowafaghian Center for Brain Health, UBC

#### Carolina Bottari, erg. Ph. D.

Professeure agrégée Faculté de médecine, École de réadaptation Programme d'ergothérapie Université de Montréal

#### **Deidre Burns**

Registered Dietitian Nova Scotia Health Authority Co-Chair (Clinical Practice) Dietitians of Canada

#### Mohamed-Amine Choukou, PhD

**Assistant Professor** 

Department of Occupational Therapy, College of Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Manitoba Founding Director of the Rehabilitation Technology Lab

#### David Clarke MDCM, PhD, FRCSC, FACS

Professor and Head, Neurosurgery Dalhousie University and Nova Scotia Health Authority

#### Angela Colantonio PhD, OT. Reg. (Ont.)

Professor, Rehabilitation Sciences Institute Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto Senior Scientist and Team leader, Acquired Brain Injury & Society Team,

KITE-Toronto Rehabilitation Institute-University Health Network

Adjunct Scientist, ICES

### John F Connolly Ph.D.

Director, ARiEAL Research Centre Professor, McMaster University Co-Founder & Chief Science Officer at VoxNeuro

#### Nora Cullen, MD, MSc, FRCPC

Specialist and Division Director, Physical Medicine and Rehab

Professor McMaster University Chief, PM&R, Hamilton Health Sciences, St. Joseph's Healthcare

#### Michael Ellis, MD, FRCS(C)

Medical Director, Pan Am Concussion Program Co-Director, Canada North Concussion Network Clinical Appointment, Department of Surgery and Pediatrics, Section of Neurosurgery, University of Manitoba

Scientist, Manitoba Institute of Child Health

#### Alon Friedman MD, PhD

Professor of Neuroscience Dennis Chair in Epilepsy Research Departments of Medical Neuroscience and Paediatrics Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University

#### Asaf Gilboa, PhD

Associate Professor, Rotman Research Institute at **Baycrest** 

Department of Psychology, University of Toronto

#### **Kristian Goulet FRCPC**

Assistant Professor University Of Ottawa Medical Director of The CHEO Concussion Clinic, The Eastern Ontario Concussion Clinic, and The Pediatric Sports Medicine Clinic of Ottawa

# Robin Green PhD, CPsych (Clinical Neuropsychology)

Canada Research Chair (tier II) traumatic brain injury Co-Lead, Schroeder Brain Institute Founder/Head - TeleRehab Centre for ABI Senior Scientist, UHN-Toronto Rehab

# **Scientific Advisory Committee**

#### Michael Hutchison PhD RKin

Assistant Professor Director, Concussion Program David L. MacIntosh Sport Medicine Clinic Faculty of Kinesiology & Physical Education University of Toronto

# Constance Lebrun MDCM, MPE, CCFP(SEM), FCFP, Dip. Sport Med, FACSM, FAMSSM

Professor and Enhanced Skills Programs Director Department of Family Medicine Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta Consultant Sport Medicine Physician, Glen Sather Sports Medicine Clinic, Edmonton Clinic

## Carolyn Lemsky Ph.D., C.Psych ABPP-CN

Clinical Director

Community Head Injury Resource Services

#### Cameron Mang, CSEP-CEP, PhD

Assistant Professor Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies University of Regina

#### Avril Mansfield PhD, RKin

Senior Scientist, KITE (TRI) Research Division Head, KITE (TRI) Associate Professor, Physical Therapy, University of Toronto

#### Shawn Marshall MD MSc FRCPC

Department Head Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Bruyere Continuing Care Division Head Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Professor Department of Medicine University of Ottawa/ Ottawa Hospital Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre

#### Patrick McGrath, OC, PhD, FRSC, FCAHS

Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, Dalhousie University Scientist at the IWK Health Centre Chair of the Board of Strongest Families Institute CEO of 90Second Health

#### **Emily Nalder, PhD**

Assistant Professor, Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, University of Toronto

March of Dimes Paul J.J. Martin Early Career Professor

# Will Panenka MD, MSc, FRCPC (Neurology and Psychiatry)

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of British Columbia BC Mental Health and Addictions Research Institute Investigator

Member British Columbia Provincial Neuropsychiatry Program

Medical Lead Neuropsychiatry Concussion Clinic Neurology consultant Fraser Health Acquired Brain Injury Concussion Clinic

#### Kara Patterson PT, PhD

Associate professor, Physical Therapy, UofT Scientist, KITE Research Institute, UHN

## Kathryn Schneider PT, PhD

Sport Injury Prevention Research Centre, Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Calgary Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute Hotchkiss Brain Institute

#### Noah Silverberg, PhD, R.Psych, ABPP-CN

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of British Columbia Rehabilitation Research Program, Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute

#### Carmela Tartaglia, M.D., FRCPC

Marion and Gerald Soloway Chair in Brain Injury and Concussion Research Associate Professor, Tanz Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases, University of Toronto

Cognitive Neurologist, Memory Clinic - Toronto

Western Hospital

Director Memory Clinical Trials Unit

# **Scientific Advisory Committee**

#### Charles Tator OC, MD, PhD, FRCSC FACS

Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto, Division of Neurosurgery, Toronto Western Hospital, Founder, ThinkFirst Canada Board Member, Parachute Canada Director, Canadian Concussion Centre.

## Alexis Turgeon, MD MSc(Épid) FRCPC

Associate Professor, Research Director Division de soins intensifs adultes, Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Université Laval

Canada Research Chair in Critical Care Neurology and Trauma

Co-chair, Canadian Traumatic Brain Research Consortium (CTRC)

Director, Cochrane Canada Francophone Associate Director, Population Health and Optimal Health Practice Research Unit, Trauma - Emergency - Critical Care Medicine Centre de Recherche du CHU de Québec - Université Laval

## Lyn Turkstra, PhD

Professor, School of Rehabilitation Science & Assistant Dean, Speech-Language Pathology Program, School of Rehabilitation Science McMaster University

#### Paul van Donkelaar, PhD

Professor, School of Health and Exercise Sciences The University of British Columbia

#### Cheryl Wellington, BSc, PhD

**Basic Scientist** 

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health University of British Columbia

#### **Anne Wheeler PhD**

Scientist, SickKids Research Institute Neurosciences and Mental Health Program Assistant Professor, University of Toronto Physiology Department

#### **Catherine Wiseman-Hakes**

Assistant Clinical Professor (adjunct), Speech-Language Pathology Program, School of Rehabilitation Science McMaster University

#### Keith Yeates PhD, RPsych, ABPP, FCAHS

Ronald and Irene Ward Chair in Pediatric Brain Injury Professor and Head, Department of Psychology Adjunct Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Clinical Neurosciences University of Calgary

#### Roger Zemek, MD

Pediatric Emergency Physician and Director of Clinical Research, CHEO Senior Scientist, CHEO Research Institute

Clinical Research Chair in Pediatric Concussion, Brain and Mind Institute, University of Ottawa



# The COVID-19 Pandemic

In March 2020, the world was plunged into a state of emergency amidst the coronavirus pandemic. Every life was disrupted in some way, and the impact of mandatory isolation and lack of access to rehabilitation and services took its toll - particularly on the brain injury community, which already largely experiences increased social isolation on a daily basis.

Brain Injury Canada immediately recognized the toll that the safety measures would take on the Canadian brain injury community's mental health and their recovery. We developed a series of content pieces related to the pandemic. This included:

- A basic knowledge piece on COVID-19 and safety protocols
- A mental health during COVID-19 guide
- An article on staying connected virtual during the pandemic to encourage social interaction
- · A creative ideas article to promote mental stimulation, enjoyment, and virtual social opportunities
- A 12-week challenge article which became the basis for the social media campaign of the same name, accompanied by the hashtag #BICChallenge. People tried new recipes, exercised, shared their favourite music, and practiced a new skill. Local organizations such as Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association, the TimedRight health care professionals communications platform, and Connexion TCC.QC participated and shared the challenge with their own networks

As the pandemic progressed, Brain Injury Canada was given the opportunity to apply for additional funding through the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnership Program - Disability Component. This funding would go directly to developing mental health content related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We received the additional funding, and have been developing dozens of new articles and videos both internally and with certified professionals related to mental health, made available to the brain injury community for free during this unprecedented time.

Throughout the pandemic, Brain Injury Canada's focus has been on promoting the existing safety standards, encouraging extra attention to mental health, and advocating on behalf of the brain injury community during a time when those in often-marginalized communities are not made a priority through the Brain Injury Awareness Month campaign.



# The COVID-19 Pandemic

# **COVID-19 Surveys**

In Fall 2020/Winter 2021, Brain Injury Canada circulated surveys to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of the brain injury community in Canada.

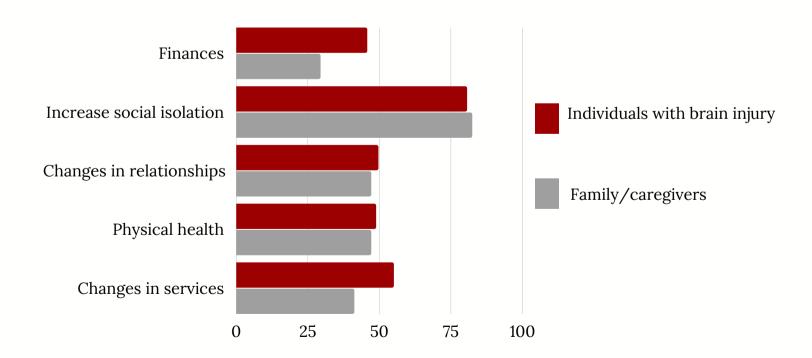
In general, individuals with ABI are already socially isolated due to the impact of their injury on every aspect of their life. The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified isolation as treatments, supports, and social interactions have all but ceased.

Brain Injury Canada surveyed different stakeholder groups to capture their experience during the pandemic including:

- Persons with brain injury
- Family/caregivers
- Health/service providers
- Brain injury associations

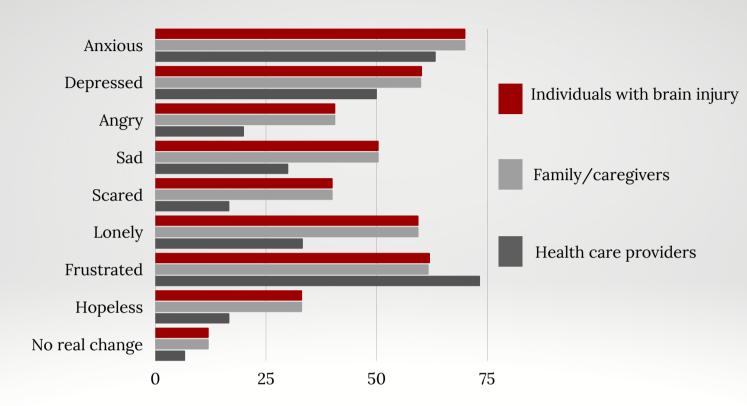
Full reports can be found on **www.braininjurycanada.ca**, but we have included a small sample of results here.

# Situations during COVID-19 that contribute to changes in mental health

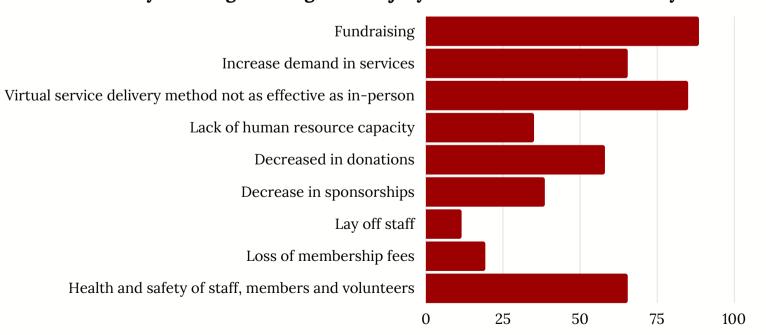


# The COVID-19 Pandemic

# Increase in emotions during the pandemic



# The key challenges facing brain injury associations over the next year

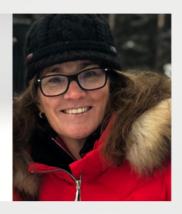


# **Brain Injury Across Canada Video Series**

People living with brain injury and their families share their personal stories with Brain Injury Canada to provide hope and support to those across Canada who are having similar experiences. This year we launched "Brain Injury Across Canada", a video series featuring people with brain injury sharing their stories first-hand. We were honoured to be able to feature Olympic skier Kerrin Lee-Gartner, Junowinning jazz musician Kellylee Evans, former Captain of the National Women's Hockey Team Cassie Campbell-Pascal, and Tyler Stemmler, Founder of Skate4theBrain.

"The traffic was at a complete standstill and we were rearended... I just remember bracing fiercely"

Kerrin Lee-Gartner



**Inspire** 

# **Educate**

"I had just come back from another tour in France. I was taking a bath, and I stood up in the tub, and I fainted. And I hit my head against the wall in the bathroom"

Kellylee Evans

Juno-winning jazz musician



Skateboarding's taught me to be resilient; it's taught me to never give up; and it's taught me to always push forward

Tyler Stemmler, Founder, Skate4thebrain



Support

# Brain Injury Across Canada

'When you have a concussion, it is like a little piece of you disappears and it never returns...you are never the same person.'

Cassie Campbell-Pascall 2-time Olympic gold medalist Former captain, National Women's Hockey Team



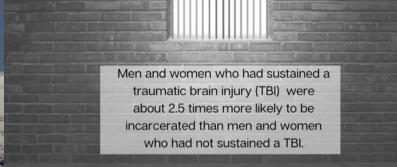
# **Brain Injury Awareness Month**

Brain Injury Awareness Month in 2020 was different. In-person programs and fundraising events were not able to go forward due to the pandemic, but brain injury associations across Canada worked together to share some common messages and spread awareness.

The hashtag **#BrainInjuryAcrossCanada** reached social media accounts across Canada and we continue to build on the campaign every year.



Anyone. Anywhere. Anytime. #BrainInjuryAcrossCanada



Anyone. Anywhere. Anytime. #BrainInjuryAcrossCanada



Anyone. Anywhere. Anytime. #BrainInjuryAcrossCanada



Anyone. Anywhere. Anytime. #BrainInjuryAcrossCanada



# #BrainInjuryAcrossCanada

# **Advocacy**

In the spring of 2021, Brain Injury Canada circulated a survey through brain injury associations, social media and our partners to find out what are the top issues for those living with brain injury.

The results speak for themselves. Approximately 62% of participants identified lack of awareness about brain injury in the general population as their top issue. 58.5% of participants indicated that the need for mental health supports and the cost of care (primarily the issue of limited publicly funded coverage and inadequate or no insurance coverage) were the next two most important issues.

The results of this survey highlighted that we as a country are not doing a good job of educating the public about brain injury or supporting the individuals and families who are experiencing it. It is time this community comes together as a singular voice to advocate for the development of a national brain injury strategy.

This strategy would include, but is not limited to:

- Designated funding for a national awareness and education initiative on brain injury, including the
  prevalence; the everyday experience of those with lived experience presented in their voices; an
  emphasis on improving public attitudes and protecting the rights of those with brain injury to
  promote better understanding; and a focus on inclusion and elimination of barriers, both
  environmental and societal
- Support for brain injury associations to develop and provide enhanced and integrated mental health resources specific to individuals and families living with brain injury
- Coordinated and equitable access to individualized delivery of health and social care services across the life span
- Empowering individuals and families to identify their health needs, participate in the planning and delivery of services and play an active role in maintaining their own health and well-being

Elected representatives at all levels need to hear these voices of brain injury and listen. With funding and access to mental health and recovery supports, more individuals with brain injury and their families will be able to return to work; avoid poverty, the criminal justice system, and homelessness; engage daily with fewer barriers; and become integral members of their community. They will no longer be left behind, ignored, or forgotten – they will be seen, understood and respected.

"Healing happens with adequate funding and access to proper care systems."
- Anonymous survey participant

You can demonstrate your support by adding your signature to this open letter. After the Federal Election, we will work to ensure the 44th Parliament has brain injury at top of mind.

Help the voices of those with brain injury be heard. Add your signature to this open letter.

braininjurycanada.ca/en/open-letter

# **Advocacy**

In early 2021, Brain Injury Canada partnered with the Brain Injury Society of Toronto and Laura Brydges, a 16-year member of and proponent for the hidden disability community on a campaign advocating for a hidden disability symbol. A national hidden disability symbol will build awareness of the needs of the hidden disability community, and will be a self-advocacy tool for its members when they are least able to speak for themselves.

Goals for the campaign include:

- The Canadian hidden disability community will experience equitable inclusion and barrier-free living;
- The Government of Canada will adopt and promote a national Hidden Disability Symbol;
- The national Hidden Disability Symbol will be free, accessible, and used voluntarily;
- The national Hidden Disability Symbol's design will be relevant to the hidden disability community (HDC), and inclusive of all hidden and episodic disabilities without detracting from detectable/evident disabilities; and
- The national Hidden Disability Symbol will be designed and used as an effective self-advocacy, social, cultural and systemic transformation tool



# <u>Learn more about the Hidden Disability Movement Canada here:</u> <u>www.hdscanada.wordpress.com</u>

# **Advocacy Meetings**

We strive to create and take opportunities to educate policy makers on the challenges, needs and resilience of the brain injury community at the federal level. Here is a sample of some of the people our small staff team advocated directly to over the last year:

- Director of Policy, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
- Policy Advisor for Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion
- Member of Parliament and Member of Standing Committee on Health
- Member of Parliament and Chair of Parliamentary Health Caucaus
- Regional Advisor, Ontario Office of the Minister of Health
- Policy Advisor, Minister of Health to discuss Long term care review and virtual healthcare
- Chair of the Standing Committee on Health

Brain Injury Canada participated with 63 Canadian disability organizations to send a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Qualtrough, Minister Hajdu, all territorial and provincial premiers, ministers of health and chief bureaucrats regarding COVID-19 Triage Protocols & the Rights of People with Disabilities, asking to not use discriminatory practices and offering rights-based guidelines.

# Conferences/Panels/Workshops

Staff at Brain Injury Canada were invited to attend and participate at conferences, panels and workshops across Canada. It is important for there to be a national voice for brain injury at many of these events.

Here is a sample of some of the events staff presented at or attended:

- ABI Network Conference Nov 2020
- Tamarack Initiative Collective impact workshop Fall 2020
- Canadian Concussion Network Conference January 2021
- Canadian Traumatic Brain Injury Research Consortium Meetings June 2020 and January 2021
- Neurological Health Charities Canada Member's Meetings June 2020 and November 2020
- Moving Ahead: Putting Knowledge of Brain Injury In Intimate Partner Violence into Practice
- Supporting Survivors of Abuse and Brain Injury Through Research (SOAR) February 2021
- Canadian Brain Research Strategy (CBRS) / Stratégie canadienne de recherche sur le cerveau (SCRC)
   Retreat and Focus Group March 2021
- Rooting Resilience: Peer support for women with disabilities in Canada / Une résilience bien ancrée
   L'entraide par les pairs pour les femmes handicapées au Canada
- Panel discussion hosted by DisAbled Women's Network of Canada (DAWN) December 2020
- Supporting Brain Injured Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy - University of Toronto and Parachute - Summit 1 & 2 participant Fall 2020
- BC Think Tank Heads Together Think Tank virtual events November 2020
  - Real People Real Stories
  - Rehabilitation and Community Supports
  - Research and Prevention
  - Reinforcing Communities
- CNIB ASC Grant Inclusive Workplaces: Symposium Presented Brain Injury and Employment: A unique perspective February 2021
- Genuinely Engaging for Community and Research Partnerships: A Canadian Community Organization Web-Panel Discussion. University of Manitoba Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy university Program - Panel Member - August 2020

# **Partnerships and Collaboration**

Partnerships and collaboration are a key priority for Brain Injury Canada. Partners of the organization include:

## Neurological Health Charities Canada (NHCC)

Brain Injury Canada is a proud member of NHCC. Neurological Health Charities Canada (NHCC) is a coalition of organizations that represent people with brain diseases, disorders and injuries in Canada. We work collaboratively to increase awareness, education and research and improve diagnosis, treatment and supports to benefit people affected by brain conditions. Michelle McDonald, ED of Brain Injury Canada is the Chair of the Governing Council.

#### Canadian Traumatic brain injury Research Consortium (CTRC)

The vision of CTRC is to create an open, collegial and innovative Canadian TBI Research Consortium (CTRC) to lead world-class research, harmonize data collection and knowledge translate best practices for people with TBI in hospitals and in their communities. The CTRC was created to enhance collaborations amongst Canadian scientists working on different aspects of the continuum of care for traumatic brain injury patients, including prevention strategies; caring for patients in the critical phases following their accident; and ensuring their continued rehabilitation and long-term optimal physical and psychological care. Brain Injury Canada has representation on the CTRC Executive Committee.

#### **Every Canadian Counts (ECC)**

Brain Injury Canada is a partner with Every Canadian Counts, a coalition committed to improving services for the over 1.9 million Canadians living with long-term, chronic disabilities. ECC recognizes the urgent need to provide for these Canadians and their families, as many do not have access to even the most basic supports and services.

#### **Disability Tax Fairness Alliance**

The purpose of this alliance is to create change by raising awareness among elected officials and policy-makers of the urgent need to ensure that the administration of the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) and other disability/infirmity measures reflects the intent of Parliament, the interpretation of the Income Tax Act by the Tax Court of Canada, and the values of our society.

#### **Canadian Concussion Network**

Established in 2020, the Canadian Concussion Network/ Réseau Canadien des Commotions (CCN-RCC) has a vision to establish and guide a coordinated national research and knowledge translation agenda. This agenda aims to reduce the risk of concussions and their consequences across four broad domains: prevention, detection/diagnosis, prognosis/modifiers, and treatment. Michelle McDonald is a member of the Integrated Knowledge Translation & Stakeholder Engagement Committee

#### **BC Concussion Advisory Network (BC CAN)**

A collaboration of stakeholders working together to raise awareness and increase the understanding of the invisible epidemic of concussion and traumatic brain injuries. BC CAN increases communication, establishes partnerships and fosters collaboration on concussion prevention, recognition, treatment, and management initiatives.

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# Communications

Brain Injury Canada's communication channels continue to grow and be an important part of resource dissemination and community building. Our predominant channels include our email newsletter and our social media platforms. In 2021, we created a new Instagram platform that has grown exponentially and given us an opportunity to connect visually with our community.

# Impact Newsletter

On average, 33% of our over 2,700 active subscribers are highly engaged in email newsletters. This is a strong number within the industry standards.







# Social Media

Social media continues to be an engaging way to interact with the ABI commuity across Canada. Across all platforms we have over 13,000 followers and strive to bring engaging and educational content to them with every post. We also share the posts and activities and other brain injury associations and partners.



3733 Followers

Facebook.com/braininjurycanada



8243 Followers

@braininjury\_CAN



556 Followers

linkedin.com/company/braininjurycan



556 Followers

@braininjurycanada

# **Financial Statements**

# BRAIN INJURY CANADA Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2021

ASSETS CURRENT Cash HST and source deductions recoverable	\$	100,909	_	
Prepaid expenses		43,569	\$	89,708 44,366 5,655
	\$	144,478	\$	139,729
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS CURRENT				
Accounts payable	\$	-	\$	19,245
Short term debt Employee deductions payable		125 -		88 3,152
		125		22,485
Long term debt		30,000		-
		30,125		22,485
NET ASSETS	_	114,353		117,243
	\$	144,478	\$	139,729

# **Financial Statements**

# BRAIN INJURY CANADA Statement of Receipts and Disbursements March 31, 2021

		2021		2020
RECEIPTS Donations Conference receipts and sponsorships Grants Sundry	\$	20,390 29,446 190,138 13,098	\$	26,977 48,840 195,138 1,442
		253,072		272,397
DISBURSEMENTS				
Advertising and promotions	\$	4,016	\$	4,034
Bank charges	Ψ	84	Ψ	256
Business taxes, license and memberships		1,012		1,620
Delivery, freight and express		836		997
Employee benefits		6,561		5,944
Grant expenses		32,355		42,026
Insurance		1,976		1,269
Meals and entertainment		-		202
Meetings and conventions		13,684		2,115
Office		5,663		6,320
Professional fees		6,704		1,630
Rental		3,628		9,168
Salaries and wages		99,939		83,346
Sub-contracts		77,475		79,084
Telephone		1,647		2,534
Training		382		1,206
Travel		2,203		2,203
EVCESS OF DECEIDES OVED DISDIBLIBSEMENTS		255,962		243,954
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	\$	(2,890)	\$	28,443

# **Corporate Sponsors**

Our Corporate Sponsors help make the work we do possible. A corporate sponsorship of our national organization is a mutually beneficial relationship enabling our sponsors to expand their brand recognition as a leader in supporting those living with brain injury across across Canada.

# Platinum



www.voxneuro.com

# Gold



www.ottawa-attorneys.ca

# Silver





www.zehrinsurance.com

www.exnflex.com

# Bronze



www.opticalm.ca

# **Conference Sponsors**

A special thank you to our conference sponsors who supported Brain Injury Canada as we had to postpone the conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate their enduring support and look forward to working them at future conferences.

# **PLATINUM**





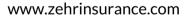
# **GOLD**



www.ponstreatment.ca

# **SILVER**















www.connollyobagi.com



reisonai mjury Law Firm



www.mginjurylawyers.com

# Provincial/Community Brain injury Associations

#### **ALBERTA**

Southern Alberta Brain Injury Society **Brain Care Centre** 

#### **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Braintrust Canada

Bulkley Valley Brain Injury Association Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association

Comox Valley Head Injury Society Cowichan Brain Injury Society

Kamloops Brain Injury Association

Nanaimo Brain Injury Society

North Okanagan Shuswap Brain injury Society

Northern Brain Injury Association of BC

Powell River Brain Injury Society

Prince George Brain Injured Group Society

South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society

West Kootenay Brain Injury Association

Vancouver Brain Injury Association

Victoria Brain Injury Association

#### **MANITOBA**

Manitoba Brain Injury Association

#### NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Newfoundland and Labrador Brain Injury Association de-la-Madeleine

#### **NOVA SCOTIA**

Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia

#### **ONTARIO**

Ontario Brain Injury Association

New Beginnings ABI & Stroke RecoveryAssociation -

Chatham-Kent

Brain Injury Association of Durham Region

Brain Injury Association of Fort Erie

Brain Injury Association of London and Region

Brain Injury Association of Niagara

Brain Injury Association of North Bay and Area

Brain Injury Association of the Ottawa Valley

Brain Injury Association of Peel Halton

Brain Injury Association of Peterborough Region

Brain Injury Association of Quinte District

Brain Injury Association of Sarnia Lambton

Brain Injury Association of Sault Ste Marie

Brain Injury Association of Sudbury

Brain Injury Association of Waterloo/Wellington

Brain Injury Association of Windsor Essex

Brain Injury Association of York Region

Brain Injury Services of Northern Ontario

Brain Injury Society of Toronto

Hamilton Brain Injury Association

Headwaters Acquired Brain Injury Group - Orangeville

Seizure & Brain Injury Centre - Timmins

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Brain Injury Association of Prince Edward Island

### **QUEBEC**

Connexion TCC QC

Association des traumatisés crâniens de l'Abitibi-

Temiscamingue

Association des personnes ACVA-TCC du Bas- Saint-

Laurent

Association des handicapés adultes Côte-Nord

Association des accidentés cérébro-vasculaires et

traumatisés crâniens de l'Estrie

Association des TCC et ACV de la Gaspésie et des Îles-

Association des personnes handicapées physiques et

sensorielles du secteur Joliette

Centre d'aide personnes traumatisées crâniennes et

handicapées physiques Laurentides

Association des traumatisés cranio-cérébraux

Mauricie-Centre-du-Québec

Association des Traumatisés cranio-cérébraux de la

Montérégie

Association québécoise des traumatisés crâniens

Association des neurotraumatisés - Outaouais

Association des TCC des deux rives

Association Renaissance des personnes traumatisées

crâniennes du Saguenay / Lac-Saint- Jean

## **SASKATCHEWAN**

Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association Lloydminster and Area Brain Injury Society

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# A BRAIN INJURY CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE





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