



Annual Report

A Year in Review

April 2021 - March 2022

www.braininjurycanada.ca



TABLE OF CONTENTS

• • • • •

3	GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD
4	A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
5	MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES
7	RESOURCE WEBSITE
8	SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
11	INTERACTIVE SERVICE DIRECTORY
12	CONFERENCE 2021
14	PROGRAMS
17	BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH
18	ADVOCACY
19	CONFERENCES/PANELS/ WORKSHOPS
20	RESEARCH
21	PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION
22	IN MEMORIAM - MICHELLE BARTLETT
23	COMMUNICATIONS
24	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
27	BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATIONS

Greetings from the Board

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your ongoing support of Brain Injury Canada (BIC). This past year continued to be an enormous struggle for many Canadians. BIC, like other charities, companies and individuals continued to battle a global pandemic that impacted our ability to live, meet or work. We met this challenge with the compassion, courage, and hard work of volunteers, donors, and staff. I am thankful to you all.

Despite COVID, we learned quickly, pivoted, and successfully delivered our first virtual conference. The theme, “Navigating the Landscape of Brain Injury” hosted dynamic speakers who discussed the evolving landscape of care and treatment for brain injury, particularly in a time of increased digital health use.

In Canada, June marks the beginning of Brain Injury Awareness Month. Throughout the month, we commit to shining a spotlight on brain injury and sharing the stories of those impacted by brain injury. Together, our goal is to create a better world for the brain injury community. BIC continues to build on its pledge to increase collaboration among all associations across the country.

In September, we invited you to the Healthy Brain & Well-being Speaker Symposium. It was a free, virtual event designed for people affected by brain injury, their caregivers, and their families. As a community we understand the importance of maintaining a healthy brain, especially after traumatic brain injury. The success of the one-day event helped build the tools for a clear and active mind that allow us to confidently perform day-to-day activities.

The pandemic didn’t stop us from launching a new interactive service directory connecting individuals and families living with brain injury with services and supports in their community. The new directory was designed for our community with new services, organizations and associations being added regularly. I invite you to visit often.

The upcoming year brings us face to face with what we hope is an end to the pandemic. Our Board continues to be guided by our strategic plan and effective governance. We recognize that there are also many unknowns as we work to return to “normal.” My outlook remains positive knowing that Brain Injury Canada is under the leadership of a committed Executive Director and staff, championed by faithful volunteers and supported by generous donors.

Sincerely,

Mario Longo
Chair

Board of Directors

Mario Longo - Chair	Tamiko Hynes
Kristen Bailey - Vice-Chair	Pia Lindemann Kristensen
Usman Yusaf - Treasurer	Xavier Linker
Heather Watkins - Secretary	John McGowan
James Cohen	Graham Todd



Message from the Executive Director

The last year has been interesting as we continued to navigate through the pandemic. Brain Injury Canada did not miss a beat as the staff continue to work remotely and offer programs in a virtual format. We continue to enhance and update our brain injury resource website with information relevant to our stakeholders. We developed more mental health resources and webinars and videos on topics relevant to individuals and families.



In the Fall of 2021, we continued our partnership with Elections Canada to make the federal election more accessible for individuals living with brain injury. This is the second election we have partnered on and we will continue to ensure brain injury is included in their accessibility plans for future elections.

We launched our Interactive Service Directory www.braininjurycanadaconnect.ca. With this national resource, we strive to connect the brain injury community and bridge people with services and programs in their community.

After multiple postponements, we were able to hold our national conference virtually. We had a great line up of speakers and the feedback from the conference was very positive. Attendees appreciated access to professional education at an affordable price and without having to pay for travel. It was encouraging to see networking from across the country while people share expertise, success and challenges all in the interest of better serving the brain injury community.

We received a grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada to provide vaccine education to the brain injury community. The goal of our online campaign was to provide credible evidence-based information, so people are able to make a more informed choice on vaccination.

I want to sincerely thank the Brain Injury Canada staff. When I tell people that we are a mighty team of three, people are often shocked that we achieve as much as we do. Thank you to Rachel Newcombe and Karissa Fletcher for their dedication, passion and perseverance for delivering on the mission of the organization. I also want to thank our Board of Directors for their work and expertise.

I'd also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Scientific Advisory Committee for their time, knowledge and expertise.

We have a lot planned for the coming year, and I look forward to continued work with our partners, policy makers, brain injury associations across Canada, and most importantly individuals and families with lived experience, to ensure brain injury is a priority going forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M McDonald', written in a cursive style.

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 continues to use the Strategic Plan to focus on our strengths while acknowledging areas for growth and the need to adapt in a changing brain injury and health care landscape.



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 | • Diversity |
| • Compassion | • Integrity |
| • Connection/Collaboration | • Stewardship |

Strategic Plan 2021-2024

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

Brain Injury Canada continues to update and enhance our comprehensive resource website funded in part by the Government of Canada. Available in English and French, the site is universally designed for individuals with brain injury, as well as their family members/caregivers, health service providers, and clinicians.

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.



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

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 Lemsy 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

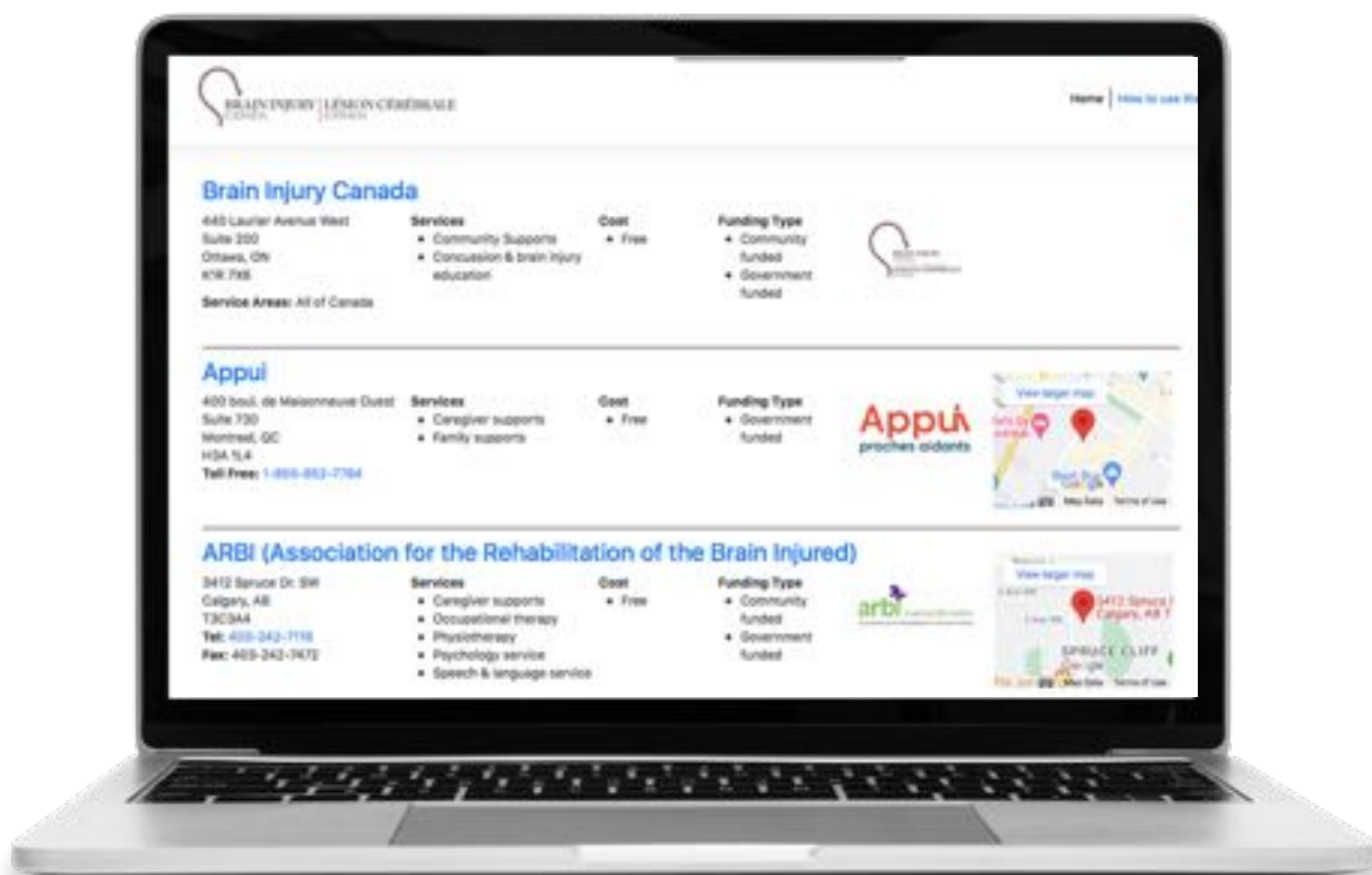
Pediatric Emergency Physician and Director of Clinical
Research, CHEO
Senior Scientist, CHEO Research Institute
Clinical Research Chair in Pediatric Concussion, Brain and
Mind Institute, University of Ottawa

Interactive Service Directory

We launched our new interactive service directory Brain Injury Canada Connect in August 2021. This directory is designed for individuals in the brain injury community in Canada to find much-needed services and supports.

This resource will continue to grow, and new organizations and businesses will be added regularly. Our goal is to over time create a resource that is truly representative of all the geographical regions of Canada and possible areas of support.

Visit www.braininjurycanadaconnect.ca and use the filters on the right-hand side of the screen to start exploring.



www.braininjurycanadaconnect.ca

Conference 2021 - Navigating the Landscape of Brain Injury

Brain Injury Canada's first ever virtual conference was a success! Taking place on June 2 & 3, we had a variety of speakers from across Canada. Attendees were able to interact with exhibitors, attend sessions, and engage in networking throughout the platform. Post-conference, we received a large amount of positive feedback about the experience and the use of accessible.

Some of the speakers included:

We all belong to each other: rehabilitation as a social imperative

TIM FEENEY, PhD - Chief Knowledge Officer
Belvedere Health Services Albany, NY The Mill
School Essex Junction, VT

Caring for self, while caring for others: compassion fatigue to resilience

REBECCA BROWN, MSW, RSW - Clinical Social
Worker & Certified Trauma Specialist

Moving ahead. Exploring incidence, consequences, and supports for women survivors of traumatic brain injury in intimate partner violence

Karen Mason and Paul van Donkelaar, PhD - Co-
founders for SOAR (Supporting Survivors of Abuse
and Brain Injury through Research)

Healing at the intersections

Natalie Guimond, BA, MSW, RSW - Registered
Social Worker and Mental Health Therapis

Digital transformation in the post-pandemic health system

Anne Snowden, RN, PhD, FAAN- Professor,
Strategy and Entrepreneurship; Scientific
Director and CEO, SCAN Health

Better together: An inclusive partnership

Paul Rogers, Brain Injury Survivor and advocate



Conference Sponsors

A special thank you to our conference sponsors who supported Brain Injury Canada as we held our first virtual conference experience. We appreciate their enduring support and look forward to working with them at future conferences.

PLATINUM



www.voxneuro.com



McNALLY • GERVAN^{LLP}
INJURY & INSURANCE LAWYERS

www.ottawa-attorneys.ca

GOLD



www.ponstreatment.ca

SILVER



www.zehrinsurance.com



www.exnflex.com



www.bergeronclifford.com



www.connollyobagi.com



www.connectcommunities.ca



www.mginjurylawyers.com



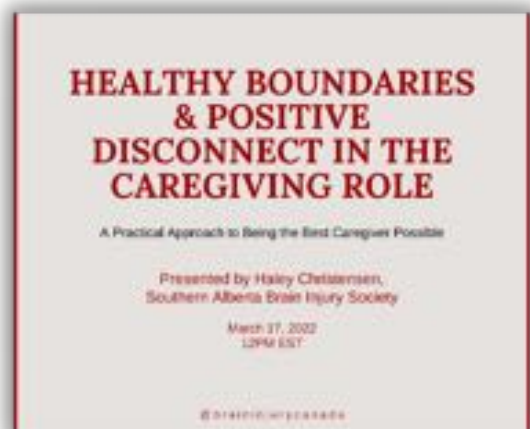
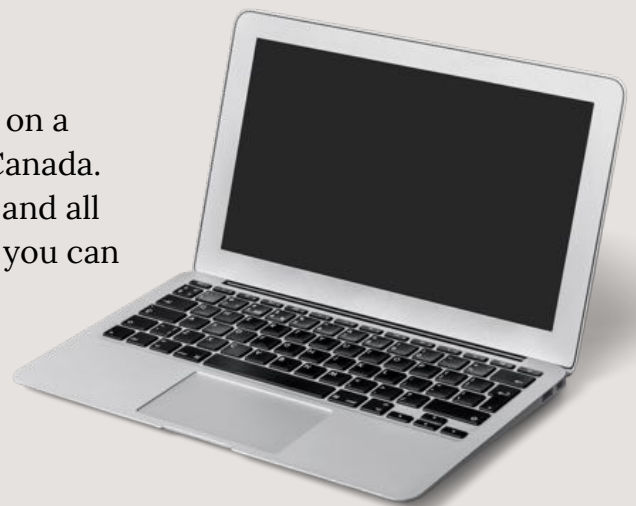
www.flemingfitness.ca

Programs

Webinars

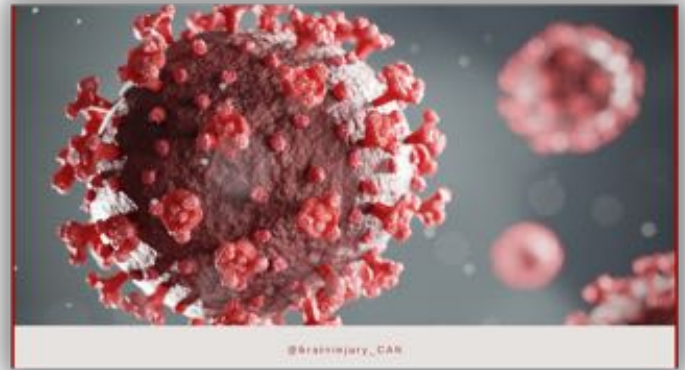


Brain Injury Canada hosts educational webinars on a variety of topics, featuring speakers from across Canada. We host a mix of pre-recorded and live webinars, and all webinars are saved and posted on [our YouTube](#) so you can watch them at your convenience.



Vaccine Education Grant

Brain Injury Canada received a \$10,000 grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada in June 2021 to create content educate those in the brain injury community on the COVID-19 vaccine. This content is evidence-based, reviewed by Scientific Advisory Committee members, and provides education and encourages people to consider the vaccine for a variety of reasons.



Content includes a dedicated section of the website under each type of audience covering topics such as the effects of COVID-19; frequently asked questions about the vaccine; how to book a vaccine; and how the vaccines work. We have also included a slideshow on creating a COVID-19 accessibility plan.

As part of the grant, we also interviewed Dr. Joss Reimer, head of Manitoba's vaccine task force. She answered several questions in video form for the brain injury community. [You can view them here.](#)

Canada Election 2021

The 2021 Canadian federal election was held on September 20, 2021, to elect members of the House of Commons to the 44th Canadian Parliament. As a paid partner of Elections Canada, Brain Injury Canada created dedicated sections on the importance of voting for each audience on our resource website. Content includes pages on the importance of voting; how the election process works; voting accessibility; choosing a candidate; and COVID-19 safety measures.



This content campaign includes a one-month social media campaign encouraging individuals to vote.

This partnership is structured to be bi-partisan, with a focus on increasing voter turnout. Brain Injury Canada staff and board members remain bi-partisan in kind when sharing or promoting the content.

Post-election we disseminated a survey via our networks and brain injury associations to gauge voter turn-out and accessibility. A report was provided to Elections Canada. BIC was also a partner with Elections Canada for the 2019 election.

Healthy Brain & Well-Being

Healthy Brain & Well-being

September 16, 2021

Maintaining a healthy brain is important, especially after a brain injury. It helps build a clear and active mind, which allows us to confidently perform day-to-day activities.

In September, we hosted a FREE dynamic speaker symposium designed for people living with the effects of brain injury, their caregivers, and their families. Attendees gained practical tips and knowledge from a variety of different speakers about maintaining a healthy brain.



Managing stress: Mission impossible

Andrée Jettée



Person enabled care in digital health ecosystems: What it means for patients and families

Dr. Anne Snowden



How nutrition can positively impact depression and anxiety following TBI

Kylie James



Discovering day to day living following TBI

Pauline Hoffman



Yoga and meditation for brain injury: Evidence, innovations and ways forward

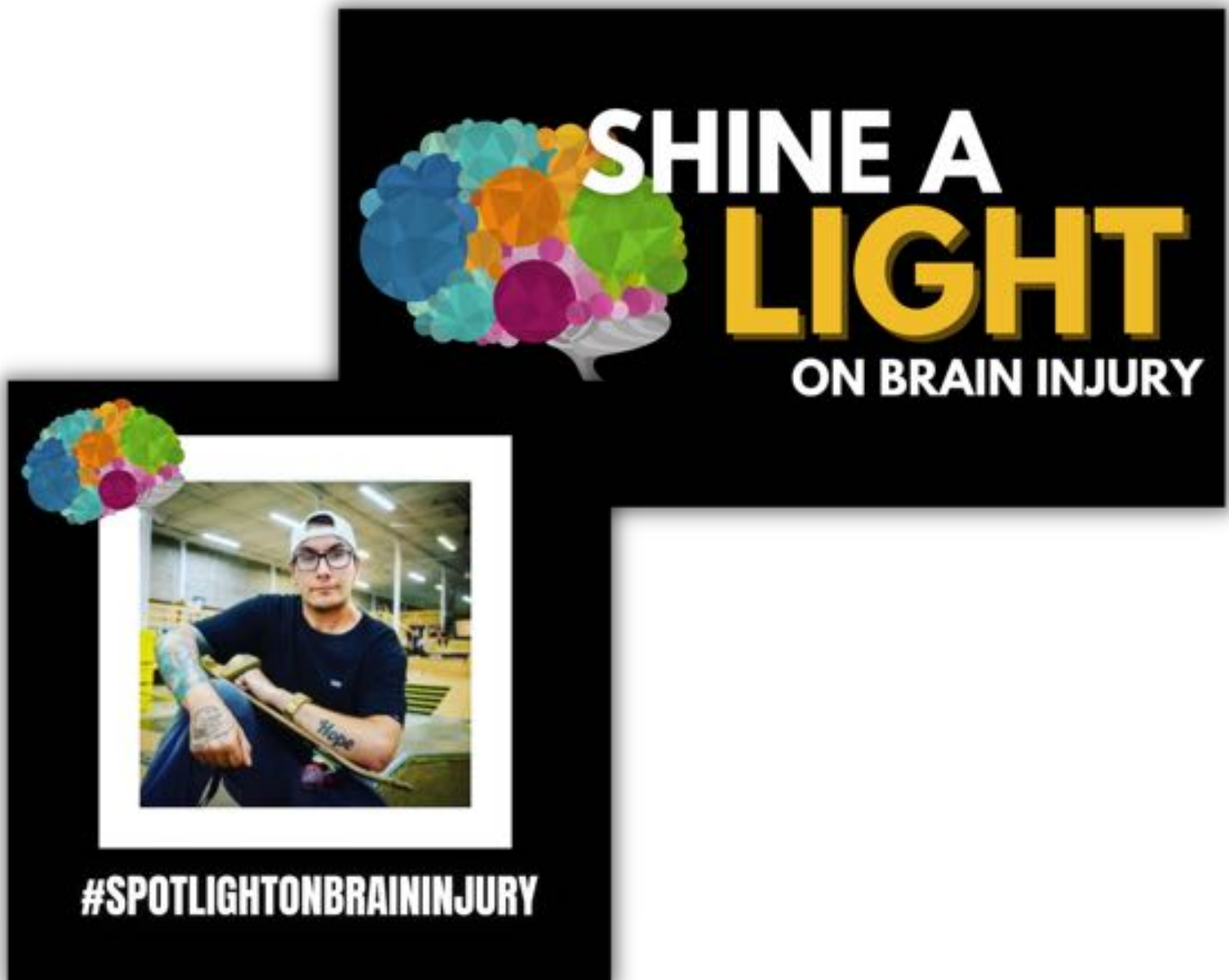
Shilo Zeller

Brain Injury Awareness Month

For Brain Injury Awareness Month 2021, Brain Injury Canada worked with a group of representatives from associations across the country. The Brain Care Centre in Alberta worked with their marketing firm to create the theme (Shine a Light on Brain Injury) and graphic templates.

Brain Injury Canada collected social stats on the campaign, and reached 54,863 people across our 4 main platforms.

Brain Injury Canada also hosted two free webinars on Zoom for the brain injury community: one on hidden disabilities and making a hidden disability symbol, and one by an individual with brain injury about what it means to recover.



#ShineALightOnBrainInjury

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. The current accessibility symbol is not fully inclusive and actually acts as a barrier for many. 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;
- The national Hidden Disability Symbol will be designed and used as an effective self-advocacy, social, cultural and systemic transformation tool



Arya Chandra, Member of Parliament for Nepean has supported us by sponsoring an e-petition around the adoption of a hidden disability symbol. We received over 1000 signatures and the petition was read in the House of Commons in February 2022.

Making Hidden Disabilities Visible: Why Canada Needs a National Hidden Disability Symbol.

This engaging webinar explored hidden disabilities from different perspectives and first-hand accounts from individuals with lived experience. Panelists shared the unique experience of those with hidden disabilities and came together for a lively discussion on the common themes around the need for a Hidden Disability Symbol in Canada.

Panelists:

Laura Brydges - Founder, Hidden Disability Symbol Canada

Michelle McDonald - Executive Director, Brain Injury Canada

Maria Hudspith - Executive Director, Pain BC

Linda Wilhelm - President, Canadian Arthritis Patients Alliance

Dr. Mahadeo A. Sukhai - Director of Research and Chief Inclusion & Accessibility Officer, Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

Shauna Beaudoin - Director, Programs & Information, Hydrocephalus Canada

Laura Gatensby - Hydrocephalus Canada

Rafi Syed - Secretary and Head of Marketing Committee, Board of Directors, Mind Ally

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:

- Ontario Brain Injury Association Conference - Nov 2021
- Canadian Concussion Network Conference - January 2021
- Canadian Traumatic Brain Injury Research Consortium Meetings - June 2021 and January 2022
- Neurological Health Charities Canada Member Meetings - June 2021 and November 2021
- Neurotrauma Care Pathways
 - 2021 Virtual Summit - Oct 15 2021
 - 2021 Virtual Data Prioritization Summit - Dec 10 2021
 - 2022 Virtual Data Prioritization Summit - Jan 14 2022
- TBI in Underserved Populations Program Advisory Committee - University of Toronto

Presentations

December 2021

Spotlight on Brain Injury

Panel Presenter - End the Wait: Addressing the Shortfall
in Disability Supports and Services in Canada

Disability and Work in Canada 2021 Virtual Conference

September 2021

Insights from isolation: Unique perspectives on the Covid-19 pandemic from the brain injury community

BrainX Conference on Brain Injury - BrainTrust Canada



Research

Brain Injury Canada is thrilled to be working on a community building research project called Brain Injury Pandemic Preparedness: Optimizing Community Strategies funded by the Canadian Institute for Health Research.

Principal investigators:

Carolina Bottari - University of Montreal

Lisa Engel University of Manitoba

Michelle McDonald - Brain Injury Canada

Co-investigators:

Ashley Brosda - Brain Care Centre

Monique Gignac - University of Toronto

Gladys Hrabí - Manitoba Brain Injury Association

Glenda James -Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association

Carolyn Lemsky - Community Head Injury Resource Services

Emily Nalder - University of Toronto

Shlomit Rotenberg - University of Toronto

Cassandra Stockley - Newfoundland and Labrador Brain Injury Association

Marjolaine Tapin Connexion

Julia Schmidt - University of British Columbia

Bonnie Swaine - University of Montreal

Ruth Wilcock - Ontario Brain Injury Association

Sareh Zarshenas - University of Montreal

This study will examine how community brain injury associations have changed their services to meet the needs of Canadians affected by brain injury during the pandemic and how to further improve services. The Covid-19 pandemic has made living with brain injury worse. Many people are reporting increased brain injury symptoms due to stress, isolation, routine disruptions, and less supports. They are struggling to understand and follow public health information to stay healthy and keep others healthy. To meet these increased needs, community brain injury associations provide crucial supports and services. During the pandemic, these associations have had to quickly change their services and the way they provide them, with little guidance from public health. This project will use online information sharing meetings for staff and volunteers of brain injury associations across Canada to improve community services during pandemics. Experts in brain injury research and services will analyze and summarize the information from sharing meetings and present it back to the brain injury associations. This study will help the community associations work together and co-develop a helpful online tool to improve how they support people living with a brain injury during a public health crisis. By getting Canadian brain injury associations collaborating with each other, this project will develop an online resource that can be used to improve their services during this pandemic and in their preparations for future public health crises. The aim of this project works toward the CIHR goal of making community and social care action plans to improve the health of vulnerable people.

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partnerships and collaboration are a key priority for Brain Injury Canada. Partners and collaborations 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.

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

ONF-REPAR

The former Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) in Ontario and the Réseau provincial de recherche en adaptation-réadaptation (REPAR) in Québec partnered around a common interest in neurotrauma; namely spinal cord injury and acquired brain injury rehabilitation and community-based research. The goal was to foster cross-provincial rehabilitation research collaborations and increase the collective strength of research in the two provinces. A representative of Brain Injury Canada sits on the Executive Committee.

Partnerships and Collaboration

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.

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.

In Memoriam - Michelle Bartlett



In June 2021 we lost Michelle Bartlett, a long-time volunteer of Brain Injury Canada and a warrior of brain injury.

Michelle suffered a severe anoxic brain injury in 2004 two days after open heart surgery. Due to the severity of her brain injury she was not expected to recover: but she advanced in her recovery further than anyone ever anticipated.

Michelle was a fierce advocate and she made it her mission to build education and awareness and make sure anyone living with brain injury felt connected.

Filling the gap in services and supports, she managed a local brain injury Facebook group and connected with many survivors and their families in Southern New Brunswick, even giving out her personal number to anyone in need. Michelle played a key role in organizing Brain Injury Canada's conference in Saint John, New Brunswick in 2017 and assisted in organizing the Domestic Violence and Brain Injury Seminar in Saint Andrews, New Brunswick in August 2018.

Michelle was the recipient of the 2016 Award of Merit from Brain Injury Canada and received the Trevor and Debbie Greene Award of Courage at our conference in 2018, which recognizes courage, compassion and extraordinary heroic contribution to advance the cause of acquired brain injury. We wanted to take a moment to recognize Michelle for her contributions to brain injury awareness and support in New Brunswick and on a national level. Our condolences are with her family, friends, and members of the brain injury community directly impacted by Michelle's hard work.

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 community 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.



3832 Followers

[Facebook.com/
braininjurycanada](https://www.facebook.com/braininjurycanada)



8434 Followers

[@braininjury_CAN](https://twitter.com/braininjury_CAN)



708 Followers

[linkedin.com/
braininjurycan](https://www.linkedin.com/company/braininjurycanada)



784 Followers

[@braininjurycanada](https://www.instagram.com/braininjurycanada)



3225 views

[youtube.com/
BrainInjuryCanada](https://www.youtube.com/BrainInjuryCanada)

Stats from April 1 2021 - March 31 2022

Financial Statements

BRAIN INJURY CANADA

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 162,247	\$ 100,909
HST and source deductions recoverable	4,773	43,569
Prepaid expenses	2,050	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 169,070	\$ 144,478
	<hr/>	<hr/>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	\$ 169	\$ 125
Goods and services tax payable	125	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	294	125
Long term debt (Note 3)	30,000	30,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	30,294	30,125
NET ASSETS	138,776	114,353
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 169,070	\$ 144,478
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Financial Statements

BRAIN INJURY CANADA

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
RECEIPTS		
Donations	\$ 45,552	\$ 20,390
Conference receipts and sponsorships	46,101	29,446
Grants	191,573	190,138
Sundry receipts	3,829	13,098
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	287,055	253,072
	<hr/>	<hr/>

DISBURSEMENTS

Advertising and promotions	\$ 2,899	\$ 4,016
Bank charges	352	84
Business taxes, license and memberships	2,603	1,012
Delivery, freight and express	389	836
Employee benefits	6,427	6,561
Insurance	2,050	1,976
Meetings and conventions	30,760	13,684
Office	5,500	5,663
Grant expenses	13,613	32,355
Professional fees	9,238	6,704
Rental	-	3,628
Salaries and wages	100,156	99,939
Sub-contracts	86,108	77,475
Telephone	1,916	1,647
Training	547	382
Travel	74	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	262,632	255,962
	<hr/>	<hr/>

EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURES

\$	24,423	\$ (2,890)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

Provincial/Community Brain injury Associations

ALBERTA

Southern Alberta Brain Injury Society
Brain Care Centre

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Braintrust Canad
Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association
Comox Valley Head Injury Society
Cowichan Brain Injury Society
Kamloops Brain Injury Association
Nanaimo Brain Injury Societ
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

NOVA SCOTIA

Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia

ONTARIO

Ontario Brain Injury Association
New Beginnings ABI & Stroke Recovery Association –
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-
de-la-Madeleine
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
Montréal
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



www.braininjurycanada.ca



BRAIN INJURY
CANADA

LÉSION CÉRÉBRALE
CANADA



440 Laurier Ave W., Suite 200
Ottawa, ON K1R 7X6



info@braininjurycanada.ca