

New Connections



Spinal Cord Injury BC
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

We know that a spinal cord injury can happen to anyone at any time. And that no one should go through it alone.

Adjust, adapt, and thrive: it's what Spinal Cord Injury BC (SCI BC) has been helping people with spinal cord injury (and related disabilities) and their families do since 1957. But in 2020, our mission took on an added layer of meaning.

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, SCI BC did its own adjusting and adapting to keep our staff and members safe while ensuring our services continued. We quickly moved our Provincial Peer Services online and expanded our Information Services capacity to respond to a massive increase in queries about the pandemic and related challenges. Our communications team focused on sharing important, valid information through our trusted connections with government, research and community partners. It was all hands on deck.

The response from our members was an appreciation for keeping them informed and connected in a world that was flooded with uncertainty and a heightened state of social isolation.

Connection has always been at the heart of what we do. Connections with peers, information, community partners and supporters. The use of new technologies during these unprecedented times has not only allowed us to strengthen connections but also build new ones. It is through all of these connections—established and new—that we continue to thrive as an organization.



Ed Milligan
Board Chair



Chris McBride
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2019-2020) *living with spinal cord injury

Anthony Ariganello
Donald Danbrook*
Bernard Fahy
Harry Hole

Terrence LeBlanc*
Scott McCloy (Vice Chair
& Treasurer)

Edward Milligan*
(Chairperson)
Dianna Robertson
Jessica Vliegenthart*

More than 12,000 British Columbians live with a spinal cord injury, with 500 new injuries occurring each year. As the population ages, the number of SCIs will grow. We're here to help.

COMMUNITY

Our local events, meetup groups and one-to-one peer mentorships connect people with spinal cord injury and their families with others who have been there too.

INFORMATION

Our online Info Centre, SCI Info Database, toll-free InfoLine and websites offer essential information and connect people with helpful resources on a variety of topics.

SUPPORT

Our blog, videos and *The Spin* magazine highlight SCI experiences and innovations, while our social media pages and online peer groups provide ongoing connections.



SPINAL CORD INJURY

facts, figures and impact

500 > 12,000

new injuries
every year

British Columbians with
a spinal cord injury

over 80% of people with SCI are men



49%

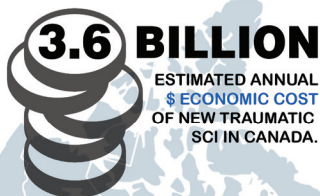
of people with an SCI
are aged 60 or older

86,000

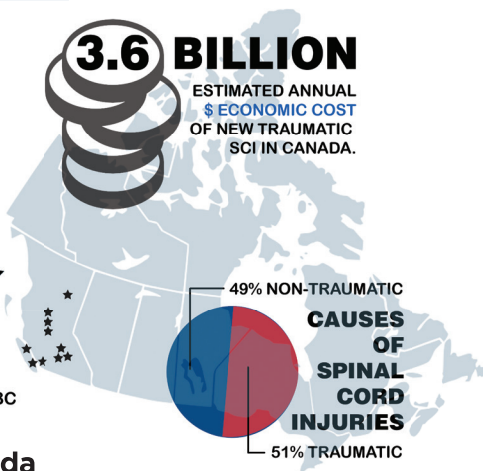
people living with SCI in Canada

121,000 projected by 2030

\$1.6-3 MILLION estimated lifetime cost of living with SCI in BC



SCI BC Peer
Coordinator
locations in BC



ACCESSIBILITY CONSULTATIONS

In 2019, the BC SCI Network hosted consultations throughout the province to gather feedback on what would make BC accessible and inclusive for all. Participants reached a consensus on the top factors preventing accessibility and provided suggestions on how to implement change through legislation. Read the report online: sci-bc.ca/access-consultations



ACCESS BC HIGHLIGHTS

Our Access BC team collaborated with Dr. Mark Groulx, assistant professor at UNBC's School of Environmental Planning, and colleagues to develop a new digital tool to help recreational, municipal and tourism agencies assess the accessibility of their sites and support ongoing improvements.

WHEN COVID-19 REACHED BC

our peers had a lot of questions. Am I at risk? How do I protect myself and caregivers? How can I continue my rehab? When can I see my friends?

For Jeff Gartrell these anxieties heightened due to living in a long-term care facility. "It just feels weird. You can't leave the building. You can't get anything brought in ... And I miss the activities we used to have. I'm a very social person. This whole thing has been so hard."

To help ease Jeff's fears and meet the needs of our community we quickly adjusted our services to provide more online events and increased communications and information specific to SCI and COVID-19.

"The resources you send out are amazing," says Jeff. "They explain specific things that I need to be aware of, like how to sanitize my wheelchair. And your new online Zoom sessions keep me sane. I don't feel so isolated anymore."

COMMUNITY

connecting with each other

Last year, we held **77 events** and **283 meetups** throughout the province, with attendance exceeding **4,300** people.

Our **online** meetups & events connected with **314 people** to provide at-home engagement, answers and support.

101 new people with an SCI or related disability registered with our Peer Support Program.

I'm always looking forward to tomorrow because I have something fun on my calendar."

Like Jeff, we also look forward to tomorrow and are excited to continue to find new ways to connect during this challenging time.

Jeff Gartrell and a volunteer at our Wellness Retreat in 2019.





“ Like many people with disabilities, I really struggle with the logistics of activities outside the home due to chronic fatigue and pain ... being able to interact with people using technology, is truly life-changing for me!



“ I haven't felt connected like this to others who 'get it' in a long time. I am incredibly grateful and honored to be a part of the conversation.





“ People need to know that often the tiniest things they do can make a difference in a life. You saved mine.



“ There is a support network. There are folks to talk to. There is an understanding. I love the comraderie.



INFORMATION

connecting through knowledge

LAST YEAR



16,600

readers per issue of
The Spin magazine



160,145

visits to
our websites

Including...

40,929 visits to scisexualhealth.ca

3,973 visits to livingwithsci.ca

19,889 visits to accessiblebc.ca



11,000+

people in our online
community

WHO CONTACTED US?

Last year, our SCI BC InfoLine service received

3,637 information requests.

Including, **1,508** phone calls and **1,812** emails.



Family/
Friend



General
Public



Person with
SCI/Related
Disabilities



Healthcare
Agencies/
Professionals



Other

TOP 5 INFOLINE REQUESTS

1. Education
2. Health
3. Accommodation
4. SCI BC
5. Recreation

"I had a spinal cord injury 40 years ago and recovered. Sometimes I just need something cheerful and I find *The Spin* very inspirational."

- *The Spin* reader

NEW AND IMPROVED SCI BC MARKETPLACE AND SCI INFO DATABASE



It was a big year for our online Info Centre! Our recently launched SCI BC Marketplace combines our Swap 'n Shop, Housing and Employment websites into one, easy-to-use platform. Browse or post listings for disability related equipment, accessible housing and employment opportunities.

sci-bc.ca/marketplace

We also updated our SCI Info Database with an improved search function, more resources and enhanced categories to help you find what you need. This online encyclopedia includes over 800 resources for people with spinal cord injuries and related disabilities and their families.

sci-bc.ca/sci-info-database

"IT'S BEEN A PROFOUND RELIEF FOR US," says SCI BC peer James Shaw and recipient of the GRAGOPEAN Scholarship Trust. The scholarship, which awards funding to post-secondary students with SCI or related physical disabilities, is managed by SCI BC and the Vancouver Foundation. It provides crucial funding to cover the costs of tuition, learning aids, transportation, housing, in-class assistance and more.

For James, a father of two with an incomplete SCI, it provided the opportunity to follow his dreams. "I want to do something positive for the world," explains James who is studying Geographic Information Systems (GIS) with a focus on climate change mitigation. "I wouldn't be able to do this kind of work without the scholarship."

In addition to making a future impact in the lives of others, the funding has made a meaningful impact in James' life right now. "This allows me to pursue a career as opposed to just a job. That's a big deal," James says. "It means long-term financial security for my family and for myself, a sense of identity."

James and his family in Slocan, BC.



SUPPORT

connecting with possibility



James on one of his first hikes post-injury.

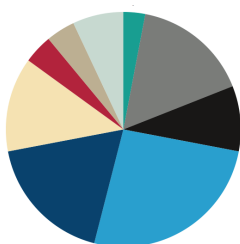
During 2019/2020, we held **two application intakes** for the GRAGOPEAN Scholarship Trust. Through our partnership with the Vancouver Foundation, we granted **23 awards** that totalled **over \$211,000**. Since 2018, more than **\$555,000** has been allocated to students across BC. Visit sci-bc.ca/scholarships to learn more.

SUMMARY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

April 1, 2019-March 31, 2020

Revenue Sources



2%	Events & Projects
15%	Corporations
10%	Individual Donations
27%	Government
19%	BC Paraplegic Foundation
12%	Gaming
4%	Fees for Service
4%	Other
7%	Community Organization Grants & Donations

Summary of Operations

Revenue	2020	2019
Donations, bequests & fundraising projects	\$ 574,175	\$ 581,485
Donation from the BC Paraplegic Foundation	540,183	508,372
Government Grants	376,273	344,228
Gaming Grants	250,000	250,000
Community groups and United Way donations & grants	81,560	77,720
Fees for services	85,024	76,980
Other	106,034	123,401
Membership fees	870	940
	2,014,119	1,963,126

Expenses		
Programs	1,236,319	1,209,451
Fundraising	172,611	145,449
Administrative and support services	608,491	602,635
	2,017,421	1,957,535
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (3,302)	\$ 5,591

Summary of Financial Position

Assets	2020	2019
Current Assets	\$ 909,711	\$ 917,160
Restricted Cash	250,000	250,150
Capital Assets	17,292	23,231
	\$ 1,177,003	\$ 1,190,541

Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities	\$ 478,067	\$ 433,540
Deferred Contributions	11,153	65,916
Net Assets	687,783	691,085
	\$ 1,177,003	\$ 1,190,541

Charitable Business

#11883 5024

Registered under Canadian
Paraplegic Association (BC)

Complete financial statements, audited by Manning Elliott LLP, as well as the auditors' reports on those financial statements, are available upon request by calling 604-326-1225 or by emailing info@sci-bc.ca.



Our **annual Women's Event** provided opportunity for learning, laughing and fun!

2019/2020 HIGHLIGHTS

WE SUPPORTED 2,749 MEMBERS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURIES AND RELATED PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, AS WELL AS THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.



We hosted our second **Nordic Ski Day** with help from Whistler Adaptive Sports Program. It was a beautiful day with **friends and family**.

Our Scotiabank Charity Challenge fundraiser went **ONLINE** for the first time ever. Seventy-seven dedicated team members throughout the province wheeled, walked, ran or exercised to **raise over \$79,000** for SCI BC.



Of our **24 staff**, **spread across 11 communities** in BC, 54% are people living with physical disabilities.



We offered a variety of **new online events and meetups** to stay connected during this difficult time.

134 VOLUNTEERS DONATED OVER 2,900 HOURS.



We joined forces with our BC SCI Network partner, **Neil Squire Society** and the **GF Strong Technology Resource Centre** to offer our first **adaptive video game night**.



We rang in the new year with some amazing holiday parties. **Shoutout to the Okanagan** for a record-breaking turnout!

THANK YOU

FUNDING SUPPORT

April 1, 2019-March 31, 2020

It would be impossible for us to reach out through our programs, services and support without the generosity of the broader community — our donors, sponsors, volunteers and partners.

GRANTS

BC Gaming Commission,
Ministry of Finance
BC Interior Community
Foundation

BC Paralegic Foundation

City of Kamloops

City of Nanaimo

City of Prince George

City of Surrey

City of Vancouver

City of Victoria

District of North Vancouver

District of West Vancouver

Great Canadian Casinos

Hamber Foundation

Insurance Corporation of BC

Neil Squire Society

North Peace Savings & Credit

Union

Prince George Community

Foundation

Province of British Columbia

Provincial Employees

Community Services Fund

Regional District of Fraser -

Fort George

Regional District of Nanaimo

Sara Spencer Foundation

Spinal Cord Injury Canada

Teck Highland Valley Copper

United Way of Central

& Northern Vancouver Island

United Way of Northern BC

University of BC (ICORD)

Vancouver Coastal Health

Vancouver Foundation

Victoria Foundation

Walmart Canada Corporation

WorkSafe BC

DONORS & SPONSORS

\$30,000+

Chairstuff

Hammerco Lawyers LLP

Murphy Battista LLP

Slater Vecchio LLP

Vancouver International Airport Authority

\$10,000 to \$29,999

Coloplast Canada

The 1988 Foundation

Vancouver Regional Construction Association

West Shore Holdings Ltd.

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Macdonald's Home Health Care

Under \$5,000

Andrew Mahon Foundation

D.R. Robertson Injury Law

First West Credit Union - Envision Financial

Fraternal Order of Eagles - BC Provincial Auxiliary

Fraternal Order of Eagles - Cranbrook

Jireh Stone Ltd.

Ranger Transport

Royal Bank of Canada

Scotiabank, BC & Yukon Regional Office

Shell Canada

We have not listed individual donors in respect of their privacy, but are grateful to receive support from over 1,900 donors.

Event Sponsors

BlueShore Financial

FHC Home Care

Senior Services

Fulton and Co.

Invacare Canada

Motion

Sidewinder

Conversions and

Mobility

Sunrise Medical

Community Partners

Thank you to all of our community partners.

In particular, we acknowledge our BC SCI Network partners (BC Wheelchair Basketball, BC Wheelchair Sports Association, Neil Squire Society and the Disability Foundation), ICORD and SCI Canada.

We were moved and grateful to receive gifts in honour or memory of:

Bayan Azizi

Penny Cameron

H. Cherenko

James Derby

Kathy Green

S. Jack Halsall

Sandy Hawkshaw

Nancy Joan Kendall

Leslie Ann Lee

Malcolm Lemish

Bruce S. Lloyd

Shirley McFeat

Wayne Moser

Ann Mowat

Doug Mowat

Chris Scott

Kirsten Sharp

Malcolm Tidmarsh

Raymond Wittrock

Veronica Wong

Hubert Zawadzki