

Informed & Connected



Spinal Cord Injury BC

Spinal Cord Injury BC 2021 Annual Report



A MESSAGE

from the Executive Director & Board Chair

Since 1957, SCI BC services have continually changed in response to shifting needs, technologies, and economic challenges. But never before have we had to respond to the stresses of an ever-evolving global pandemic. Since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared, we have worked tirelessly to adjust and adapt so we could continue to provide our peer support and information services, and assist in our province's efforts to become more accessible and inclusive.

Based on the thanks we've received from our members for keeping them informed and connected, our efforts have been worth it. Special credit for this needs to go to our peer program, information services, and communications teams who, as one of our members put it, make SCI BC "the go-to place for information and support from people who know what you are going through and how to get back to real living."

Our response to COVID-19 has been a collaborative effort, which includes our many clinical, research, community, and government partners. The generous support from our donors, sponsors, and funders has been critical in keeping us afloat and looking ahead in very uncertain times.

We are not through the pandemic. However, with our outstanding SCI BC team and exceptional partners, we will continue to navigate the conditions ahead to ensure our members are informed and connected.



Chris McBride
Executive Director



Ed Milligan
Board Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2020-2021) *living with spinal cord injury

Anthony Ariganello
Donald Danbrook*
Bernard Fahy
Harry Hole

Terrence LeBlanc*
Scott McCloy
(Vice Chair & Treasurer)

Edward Milligan*
(Board Chair)
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 know that a spinal cord injury can happen to anyone at any time. And that no one should go through it alone. For over 60 years, we have been helping people with spinal cord injuries and related disabilities, and their families, adjust, adapt, and thrive.

“ There’s something very beautiful about connecting with other people with spinal cord injuries. ”



SPINAL CORD INJURY

facts, figures and impact

86,000

people living with SCI in Canada

121,000 projected by 2030

49% of people with an SCI are aged 60 or older

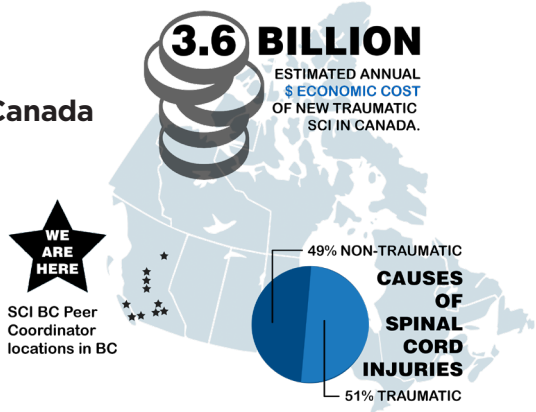
500 ▶ **12,000**

new injuries every year

British Columbians with a spinal cord injury

\$1.6-3 MILLION

estimated lifetime cost of living with SCI in BC



OUR RESPONSE TO COVID

We responded to COVID quickly by pivoting to online programming and services. We immediately transitioned into a full calendar of online events that included coffee chats, trivia nights, workout sessions and women's groups, as well as unique events hosted by members of our community like adaptive boxing, cooking classes and craft nights.

Our Ask an Expert series featured health professionals who offered trusted advice on topics ranging from bladder and bowel health to mental wellness and rehab during the pandemic. These sessions were also shared on our blog and YouTube channel.

Additionally, our Peer Program Coordinators were available for one-to-one conversations via phone and our toll-free Infoline continued to operate five days a week to answer questions and provide support during a very challenging time. We sent PPE kits to peers and continuously updated our website with important information about COVID and SCI.



328

online peer events



99

online health & fitness classes



299

online coffee groups



3,107

participants in online events!



Too many to count!

number of times we said, "can you hear me?"

“ONCE YOU CONNECT PEOPLE

you have no idea what can happen next,” says SCI BC peer Nicole Saleh. “You might be surprised [at] how those original connections can turn into something bigger.”

Nicole should know. As the host of SCI BC’s weekly online games night, she’s fostered many meaningful new connections by bringing peers together.

“Meeting people and feeling like you’re going through it together, and that there’s other people who care—I think connection is key,” she says. After recovering from pregnancy complications in 2020, Nicole was ready to get back to making connections. Unfortunately, COVID had other plans. Unable to take part in her regular hobbies, Nicole turned to SCI BC.

“I was talking to Teri Thorson (an SCI BC Peer Program Coordinator) and mentioned ... that I might want to do an online games group, so we gave it a go.” On Friday, May 22, 2020, SCI BC’s online games night officially kicked off.

Since then, the weekly event has been her one constant in a year full of uncertainty. “It’s been liberating,” she says. Injured in a car accident in 1994, Nicole has a condition called short gut syndrome.



COMMUNITY

connecting with each other



“It makes it really difficult to go out and to hold a job and things like that.” But SCI BC’s online events make socializing easy and have introduced connections that extend beyond just playing games.

“We talk about everything... things like, ‘My elevator broke’ or ‘I have a bladder infection’ or ‘I just broke my leg – what did you guys do?’” she says. “People get it because they’ve been through it and if you’re trying to tell somebody about something you’re going through they’re not just looking at you with pity, they’re looking at you with understanding.”

“I have never been as involved with SCI BC as I am now because of the online programming. These people, who I have not known for very long, are so caring. They feel like my best friends.”

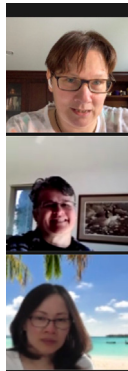
Nicole hosting games night (left) and with her family (above).



“ The Zoom events have not only allowed me to maintain a form of socialization during the pandemic. They have also provided me the opportunity to build new and meaningful friendships. ”

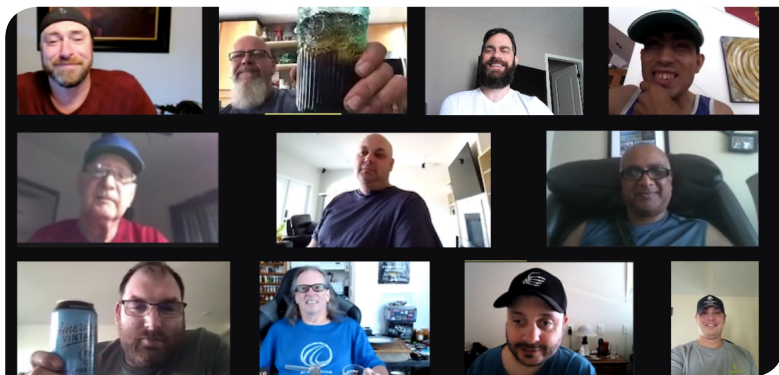


“ We feel so lucky and are both so thankful there’s dedicated people who are there for us, people who put on these amazing programs to keep us all connected. ”





“ I can’t even begin to tell you what an impact this had for me. They showed me what I could do with my life. My world opened up. ”



“ It has been a real lifesaver for those in our group that have been under lockdown and are feeling really isolated. ”



INFORMATION

connecting through knowledge

LAST YEAR



16,000

readers per issue of
The Spin magazine



166,479

visits to our websites

69,273 visits to sci-bc.ca

61,040 visits to scisexualhealth.ca

8,621 visits to livingwithsci.ca

27,545 visits to accessiblebc.ca



12,000+

people in our online
community

WHO CONTACTED US?

Our SCI BC Infoline service received

4,176 information requests. Including, **1,943** phone calls, **2,051** emails and **107** social messages.



Family/
Friend



General
Public



Person with
SCI/Related
Disabilities



Healthcare
Agencies/
Professionals



Other

TOP 5 INFOLINE REQUESTS

1. Accommodation
2. Equipment
3. Funding
4. Recreation
5. CSIL

"This is such a good article. [It] refers to incomplete SCI issues... things that I have struggled with myself since 1976. The article hits the nail on the head, again and again and again. Thank you."
- *The Spin* reader

ACCESSING MORE

Our Access BC team has been busy! We've established partnerships with five tourism associations and developed Access and Inclusion Liaison positions throughout the province to further improve accessibility, inclusion and universal design in BC outdoor recreation and tourism. In addition, we've worked closely with the University of Northern BC's Dr. Mark Groulx to advance research on Access BC's accessibility assessment tool. A recently awarded Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Partnership Development Grant valued at \$177,838, and a new partnership with the crowdsourcing AccessNow app will ensure this work continues in the future.



Members of the Access BC and SCI BC team exploring Valemount, BC.

MOVING, SCHOOLING, WORKING

and living with a spinal cord injury is a lot of change. But for SCI BC peer Agasha Mutesasira, these changes have led her towards a career in hospitality and a stronger passion for music.

Originally from Uganda, Agasha moved to Canada in 2018 to pursue a degree in Hospitality Management from Vancouver Island University. It was through a program co-op that she met SCI BC's Peer Program Manager Bert Abbott and Resource Centre Manager Jocelyn Maffin. "Ever since meeting them, I've had so many opportunities. BC Games was a new experience for me playing wheelchair basketball," says Agasha. Adding that she also learned about the GRAGOPEAN Scholarship Trust for post-secondary education through Jocelyn.

"Me and my family were so excited and grateful that I got [the scholarship]. It covered all my tuition ... and it allows me to have more freedom," Agasha says of the school funding provided by SCI BC and the Vancouver Foundation.

Along with this freedom, came new opportunities, like joining SCI BC's Access BC team as an Access and Inclusion Liaison with the Kootenay Rocky Tourism Association.



SUPPORT

connecting with possibility



"People with disabilities aren't always heard that well," says Agasha. "So, to be a part of this work and to be visible in these spaces or to share knowledge is really important ... I knew what access and inclusion meant to me as an individual, but this work really broadened my perspective." She hopes to apply this newfound knowledge to her ultimate goal of opening a boutique hotel in her hometown.

Moreover, all of these changes have been an influence on Agasha's love for singing and songwriting. She recently released her first single, *Glide*, which was featured in our *Spin* magazine. "The song is a representation of how life has brought so many unknown situations my way, some hard, but I've been able to make it past them," she says.

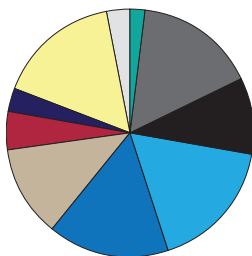
We couldn't be more proud to have played a small role in helping her glide towards her future.

Agasha showing off her BC Games medal (left) and her guitar (above).

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

April 1, 2020-March 31, 2021

Revenue Sources



- 2% Events & Projects
- 16% Corporations
- 10% Individual Donations
- 17% Government
- 16% BC Paraplegic Foundation
- 12% Gaming
- 5% Fees for Service
- 3% Other
- 16% Community Organization Grants & Donations
- 3% Bequests

Summary of Operations

Revenue	2021	2020
Donations, bequests & fundraising projects	\$ 806,158	\$ 574,175
Donation from the BC Paraplegic Foundation	326,273	376,273
Government Grants	336,359	540,183
Gaming Grants	250,000	250,000
Community groups and United Way donations & grants	134,165	106,034
Fees for services	98,114	81,560
Other	68,331	85,024
Membership fees	570	870
	\$ 2,019,969	\$ 2,014,119

Expenses	2021	2020
Programs	1,323,663	1,236,319
Fundraising	141,540	172,611
Administrative and support services	545,573	608,491
	2,010,776	2,017,421
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 9,193	\$ (3,302)

Summary of Financial Position

Assets	2021	2020
Current Assets	\$ 1,107,882	\$ 909,711
Restricted Cash	250,007	250,000
Capital Assets	23,668	17,292
	\$ 1,381,557	\$ 1,177,003

Liabilities and Net Assets	2021	2020
Current Liabilities	\$ 641,941	\$ 478,067
Government Loan	30,000	
Deferred Contributions	12,640	11,153
Net Assets	696,976	687,783
	\$ 1,381,557	\$ 1,177,003

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.

2020/2021 HIGHLIGHTS



We introduced a new online ambulatory SCI group and featured more ambulatory SCI stories on our blog!

WE SUPPORTED 2,811 MEMBERS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURIES AND RELATED PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, AS WELL AS THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.



We were deeply grateful to receive emergency support from 15 organizations to fund our online programs and outreach during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although we couldn't gather in person, that didn't stop the BC SCI Network from connecting at our annual meeting. Together, we're working together to make BC the best place for people with disabilities to live, work, and be active.



We honoured our dear friend and former Peer Program Coordinator Brad Jacobsen with a heartfelt tribute in *The Spin*. We miss you, Brad.

Our GRAGOPEAN Scholarship Trust, in partnership with the Vancouver Foundation, received a record-breaking number of applications!



113 VOLUNTEERS DONATED OVER 800 HOURS.



In partnership with SCI Canada, SCI BC was a lead partner on the Canadian Access and Inclusion Project and a member of the SCI Federal Accessibility Legislation Alliance. This national alliance informed the federal government on the development of Canada's historic new accessibility legislation, the Accessible Canada Act.



85 racers joined Team SCI BC and raised over \$84,000 for people living with SCI.

THANK YOU

funding support

April 1, 2020-March 31, 2021

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	District of West Vancouver Insurance Corporation of BC	SurreyCares Community Foundation
BC Interior Community Foundation	Pacific Blue Cross Health Foundation	TELUS Friendly Future Foundation
BC Paraplegic Foundation	Province of British Columbia Provincial Employees Community Services Fund	United Way of Central & Northern Vancouver Island
Bulkley Valley Community Foundation	Sara Spencer Foundation	United Way Northern BC
City of Kamloops	Sharon Martin Community Health Fund	University of BC (ICORD)
City of Surrey	Shell NEBC Community Grant	Vancouver Coastal Health
City of Vancouver	Spinal Cord Injury Canada	Vancouver Foundation
City of Victoria		Victoria Foundation
District of North Vancouver		WorkSafe BC

DONORS & SPONSORS

We did not list individual donors in respect of their privacy, but greatly appreciate support from over 1,600 donors.

\$30,000+

Chairstuff
Hammerco Lawyers LLP
Slater Vecchio LLP

\$10,000 to \$29,999

Coloplast Canada
The 1988 Foundation
West Shore Holdings Ltd.

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Macdonald's Home Health Care

Under \$5,000

Andrew Mahon Foundation
Comox Valley Community Foundation
The Fahy Family Charitable Trust
First West Credit Union - Envision Financial
Fraternal Order of Eagles - Cranbrook
Hollister Incorporated
Jireh Stone Ltd.
PetroKleen
Royal Bank of Canada
Scotiabank, BC & Yukon Regional Office
Vancouver Regional Construction Association

Emergency Response Funding

We would like to thank the following organizations for emergency funding during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Craig H. Neilsen Foundation
Central Okanagan Community Foundation
Community Foundations of Canada
Community Foundation of the North Okanagan
Community Foundation of the South Okanagan
Government of Canada's Emergency Community
Support Fund
Northern Health
Prince George Community Foundation
Nanaimo Community Foundation
Victoria Foundation
Vancouver Foundation
United Way Central & Northern Vancouver Island
United Way Southern Interior BC
United Way Prince George

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

Bayan Azizi	Doug Mowat
Alida Caterina Brinkman	Tara Olson
Shannon Nicole Elmer	Paul Ovesen
Kathy Green	Jurgen Posselt
Brad Jacobsen	Brian Sharp
Ahmad Jalili	Mac Tidmarsh
Bruce Lloyd	Brian Walker
Bruce Miller	

We are honoured to receive gifts from the estates of:

Bruce Lloyd
Juanita Lenfesty
Ronald Amundsen



Spinal Cord Injury BC

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www.sci-bc.ca