



HERE FOR THE JOURNEY



Spinal Cord Injury BC

MESSAGE TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Navigating the world with a spinal cord injury (SCI) is no small challenge: no one prepares for an SCI and the road ahead is filled with unknowns, complex systems of care and support, and barriers to access and inclusion. Making the journey alone can be overwhelming, which is why since 1957 SCI BC has been here to help people with SCI and physical disabilities and their families adjust, adapt, and thrive throughout their journeys.

Key elements in undertaking a journey are accurate, reliable, up to date, and timely information, and accessible infrastructure. Through our Information Services and Access BC programs, we continue to provide vital information, navigation, and counselling support, while working with tourism, government, and academic partners to advance accessibility, inclusion, and well-being throughout BC.

Having the confidence to undertake a journey and learning from the successes and challenges others have encountered along their journey are also key for taking on the what the journey has in store. Through our provincial peer programming we introduce people to new experiences and provide opportunities for peers to connect. Connection is at the heart of our peer programs: the experience and wisdom shared by our peer members, mentors, and coordinators provides the magic that unlocks the mysteries and opportunities each journey presents.

SCI BC is here for your journey but you are also here for ours, a seven-decade journey that has been shaped by the challenges and needs shared with us by you, our members and supporters. Our Peer Health Coaching and The Road Ahead programs, and our collaboration with G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre on the Rick Hansen Foundation-funded SCI Nav pilot service are recent examples of how what we hear from you is helping SCI BC to evolve.

As we enter our 70th year, we will be using the invaluable input from the 2026 Feedback February campaign to develop new programming as we continue to push forward. A lot has changed over the last 70 years, and a lot will continue to change in the years ahead, but we will always be here for your journey.



Chris McBride
Executive Director



Edward Milligan
Board Chair

SCI BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2025/2026)

Edward Milligan*
(Chairperson)

Scott McCloy

(Vice Chair & Treasurer)

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Steve Milum*

Peter Webster

**Living with spinal cord injury*

IMPACT 2025/2026 HIGHLIGHTS

We maintained...

...our commitment to employing people with SCI and related disabilities. Of the 34 SCI BC staff members and 12 volunteer peer mentors, **72%** are people living with an SCI or other disability.

We hosted...

...**8 feedback groups** across BC during Feedback February to hear from our members on how to improve our peer support programming. Additionally, we partnered with McGill University to initiate a national peer support survey to evaluate the impact of peer support programming on the SCI community—**188** SCI BC members shared their experiences with us.

We updated...

...our **Marketplace website** for a fresh new look and improved features to make buying, selling, and finding accessible equipment and housing easy.

We congratulated...

... SCI BC peer and Board Member **Susan Bains** on her successes, including winning the Surrey Women in Business Award, organizing BC's first Walk and Roll Accessibility Parade, being elected to White Rock City Council, and currently running for Mayor of White Rock!

We partnered...

...with ICORD (UBC), McGill, UofT, SFU, and UNBC on SCI research. In addition to our knowledge translation and participant recruitment activities, we co-authored **4 published research articles** with another 12 being prepared for publication.

We provided...

...over **1,087 resources** in the SCI Info Database for the SCI community.

We supported...

...**3,423 members** with SCI and related disabilities, as well as their families and friends.

We collaborated...

...with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), Rick Hansen Foundation, and VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation to launch VCH's **Spinal Cord Injury Navigation (SCINav) service**, a province-wide service that connects clinicians and people with SCI to expert support for SCI care.

We raised...

...nearly **\$95,000** through the 2026 Charity Challenge—we passed our fundraising goal and claimed the **#2 spot** for top fundraising charities! **154 members** joined Team SCI BC, including 3 corporate teams, 3 run clubs, and peers from all across BC participated in our 7 regional Charity Challenge events.

We benefited...

...from 49 volunteers who contributed over **2,094 hours** to support SCI BC programs, services, and events.

We awarded...

...the **2025 Susan Marshall Fighting Spirit Award** to Marney Smithies, who exemplifies Susan's resilience, positive attitude, and concern for the well-being of others.



MEET BRIAN

For someone living with an SCI, moments like trying something new in the outdoors can feel out of reach and impossible at times. Let us share the story of a devoted father from Victoria.

Six years ago, Brian's life changed when he developed a rare condition that caused him to lose feeling in his legs. It took nearly a year of misdiagnosis and a visit to the emergency room before doctors finally found the problem. They discovered a small abnormality on Brian's spinal column that left him with ongoing mobility challenges.

Then, earlier this year, Brian received even more devastating news. Tests confirmed that he has ALS. It was a shocking blow to the single father who was already parenting the best he could with a disability. And now, as Brian's condition progresses, he relies more and more on a wheelchair to get around. But Brian is determined to make the most of the summer with his 11-year-old son, Mason, by his side.

Brian describes himself as a "research hound". He came across our programs while looking for resources on SCI. Brian contacted Scott, our friendly peer coordinator in Victoria, and soon attended his first peer event. "I met all sorts of amazing people who understand what I'm going through. It brought a real sense of community and relief."

For Brian, these experiences are even more important as his disability continues to progress. Peer support has become a "lifeline" for him and brings joy even during the most difficult

times. Brian laughingly calls Scott his "ambassador of fun" for the way he gets everyone out doing activities they never thought possible. Above all, our peer events give Brian something he values deeply—time with his son. "Another memorable day is the fishing event at Elk Lake. It was wonderful to be in nature and enjoy some friendly competition... Incredibly Mason caught 17 fish that day and blew everyone else out of the water!"

Today, Brian is focused on making every moment count. He is creating lasting memories with his son. He is giving back by helping others with complex disabilities. And he is actively seeking participation in national clinical trials, with the hope of advancing science and, of course, perhaps a little more time.



Top: Brian and his son, Mason, at Elk Lake

Right: Scott Heron, SCI BC's Peer Support Specialist in Victoria



SCI BY THE NUMBERS

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

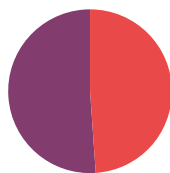
SCI IN CANADA



86,000

Canadians are living with an SCI

121,000 projected by 2030



49%

Non-Traumatic

51%

Traumatic

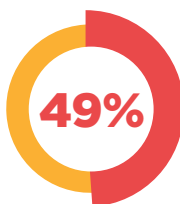
4,300

new cases of SCI each year

5,800 a year by 2030

\$3.6B

estimated annual economic cost of
traumatic SCI in Canada



of people with
SCI are aged
**60 years old
or older**

SCI IN BC



12,000

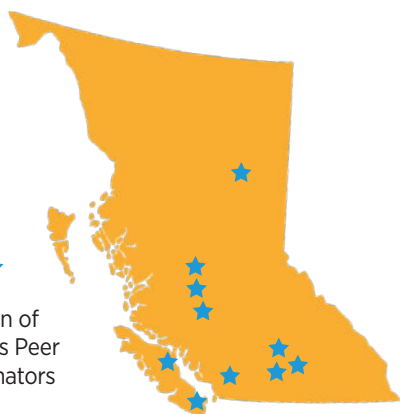
British Columbians are living with an SCI

500

New injuries in BC every year

\$1.6-3M

estimated lifetime cost of
living with SCI in BC



★
Location of
SCI BC's Peer
Coordinators

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 \$55,220 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: www.sci-bc.ca/legacy-giving

STRENGTH THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

CONNECTING PEERS WITH CRITICAL INFORMATION

SCI BC Peer Program

9,704 Total direct service contacts

3,418 Attendance at our 329 in-person peer meetups and events

2,535 Attendance at our 387 Reach Out online peer groups

19 Participants in our Peer Health Coaching Program

SCI BC InfoLine

3,068 Total requests

1,673 Emails & messages

1,356 Phone calls*

**29% of the calls were over 15 minutes, indicating the complexity of callers' challenges.*

Types of Callers to InfoLine

- Person with SCI or Related Disability (47%)
- Health Care Workers (10%)
- SCI BC Staff (18%)
- General Public (7%)
- Family/Friends (14%)
- Research/Government (6%)



The Spin Magazine

16,000 Number of readers per quarterly issue

"I LOVE *The Spin* magazine and read every edition from cover to cover. I always learn something interesting and have kept many articles for future reference."



PEER HEALTH COACHING

Peer Health Coaching is for anyone living with an SCI or related disability who wants personalized support in working toward their own health and wellness goals. Our trained Peer Health Coaches are people with lived experience of SCI and understand real-life challenges. Peer coaching helped Bryan manage anxiety, lose weight, reduce bladder infections, and more. "Pre-coaching I was feeling useless, like a burden... [My coach] helped me more than anybody navigating through that crazy head space." Read Bryan's story and learn more at www.sci-bc.ca/coaching.

MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

A new tool is being used to measure the impact of SCI peer support.

At SCI BC, one of our core values is a belief in the magic of peer support. Every day, we hear from members who have found peers who truly understand their journey, gained confidence, or discovered new opportunities through SCI BC programs. Now, we have a new way to measure that impact.

Over five years, SCI BC partnered with researchers, led by Dr. Shane Sweet at McGill University, and community organizations across Canada to develop the SCI Peer Support Evaluation Tool (www.mcgill.ca/scipm). The tool measures 20 key outcomes of peer support identified as most important to people living with SCI.

In February 2026, Dr. Rob Shaw, SCI BC's National Peer Support Program Lead, helped launch our first annual Feedback February. Members were invited to share their experiences through focus groups and a survey, which included the new evaluation tool.

With responses from 188 members, the survey confirmed what our community has been telling us for years: peer support makes a difference.

Of the 20 outcomes measured, reduced isolation, quality of life, and feeling understood received the highest ratings. An incredible 92% of respondents reported feeling "less alone" or "a lot less alone" after participating in SCI BC's Peer Program. 77% said their quality of life was "somewhat better" or "better". Peer support also helped people build stronger community connections, with 53% reporting increased engagement in community programs and events.

The survey also showed where there's room to grow. Health skills, rehab transition skills, and self-care skills received the lowest ratings, pointing us towards areas where additional programs and support could make a difference.

For SCI BC, this is about more than collecting data. It's about measuring what matters most to our community, not simply what's easiest to count. By tracking

these outcomes, we can improve our programs and combine our data with other SCI organizations to strengthen the case for peer support across Canada. This evidence also helps us advocate for sustainable funding and show government, funders, and donors that peer support is a vital resource for people living with SCI.

SCI BC will continue using the SCI Peer Support Evaluation Tool in our annual feedback survey. Because when our members tell us what matters, we want to listen, learn, and act.



*Top: Dr.
Shane Sweet
Bottom: Dr.
Rob Shaw*



20 key outcomes for SCI peer support that came out of the Evaluation Tool

A WORD FROM OUR PEERS



Photo credit: Oisín McHugh





“I have been a member of SCI BC, and I can sincerely say that it has been one of the most trustworthy and compassionate organizations I have ever known. SCI BC has consistently treated me and every member I have met with dignity, respect, inclusion, and genuine care, without judgment or discrimination.”

“This is an awesome start... giving us some direction to where we place our next questions/research! Thank you so much for your thorough response!”

“The Sunset Cruise was the best day I’ve had in a very long time and gave me enough of a happiness fill up that I can now wait for spring. The sun was out. The food was good and the company was wonderful. This was an absolutely top-notch event and I loved every minute of it.”

“There are few opportunities to simply connect with a group of women who fundamentally understand the joys and challenges of living with an SCI. It was a lovely afternoon with delicious food, excellent company, and an opportunity to build and strengthen relationships in an organic way.”

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

APRIL 1, 2025 - MARCH 31, 2026

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

REVENUE	2026	2025
BC Paraplegic Foundation Donations	\$911,403	\$746,517
Government Grants	646,105	559,258
Corporate/Foundation Donations & Grants	297,887	345,444
Individual Donations	261,959	335,354
Gaming Grants	250,000	250,000
Fees for Service	185,770	208,050
Fundraising Events & Sponsorship	111,661	113,180
Community Groups & United Way Donations	84,291	147,785
Bequests	55,220	144,956
Other	97,098	108,379
Membership Fees	460	370
	\$2,901,854	\$2,959,293

EXPENSES	2026	2025
Programs	2,228,730	2,185,102
Fundraising	296,097	247,310
Administrative & Support Services	463,974	438,070
	2,988,801	2,870,482
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$86,947)	\$88,811

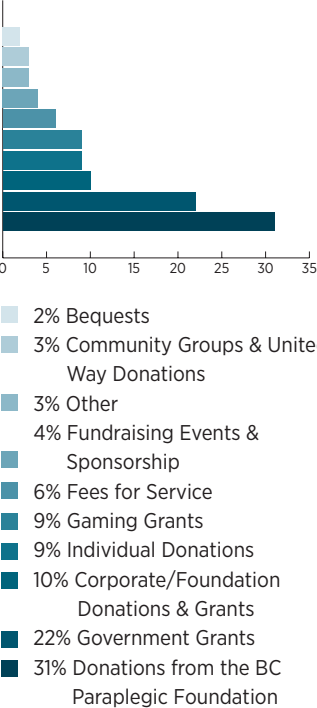
SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2026	2025
Current Assets	\$1,052,958	\$1,193,611
Restricted Cash	252,535	254,013
Capital Assets	9,512	11,058
	\$1,315,005	\$1,454,669

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2026	2025
Current Liabilities	\$618,147	\$670,864
Deferred Contributions	-	-
Net Assets	696,858	783,805
	\$1,315,005	\$1,454,669

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

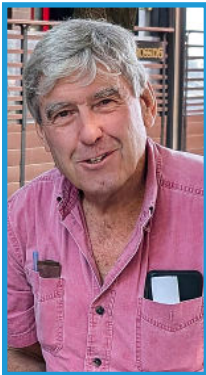
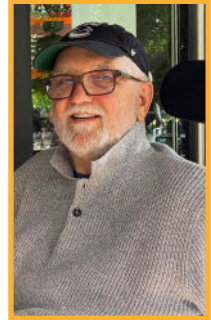
www.sci-bc.ca



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.

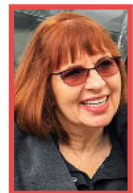
Gerry Stafford had no idea when he shared a link to his online Charity Challenge fundraising page on LinkedIn that it would result in so much support from his family, friends, and network. After his injury in the spring, he joined Team SCI BC in June at the 2026 Charity Challenge, SCI BC's biggest fundraising event. He raised over \$11,000—an incredible achievement from one individual that played a huge role in helping SCI BC raise nearly \$95,000 for our programs and services. Gerry's involvement in SCI BC's Charity Challenge is a testament that even what feels like the simplest ask—like a post on social media or LinkedIn—can help make a big difference.



Murray McNab had been a supporter of SCI BC through his farm, McNab's Corn Maze, for several years when he received the news that we unfortunately had to cancel our fundraising raffle for World Cup tickets, due to FIFA's copyright infringement and ticketing policies. In the face of such disappointment and frustration, Murray reached out with the desire to support; proving that there is a light at the end of every tunnel, he donated \$5,000—the amount that we expected to raise through our raffle. With this generous gift from Murray and the rest of the community that came together to show us support, SCI BC received over \$15,000 in donations... a beautiful display of compassion and generosity that came out of a challenging situation.

Sandy & Bruce Hawkshaw (SCI BC monthly donors since 2018)

"Giving monthly is a great way for us to give back to an organization that gives so much to us. Monthly gifts, whether they are \$5, \$10, or \$20 a month, add up over time and end up making a huge difference. They help SCI BC have a steady source of funding all year so they can continue running the programs and services that mean so much to us and other peers across BC."



Jody Hallett (Director of Operations at Whiski Jack Resorts Whistler, SCI BC Online Auction Donor)

"We are happy to help SCI BC raise funds to help families in need accomplish their goals... whatever we can do to help. SCI BC means world to my family personally."

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
BC Rehab Foundation
Central Okanagan Foundation
City of Delta
City of Nanaimo
City of North Vancouver
City of Surrey
City of Vancouver
Coquitlam Foundation
District of North Vancouver
District of West Vancouver
Foord Family Foundation
Government of Canada – Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCan)
Insurance Corporation of BC
Neil Squire Society
New Horizons for Seniors Program
ParticipACTION
Province of British Columbia
Provincial Employees Community Services Fund
Public Health Association of BC
Sharon Martin Community Health Fund
Spinal Cord Injury Canada
Stollery Charitable Foundation
SurreyCares Community Foundation
Tru Charitable Foundation, Envision Financial
University of BC (ICORD)
Vancouver Coastal Health
Vancouver Foundation
Walmart Canada Corp.

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

Mike Bailey*	Ralph Hole*
Gabriel Chesman*	Wakako Lohmeyer*
Jack Doucette*	Ed Loughlin*
Apostolos Filis*	Barry McBride*
Paul Finkbeiner*	Robert Pugsley*
Rick Grassie*	
Norman Haw*	

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\$30,000 +

Chair Stuff

\$10,000 - \$29,999

The 1988 Foundation
Coloplast Canada
Insurance Corporation of BC
The JenSue Foundation, administered by Gift Funds Canada
Vancouver Regional Construction Association
West Shore Holdings Ltd.

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Andrew Mahon Foundation

Under \$5,000

BC Rehab Foundation
The CPES Fund, through the Victoria Foundation
Fraternal Order of Eagles Ladies Auxiliary #2726
Fraternal Order of Eagles Cranbrook
The Harold W. Lefever Fund, held at the Vancouver Foundation
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Vancity Community Foundation, Margaret Greenfield Accessible Housing Project Fund

We are grateful for the support of more than 1,300 individual donors, who are not listed out of respect for their privacy.