



2026
ANNUAL
REPORT

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Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to present Brain Injury Canada's Annual Report and reflect on another year of meaningful progress, collaboration, and impact.

This past year has demonstrated the strength and resilience of our organization and the broader brain injury community. Across Canada, individuals, families, researchers, clinicians, service providers, advocates, and community organizations continue to work together toward a shared goal: improving the lives of those affected by brain injury. Brain Injury

Canada is proud to play a leadership role in bringing these voices together and advancing solutions that make a difference.

The Board remains focused on ensuring that Brain Injury Canada is positioned for long-term success. Over the past year, we continued to strengthen our governance framework, support organizational sustainability, and provide strategic oversight as the organization expanded its programs, partnerships, and national reach. Strong governance is essential not only to managing today's opportunities and challenges, but also to building the foundation necessary for future growth and impact.

Financial stewardship remains a key responsibility of the Board. We are pleased that Brain Injury Canada maintained a strong financial position while continuing to invest in education, awareness, collaboration, and advocacy initiatives across the country. Through prudent management and thoughtful planning, the organization remains well-positioned to pursue its strategic priorities and respond to emerging opportunities that advance our mission.

One of the most important developments in recent years continues to be the growing national recognition of brain injury as a significant public health issue. The momentum generated through national advocacy efforts has created new opportunities for collaboration, awareness, and systems change. As conversations continue across Canada about improving supports and outcomes for individuals living with brain injury, Brain Injury Canada remains committed to ensuring that the voices of those with lived experience are heard and reflected in future solutions.

The Board is particularly proud of the organization's continued commitment to education and knowledge sharing. Through the development of evidence-informed resources, partnerships with researchers and clinicians, and collaboration with organizations across the country, Brain Injury Canada continues to strengthen its role as a trusted national leader and connector within the brain injury sector.



Message from the Chair

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the dedication of many individuals and organizations. We extend our sincere gratitude to our staff, volunteers, donors, funders, researchers, healthcare professionals, community partners, and members of our Scientific Advisory Committee. We also recognize the extraordinary work of provincial and local brain injury associations whose commitment and expertise provide critical support to individuals and families every day.

Most importantly, we thank the individuals living with brain injury and their families. Your resilience, advocacy, and willingness to share your experiences continue to guide our work and inspire our efforts. You remain at the center of everything we do.

I would also like to acknowledge the leadership of our Chief Executive Officer, Michelle McDonald and the dedication of our staff team. Their professionalism, passion, and commitment have enabled Brain Injury Canada to continue growing its impact while remaining focused on the needs of the community we serve.

As we look to the future, we do so with confidence and optimism. The opportunities before us are significant, and the need for national leadership has never been greater. Together, through collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to improving outcomes for Canadians affected by brain injury, we will continue to build a stronger and more connected future.

As this will be my final year serving as Chair and my final year on the Board of Directors, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve Brain Injury Canada. It has been both a privilege and an honour to work alongside such dedicated staff, volunteers, fellow Board members, partners, and advocates who are committed to improving the lives of Canadians affected by brain injury.

I am incredibly proud of the progress we have achieved together and confident that Brain Injury Canada is well positioned for continued growth and impact. The organization has never been stronger, and its future has never been brighter. While I step away from my formal role, I will continue to be a passionate supporter of Brain Injury Canada's mission and the remarkable community it serves.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me throughout my tenure. It has been a privilege to be part of this journey.

Graham Todd

Message from the CEO

This year marked another important chapter for Brain Injury Canada as we continued to advance our mission of improving the lives of Canadians affected by brain injury. As I reflect on the year, I am proud of the progress we have made as an organization and grateful for the dedication of our staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, partners, researchers, clinicians, and individuals with lived experience who make this work possible.



Brain injury remains one of Canada's most significant and misunderstood health challenges, affecting individuals, families, workplaces, and communities across the country. Despite its prevalence, many people continue to face barriers to timely information, services, and support. At Brain Injury Canada, we remain committed to addressing these gaps through education, awareness, collaboration, and advocacy.

Over the past year, education continued to be a cornerstone of our work. We expanded access to trusted, evidence-informed resources and delivered programs designed to increase understanding of brain injury and its impacts. We also continued to strengthen our role as a national convener, bringing together researchers, clinicians, service providers, policymakers, and people with lived experience to advance shared priorities and improve outcomes.

We made significant strides in expanding our programs, partnerships, and knowledge mobilization efforts. Through national initiatives, research projects, awareness campaigns, and resource development, we worked to ensure that individuals living with brain injury, regardless of where they live, have access to the information and support they need. Our work continues to be guided by the voices of those with lived experience, whose insights help shape meaningful and practical solutions.

This year also saw continued investment in organizational sustainability and governance. We strengthened our internal systems, refined policies and procedures, and enhanced our governance framework to position Brain Injury Canada for long-term success and impact.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the provincial and local brain injury associations and organizations across Canada. Every day, these organizations provide essential services, support, advocacy, and hope to individuals and families affected by brain injury. Their dedication, expertise, and deep connection to their communities are the foundation of the brain injury sector in Canada. Brain Injury Canada is proud to work alongside these organizations, and we are grateful for their partnership, collaboration, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those impacted by brain injury.

Message from the CEO

I would also like to recognize the exceptional dedication and hard work of our staff team. As a small national organization, our team consistently accomplishes an extraordinary amount with limited resources. Their passion, creativity, professionalism, and commitment to the brain injury community are evident in everything they do. They continually go above and beyond to deliver high-quality programs and services, adapt to emerging opportunities and challenges, and advance our mission. I am deeply grateful for their efforts and proud of all that we have achieved together this year.

And finally, none of this work would be possible without the support of our funders, donors, partners, volunteers, and community members. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to our Board of Directors for their leadership and commitment, and to our Scientific Advisory Committee for ensuring the quality and credibility of the information and resources we provide.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on building a future where every person affected by brain injury has access to the support, information, and opportunities they need to thrive. Thank you for your continued partnership and belief in our mission.

Michelle McDonald

Our Honourary Patron - Dr. Daniel Andreae

Dr. Dan Andreae is an award-winning educator, community leader, and advocate whose career has spanned education, health, and social services. A distinguished professor at the University of Guelph-Humber and the University of Waterloo, he holds advanced credentials in education, neuroscience, and neuropsychophysiology. Dr. Andreae has played a transformative role in the nonprofit sector, serving as the first Executive Director of the Alzheimer Society of Toronto, leading the successful campaign to regulate social work in Ontario, and co-founding the National Eating Disorder Information Centre (NEDIC). His many honours include the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award, the University Hospital Network Medal for Leadership in Community Health, and Brain Injury Canada's Lifetime Achievement Award, where he also serves as Honourary Patron.





BRAIN INJURY
CANADA

LÉSION CÉRÉBRALE
CANADA

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

To empower and connect the brain injury community through education, advocacy and collaboration, creating lasting positive impacts.

Our Values

In all that we do, we will:

- Foster accessibility and inclusion for people affected by brain injury.
- Promote respect, empathy and compassion for different lived experiences.
- Cultivate knowledge and information sharing with integrity.
- Demonstrate responsibility and sustainability using evidence to inform policy and guide action.

Board of Directors

Graham Todd - Chair
Hafeeza Bassirullah
Suzanne Clark
Tanya DiPenta

Tamiko (Tami) Hynes
Sasha Lisovsky
John McGowan
Paul Rogers

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 I BC Injury
Research & Prevention Unit, BC Children's Hospital
Director, CHIRPP, BC Children's Hospital

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Scientific Advisory Committee

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University of British Columbia
BC Mental Health and Addictions Research Institute
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Scientist, KITE Research Institute, UHN

Scientific Advisory Committee

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Assistant Professor, Paediatrics, University of Toronto

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

Programs

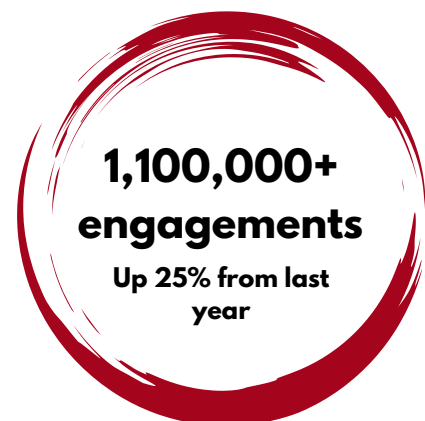
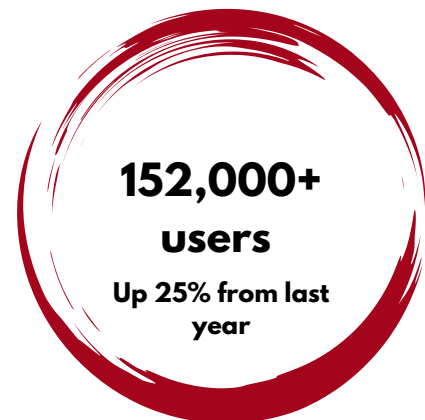
Brain Injury Resource Website

Brain Injury Canada continues to update and enhance our comprehensive resource website, www.braininjurycanada.ca, 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:

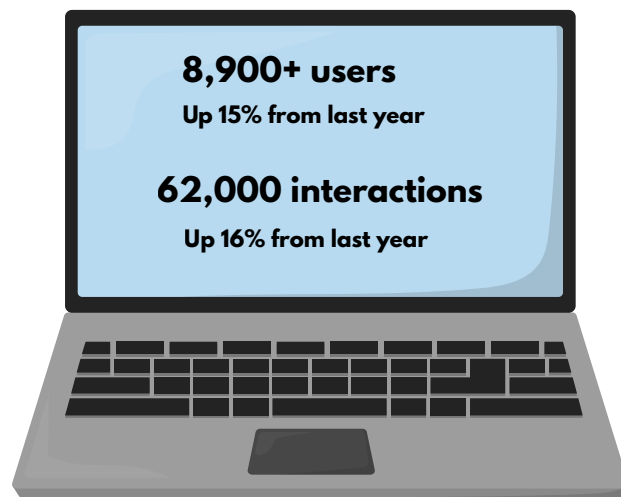
- Increasing the capacity of Brain Injury Canada to be a reliable and credible source of information related to brain injury;
- Consolidating and centralizing evidence-based information from across Canada;
- Improving the organization's leadership role in building collaborative relationships with partners 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.

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



Brain Injury Canada Connect Service Directory

Following an evaluation and relaunch in 2025, our service directory was comprehensively updated to improve both accessibility and efficiency, enabling users to more easily navigate and streamline their search for supports and services while helping businesses and organizations increase their visibility and discoverability. Our goal is to build a resource that reflects the diverse geographical regions of Canada and the full spectrum of available services and supports. By connecting individuals and communities with the resources available to them, we aim to strengthen engagement, collaboration, and equitable access to support across the country.



Programs

Education

Education has become a central pillar of Brain Injury Canada's work. Access to education is empowering, as it builds confidence, strengthens support systems, and contributes to improved health outcomes for individuals and communities affected by brain injury.

Since 2022, we have offered a rich online library of both paid and free e-courses, designed as accessible learning tools for the brain injury community, caregivers, and health care/service providers. These courses are provided in both English and French, reviewed by members of our Scientific Advisory Committee to ensure information is evidence-based. We promote learning through text, visuals/videos and interactive elements like critical thought-based quizzes while also providing helpful tools and resources for further learning.

Courses include:

Course for Family Caregivers

Developed with the support of the Petro-Canada Caremakers Foundation, Brain Injury Canada has developed a variety of courses for family caregivers of people with brain injury. Our courses are designed to be accessible, focused on topics that caregivers have told us are important to them. These courses are free of charge and self-guided, meaning you can learn on your own time.

Courses include:

- Family Caregivers: Introduction to Brain Injury
- Family Caregivers: Your Health and Wellbeing
- Family Caregivers: Planning for the Future
- Family Caregivers: Transitioning from Youth to Adulthood



“

I liked the breakdown of the sections and all the reference material. I loved how I could complete it in my own time.

”

“

This introductory course covered a wide range of topics, some that never even occurred to me. It was very helpful in explaining the effects of brain injury, which in turn, will help me in my caregiver role.”

”



Programs

Courses for Healthcare and Service Providers

The Foundations of Brain Injury for Health Care Professionals

This is 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. Originally published in October 2022, this course was updated in January 2026 with new lesson material, more resources for further learning, and improved formatting to create a smoother user experience. All updates follow our process for delivering evidence-based information.

“

This was a fantastic course. I spent the last couple of months updating my continuing education, and I haven't had any other course to be as comprehensive as this. I love that this course doesn't only talk about the medical model of care, but also incorporated discussions on the social determinant of health. And I especially, enjoyed seeing patients' accounts firsthand. This was really informative, and the information I learned on IPV within this course will come in handy in my career.

”

Brain Injury in Long-term Care

This course is specifically designed for those who work in long-term care homes and related settings. It provides a foundational base of knowledge about brain injury, its intersections with aging, and how to navigate caring for residents that may be coping with brain injury and concurrent health considerations.

“

This was by far the most practical course for working with individuals with brain injuries. It is helpful information that you can share with families since many may not have kept up if the brain injury occurred a long time ago. The cost of the course is far less than any of its counterparts in the industry of senior care.

”

Programs

Course for Brain Injury Associations

Brain Injury Canada developed complimentary educational resources specifically to support the organizational capacity and professional development of brain injury associations. The courses included:

- Inclusion, Diversity, Equality, Accessibility plus Belonging (IDEA+B).
- Introduction to Ethics
- Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Introduction to Trauma-Informed Care

Courses for community service organizations

Building off of our courses for brain injury associations, we made the decision to create paid courses for all organizations that provide community services who may work with the disability/brain injury communities. The following courses are available individually or in our Community Builders Bundle:

- Introduction to Ethics for Community Organizations
- Introduction to Trauma-Informed Care for Community Organizations
- Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility plus Belonging in Community Spaces
- Mental Health and Wellbeing for Community Workers

In the past year, we have had 650 new learners enroll for our courses, bringing our total number of students to date to 2173.



Programs

BRITE

BRITE (BRain Injury & TEens) is a dedicated resource website 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 their brain injury and recovery. Resources currently available on the site include understanding the effects of brain injury; mental health; and advocating for oneself in different settings (such as school, in relationships and at work).

We will be updating BRITE regularly with the support of our BRITE Scientific Advisory Committee, with the goal of continuing to build resources and a community for Canadian youth. This includes partnering with like-minded organizations to expand and extend the reach, engaging more youth across the country.



Since its launch, BRITE has had:

240,000
interactions &
engagements

37,000
unique users



www.britecanada.ca

Programs

Understanding Brain Injury Through the Lens of the Correctional System

Significant body of evidence showing that brain injury, particularly traumatic brain injury (TBI), is highly prevalent among people involved in the criminal justice system, both in Canada and internationally. Research consistently shows rates far higher than in the general population.

Since 2023, Brain Injury Canada has partnered with BC Corrections to deliver a pilot education program designed to increase awareness and understanding of brain injury among correctional facility and community staff. Through a comprehensive, self-paced e-learning course and accompanying resources, participants gain practical knowledge about the impacts of brain injury and strategies to better support individuals in correctional settings. The program helps staff recognize how cognitive, emotional, and behavioural challenges can affect interactions, communication, compliance, and rehabilitation, leading to more effective support, reduced misunderstandings, and improved outcomes.

By fostering greater awareness, empathy, and confidence among correctional and parole staff, the initiative supports safer environments, more equitable decision-making, stronger reintegration efforts, and enhanced collaboration between justice, healthcare, and community support systems.

In 2025, Brain Injury Canada received funding through the Ontario Brain Institute's Growing Expertise in Evaluation and Knowledge Translation (GEEK) Program. The GEEK Program provides evaluation expertise, support, and funding to community-led programs and services focused on brain health and people living with brain disorders. Beyond financial support, the program also serves as a capacity- and skill-building initiative, helping organizations strengthen their evaluation practices and enhance knowledge translation efforts to improve program impact and community outcomes.

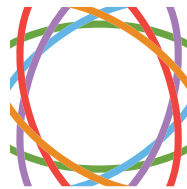
Evaluation Feedback

We conducted a thorough evaluation of both Year 1 and Year 2 of this pilot program.

Methodology included:

- A post-training completion survey
- 1-on-1 year-end interviews
- Focus groups

Evaluation results showed a strong intention to apply course learning in practice, with 100% of survey and interview respondents indicating they would use the knowledge gained. Participants reported greater confidence in understanding the impacts of brain injury, adapting communication approaches, providing appropriate accommodations, using de-escalation strategies, and tailoring support to individual needs. Mental health professionals also highlighted the course's value in strengthening their ability to support people living with brain injury.



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Programs

Canadian Brain Injury Association Network

With support from the Government of Canada, Brain Injury Canada launched a national network-building initiative to strengthen collaboration, capacity, and long-term sustainability across the brain injury sector.



CANADIAN BRAIN INJURY
ASSOCIATION NETWORK

www.cbian.ca

The Canadian Brain Injury Association Network brings together staff and volunteers from brain injury organizations across the country to share knowledge, address common challenges, and develop tools and resources that enhance support for individuals living with brain injury. The network also provides a forum to explore intersectional issues affecting the brain injury community and advance collective action on shared priorities.

Representing more than 40 brain injury associations nationwide, the network offers monthly meetings for executive directors, professional development opportunities, free online education, and annual evaluations and sector reports.

This past year, participation in monthly network meetings continued to grow. Brain Injury Canada delivered a two-part fundraising workshop series, as well as dedicated workshops on volunteer management and human resources, further strengthening organizational capacity across the sector.



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.

Connections Newsletter

We launched our rebranded quarterly newsletter in the fall of 2024, which continues to deliver news, updates, and personal stories with a remarkable 51-56% open rate, significantly surpassing the industry average.

Email outreach

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.

Social Media

We continue to maintain an active presence across all social media. We post regularly on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. Social media is an important tool for an organization with a national focus and a geographically dispersed audience. Our goal is to continue cultivating our online community; provide updates and information about brain injury and our organization; and highlight opportunities for engagement between those living with brain injury and research and health care sectors.



4,200 followers



2,200 followers



1,472 followers



575 subscribers



91 followers

Advocacy and Awareness

A National Strategy on Brain Injury

Over the past few years, there has been important progress toward creating a national strategy on brain injury in Canada. While there have also been setbacks, the momentum and support from the brain injury community continues to grow. For far too long, Canadians living with brain injury and their families have been waiting for meaningful national leadership and coordinated action. Despite brain injury being one of the leading causes of death and disability in Canada and affecting millions of Canadians, it has not received the same level of national attention, coordination, or investment as other major health conditions such as cancer, diabetes, or dementia.

A national strategy is needed to help ensure brain injury is recognized as a serious chronic health condition and public health issue. Canadians living with brain injury should have equitable and timely access to care, rehabilitation, mental health supports, housing, education, and community services. Too many individuals and families continue to face long wait times, gaps in care, fragmented systems, and barriers to accessing appropriate supports.

Why Do We Need a National Strategy on Brain Injury?

A national strategy would help create a more coordinated and consistent approach to brain injury across Canada. A national strategy could help:

- Improve prevention efforts and public awareness
- Increase education and training for healthcare professionals
- Support better diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and long-term recovery
- Promote more research, including community-based research
- Improve data collection and tracking to better inform policy and healthcare decisions
- Develop national guidelines and standards of care
- Strengthen mental health supports for individuals and families
- Improve accountability through annual reporting by the federal government

The Journey of Canada's National Brain Injury Strategy Legislation

Private Member's Bill C-277: An Act to establish a national strategy on brain injuries was introduced by M.P. Alistair MacGregor on June 2, 2022. A Private Member's Bill is proposed legislation introduced by a Member of Parliament (MP) or Senator who is not part of the federal Cabinet. These bills give MPs an opportunity to raise important issues that may not already be part of the government's agenda and, if passed through Parliament, can become law.

In June 2024, the House of Commons voted unanimously in favour of moving forward with the bill for a national strategy on brain injury. A huge day for brain injury! The bill was then studied by the Standing Committee on Health, where committee members heard testimony from witnesses across Canada and received briefs and letters of support from organizations, researchers, clinicians, and individuals with lived experience. After only minor amendments, the bill was approved by the committee and returned to the House of Commons for the next stage of voting.

However, before the process could continue, Parliament was prorogued on January 6, 2025. Then, on March 23, 2025, Parliament was dissolved for a federal election. As a result, the bill "died on the order paper," meaning it did not carry forward into the new parliamentary session.

Advocacy and Awareness

What Happens Next?

The good news is that the work is not over. In the new session of Parliament, M.P. Gord Johns reintroduced the legislation as Bill C-206. The bill is currently awaiting the next stage in the parliamentary process.

While there is still work ahead, this effort has already achieved important milestones:

- Strong national support from the brain injury community
- Increased awareness among policymakers and the public
- New partnerships and collaborations across sectors
- Greater momentum for advocacy at both the provincial and federal levels

Stay informed by visiting: www.braininjurycanada.ca/en/national-strategy/



Advocacy and Awareness

Global Coalition on Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Advocacy is also happening beyond Canada. Brain Injury Canada was a founding member of the **Global Coalition for TBI**, an international coalition working to improve recognition of traumatic brain injury (TBI) as a chronic, preventable, and notifiable health condition worldwide.

The coalition brings together organizations, researchers, clinicians, and people with lived experience from around the world to advance awareness, prevention, policy, research, and long-term supports for brain injury.

International advocacy can help drive change in Canada by increasing global recognition of brain injury as a major public health issue, encouraging governments to take action, supporting the development of international best practices, and strengthening pressure for coordinated national strategies and investment in services and supports. Global collaboration also improves knowledge sharing and research that can directly benefit Canadians living with brain injury.



Consultations

Brain Injury Canada actively participates in ongoing consultations to ensure that the needs and perspectives of individuals and families affected by brain injury are recognized and included. These consultations include engagement with:

- Canadian Border Service Agency
- Canadian Telecommunications Association
- CARES (patient engagement) CIHR Funded Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
- Canadian Air Transport Security Authority
- Canadian Transportation Agency
- PiPER UHN (Pride in Patient Engagement in Research)
- Elections Canada
- Canada Build Homes Consultation Submission: Advancing Inclusive Housing Through the Canada Builds Homes Program, Addressing the Housing Needs of People with Disabilities and Brain Injury
- Federal Finance Committee Budget Submission August 2025
- Institute of Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addictions

Advocacy and Awareness

Brain Injury Awareness Month

In Canada, June is Brain Injury Awareness Month. Each year national, provincial, and local associations run campaigns to increase awareness about the prevalence of brain injury, the obstacles that exist for those with brain injury, and the need for more services and support at all stages of recovery.

The prevalence of brain injury is well-established. But awareness of brain injury in the general public remains low. Lack of awareness of brain injury contributes to both personal and systemic barriers that make daily living and community interactions challenging for Canadians with brain injury, their caregivers, and their families. There is little research on the long-term implications of brain injury, resulting in critical gaps in care for millions of Canadians.

In June 2025 for Brain Injury Awareness Month, we went Beyond the Injury to shine a light on the profound impact brain injury has on all aspects of daily life.

Turning Vision into Action

To ensure the success of our 2025 Beyond the Injury campaign, we implemented a multifaceted national initiative that brought together community, advocacy, and action. This included launching an interactive online fundraising platform through Raisely, which empowered individuals, businesses, and teams to raise funds and share their personal stories. We were proud to collaborate with sponsors from across the country, and worked closely with the Canadian Brain Injury Advocacy Network (CBIAN) to amplify the voices of those with lived experience and increase participation from other Canadian brain injury associations.

Thank You to our National Sponsors!



Partners and Collaborators


We know we can't do this work alone. 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
- Neurological Health Charities Canada
- Canadian Traumatic Brain Injury Research Consortium
- Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Special Interest Group on Neurodiversity
- ABI Research Lab – University of Toronto
- Neil Squire Society
- Accessible Housing Network
- Disability Tax Credit Alliance
- Champlain ABI Coalition
- Praxis Spinal Cord Research Institute
- Neurotrauma Care Pathways - UHN Toronto
- Champlain ABI Coalition
- BC Concussion Advisory Network
- Canadian Brain Research Strategy
- BC Brain Injury Alliance
- Migraine Canada
- Parachute Canada
- Transcendent Concussion Research Program
- The Canadian Centre for IPV and Brain Injury
- Supporting Survivors of Abuse and Brain Injury through Research (SOAR)
- Heart & Stroke National Cardiac Care Advisory Committee



Speakers



Sydney Low
Lived Experience
Ambassador and Host



Dr. Roger Zemek
CHEO Research Institute

VIRTUAL WEBINAR

THE INVISIBLE INJURY:

MANAGING HEADACHES,
SLEEP, & MENTAL HEALTH
SYMPTOMS AFTER
A CONCUSSION

THURSDAY



Conferences, Events & Presentations

Throughout 2025-2026, Brain Injury Canada participated in a variety of conferences and gave multiple presentations on brain injury; intersections; and ongoing research and advocacy.

Canadian Traumatic Brain Injury Research Consortium Spring Conference – Virtual

Canadian Concussion Conference - Victoria, BC

Concussion Public Event, Canadian Concussion Conference – Victoria, BC

Vista Centre Brain Injury Awareness Day – Ottawa, ON

Bill C-206 Parliamentary Reception - Ottawa, ON

International Summit on Ending Gender-Based Violence - Toronto, ON

BIST/OBIA Mix & Mingle - Toronto, ON

North Eastern Ontario Brain Injury Network - Virtual

John Howard Society Annual General Meeting - Halifax, NS

Purple Thursday - Virtual

West Coast Brain Injury Conference, Brain Trust Canada - Kelowna, BC

OBIA Conference - Niagara Falls, ON

RCMP IPV and Brain Injury – co-presentation with Canadian Centre for IPV-Brain Injury with Dr. Halina Haag

Canadian Traumatic Brain Injury Research Consortium - Lake Louise, AB

Redefining Recovery: Addressing TBI as a Chronic Condition, Brain Injury Association of America - Virtual

Provincial Human Trafficking Symposium, Peel Victim Services - Mississauga, ON

Technical Briefing on Digital Technologies Accessibility Regulations, Accessible Canada Act - Virtual

Canadian Transportation Agency Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting - Virtual

Elections Canada Inspire Democracy - Ottawa, ON

Pride in Patient Engagement in Research (PiPER) Research Day - Toronto, ON

2025 Solutions for Healthy Cities Symposium - Toronto, ON

Co-Designing a Toolkit to Support Police Response to Intimate Partner Violence and Brain Injury

Brain Injury Canada partnered with researchers and public safety leaders to advance awareness of the intersection between intimate partner violence (IPV) and brain injury. Co-chaired by Flora Matheson of St. Michael's Hospital and Michelle McDonald of Brain Injury Canada, a multidisciplinary committee of experts in IPV, brain injury, and policing developed First Contact: Supporting Police Response to Intimate Partner Violence and Brain Injury, a pre-conference workshop presented at the 2025 International Law Enforcement and Public Health Conference in Ottawa. Opening remarks were delivered by Senator Kim Pate.

The workshop brought together police officers, public health professionals, and researchers to explore practical approaches for recognizing and accommodating brain injury during IPV-related interactions. Participants shared promising practices and engaged in collaborative discussions to identify key considerations for first-response situations. Building on this work, Brain Injury Canada and its partners are now finalizing a police response toolkit designed to support officers in providing informed, trauma-aware responses to individuals affected by IPV and brain injury.

The Committee members: Nikoleta Curcin, Madison Ford, Stan Gilmour, Halina (Lin) Haag, Kevin Li, Arthur McLuhan, Kamsiyochi Onyekere, Lisa Whittinghan, and Catherine Wiseman-Hakes.

This project is funded through a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Connection Grant [611-2024-0697].

Brain Injury and the Accessibility of the Electoral Process in Canada

This year saw the final year of our 3-year research project to assess the accessibility of the electoral process for Canadians living with brain injury, funded by Accessibility Standards Canada.

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

Through a comprehensive environmental scan, literature review, standards review, co-design sessions, interviews, and focus groups, the project identified significant gaps in research, policy, and accessibility standards related to brain injury and elections. While existing literature and accessibility frameworks addressed disability more broadly, very little information was found that specifically considered the unique needs of individuals living with brain injury.

A key component of the project was engaging Canadians with lived experience of brain injury through bilingual co-design sessions. Participants provided valuable insights into barriers encountered throughout the voting process and identified practical solutions to improve accessibility. Recommendations included enhancements to polling place environments, voter information materials, and digital election resources, with a focus on reducing sensory, cognitive, and communication barriers. The project also demonstrated the effectiveness of co-design as an inclusive research methodology, reinforcing the value of involving people with lived experience as equal partners in developing solutions.

The project further explored the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on electoral participation and found that many individuals living with brain injury altered their voting behaviours due to health and safety concerns, including increased reliance on mail-in voting options.

Findings from the project have been shared through reports, conference presentations, newsletters, website resources, and academic publications, with key materials translated into French, ASL, and LSQ to maximize accessibility. Collectively, this work has established an important foundation for future accessibility initiatives and positions Canada into a leadership role in developing more inclusive electoral practices for people living with brain injury.

To find out more information, please visit: www.braininjurycanada.ca/en/research/accessibility-electoral-process/

Brain Injury Canada supports the research community through knowledge translation, promoting best practices for meaningful lived-experience engagement, partnering on grant applications, providing letters of support, and fostering community-based research. By strengthening connections between researchers and the brain injury community, we help accelerate the translation of evidence into practice, ensuring research has a timely and meaningful impact on the lives of those affected by brain injury.

Financial Statements

BRAIN INJURY CANADA

Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 191,065	\$ 222,166
Accounts receivable	30,496	5,560
Prepaid expenses	4,635	3,274
	<hr/> 226,196	\$ 230,100
RESTRICTED CASH	-	235,250
	<hr/> \$ 226,196	\$ 466,250
	<hr/>	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	\$ 12,613	\$ 8,708
Employee deductions payable	18,915	23,781
Deferred income	-	235,250
	<hr/> 31,528	267,739
NET ASSETS	194,668	198,511
	<hr/> \$ 226,196	\$ 466,250
	<hr/>	

Financial Statements

BRAIN INJURY CANADA

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
RECEIPTS		
Donations	\$ 35,882	\$ 57,315
Conference receipts and sponsorships	17,500	-
Grants	558,598	759,265
Sundry receipts	19,641	13,700
Other	2,037	744
	633,658	831,024
DISBURSEMENTS		
Advertising and promotion	\$ 6,548	\$ 12,550
Bank charges	2,028	1,834
Business taxes, licenses and memberships	3,284	4,604
Employee benefits	39,806	45,151
Insurance	2,969	2,606
Office Supplies	6,701	6,808
Grant expenses	51,443	32,253
Professional fees	13,210	15,365
Rental	2,204	2,105
Salaries and wages	507,920	625,529
Travel	6,520	2,966
Other operating expenses	3,068	1,870
	645,701	753,641
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS FROM OPERATIONS	(12,043)	77,383
OTHER INCOME	8,201	14,662
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	\$ (3,842)	\$ 92,045

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
- Brain Injury Alliance
- 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
- Kootenay 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
- Victoria Brain Injury Association

MANITOBA

- Manitoba Brain Injury Association

NOVA SCOTIA

- Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia

ONTARIO

- Ontario Brain Injury Association
- 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 Thunder Bay and Area
- 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

QUEBEC

- Connexion >TCC.QC (Regroupement des Associations des Personnes TCC du Québec)
- Association des traumatisés crâniens de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (Le Pilier)
- Association des personnes ACVA-TCC du Bas-Saint-Laurent
- Association des accidentés cérébro-vasculaires et traumatisés crâniens de l'Estrie (ACTE)
- Association des TCC et ACV de la Gaspésie et des Îles-de-la-Madeleine
- Association des personnes handicapées physiques et sensorielles du secteur Joliette (APHPSSJ)
- Centre d'aide personnes traumatisées crâniennes et handicapées physiques Laurentides (CAPTCHPL)
- Association des traumatisés cranio-cérébraux Mauricie-Centre-du-Québec
- Association des Traumatisés cranio-cérébraux de la Montérégie
- Association québécoise des traumatisés crâniens (AQTC)
- Association des neurotraumatisés – région de l'Outaouais
- Servio (anciennement l'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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