



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



Spinal Cord Injury BC

MESSAGE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Knowledge is a source of power harnessed for all of our programs. While we may be the holders of a vast amount of knowledge, we are as much a platform for the exchange of knowledge as we are a provider of knowledge.

Knowledge comes in many forms, and when shared from valid, trusted sources, it can be a powerful thing. However, with so many sources of information these days, it is easy to get lost in the vast ether of readily available knowledge being shared by reputable and disreputable sources alike. Discerning what is valid and trustworthy information can be a daunting task, which is why, as much as ever, SCI BC is working every day to ensure we remain a trusted place where accurate, relevant, and useable information is shared.

Over the past 68 years, SCI BC has established itself as the trusted, go-to organization for support and information about living well with a physical disability. This due in very large part to the excellence of our dedicated and knowledgeable staff, a majority of whom are people with spinal cord injury themselves. It is also due to the sharing of knowledge with our outstanding partners from the realms of health care, government, community service, business, and research.

There is also another source of knowledge that makes SCI BC truly unique: the people with SCI (and related physical disabilities) and family members who share their lived experiences with each other. As one of our members said many years ago, “SCI BC is the go-to place for information and support from people who really know what you’re going through and how to help you get back into real living.”

Be it through our Provincial Peer, Information Services, or Access BC Programs, the generation and sharing of knowledge through our diverse community of members and partners is the underlying power that pushes our mission forward and we will continue to generate and harness it.

OUR MISSION: “To help people with spinal cord injury (and related disabilities) and their families adjust, adapt, and thrive as they deal with a new injury or struggle with the ongoing challenges of living and aging with a physical disability.”



Chris McBride
Executive Director



Edward Milligan
Board Chair

SCI BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2024/2025)

Edward Milligan*
(Chairperson)

Scott McCloy
(Vice Chair & Treasurer)

Jennifer Leyen
Harry Hole
Anthony Ariganello
Susan Bains*

Steve Milum*
**Living with spinal cord injury*

IMPACT 2024/2025 HIGHLIGHTS

We supported...

...**2,957 members** with SCI and related disabilities, as well as their families and friends.

We maintained...

...our commitment to employing people with SCI and related disabilities. Of the 34 SCI BC staff members and 12 volunteer peer mentors, **75%** are people living with an SCI or other disability.

We developed...

...the **SCI Peer Support Evaluation Toolkit** alongside SCI Canada and McGill University to enhance programming for people with SCI in BC and across the country.

We congratulated...

...our very own **Sonja Gaudet** for her induction into the World Curling Hall of Fame. Sonja is a three-time Paralympic champion and is Canada's first wheelchair curler in the World Curling Hall of Fame.

We welcomed...

...**Steve Milum and Susan Bains** to the SCI BC Board of Directors. Steve is well known for being the founder of Chair Stuff, a medical supply business for people with SCI, while Susan is a dedicated advocate for accessibility that led her to many successes including the installation of an accessibility mat at the White Rock Pier.

We partnered...

...with ICORD (UBC), McGill, UofT, SFU, and UNBC to advance priority areas of SCI research. In addition to our knowledge translation and participant recruitment activities, we co-authored **10 published research articles** with another 12 being prepared for publication.

We provided...

...over **1,044 resources** in the SCI Info Database for the SCI community.

We celebrated...

...two GF Strong milestones: GF Strong Rehab Centre's **75th anniversary** (with BC Rehab Foundation and Disability Foundation) and the **50th anniversary** of VCH's Sexual Health Rehab Service. SCI BC has been a long-serving partner with GF Strong and continues to update the online version of its inpatient manual at livingwithsci.ca and scisexualhealth.ca.

We raised...

...more than **\$83,000** through the 2025 Charity Challenge—we passed our fundraising goal and claimed the #3 spot for top fundraising charity! 146 members joined Team SCI BC, including 3 corporate teams, 2 run clubs, and peers from all across BC participated in our 6 regional Charity Challenge events.

We benefited from...

...162 devoted volunteers who donated over **1,674 hours+** to support SCI BC programs, services, and events.

We continued...

...to work with our community partners in the **BC SCI Network** to help make BC the best place to live for people with physical disabilities. We had 87 staff from the five organizations attend the Network's annual gathering.

We brought back...

...the **Susan Marshall Fighting Spirit Award** to recognize SCI BC peers who exhibit Susan's resilience, positive attitude, and concern for the well-being of others. Our 2024 award has been awarded to Dan Duffy.

MEET DIANE

After her spinal cord injury, Diane wondered if she'd ever drive, work, or enjoy the outdoors again. Her journey with SCI BC shows that life after injury doesn't end, it just looks different.

Nearly four years ago, Diane's life changed forever. She and her partner wanted to squeeze in one more camping trip and headed to Qualicum Beach on their motorcycle. But Diane landed awkwardly after hitting a tree at a slow speed. Now paralyzed, she faced an uncertain future.

Diane spent two months in Vancouver doing rehab, relearning tasks most of us take for granted. Would she be able to stay in her home? What about her job as a lab technologist? Would she be able to drive again?

Less than a year after her injury, Diane signed up for our adaptive recreation weekend in Whistler. She shares, "I was physically active before the accident. The Whistler event helped me regain some of that. The whole weekend was an incredible experience! I went kayaking and paddleboarding. I also did yoga which was such a joy. I learned that it's important for my mental well-being to get outside and do things. It may not look exactly the same as before, but with some adaptations I can still enjoy the water with family and friends. And it feels so good to be included."

Back home in Kamloops, Diane was happy to discover our local peer activities. Diane now bowls with peers (her score hasn't improved, she jokes) and attends monthly peer meetups. She appreciates that nothing is off limits during the discussions—pressure sores, bladder concerns, anything.

Today, Diane feels more settled. Her home has been renovated for accessibility, she drives a van with hand controls, and she's back working at the hospital in a job she loves.

Even so, Diane knows aging with SCI will bring new challenges. She's already broken her tibia after a minor fall and worries how fragile her bones are. But whatever comes, Diane knows she can rely on peer support for advice and encouragement.

For now, she's focused on the sunny days ahead, including camping with her poodle who loves being on the lake as much as she does!



SCI BY THE NUMBERS

FACTS, FIGURES, & IMPACT OF SCI IN BC & CANADA

COSTS OF SCI

\$1.6-3M

estimated lifetime cost of living with SCI in BC

\$3.6B

estimated annual economic cost of traumatic SCI in Canada



SCI IN CANADA

86,000

Canadians are living with an SCI

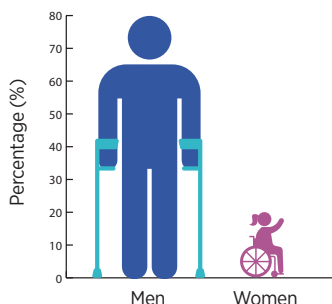
121,000 projected by 2030

12,000

British Columbians are living with an SCI



People with SCI: Men vs Women (%)



CAUSES OF SCI IN CANADA

4,300

new cases of SCI each year

5,800 a year by 2030

51% Traumatic

49% Non-traumatic

A LASTING LEGACY

Leaving a gift in your will is one of the most significant and simple ways to create a lasting legacy that will support SCI BC in its mission to help people with physical disabilities and their families adjust, adapt, and thrive—not only today but in the future as well. This past year, we received \$144,956 through bequests, gifts that will have an immediate and lasting impact. Learn more about the importance of legacy giving and how these incredible donations make a powerful impact on people with SCI: sci-bc.ca/support-our-work/legacy-giving

STRENGTH THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

CONNECTING PEERS WITH CRITICAL INFORMATION

SCI BC Peer Program

10,346 Total direct service contacts

3,290 Attendance at our 380 in-person peer meetups and events

2,969 Attendance at our 391 Reach Out online peer groups

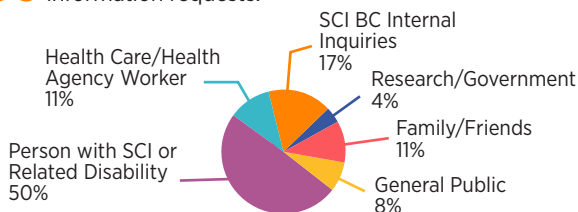
22 Participants in our new Peer Health Coaching program

SCI BC InfoLine

The SCI BC InfoLine responded to **1,428** phone calls* and **1,342** emails/messages for a total of **2,800** information requests.

Top 5 InfoLine Requests

1. Health (12%)
2. Accommodation (11%)
3. Equipment (10%)
4. Counselling (10%)
5. CSIL (7%)



*26% of the calls were over 15 minutes, indicating the complexity of callers' challenges.

The Spin Magazine

16,000 Number of readers per quarterly issue

"My son and I both received a copy of the latest issue of *The Spin*, and we wanted to share how much we love the magazine. It's always a great read and a source of inspiration for us... Thank you for your efforts in creating such a fantastic publication!"



Volunteer Spotlight



Last year, SCI BC lost its longest serving volunteer, Bernie Fahy, who passed away at the age of 94. Bernie's volunteer engagement with SCI BC began in 1959 when he joined the Board of Directors of what was then the Canadian Paraplegic Association (B.C.). Over the next 65 years, Bernie continued as a member of one or both of the SCI BC and BC Paraplegic Foundation Boards, serving as the Chair of the Foundation for many years, and serving on both Boards for the past two decades. Bernie resigned from the boards for health reasons shortly before his passing last year. He leaves a rich legacy of dedicated service to our organizations and their causes and will be missed greatly.

An inside look at how our Access BC team is making accessibility a reality across the province.

British Columbia's landscapes are made to be explored. But for people with SCI, accessibility can make or break the experience. SCI BC's Access BC program was developed in 2007 out of a need to improve accessible outdoor spaces and recreational and tourism opportunities in BC. In recent years, the team has assessed over 400 sites, sharing information on accessibility features (including washroom access, doorway widths, and slopes) on Destination BC's [hellobc.com](https://www.hellobc.com). The team also offers educational workshops and universal design training and has formed partnerships with tourism associations and government agencies across BC.

In November 2024, Access BC travelled to Načiks (also known as Tofino) in Tla-o-qui-aht territory in celebration of Indigenous Disability Awareness Month. In partnership with Tourism Tofino, Tla-o-qui-aht Nation, and local Tribal Park Allies, the visit focused on sustainable, community-led accessibility improvements. The Access BC team provided training to local businesses on sustainable best practices for collecting accessibility information. Access BC Coordinator Emily Wiebe shares, "Local businesses were engaged and enthusiastic to learn more about improving accessibility! We were encouraged by the number of business owners that were interested in having an assessment done. It was the perfect opportunity to provide hands-on training in tandem with the assessments."

However, a surprise bomb cyclone threw the Access BC team into the eye of community emergency preparations. Tourism Tofino stepped up, sheltering locals and tourists alike. When the generators ran out, hotel staff donned headlamps and continued looking after guests. In the end, breaks in the weather allowed the team to produce accessibility-focused Google virtual tours (available on Tourism Tofino's website). Rooted in Tla-o-qui-aht territory, this project reflects a shared commitment to accessibility that respects Indigenous leadership, local knowledge, and land stewardship.



A WORD FROM OUR PEERS

“I take part in up to 12 activities per week... My life is infinitely better through SCI BC and Zoom. I live in a remote area and what you offer through Zoom has changed everything.”



“I’ve been attending SCI BC events for 25 years since I acquired an SCI. I’ve made amazing friendships along the way!”

“It meant a great deal to me to be able to play in nature... To feel carefree and peaceful is truly priceless and lifted my heart and soul.”



“This was my first time at a barbeque since before my injury. The food was great. Good food, good company, and gracious hosts—what more could one ask for?”



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

APRIL 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

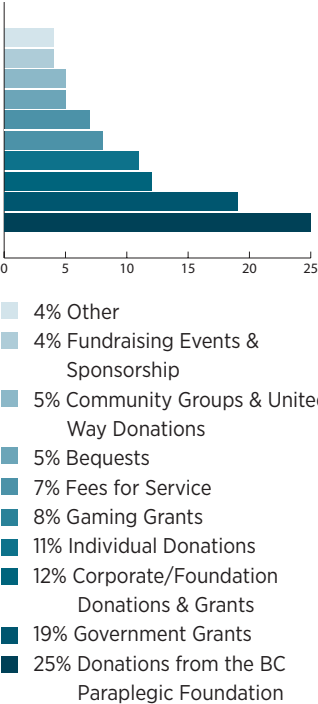
REVENUE	2025	2024
BC Paraplegic Foundation Donations	\$746,517	\$645,841
Government Grants	559,258	523,129
Corporate/Foundation Donations & Grants	345,444	263,752
Individual Donations	335,354	190,059
Gaming Grants	250,000	250,000
Fees for Service	208,050	202,813
Community Groups & United Way Donations	147,785	98,267
Bequests	144,956	203,896
Fundraising Events & Sponsorship	113,180	138,799
Other	108,379	97,176
Membership fees	370	410
	\$2,959,293	\$2,614,142
EXPENSES	2025	2024
Programs	2,185,102	1,887,201
Fundraising	247,310	234,278
Administrative & Support Services	438,070	492,397
	2,870,482	2,613,876
Surplus (Deficit)	\$88,811	\$266

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2025	2024
Current Assets	\$1,193,611	\$1,105,211
Restricted Cash	250,000	250,010
Capital Assets	11,058	24,563
	\$1,454,669	\$1,379,784
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2025	2024
Current Liabilities	\$670,864	\$682,880
Deferred Contributions	-	1,910
Net Assets	783,805	694,994
	\$1,454,669	\$1,379,784

Complete financial statements, audited by Tompkins Wozny LLP, as well as the auditors' reports on those financial statements, are available upon request by calling (604) 324-3611 or by emailing info@sci-bc.ca.

REVENUE SOURCES



Spinal Cord Injury BC

780 SW Marine Drive
Vancouver, BC V6P 5Y7

Charitable Business #11883 5024
Registered under Canadian
Paraplegic Association (BC)

(604) 324-3611
info@sci-bc.ca

www.sci-bc.ca



CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

We could not do what we do at SCI BC without the commitment of our incredible donors. Donor support drives our success—it helps us elevate our peer events and programs. To show our gratitude, we'd like to celebrate some of our longstanding donors, who helped make our accomplishments possible.



Coloplast has been by our side since 2004, giving over \$146,000 to help people living with SCI and related disabilities live fuller, more independent lives. Their support is rooted in a deep belief in the work SCI BC does and a shared commitment to making a lasting difference.



Being a long-term supporter of SCI BC means a lot to Coloplast. It's a genuine partnership built on trust, shared goals, and mutual respect. What really inspires them is SCI BC's focus on peer support and building a real sense of community. They recognize how important it is to offer comfort, connection, and hope, and they're proud to be part of that as a provincial sponsor.

Meet Vikas and find out how he's cycling to fundraise for SCI BC.



Left to right: Stan Yee and Vikas Patel

Vikas Patel is cycling more than 9,000 km from China to Turkey to raise funds for SCI BC's programs and services. This inspiration to fundraise came from his good friend Stan Yee who sustained a life-changing SCI in September 2024 after a mountain biking accident. Vikas started his journey in Beijing, China with a goal to raise \$15,000 and will cycle through eight countries.

The Silk Route was a biking tour Vikas has always planned to ride, and he thought it was a good idea to use this opportunity to raise awareness on the challenges Stan faced while living with an SCI. "I... was impressed that [SCI BC] really focuses on getting people with spinal cord injuries the immediate support not only for the injury, but also the community support to live as full a life as possible with the injury," says Vikas.

As of September 2025, over \$12,000 has been raised and Vikas is expected to complete his journey on October 8 in Istanbul, Turkey.

THANKING

OUR SUPPORTERS

We're grateful for the generous financial support that makes our programs and services possible. Supported by:

GRANTS

BC Gaming Commission, Ministry of Finance
BC Interior Community Foundation
BC Paraplegic Foundation
Central Okanagan Foundation
City of Kamloops
City of North Vancouver
City of Port Coquitlam
City of Surrey
City of Vancouver
Community Services Recovery Fund, funded by
Canadian Red Cross & Government of Canada
Craig H Neilsen Foundation
District of North Vancouver
District of West Vancouver
Government of Canada – Pacific Economic
Development Canada (PacifiCan)
Insurance Corporation of BC
Iren Energy
Kootenay Rockies Tourism Association
Neil Squire Society
ParticipACTION
Province of British Columbia
Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
Public Health Association of BC
Sharon Martin Community Health Fund
Spinal Cord Injury Canada
SurreyCares Community Foundation
University of BC (ICORD)
Vancouver Coastal Health
Vancouver Foundation
Walmart Canada Corp.
WorkSafeBC

We were honoured to receive gifts in memory* and from the estate^ of:

Bill Chambers*	James Barry Sickler*
Jean Chisholm*	Merle Smith*
Bernard Fahy*	John Boyes^
Kathleen Green*	Josephine Sanderson^
Benny Jack*	Marcia Kristensen^
Chris Kirby *	Venita Maria Ross^
Wakako Lohmeyer*	Dave Symington^
Julianne Scott*	

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\$30,000 +

Chair Stuff

\$10,000 - \$29,999

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Dogwood Court #3 Order of Amaranth
The Lloyd J. Milburn Foundation, administered by
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Vancouver Regional Construction Association
West Shore Holdings Ltd.

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Under \$5,000

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Royal Canadian Legion Br 164
Royal Canadian Legion Br 265
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Victoria Foundation
Vancity Community Foundation, Margaret
Greenfield Accessible Housing Project Fund

We are grateful for the support of more than 1,400 individual donors, who are not listed out of respect for their privacy.