



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

www.braininjurycanada.ca

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Message from the Board

We are proud to be a part of this organization and to extend our heartfelt congratulations to each of our staff, volunteers and donors. This past year has been nothing short of extraordinary, and your dedication, passion, and hard work have brought us to a remarkable place.

We are celebrating an impressive 40% growth, a testament to the commitment and expertise that each of you brings to our organization as well as the support for our mission within Canada. This growth not only strengthens our capacity to serve but also positions us as a leader in our field, ready to embrace the future with confidence.



We are particularly proud of the successful launch of our new youth program BRITE (Brain Injury & Teens), a vital initiative that will have a lasting impact on the lives of young people in our community. This program represents our shared vision of empowering the next generation and fostering a brighter future for all.

Our continued advocacy for the community has also seen significant advancements with the progress of Bill C277, An Act to establish a national strategy on brain injuries. Your tireless efforts in this area ensure that the voices of those we serve are heard and respected at the highest levels. This achievement underscores our unwavering commitment to the well-being and prosperity of our community as a whole.

In addition, the creation of the Canadian Brain Injury Association Network (CBIAN) is a groundbreaking step that will enhance collaboration, share best practices, and amplify our collective impact across the country. This network is a reflection of our innovative spirit and our dedication to building strong, supportive connections that benefit everyone involved.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Board of Directors for their instrumental role as we continue to grow, innovate, and make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

As we celebrate these achievements, let us also look forward with optimism and determination. The future is bright, and together, there is nothing we cannot achieve.

Thank you for your continued commitment and for making our organization a place of excellence and impact. Here's to many more years of growth, success, and positive change.

Graham Todd & Xavier Linker
Co-Chairs, Board of Directors

Message from the CEO



As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and pride. This annual report offers a comprehensive look at Brain Injury Canada's journey over the past year—one marked by significant achievements, meaningful progress, and inspiring collaboration.

Our organization has continued to advance its mission, driven by a dedicated team which has tripled over the last year, our supportive partners, and a community that shares our vision.

Brain injury is a complex and often invisible condition that affects every facet of life for many individuals. At Brain Injury Canada, our work is deeply rooted in addressing the needs of the community, and we are incredibly fortunate to collaborate with such a vibrant and engaged network.

The advocacy for Bill C-277, which seeks to establish a national strategy on brain injuries, has united our community and strengthened our voice. I will always remember the pride I felt in the House of Commons gallery during the Second Debate, as names of individuals with brain injuries and our partner associations were acknowledged. Despite remaining legislative challenges, we remain dedicated to advancing this bill until it becomes law.

We are deeply appreciative of every individual who has contributed to our efforts over the past year.

A heartfelt thank you to our Scientific Advisory Committee. Your dedication to ensuring all our materials and content are credible and evidence based is sincerely appreciated.

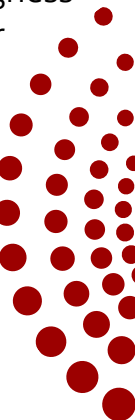
Our sincere gratitude to the brain injury associations across Canada. Your role as essential partners in our work is highly valued, and we look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts.

To the health care and health service community across Canada, we recognize and appreciate your hard work and dedication, especially during these challenging times. We are eager to continue building and strengthening our partnerships with you.

Most importantly, thank you to all the individuals and families living with brain injury. Your willingness to share your stories, engage in advocacy, participate in focus groups and surveys, and offer peer support drives our mission. Your contributions and insights are truly invaluable to our work.

Looking ahead, we are energized by the opportunities before us and together, we are making a difference.

Michelle McDonald
Chief Executive Officer



About Us



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, health care workers, researchers, and the general public

Vision

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

Values

Accountability	Diversity
Compassion	Integrity
Connection/collaboration	Stewardship

Board of Directors

Brain Injury Canada’s Board of Directors are committed to the mission and values of our organization and are accountable for competent, conscientious and effective management of the organization, as well as responsible for governing the affairs of the organization within relevant legislation and regulations.

Xavier Linker – Co-Chair
Graham Todd – Co-Chair
Hafeeza Bassirullah
Tanya DiPenta
Tamiko (Tami) Hynes

Sonali Kohli
John McGowan – Non-voting
Kai Olson
Paul Rogers
Annette Simms

Scientific Advisory Committee

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) is comprised of physicians, health care 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.

The SAC evaluates the materials that are published through the Brain Injury Canada website and programs for accuracy and completeness. SAC members also provide an important conduit to identify the latest research in the field of brain injury. As new treatments and methods for supporting people living with brain injury are discovered and evaluated, SAC members provide insights into what this means within a Canadian context.

Shelina Babul, PhD

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

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

John F Connolly Ph.D.

Founding Director, ARiEAL Research Centre
Professor, McMaster University

Nora Cullen, MD,MSc, FRCPC

Specialist, Physical Medicine and Rehab
Professor McMaster University Division Director,
PM&R
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

Lisa Engel, BKin, MSc (OT), PhD, OT Reg. (MB)

Assistant Professor, University of Manitoba

Alon Friedman MD, PhD

Professor of Neuroscience
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

Canada Research Chair (tier II) traumatic brain
injury
Co-Lead, Schroeder Brain Institute
Founder/Head – TeleRehab Centre for Acquired
Brain Injury

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

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 - Bruyère Continuing Care
Division Head, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Ottawa Hospital and University of Ottawa

Patrick McGrath, OC, PhD, FRSC, FCAHS

Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, Dalhousie
University
Scientist at the IWK Health Centre

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
Lead - Neuropsychiatry Concussion Clinic

Kara Patterson PT, PhD

Associate professor, Physical Therapy, University of
Toronto
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 and
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

Charles Tator OC, MD, PhD, FRCSC FACS

Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto.
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
Co-chair, Canadian Traumatic Brain Research
Consortium (CTRC)

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, 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

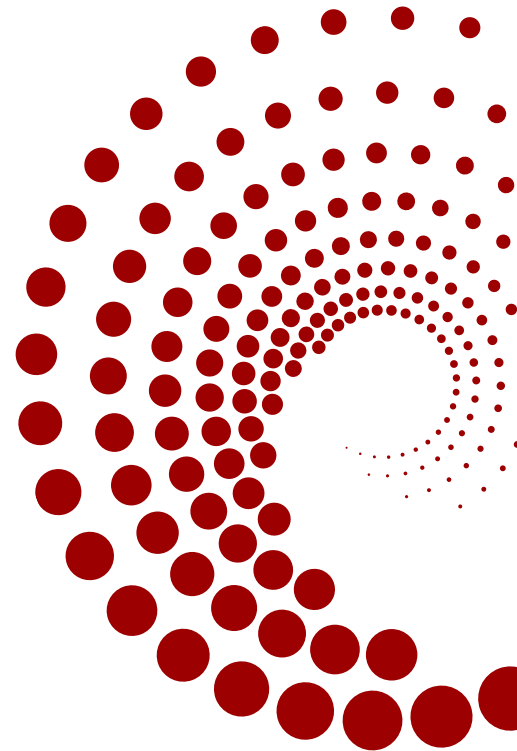
Assistant Clinical Professor (adjunct), Speech-
Language Pathology Program, School of
Rehabilitation Science
McMaster University

Keith Yeates PhD, RPsych, ABPP, FCAHS

Professor and Head, Department of Psychology
Adjunct Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and
Clinical Neurosciences
University of Calgary
Chair – Canadian Concussion Network

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



Brain Injury Resource Website

Brain Injury Canada continues to update and enhance our comprehensive resource website funded in part by the Government of Canada. With over 600 pages of content 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.

The 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.

The site is continually updated with new resources so we encourage people to bookmark the site and come back often.

163,000

**Users to the site -
almost 14,000/month**




1,100,000

**Interactions and
engagements**

www.braininjurycanada.ca

Interactive Service Directory

Launched in 2021, we continue to enhance and build on our interactive service directory Brain Injury Canada Connect This directory is designed for individuals in the brain injury community in Canada to find much-needed services and supports in their community. This resource will continue to grow, and new organizations and businesses will be added regularly.

Brain Injury Association of Fort Erie			
649 Niagara Blvd Fort Erie, ON L2A 3H7 Tel: 905-871-7789 Fax: 905-871-7832	Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case management• Community Supports• Family supports• Independent living supports• Support groups	Cost	Funding Type
			
Brain Injury Association of London and Region			
201 King Street London, ON N6A 1C9 Tel: 519-642-4539	Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caregiver supports• Support groups	Cost <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free• Membership Fees	Funding Type <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community funded
			
Brain Injury Association of Niagara (BIAN)			
300 Bunting Road Unit 4 St. Catharines, ON L2M 7X3 Tel: 905-646-2426 Fax: 905-984-5354	Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocacy groups• Community Supports• Support groups	Cost <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Membership Fees	Funding Type <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community funded
			

8,000
Users to the
site

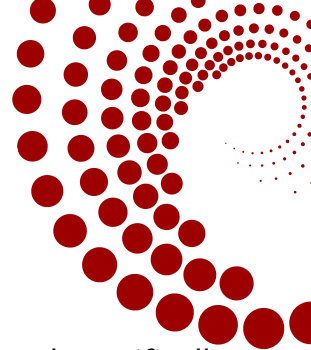
55,000
Interactions and
Engagements

Our goal is to create a resource that is truly representative of all the geographical regions of Canada and possible areas of services and support.

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



Education



The Foundations of Brain Injury or Health Care Professionals

Launched in 2022, this course continues to be an affordable self-paced course designed specifically for health care and service professionals to enhance their knowledge of brain injury, enabling improved, customized and informed care.

This course is multi-modal for the best possible self-directed learning experience, including:

- Videos from experts in the area of brain injury to provide an evidence-based, research-supported lens
- Videos from individuals sharing their personal accounts of living with the effects of brain injury, ensuring a valuable educational resource powered by lived experience
- Downloadable resources & further educational opportunities for deeper learning

All course content is evidence-based and has been developed under the guidance of our Scientific Advisory Committee, comprised of researchers and clinicians from across Canada.

Courses for Brain Injury Associations

Brain Injury Canada is grateful to have received a Community Services Recovery Fund grant, which has allowed us to develop complimentary educational resources for brain injury associations.

These courses will enable brain injury organizations to act proactively to modernize and adapt through supporting their staff, volunteers and boards of directors. Each course provides tangible learnings that can be implemented into organizational governance, program development, assessment and evaluation and improve the inclusivity of the organizations, as well as developing the skills of the individual learners.

Courses include:

- Inclusion, Diversity, Equality, Accessibility plus Belonging (IDEA+B).
- Ethical Considerations in Community Services
- Supporting Mental Health of Staff and Volunteers
- Trauma Informed and Person-Centred Care

Course will be available on the Canadian Brain Injury Association Network portal in Fall 2024.



Caregiver Courses

With the support of the Petro Canada CareMakers Foundation Brain Injury Canada has developed a variety of FREE courses for family caregivers of people with brain injury.

Our courses are designed to be accessible and focused on topics that caregivers have told us are important to them. These courses are self-guided, meaning you can learn on your own time.

Courses include:

- An introduction to brain injury
- Caregiver health & well-being
- Planning for the future
- Helping a loved one transition from youth to adulthood (Launching Fall 2024)

“ I really enjoyed the e-learning program from beginning to the end. ”

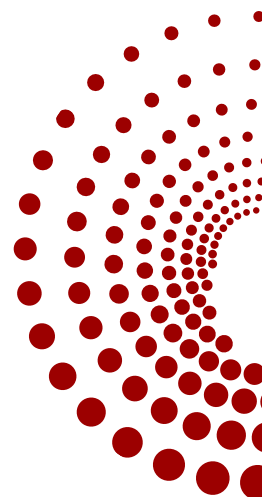
“ I have learnt so much about brain injury that I never knew before ”

“ It is courses like this that give me a sense that I am not alone. ”

All courses are available in both English and French.



Petro-Canada
CareMakers
Foundation™



Upcoming Courses

We are excited to be developing our upcoming course, "Brain Injury in Long-term Care Settings," specifically for working professionals. This course aims to educate support workers and providers on brain injury, its impact within long-term care environments, and effective strategies for supporting individuals with brain injuries.

We are also in the developmental stages of creating a new resources for individuals living with brain injury on managing symptoms and challenges.

Both these programs will launch in 2025.

BRITE (BRain Injury & TEens)

Launching in June 2024, BRITE (BRain Injury & TEens) is a dedicate site for youth ages 13-19 living with brain injury. The goal of the site is to empower youth to take the lead in gathering knowledge about brain injury and their recovery. We will be expanding on this site in the coming months, with the goal of consistently creating new information, sharing stories and step by step creating a community for Canadian youth. We currently are in the review stage for the next phase of content that covers more nuanced health information (such as puberty) as well as the second audience for the website (I have a sibling/friend with a brain injury).



This website will serve as a living resource for young people in Canada who want to better understand their brain injury (or their sibling/friend) and give them a reliable, evidence-based place to foster a community and a sense of safety in regards to information-gathering. In conjunction with BRITE, we will be building a youth advisory group to inform future content, review information as needed, and be community leaders who help us determine the resources one may need.

www.britecanada.ca



BRITE (BRain Injury & TEens)

All content for BRITE is overseen by a dedicated BRITE Scientific Advisory Committee. Members include:

Vincy Chan, PhD

Associate Director of the ABI Research Lab
Assistant Professor (Status), Institute of
Health Policy, Management and Evaluation,
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

Peter Rumney, MD, FRCP(C)

Clinical Team Investigator and Physician
Director, Rehab and CCC, Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital
Assistant Professor, Paediatrics, University of
Toronto

Dr. Shannon Scratch, PhD, C.Psych.

Clinician Scientist, Bloorview Research
Institute Clinical
Neuropsychologist, Brain Injury Rehab Team,
Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab Hospital
Holland Family Professorship in Acquired
Brain Injury
Associate Professor (status), Department of
Paediatrics, University of Toronto

Anne Wheeler, PhD

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

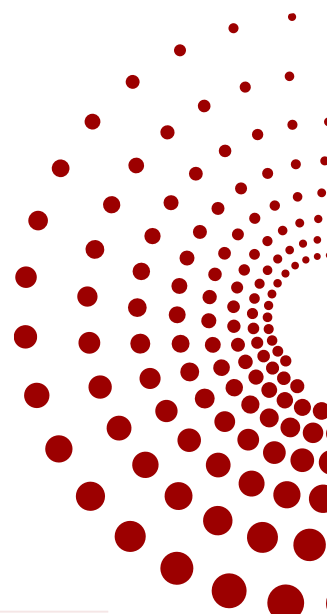
Keith Yeates, PhD, RPsych, ABPP, FCAHS

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

www.britecanada.ca



Corrections Project

Men and women who had sustained a TBI were about 2.5 times more likely to be incarcerated than men and women who had not sustained a TBI[1].

In collaboration with BC Corrections, we have launched a pilot e-course designed for all corrections staff. This program offers education on brain injury, includes first-hand accounts from colleagues, and provides practical guides for effectively supporting and interacting with individuals with brain injuries within the criminal justice system.



Recognizing the need for intervention, we were thrilled to collaborate with BC Corrections to develop a comprehensive educational resource. The response to this pilot project has been overwhelmingly positive. We are now in the evaluation phase, aiming to scale the course and explore opportunities for expansion into other provinces and territories, and the federal corrections system.

Traumatic Brain Injury & Youth Justice

Brain Injury Canada is proud to be a project partner in this important international initiative. This project aims to provide valuable resources for young people living with traumatic brain injury (TBI) who are involved in the legal system, as well as for those who support them.



The goal is to provide an overview of TBI and an understanding of the cognitive, communication and behavioural consequences that can be a risk factor for criminal involvement

www.tbi-youth-justice.org

[1] McIsaac KE, Moser A, Moineddin R, et al. Association between traumatic brain injury and incarceration: a population-based cohort study. CMAJ Open. 2016;4(4):E746-E753. Published 2016 Dec 6. doi:10.9778/cmajo.20160072

Brain Injury Canada Conference

On May 17-18, Brain Injury Canada hosted its virtual conference. 160 people attended virtually from across Canada, participating in two days of presentations and Q&A periods. We also hosted a virtual exhibition of organizations and service providers, continuing to foster the national community surrounding brain injury education. Presenters included:

Traumatic Brain Injury as a Chronic Health Condition

John D. Corrigan, PhD - Ohio State University

Traumatic brain injury in precariously housed persons: Incidence and risks

Dr. William Panenka MD, MSc, FRCPC
(Neurology and Psychiatry)
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry,
University of British Columbia

Individual Journeys and Collective Learning: Patient and Provider Perspectives on the Transformative Possibilities of Disability Identity

Lauren Fehlings, Advocate and Kyla Jamieson,
Author, Advocate

Skills for Supporting Gender and Sexually Diverse Patients

Janani Suthan and Eliot Newton - Canadian
Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity (CCGSD)

TBI and the Criminal Justice System: Intersectionality and TBI among Marginalized and Underserved Communities

Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, SLP - McMaster
University & Affiliate Scientist, KITE Research
Institute

Perspectives on brain development and First Nations mental health

Chris Mushquash Ph.D., C.Psych. - Professor in
the Department of Psychology at Lakehead
University

Helping the Helper: Practical Tools for Supporting Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence Related Brain Injury

Lin Haag, MSW, RSW, PhD - School of Social
Work, Wilfred Laurier University

Toxic brain injury: A hidden epidemic within the drug toxicity crisis

Elizabeth Plant BA, MD, CCFP - Cowichan
Tribes Ts'ewulhtun Health, the First Nations
Health Authority Virtual Substance Use and
Psychiatry program

A Toolkit for At-Risk Patients Expressing Desire for Discharge

Jordan Pelc MD, MSc, Sinai Health, Rosanna
Macri MHSc, Q. Med, CHE, Sinai Health &
Sameera Khalid Student Researcher, MD
Candidate, Sinai Health

Ethics in healthcare delivery: Professional Boundaries

Christy Simpson, PhD- Associate Professor -
Department of Bioethics, Dalhousie
University.

Nothing like a brain haemorrhage to refocus the mind

Daniel MacQueen - Brain Injury Survivor &
Motivational Speaker

Thank you to our exhibitors

Vista Centre Brain Injury Services

The Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity

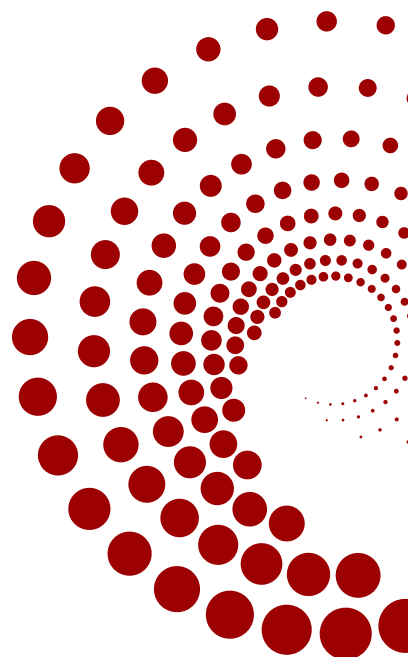
Connect Communities

March of Dimes

The Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity

Helius Medical

Ket Metrix Inc



Following the 2023 conference, Brain Injury Canada has decided to pause the conference. This decision allows us to concentrate on developing our strategic plan and identifying the most impactful educational opportunities for the future.



Communications

Brain Injury Canada's communication channels are expanding and play a crucial role in resource dissemination and community engagement. Our primary channels include our email newsletter and social media platforms.

Impact Newsletter

Brain Injury Canada's quarterly Impact newsletter delivers news, updates, and personal stories with a remarkable 30% open rate, significantly surpassing the industry average. This high engagement ensures that our national audience remains well-informed about our advocacy work, Brain Injury Awareness Month activities, and the latest educational resources.

The newsletter was temporarily paused this year as we conducted a survey to gather feedback on our audience's interests and preferences. We appreciate the valuable input we received. The revamped "Connections" newsletter will relaunch in Summer 2024

Email

Beyond our quarterly newsletter, email serves as a vital tool for engaging key stakeholders on topics that matter to them and the broader community. We use email to invite participation in surveys, share new resources, and promote relevant studies and partner resources that may benefit our audience.

Internally, email helps us maintain communication with partners, advisors, and the brain injury community. It allows us to disseminate important information, facilitate connections between individuals and brain injury associations, and address issues promptly and effectively.

Social Media

Social media remains a dynamic way for us to connect with the brain injury community across Canada. With over 15,000 followers across various platforms, we aim to provide engaging and educational content with every post. We also highlight the work and activities of other brain injury associations and partners.

For an organization with a national reach and a geographically dispersed community, social media is a crucial tool. Our goal is to maintain a consistent presence, offering valuable information and personal stories that foster a supportive community. We strive to create a space where individuals feel comfortable sharing their experiences, learning from others, and finding solace in the shared journey.



4000+
Followers



1400
Followers



1050
Followers



8500
Followers



450+
Followers

Advocacy & Awareness

Moderate to Severe TBI as a Chronic Condition

This year, Brain Injury Canada undertook a significant collaboration with the Canadian Traumatic Brain Injury Research Consortium (CTRC) calling for moderate to severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) to be officially classified as a chronic condition under the Canadian Chronic Disease Surveillance System.

Despite the persistence of cognitive, behavioural, physical, and emotional impairments throughout a person's life – a profile aligning with the World Health Organization's definition of a chronic disease – the Canadian healthcare system is currently geared towards its management as a single event rather than a chronic condition. This significant gap leaves affected individuals and their families to manage brain injury's profound, lifelong challenges without consistent and essential support.

Brain Injury Canada and the Canadian Traumatic Brain Injury Research Consortium co-authored and published a report *Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury: A Lifelong Condition*.

The report garnered significant media attention including the article [How we can tackle the silent suffering of Canadians with traumatic brain injury](#) by André Picard in the Globe & Mail.

We have also been meeting with policy makers at the Public Health Agency of Canada and will continue to push for this crucial designation.

Recognizing TBI as a chronic condition within the Canadian Chronic Disease Surveillance System would allow for standardized data gathering, healthcare utilization tracking, and management research. It could also help address the disparities of care nationwide and the fragmented nature of program funding for TBI patient care.

www.braininjurycanada.ca/en/tbi-position-paper



Traumatic Brain Injury: A Lifelong Condition

Moderate to Severe Brain Injury as a
Chronic Condition

Advocacy & Awareness

Bill C-277 – An Act to Establish a National Strategy on Brain Injuries.

The first reading of Bill C-277, An Act to establish a national strategy on brain injuries by Mr. Alistair MacGregor, Member of Parliament for Cowichan—Malahat—Langford took place in June 2022. In October 2023, a diverse delegation of advocates—comprising individuals living with brain injuries, their family members, clinicians, researchers, and representatives from brain injury associations across Canada—visited Parliament Hill. The delegates engaged with MPs from all parties and spoke at a parliamentary reception hosted by legislators from across the political spectrum.

Bill C-277 aims to improve the health of people with living with brain injury by:

- Making sure all provinces and territories work together in the same way.
- Reducing differences in healthcare quality.
- Making it easier to get care and collecting standard data on how common brain injuries are and impact over the lifespan, so that policies and resources can be better directed to where they are needed most.
- Ensuring the Minister of Health is responsible for reporting on the details of the legislation every year.



Lis Pilon (Yukon), Sampson McNeill (BC), Sue McKinnon (March of Dimes Canada), Cole Kennedy (UVic), Shirley Wilson (Abbotsford), Janelle Breese Biagioni (CGB), Dr. Mauricio Barrera (UVic), Dr. Shelina Babul (BC Injury Prevention & Research Unit), Victoria Brown (Brain Injury Canada), Dr. Julia Schmidt (UBC), Amanda McFarlane (BrainTrust Canada), Cohen McFarlane, Michelle McDonald (Brain Injury Canada), Marjolaine Tapin (Connexion - TCC.QC), Barb Butler (Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association), Denis Boileau (Vista Centre), Charlotte Call (Connexion -TCC.QC), Rachel Strazzeri (Connexion TCC)

Advocacy & Awareness

Bill C-277 – An Act to Establish a National Strategy on Brain Injuries.

In May and June 2024, the Bill was debated in the House of Commons, and it was truly inspiring to witness MPs from across the political spectrum stand in support of a national strategy on brain injury, frequently naming individuals affected by brain injuries. Such an extensive discussion of brain injury on the House floor is unprecedented. On June 12, 2024, the House of Commons voted unanimously in favor of Bill C-277, which has now been referred to the Standing Committee on Health to continue through the standard legislative process.

To find out more information, please visit: www.braininjurycanada.ca/en/bill-c-277/



Clockwise from top left: Michelle McDonald (Brain Injury Canada), Mr. Alistair MacGregor, M.P. · Cowichan--Malahat--Langford, Barb Butler (Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association and former Board Member of Brain Injury Canada)

Canadian Brain Injury Association Network (CBIAN)

With the support of a grant, Brain Injury Canada has launched a collaborative network-building initiative aimed at strengthening the brain injury sector and enhancing its sustainability. This initiative brings together staff and volunteers from brain injury associations in a more formal setting to share knowledge and experiences. The goal is to develop tools and resources that improve capacity and support for individuals living with brain injuries. Additionally, the network will address intersectional issues within the brain injury community and work collaboratively to achieve a collective impact.

The Six Pillars of the Network

- Driven by community goals
- Strategic community learning
- Shared activities and resources
- Community engagement and connection
- Affecting systemic change
- Sector sustainability



**CANADIAN BRAIN INJURY
ASSOCIATION NETWORK**
www.cbian.ca

Guided by these Six Pillars, the Canadian Brain Injury Association National Network will create partnerships, facilitate knowledge sharing, and offer training, resources and benefits that enable associations to continue to provide essential programs and services to individuals and families living with brain injury.

The Network will engage with diverse stakeholders including the medical community, the private sector, municipal/provincial/federal levels of government, research community and other not-for-profit organizations across the disability sector to support the social inclusion of individuals living with brain injury.

The network is steered by a Network Advisory Council, comprised of staff from brain injury associations across Canada including:

Amanda McFarlane, Co-Chair
Brain Trust Canada (BC)

Michelle McDonald, Co-Chair
Brain Injury Canada (National)

Nora Molina
Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured (ARBI) (AB)

Carol Paetkau
Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association (BC)

Emily Roding
Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia (NS)

Lori Girolametto
Brain Injury Association Sarnia Lambton (ON)

Ruth Wilcock
Ontario Brain Injury Association (ON)

Jonathan Jean-Vézina
Association Renaissance TCC et AVC Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (QC)

Marjolaine Tapin
Connexion TCC.QC

Glenda James
Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association (SK)

Daniel Bourque, Network Administrator
Brain Injury Canada (National)

Research

Brain Injury Pandemic Preparedness Program

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, association executive directors and researchers across Canada began to talk about the issues facing associations and people living with brain injury. Out of these discussions came the Brain Injury Pandemic Preparedness (BIPP) project, with the aim of optimizing community pandemic strategies. Funded by a grant from Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the BIPP project team includes executive directors from Brain Injury Canada and six provincial associations and researchers from four provinces. Nationally funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, this project aimed to connect brain injury associations across Canada and co-create this pandemic preparedness resource tool.

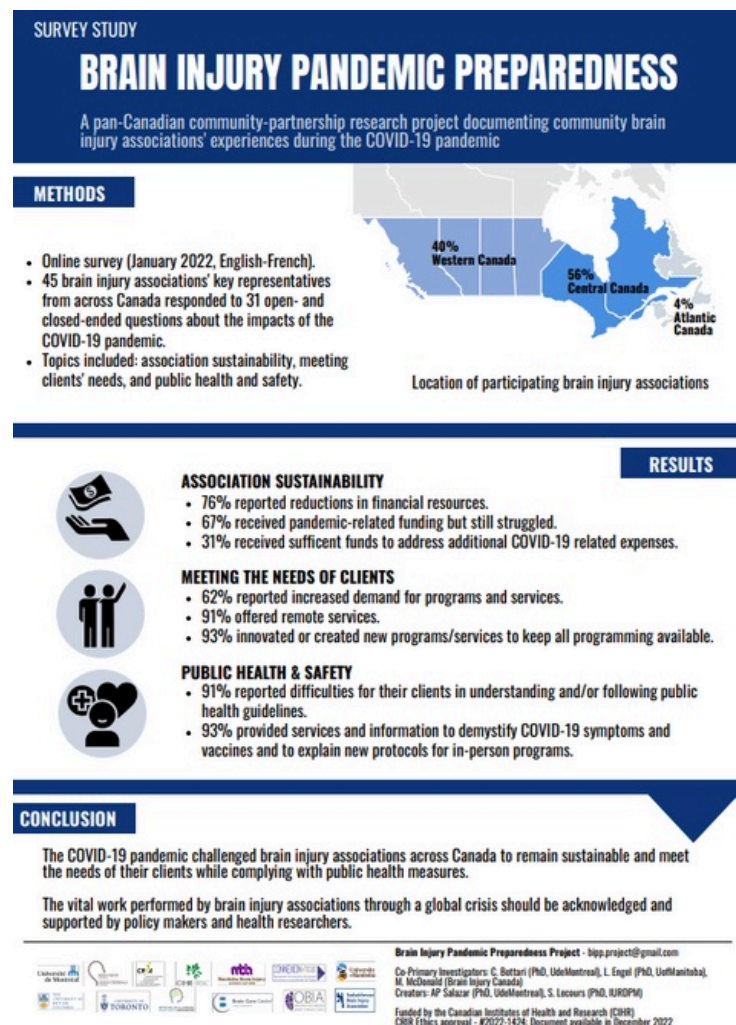
The BIPP project was divided into two main parts:

Survey

The survey study was performed in 2022 and answered by 45 key representatives (staff or volunteers) of brain injury associations across Canada. They answered questions related to meeting the need of clients, the sustainability of associations, and public health safety. The main results of this work can be found below.

Co-creation of a resource

The second part of the project included 31 participants (also key representatives) from brain injury associations. They participated in two focus groups (one about the first year and one about the second year of the pandemic), two Town-Halls (to co-create this resource tool), and completed 4 different online questionnaires (about their associations, their participation in the focus groups and Town-Halls, and about this resource tool).



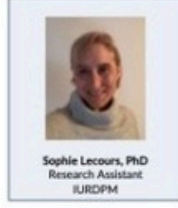
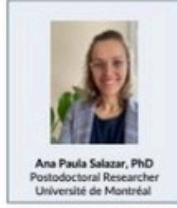
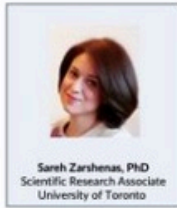
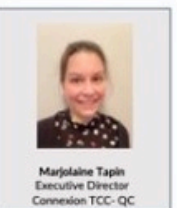
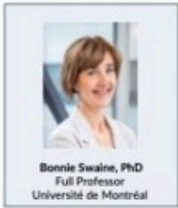
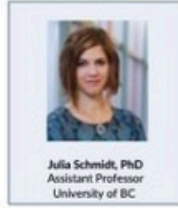
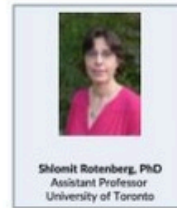
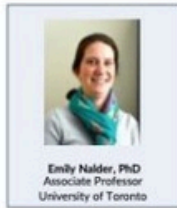
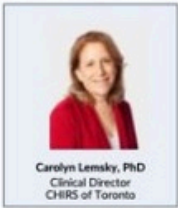
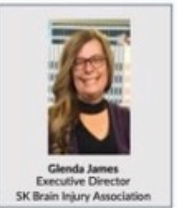
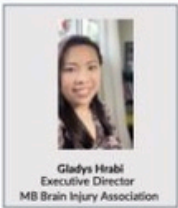
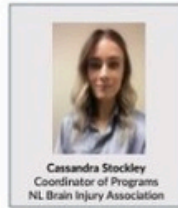
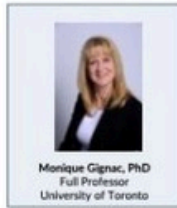
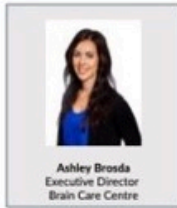
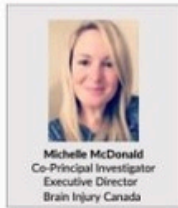
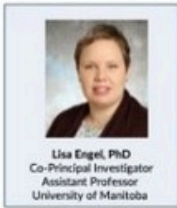
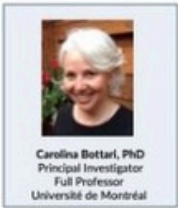
Research

Brain Injury Preparedness Program

All of this collaborative work culminated in the development of www.cbain.ca. This member-only site is meant to be used as an on-going resource for association staff to learn from each other, network, share experiences, successes/challenges and work together to improve the care, treatment, rehabilitation, and daily living of individuals and families living with brain injury.

This site is administered by Brain Injury Canada and will be an essential tool for the Canadian Brain Injury Association Network.

A huge thank you to all that worked on this project.



Research

Brain Injury & Accessibility of the Electoral Process in Canada

We know that individuals living with brain injury experience significant barriers to participation in federal elections. Those barriers show up in the voter registration process, communication of candidate platforms, voting, and in seeking and/or sustaining employment at Elections Canada. If these people are not able to vote for the candidate that represents their interests and needs, their voices are not being heard.

In May 2023, Brain Injury Canada embarked on a new 3-year research project to access the accessibility of the electoral process for Canadians living with brain injury funded by Accessibility Standards Canada.

The goal of this project is to identify how to identify, remove and mitigate barriers that prevent members of the brain injury community from participating fully in federal electoral process. These processes including both voting and employment.



Research

Brain Injury & Accessibility of the Electoral Process in Canada

Engaging persons living with brain injury is central to our project, reflecting Brain Injury Canada's commitment to involving lived experience in all our initiatives. These perspectives are grounded in actual experiences, making the research more relevant and accurate. The project manager of the research team identifies as a person living with brain injury. We have a Project Advisory Group from across Canada including individuals living with brain injury (50%), family caregivers (30%), service providers (20%). Through the use of surveys, interview and focus groups our research staff receive feedback from people living with brain injury and caregivers.

In the fall of 2023, our research team received ethics approval to interview people with brain injuries about their voting experiences. We spoke with over 50 individuals and consulted leaders from brain injury associations in less populated areas to gather additional insights. We also developed and obtained approval for an anonymous online survey aimed at voters with brain injuries.

We are currently investigating accessible employment opportunities within the election process, including sharing poll worker job requirements with individuals living with brain injuries.



In the next phase of our project, we will launch the online survey for voters and work closely with people living with brain injuries to better understand the barriers to accessible print communications and their impact on election accessibility. We plan to complete the analysis and writing of our interview data by summer 2024.

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The findings from this research are anticipated to impact the standards set by the Accessible Canada Act. Elections Canada is required to adhere to these standards. Currently, several committees at Accessibility Standards Canada, such as those focused on the Built Environment and Plain Language, could benefit from the insights provided by this project.

To find out more information, please visit:

www.braininjurycanada.ca/en/research/accessibility-electoral-process/

Conferences and Presentations

Staff members from Brain Injury Canada have been invited to participate in and present at various conferences, panels, and workshops across Canada. Presenting at conferences across Canada supports brain injury by enhancing visibility, raising awareness, and advocating for change by influencing key stakeholders and decision-makers. These events offer valuable opportunities for networking and collaboration, enabling Brain Injury Canada to build relationships with other organizations, professionals, and potential partners. Educating and informing audiences about important issues improves practices and engages attendees by fostering a sense of community.

Here are some examples of conferences that Brain Injury Canada has been involved in over the past year:

Canadian Traumatic Brain Injury Research Consortium Winter Meeting - June 2023 (Calgary, AB)

Vista Centre Brain Injury Services Brain Injury Awareness Day - June 2023 (Ottawa, ON)

Canadian Traumatic Brain Injury Research Consortium Spring Meeting - June 2023 (Calgary, AB)

Canadian Concussion Network Conference - June 2023 (Calgary, AB)

Calgary Public Concussion Event - June 2023 (Calgary, AB)

British Columbia Brain Injury Associations Meeting - June 2023 (Victoria, BC)

BC Consensus Building Day on Brain Injury, Mental Health & Addictions - June 2023 (Victoria, BC)

International Initiative for Traumatic Brain Injury Research - August 2023 (Bethesda Maryland)

Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Special Interest Group on Neurodiversity - October 2023 (Virtual)

Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association Purple Thursday Intimate Partner Violence and Brain Injury Conference - October 2024 (Saskatoon, SK)

Ontario Brain Injury Association Conference - November 10, 2023 (Niagara Falls, ON)

PetroCanada Caremakers Foundation - December 2024 (Virtual)

CONNEXION >TCC.QC est le Regroupement des associations de personnes traumatisées craniocérébrales du Québec - Annual Meeting - January 2024

Media and Communications

Life can change overnight. 2 families share what people should know about power of attorney
CBC Radio · Jan 22, 2024

What this woman wants you to know about power of attorney
White Coat, Black Arts - CBC Radio · Jan 12, 2024

How we can tackle the silent suffering of Canadians with traumatic brain injury.
The Globe and Mail - André Picard · Aug 28, 2023

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partnerships and collaboration are crucial for Brain Injury Canada as they expand our resources, extend our reach, and facilitate the exchange of valuable knowledge, all of which amplify our impact. Working with other organizations also bolsters our advocacy efforts and supports policy changes, allowing us to more effectively advance our mission.

Some of our partnerships include:

Canadian Concussion Network – Executive Committee and Integrated Knowledge Translation & Stakeholder Engagement Committee

Neurological Health Charities Canada – Chair of Governing Council

Canadian Traumatic Brain Injury Research Consortium – Executive Committee

Canadian Transportation Agency Accessibility Advisory Committee

Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Special Interest Group on Neurodiversity - Member

Youth and TBI Justice.org

TBI in Underserved Populations Program Advisory Committee – University of Toronto

Cross-Sectoral Solutions: Strengthening Community Capacity to Address the ‘Parallel Pandemic’ of Intimate Partner Violence-Related Traumatic Brain Injury Through a Survivor-Led Support Intervention – Stakeholder Advisory Board – University of Toronto and WomenatthecentrE

Ontario-Quebec Rehabilitation Research and Technology Consortium - Mobility Network Work Group

Ontario Neurotrauma Care Pathways Current State Critical Considerations Working Group

Supporting Women Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence and Brain Injury

Accessible Housing Network

Disability Tax Credit Alliance

Champlain ABI Coalition

BC Concussion Advisory Network



Financial Statements

BRAIN INJURY CANADA
Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2024

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 131,045	\$ 232,682
Accounts receivable	5,837	6,385
Prepaid expenses	2,581	2,188
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 139,463	\$ 241,255
	<hr/>	<hr/>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Band indebtedness	\$ -	\$ 30,000
Accounts payable	9,558	601
Employee deductions payable	23,439	5924
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	32,997	36,525
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	106,466	204,730
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NET ASSETS	\$ 139,463	\$ 241,255
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Financial Statements

BRAIN INJURY CANADA

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

March 31, 2024

	2024	2023
RECEIPTS		
Donations	\$ 55,709	\$ 70,428
Conference receipts and sponsorships	6,351	16,619
Grants	457,829	264,638
Sundry receipts	13,681	29,010
Other	284	322
	533,854	381,017
DISBURSEMENTS		
Advertising and promotions	\$ 10,202	\$ 9,686
Bank charges	2,258	1,560
Business taxes, license and memberships	4,522	1,771
Delivery, freight and express	28	28
Employee benefits	35,425	13,740
Insurance	2,188	2,050
Meetings and entertainment	10	173
Meeting and conventions	12,410	24,172
Office	9,014	5,819
Grant expenses	34,590	20,120
Professional fees	19,201	10,600
Rental	1,236	1,202
Salaries and wages	490,871	205,594
Sub-contracts	6,000	6,698
Telephone	1,154	1,267
Training	971	7,280
Travel	1,788	3,303
Vehicle	250	-
	632,118	315,063
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ (98,264)	\$ 65,954

Provincial/Community Brain injury Associations

ALBERTA

Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injury
Brain Care Centre
Southern Alberta Brain Injury Society

BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia Brain Injury Association
Braintrust Canada
Campbell River Head Injury Support Society
Comox Valley Head Injury Society
Cowichan Brain Injury Society
Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association
Kamloops Brain Injury Association
Nanaimo 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
Kootenay Brain Injury Association
Victoria Brain Injury Association

MANITOBA

Manitoba 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 Society of Toronto
Hamilton Brain Injury Association
Headwaters Acquired Brain Injury Group - Orangeville
Seizure & Brain Injury Centre - Timmins

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



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