

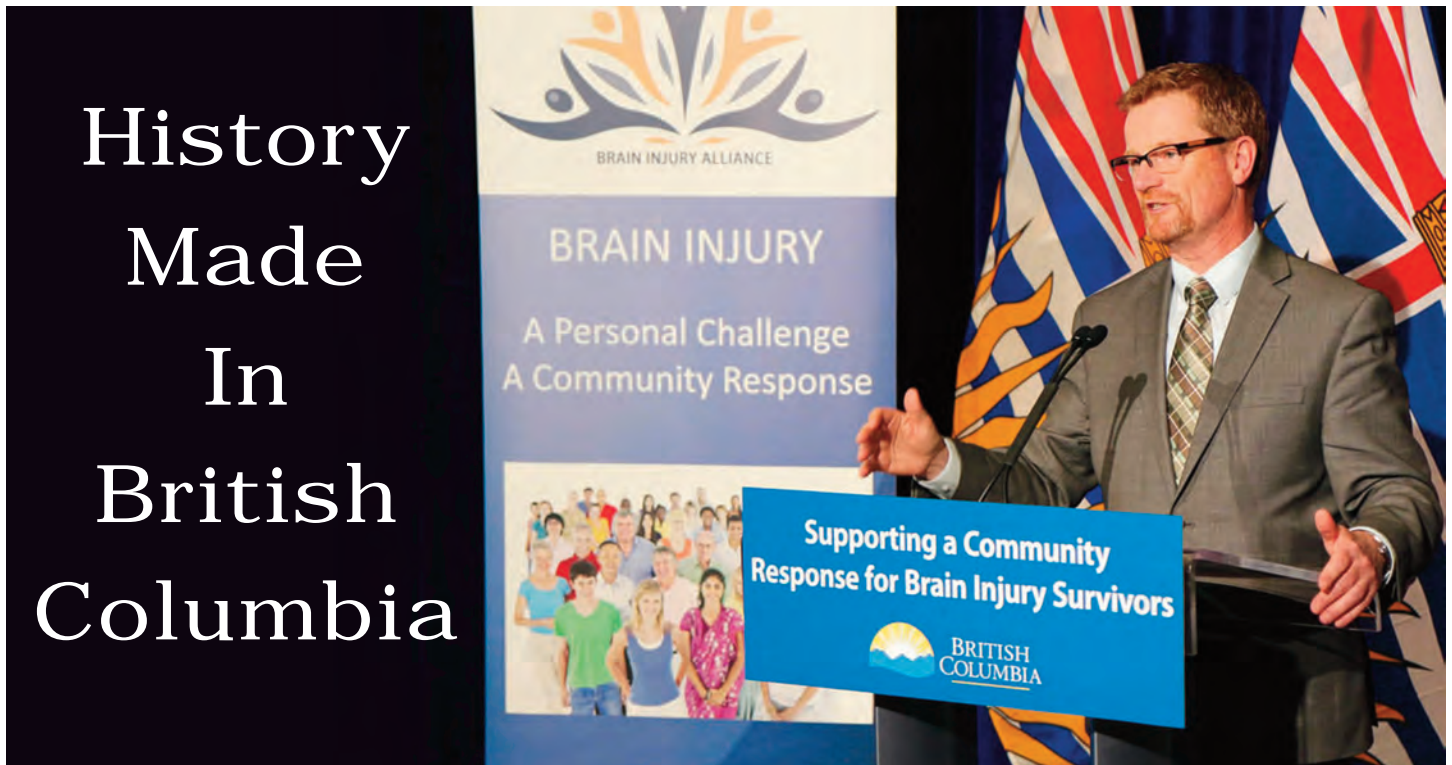
British Columbia has an abundance of natural resources, but our greatest natural resource will always be our brains. Every job, every product, and every convenience we know began in a brain. Protecting our brains from harm, and assisting those who have been harmed, is therefore of the utmost importance.



2016 Brain Injury Alliance Report to the Government of British Columbia

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HISTORY IS MADE	PAGE 1
BRAIN INJURY RATE	PAGE 2
2015/2016 ALLOCATION	PAGE 3
INTERIM DATA/TOP PRIORITIES	PAGE 4
BRAINTRUST CANADA	PAGE 5
BULKLEY VALLEY BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION	PAGE 6
CAMPBELL RIVER HEAD INJURY SUPPORT SOCIETY	PAGE 7
COMOX VALLEY HEAD INJURY SOCIETY	PAGE 8
FRASER VALLEY BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION	PAGE 9
KAMLOOPS BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION	PAGE 10
NORTHERN BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION	PAGE 11
NORTH OKANAGAN/SHUSWAP BRAIN INJURY SOCIETY	PAGE 12
POWELL RIVER BRAIN INJURY SOCIETY	PAGE 13
PRINCE GEORGE BRAIN INJURED GROUP	PAGE 14
SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN BRAIN INJURY SOCIETY	PAGE 15
VICTORIA BRAIN INJURY SOCIETY	PAGE 16
WEST KOOTENAY BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION	PAGE 17
A FRIEND FOREVER	PAGE 18
BECAUSE OF YOU!	PAGE 19
MOVING FOWARD	PAGE 20



History Made In British Columbia

On May 13th, 2015, BC Minister of Health, Dr. Terry Lake, made provincial history by announcing that the Government of British Columbia was investing \$3 million over three years to supplement programs and services provided by charitable non-profit brain injury associations, in order to improve the lives of British Columbians living with a brain injury.

The Brain Injury Alliance was charged with responsibility for distribution of the funds. This report is to inform Government about how the funds were distributed, received, are being used, and the amazing impacts on lives that this socially innovative investment in the well being of British Columbians is having.

The Alliance received funding applications from 14 organizations in 2015, of which, one was not qualified for funding. The thirteen qualified organizations initially received \$10,000 each as a critical funding grant, and then submitted additional funding requests.

Two external evaluators were invited to participate in the allocation process in order to insure openness, transparency and fairness. After careful clarification and due consideration, the Brain Injury Alliance distributed \$894,871.45 to organizations around the province for the 2015-2016 allocation period.



"We need to summon the courage to shape history. We need to keep searching for the best way forward, and new ways to work together."

~ Premier Christy Clark



“When someone suffers a brain injury, it impacts their families, friends and communities. Providing British Columbians with access to educational and support services is essential.”
 ~ Hon. Shirley Bond

Just as individuals living with a brain injury and their families face a broad spectrum of needs, so do the organizations that serve them. The vast majority of the Alliance funding was allocated to provide direct client services. Additional requests illuminated a host of operational and service needs, ranging from increased case management to employment training and readiness.

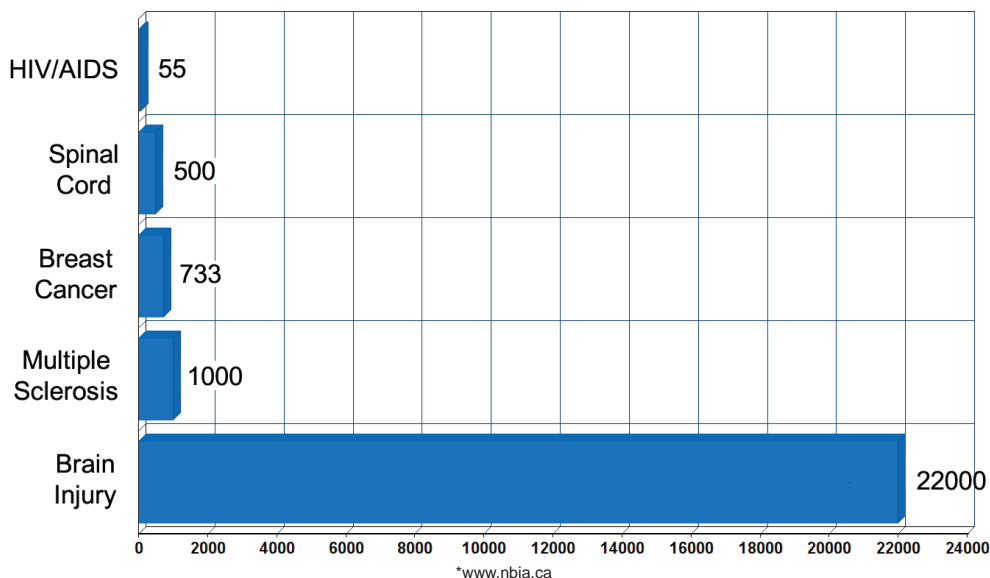
BRAIN INJURY ALLIANCE FUNDED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Alliance funded programs and services included a wide variety of functions and focus, such as cognitive and educational, peer mentorship, behavioral, skill development programs, art and pet therapy, family support, and special programs and services created for vulnerable populations, such as youth and seniors.
- Funding went to a total of 33 brain injury programs, which are now helping change lives throughout British Columbia. Organization programs and services funded are detailed individually. BC is becoming a leader in brain injury services, supports and rehabilitation, and Alliance funding is helping to accelerate the process.

The Brain Injury Alliance is delighted to report that the BC Government’s contributions are having a very positive impact upon individuals, families and communities. From everywhere around the province, profound gratitude continues to pour in for Government’s recognition of, and response to, the growing needs of BC’s brain injury community. (Please see comments at www.braininjuryalliance.ca/stories)

On average there are 22,000 brain injuries reported per year in British Columbia.* To put this number into perspective, there are more people affected every year by brain injury than there are affected by Multiple Sclerosis, Spinal Cord Injury, HIV/AIDS, and Breast Cancer combined. *vbis.ca/statistics

BRAIN INJURY RATE COMPARISON - PER YEAR*



• **GRANT ALLOCATION** •

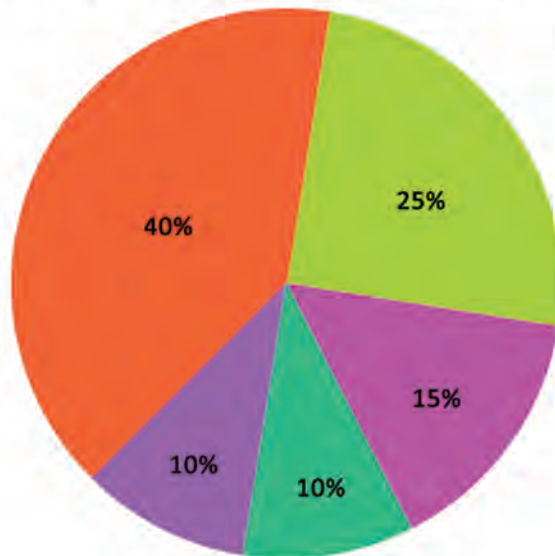
Government’s continued commitment to ensuring that families have the supports they need when they face the changes and challenges that come with brain injury, has never been more important, or more appreciated. Here is a breakdown of the 2015-2016 grant allocation:

“Brain injuries can play a significant role in developing other social issues like homelessness, and has psychological impact.”
~ Hon. Coralee Oakes



2015-2016 Grant Allocation of \$1,000,000.00

- Individual Services 40%
- Group Services 25%
- Critical Infrastructure 15%
- Community Education & Injury Prevention 10%
- Alliance Start-up, Administration & Contingencies 10%



Lives of quiet desperation are being transformed into lives of profound inspiration.

Government investment in supplemental funding to community non-profit brain injury organizations aligns perfectly with its commitment to increase access to professional supports at the community level*. This helps British Columbians receive the help they need, when and where they need it. Funding through the Alliance helps people to move forward with their lives, and allows them to take advantage of an exciting future.

*<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/library/publications/year/2015/primary-and-community-care-policy-paper.pdf>





“I’m happy to hear that thanks to this funding, the Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association will be able to provide new programs throughout the region. The hard work they continue to do will improve the lives of those impacted by a brain injury.”

~ Hon. Michael de Jong

• INTERIM RESULTS •

In the first funding cycle, the Brain Injury Alliance received requests far in excess of the amount available for distribution. Funding was allocated fairly, and here are the results from the mid-term survey of grant recipients.

INTERIM RESULTS OVERVIEW

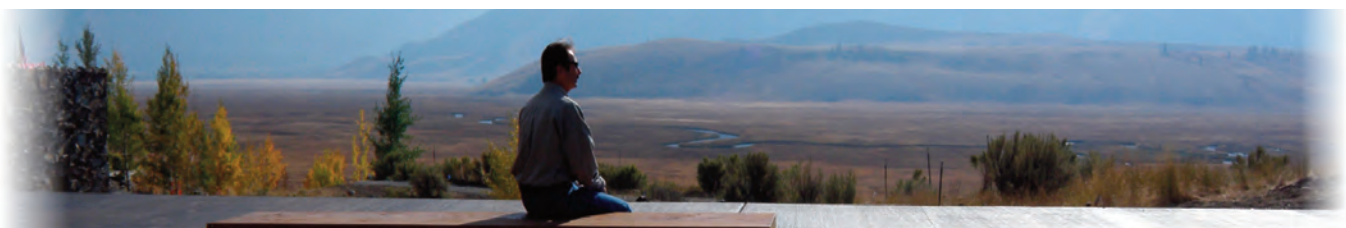
- 40% of funds received had been expended by March 31st, 2016.
- 94.6% of supplies were purchased in local communities.
- Funding resulted in the creation of new professional positions in 10 communities.
- Funding resulted in employment or volunteer engagement for 39 persons with brain injury.
- 631 new persons were reported to have been served by member organizations from October of 2015 to March of 2016.
- 3,208 people with brain injury were directly served through these grants in this period.
- Referrals increased by more than 35.4%.
- There was a 50% reduction in previous wait lists.

FUTURE FUNDING PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY GRANT RECIPIENTS

THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES IDENTIFIED AS REQUIRING ADDITIONAL FUNDING WERE: one to one supports and services, affordable housing, and housing supports.

THE NEXT MOST PRESSING ISSUES IDENTIFIED AS REQUIRING ADDITIONAL FUNDING WERE: group services, rent, administrative costs, and accounting services.

ALSO IDENTIFIED TO BE IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING WERE: family services, injury prevention, and employment services.





BrainTrust serves Kelowna, Vernon and surrounding area. BrainTrust received Alliance funding for:

- Critical expenses
- Increased injury awareness and prevention programs
- Expansion of client services

Using Alliance funding to work closely with the City of Kelowna and the RCMP, BrainTrust was able to establish *Bike Squads* to recognize and reward youth for their helmet compliance, by issuing 'Positive Tickets' (coupon vouchers for ice cream cones, etc.). In addition, bike helmets were provided to youth who could not afford one.

Many persons with a brain injury in Vernon live far below the poverty line. Alliance funding helped BrainTrust to create a much needed *Community Kitchen Program* specifically for people with ABI. And, it has been very successful. In addition to healthy homemade food each week, participants develop friendships, and provide each other with important social supports.

“Jeff is a 47 year old man who sustained a brain injury when he lost control of his truck returning home from hunting. After his injury, he became very socially isolated, and was taken advantage of by people in his personal life. Through funding by the Alliance, we were able to provide Jeff with the staff assistance needed to attend support groups. The results have been nothing less than transformative for Jeff, changing his isolation to integration, increasing safety at home, improving his health and wellbeing, and assisting him to experience social success in the community.”

“Untreated brain injuries not only affect patients and their families, but the entire community. It’s important that we support the great work of groups like BrainTrust Canada.”
~ Hon. Steve Thomson





“If left untreated, brain injuries can lead to issues that impact the entire community.”
Peace River North MLA
~ Pat Pimm



The Bulkley Valley Brain Injury Association serves the communities of Hazelton, Moricetown, Smithers, Granisle, Telkwa and Houston. BVBIA received Alliance funding for:

- Website development
- Be Brain Smart

Bulkley Valley Brain Injury Association (BVBIA) was excited to participate in a BC mentorship program led by the Rural Roots Learning Network, and the Storytellers Consortium (based in Hazelton, BC). This four month program focused on *Community Organizing Models and Frameworks*, and sets the groundwork for a new approach to delivering the *Be Brain Smart* program, which was generously funded by the Brain Injury Alliance.

The BVBIA states that its new approach is a step away from ‘being the experts’, and ‘preaching and teaching’, with movement toward co-creating messages of health and prevention with people and their communities. Their backgrounds, their stories, their desires, and their needs are integral parts of successful prevention and education relationships. The BVBIA is excited to support people living with brain injury, and help others learn about it.

“Funding from the Alliance is also assisting us to update our website. These important organization updates and upgrades simply wouldn’t have been possible without the BC Government’s generosity through the Brain Injury Alliance.”





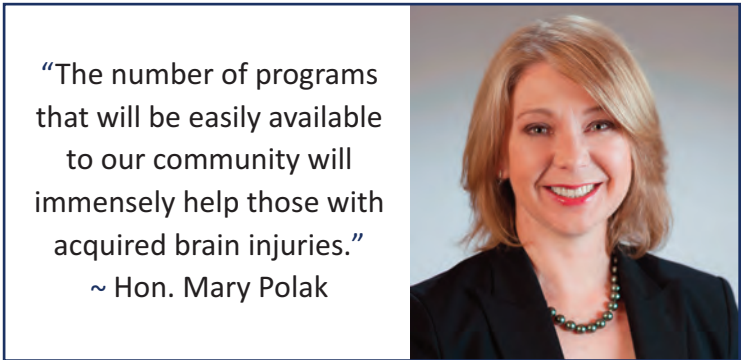
The Campbell River Head Injury Support Society serves Campbell River and North Island. CRHISS received Alliance funding for:

- Critical expenses
- Group services
- Hiring an Education/Prevention outreach worker

The CRHISS new *Education/Prevention Outreach Worker*, made possible by funding from the Brain Injury Alliance, has been a huge help, and has allowed an increase in education and support for brain injury survivors, caregivers and families. This helps CRHISS continue to provide *free services* to survivors of a brain injury, so all can live productive and prosperous lives. An outreach example is:

Staff met with a group of business managers to provide them with awareness about brain injury. They later received a call from a gentleman who was there, who called to say, "Thank you for your presentation today. I was shocked to hear how a brain injury may still be affecting an employee who looks fully recovered. I will try to really work with him, and keep his memory issues in mind. And, I'll also make sure that I haven't over-loaded him with too many tasks, and/or, too much information."

"We thank the Government of British Columbia for listening to our needs, and providing the Brain Injury Alliance with the resources to help meet those needs."





“Brain injuries can have a profound impact on lives, not just of those injured, but also of their loved ones and friends.”
 Comox Valley MLA
 ~ Don McRae



The Comox Valley Head Injury Society serves the communities of Comox, Courtenay, Union Bay, Black Creek and Merville. CVHIS received Alliance funding for:

- Critical expenses
- Provision of art and music therapy
- Teaching frugal living
- Provision of youth outreach
- Family counselling

The *Art and Music Therapy Program* has been full of surprises. Members are provided with a place, where regardless of ability, they can participate in a meaningful way.

The *Frugal Living Program* promotes health and wellness for those with brain injuries, providing opportunities to learn about nutrition prepare balanced meals, gain life-skills, and participate in physical activities.

Family Counselling is now operating at capacity, with appointments booked at least three weeks in advance. Head injury survivors, their families, and caregivers have accessed much needed supports during times of crisis and difficulty, without having to wait months. CVHIS has provided 54 persons with brain injuries without access to counselling with appointments.

“The intern hired with Alliance funding has made a huge difference in our youth outreach. To date, we’ve put on presentations in schools, updated our website, established a presence on social media, and we are well on track to achieve our outreach goal of 1,000 youth.”





Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association

The Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association (FVBIA) serves the communities of Langley, Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge, Mission, Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Boston Bar. The FVBIA received Alliance funding for:

- Critical infrastructure
- The Pay It Forward: *Healthy Lifestyles for Acquired Brain Injury* program
- Delivering prevention and awareness programs
- Facilitating both 1:1 and group lifeskills support

In response to continuous requests for improved communication, several people with brain injuries are now actively involved in developing improved *Multi-modal Communications Strategies*.

Funding provided by the BC Government through the Brain Injury Alliance has enabled members to attend *Nutrition Workshops* facilitated by a local registered dietitian and nutrition consultant.

Financial distress is a common topic in groups, so the FVBIA partnered with the Credit Counseling Society of BC to provide group education sessions called '*Money in Your Pocket Series*', customized for acquired brain injury. Topics included are budgeting, managing credit, saving and organizing finances.

“Providing basic FoodSafe and First Aid training has enabled persons with acquired brain injuries to volunteer for drop-in programs and fundraising activities, and has also given them valuable skills beneficial for entry into the workforce. We thank the Government of BC, and the Brain Injury Alliance, for making all this possible.”

“The expansion of the FVBIA programs into Langley will provide greatly needed assistance to residents living with an acquired brain injury. This is a significant investment to improve the lives of some of our most vulnerable.”

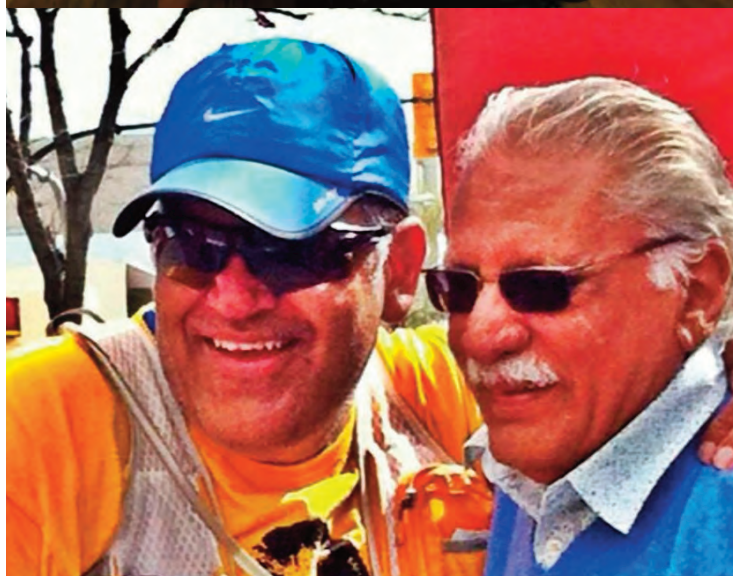
~ Hon. Rich Coleman





“Brain injury has the ability to shatter lives. Left untreated, it can lead to issues that affect the whole community.”

~ Hon. Terry Lake



The Kamloops Brain Injury Association (KBIA) serves Kamloops and surrounding area. The KBIA received Alliance funding for:

- Critical infrastructure
- Increased case management
- Facility needs
- IT upgrades

One case shows what KBIA services mean to the community. A woman phoned in tears. Her husband had suffered a brain injury in a vehicle accident, and was in hospital. She was desperate for information. She felt scared and very alone. She contacted KBIA, who provided her with information, and more importantly, support. The *Case Manager* liaised with the hospital, and encouraged her to join the KBIA caregiver support group. In her own words, "I was terrified when I got to KBIA. I was so tired of not getting answers. I thought perhaps there weren't any. Jo, the case manager, was so kind. He helped so much, and suggested I join the *Caregivers Group*. He couldn't make a difference to J (my husband), but he sure made a difference for me. Thank you."

“We’ve been delighted with the progress made with a full time case manager. In addition to ensuring the highest level of service to all our IHA clients, we’ve been able to dramatically increase the number of hours and services provided to clients not covered by a third party funder (including IHA). We have seen a surge in intakes, and had 21 new referrals! Without Brain Injury Alliance funding, we would have faced a significant wait list. Thanks go to the Provincial Government and Alliance for making a difference in so many people’s lives.”



The Northern Brain Injury Association (NBIA) serves the communities of Prince Rupert, Terrace, Kitimat, Stewart, Burns Lake, Fraser Lake, Fort Fraser, Fort St. James, Vanderhoof, Valemount, Robson Valley, Dunster, McBride, Hixon, Quesnel, Atlin, Telegraph Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Hudson Hope, Taylor, Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge, Mackenzie, Bear Lake, Haida Gwaii, Masset, Queen Charlotte City, Sandspit, Port Clements, and the Nass Valley. The NBIA received Alliance funding for:

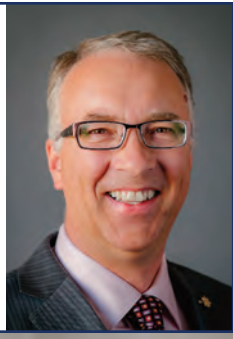
- Critical infrastructure
- Provision of regional services
- Brain injury education and injury prevention
- Community development
- Case management (direct and remote)

Funding from the Brain Injury Alliance assisted the NBIA to provide *Community Education Events* (11 to date), develop *Educational Videos*, create *Family Support Materials* and resources, provide education to health care providers, provide community health centres with information and materials to distribute, as well as supply public facilities (such as ski hills and skateparks) with *Injury Prevention* posters, handouts, etc. Funding also allowed the NBIA to expand outreach to sport communities, and provide successful programs and services to schools.

“Because of the BC Government’s compassion and decisive action, and that of the Brain Injury Alliance, more people across Northern BC are getting the help that they so desperately need, no matter how isolated or remote their community.”

“Organizations like the Northern Brain Injury Association ensure patients get the services they need to move forward with their lives. By working together, we can help those living with acquired brain injuries.”

~ Hon. John Rustad






“The North Okanagan/Shuswap Brain Injury Society does vital work that improves the lives of people affected by brain injury.”

Shuswap MLA
~ Greg Kylo



Located in Salmon Arm, the North Okanagan/ Shuswap Brain Injury Society serves the North Okanagan from Coldstream to Enderby, and the Shuswap from Salmon Arm to Squalix, and all points in between. NOSBIS received Alliance funding for:

- Critical infrastructure
- Hiring a support worker
- Provision of a work search program

NOSBIS reports the *Support Worker* has contributed greatly to the office, and improved client service. There have been many positive outcomes, such as: A middle-aged woman entered the NOSBIS office in April, 2016 looking for information on brain injury. The support worker asked if she could be of any other assistance. The woman began to share her struggles with headaches and being unable to sleep. She had just moved away from her family in Vancouver, and needed someone to just listen. She became very emotional and frustrated as the worker provided her with support and validation, allowing the client to relax and become calm. An appointment was kept with a case coordinator, and she is now settled successfully in the community.



“We sincerely thank the Province of British Columbia for providing this necessary funding. Also, we thank the Brain Injury Alliance for your success in addressing the brain injury funding crisis, and for relaying the very serious needs of brain injury survivors to government. NOSBIS clients now receive programs and services they desperately needed, and lives are improving.”



The Powell River Brain Injury Society (PRBIS) serves the community of Powell River and the surrounding region. PRBIS received Alliance funding for:

- Organizational needs
- Expansion of their healthy and green initiatives
- Providing support, education, and advocacy through goal specific unique programming

The *Nutrition, Cooking and Gardening Program* provides clients with the skill set required to work at the Centre's garden and kitchen. Clients learn to do garden maintenance, harvest the bounty, and preserve delicious home grown food.

One client had not worked since a car crash ten years before had left him feeling suicidal and with an acquired brain injury. He reported the first day of work he was standing in front of the mirror shaving, getting ready for work, and smiled because he felt so good; just as he did before the accident. His work ethic was impressive enough the that Society offered him a permanent part time position in the garden.

“Thanks to the funds received from the Alliance, we helped a client gain the confidence he needed to start his own landscaping business. We're very proud of this young man. He came through our doors a little over a year ago, a lost soul who knew no one, having moved to Powell River to escape the street life of Surrey. He blossomed so much; our services were all he needed to succeed.”

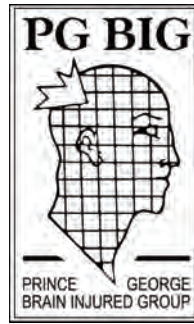
“Our government is pleased to provide the funding to support health promotion.”

~ Hon. Michelle Stilwell.





“Brain injuries can have other social impacts. By working together we can help those living with acquired brain injuries.”
 ~ Hon. Mike Morris



Prince George Brain injured Group



The Prince George Brain Injured Group (PG BIG) serves the community of Prince George and area, providing community based rehabilitation. PG BIG received Alliance funding for:

- Critical infrastructure
- The Rebuilding after Brain Injury program
- The Corrections Acquired Brain Injury Education pilot project.

The *Corrections Acquired Brain Injury Education* program has achieved a positive increase in coping scores for 87% of the inmates who have completed the program. When changes in group scores for pre and post program coping levels are considered, there was a positive increase in 10 of 16 areas.



The life changing 22 week *Rebuilding After Brain Injury* course (formerly “Coping Strategies”) now nears completion. This amazing course, sought after nationally and internationally, will be provided to Alliance members at no charge, allowing agencies to further serve their clients.



Two offshoot programs are also well underway. The *Anger Management* and *Family After Brain Injury* components are becoming programs of their own.

“The Prince George Brain Injured Group is deeply grateful for Government’s response to the funding disparity being experienced by the BC brain injury community, and for the hard work the Brain Injury Alliance has done to improve this challenging ongoing situation.”



The South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society (SOSBIS) serves the entire south Okanagan Similkameen region, including the communities of Keremeos, Osoyoos, Oliver, Okanagan Falls, Princeton, Penticton and Summerland. SOSBIS received Alliance funding for:

- Support services to clients
- Employment assistance
- Upgrading computer equipment and services

Supports include *Communicating* with employers, helping the client to understand the scope of the work, and *Skill Building* for timely attendance at work. SOSBIS has assisted 19 clients with support since this funding became available.

One of the supported clients now plans on going into business for himself. He is working toward purchasing his own equipment, including a trailer to transport equipment, in order to start his own yard maintenance business and become self sufficient.

SOSBIS had previously owned and operated a 23 suite apartment building and two residential group homes for the disabled. But, on January 1, 2016, Abbott Towers (97 suites) and Columbus Park (42 suites) also transferred ownership to SOSBIS at no cost, dramatically increasing workloads.

“The support afforded by funding Government generously provided to the Brain Injury Alliance is making a huge impact on lives; giving hope, building confidence and providing purpose.”

“This work is changing attitudes and opening up new opportunities for people with disabilities in our province.”
Boundary-Similkameen MLA
~ Linda Larson





“Their goal is to help citizens living with a brain injury become self-reliant, confident and productive, and overcome the risks of homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction and crime.”

Victoria-Beacon Hill MLA
~ Carole James

Victoria Brain Injury Society

EST. 1983



The Victoria Brain Injury Society (VBIS) provides support, education and advocacy to people with acquired brain injury on Vancouver Island. VBIS received Alliance funding for:

- Critical infrastructure
- Increased Coping Strategies programs
- Expansion of case management
- Expansion of community awareness initiatives

A client was involved in a car crash in November 2009, which left her with a closed-head frontal lobe injury. She was unable to return to work or continue schooling, and faced numerous other issues. She completed the Alliance funded *Coping Strategies* course in 2015 and gained life changing confidence and skills. She is now completing her Masters of Arts in Inter-cultural and International Communication at Royal Roads University.

Since October 1, 2015, VBIS has provided *Case Management* services to 218 clients and over 900 individual sessions. We’ve seen unprecedented levels of demand for our services, and are working in new and innovative ways to try to meet this increased need. Additional funding is absolutely vital to meet increasing demand for services.

“Funding provided by the Brain Injury Alliance allowed us to leverage another \$59,814.14. And, over \$8,000.00 of in kind labour was donated by our fantastic team of dedicated volunteers. We thank the Government of British Columbia!”





The West Kootenay Brain Injury Association now serves both the West and East Kootenay regions of BC. WKBIA received Alliance funding for:

- Critical infrastructure
- Updating technology
- Provision of services to the East Kootenays

Outreach Workers have now supported over 75 clients on a weekly basis with the extra funding from the Brain Injury Alliance. In addition, the communities of Cranbrook, Kimberley, Fernie, Sparwood, Golden, Invermere, Creston and Revelstoke were provided with additional direct service each week.

The East Kootenay region of BC was facing drastic decreases in hours and services. By obtaining this Alliance funding, WKBIA outreach workers have been able to sustain and improve services in all the areas. One great outcome, is that WKBIA now provides brain injury services in Revelstoke, which had gone without service for over 5 years!

“Thanks to the WKBIA for providing support to us members here in the East Kootenay's. The ABI programs are amazing. The information has been a tremendous help. The Tai Chi program allows me to move with a different awareness, and being in the group environment really seems to help. Just knowing I have a worker to talk to has gives me the feeling I'm not alone on this journey. This service is a life saver. I was near the end of my rope, and felt there was no help. Lives have been helped and enriched. Thank you.”

“This funding ensures the The West Kootenay Brain Injury Association is able to maintain and expand the services it provides to clients in both East and West Kootenays, which makes a positive impact on our communities.”
~ Hon. Bill Bennett





“Dr. Singh touched countless lives, and his legacy lives on in Kamloops.”
~ Hon. Terry Lake



♥ A FRIEND FOREVER ♥

On May 31st, 2015, BC Minister of Health, Dr. Terry Lake announced that in addition to the \$3 million given to the Alliance, the Province was also giving the Alliance another \$1 million to be used to create an endowment fund for persons with brain injuries to get the education and training needed to become employed. The money was in honour of the first neurosurgeon in BC’s interior, and an untiring supporter of brain injury services, *Dr. Gur Singh*.

Dr. Gur Singh had a special love and concern for people with brain injuries, and helping others was his way of life. So, it was only inevitable that he combined his love of playing golf with raising money for his favorite charity, the Kamloops Brain Injury Association. That launched the very successful annual Gur Singh Invitational Golf Tournament (Gur Singh Memorial Tournament).

The Provincial Government funds were used to establish the Dr. Gur Singh Memorial Education Fund, estimated to generate about \$40,000 a year of revenue from the interest earned. The Brain Injury Alliance distributes this revenue for education, training, and specialized aids to assist people with brain injuries obtain employment.

During 2015, \$33,625.49 of funding was distributed. Organizations providing employment readiness programs for persons with brain injuries received \$17,315. Individuals with brain injuries upgrading education and training received \$16,310.49.

The *Dr. Gur Singh Memorial Education Fund* has impacted lives incredibly, allowing people to return to work, regain lost independence, contribute to society and most importantly, build self-esteem and self-worth, all due to innovative and compassionate initiatives by the Province of British Columbia.

BECAUSE OF YOU...



LIVES ARE IMPROVING:-)

"I first arrived at the West Kootenay Brain Injury Association at the end of November 2015. At that time I was very suicidal - I had a plan, and I was done living my life. Thanks to this Association and the invaluable, gentle, and competent outreach worker, I am alive today, and I want to be alive. The peer group has provided me with an essential, no-pressure, accepting group of people to socialize with. I am a humbled and grateful human being." ... J.C. - Creston

A client who works for the Powell River Brain Injury Society Nutrition, Cooking and Gardening Program discovered hidden talent in the kitchen. We talked about value added product ideas, and having a market garden, we were thinking of selling the specialized compost and soil blend we created, and some of the produce. We had such an abundance of peppers, that she tried her hand at creating her own hot pepper sauces. They are so delicious, and so popular, that we are now getting ready to take her sauces to the next stage. We need to create a permanent recipe, make samples of the sauces, and send them away for quality testing. The next phase will include the creation of a name and logo to brand the sauces, and a marketing strategy. We are all quite confident that this will be a great revenue generator, not only creating employment for the client, but may grow to the point of hiring others to help. This next phase will hopefully happen this fall, as more funds are required, and the peppers need to grow again this summer. This could potentially grow into a Social Enterprise for the Society. One suggestion for the name so far is "Brainiacs Hot and Saucy". :-)

"Groups give me an outing, and communication with others helps dealing with memory issues. It also gives me the support to challenge myself. Information booth is my favorite, as we are in the community. I enjoy talking to others and giving out information on head injury. I need to be motivated or I stay at home. I need community involvement, and a one to one worker to help me."... J.A. - Golden

To read more stories from those whose lives have been helped,
please visit www.brainjuryalliance.ca/stories.

The Brain Injury Alliance (Alliance) applauds the Government of British Columbia for its sound fiscal management, vision and compassionate leadership. As a direct result of the funding provided to the Alliance, lives are being touched in truly wonderful ways.

The Government of British Columbia demonstrated remarkable vision by investing in community based brain injury rehabilitation, and that investment is already positively influencing the health of the population. In response, gratitude flows in from all parts of the province.

We believe there is an exciting opportunity for the brain injury community to continue to play a significant role, by helping the Government of BC advance its objectives of increasing access to supports for patients and their loved ones at the community level.

Entrenching brain injury funding into law will leave a legacy of great governance as an example of what can be accomplished when innovative leadership, exceptional vision and contagious courage, align with decisive and responsive compassionate action. The Alliance firmly believes that innovative leadership, vision and courage should not be forgotten.

Legislating annual brain injury funding will give the Alliance the stability necessary to leverage additional funding from other resources. This additional funding will help to ensure that brain injury community services and supports in British Columbia can continue to grow, and are funded in an sustainable, comprehensive, accountable and coordinated manner.

The Brain Injury Fund Act builds on the strengths of the current health service delivery structure, and will ensure continuous progress is made to provide the highest quality services and supports to those with a brain injury and their families in all areas of BC.

Whereas of all types of injury around the world, injuries to the brain are among the most likely to result in death, or, permanent disability;

Whereas brain injury is the number one cause of seizures in the world;

Whereas brain injury in British Columbia occurs at an annual rate greater than that of all known cases of Multiple Sclerosis, Spinal Cord Injury, HIV/AIDS and Breast Cancer per year combined;

Whereas brain injury is the leading cause of death and disability among children, with 50% of all fatalities the result of injury to the brain;

Whereas motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of brain injury in British Columbia;

Whereas violence against persons is a major cause of brain injury in British Columbia;

Whereas sport accidents, strokes, surgery, disease and tumors are a major cause of brain injury in British Columbia;

Whereas addressing the complex needs of brain injury survivors and their families is fundamental to the future of British Columbia;

Whereas a fair, non-partisan and equitable and accountable funding and distribution mechanism has been established to help meet the complex needs of brain injury survivors;

Whereas there is great need for more comprehensive, coordinated, post-acute rehabilitative and case management services for brain injury survivors and their families;

Whereas the development of innovative research, brain injury educational materials and post-acute rehabilitative programs will restore British Columbia as a world leader in brain injury research, treatment and services;

Whereas community brain injury associations and societies receive no money from the \$2 million dollar per year British Columbia Neurotrauma Contribution Funding Act;

The Brain Injury Alliance respectfully requests Government to establish the 'British Columbia Brain Injury Fund Act' (Fund) to provide an ongoing financial resource to meet the needs of brain injury survivors and their families, now and into the future.

Because the need for brain injury services and programs currently exceeds funds available, we recommend that the Fund receive \$4 million per year, administered by the Brain Injury Alliance.

BRAIN INJURY

A Personal Challenge - A Community Response



website: www.braininjuryalliance.ca

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