

CGB CENTRE

FOR TRAUMATIC LIFE LOSSES

BC BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION

2025–2026

ANNUAL REPORT

From Stories to
Systems Change



CONNECTING PEOPLE,
POLICY, AND POSSIBILITY.

April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026



Working together
for a Canada where people
affected by brain injury and
traumatic life losses are recognized,
supported, and able to thrive.

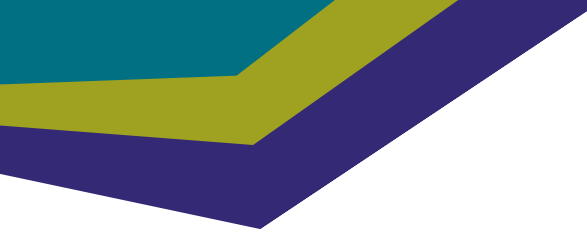
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www.cgbcentre.com



www.bcbia.org



Land Acknowledgment

CGB Centre for Traumatic Life Losses and the BC Brain Injury Association gratefully acknowledge that the land on which we are located is within the traditional territories of the WSÁNEĆ peoples, including the STÁUTW (Tsawout), WJOŁŁP (Tsartlip), BOKEĆEN (Pauquachin), and WSIKEM (Tseycum) First Nations, as well as the MÁLEXEL (Malahat) Nation. We honour and respect the generations of Indigenous Peoples who have cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial and who continue to do so today.

Our Foundation

Mission: With dignity and compassion, we support people impacted by brain injury through the many layers of loss and the complexity of systems they must navigate.

Vision: A provincially coordinated, accessible, and trauma-informed model with national alignment where people impacted by brain injury are supported to heal, navigate, and live with dignity, and where survivor voices and their circles of care shape the systems meant to serve them.

Values
Survivor-Centred & Lived Experience-Led

We centre the voices and experiences of survivors and circle of care in our decisions, advocacy, and leadership.

Dignity & Compassion

We honour the humanity and self-agency of every person and lead with empathy, respect, and care.

Equity & Accessibility

We work to remove barriers, address inequities, and ensure accessibility across communities.

Collaboration & Partnership

We believe meaningful change happens through strong relationships and shared responsibilities.

Accountability & Integrity

We govern with transparency, responsibility, and a commitment to doing what we say we will do.

Courage & Advocacy

We speak up, challenge systems, and push for change where people are being left alone, behind, or unheard.



Message from the CEO

This year marked another important chapter in our journey to transform lived experience into meaningful systems change. What began as a response to personal loss has grown into a provincial and national movement dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by brain injury, traumatic life losses, and the complex challenges that often follow. Throughout 2025–2026, we continued building connections between individuals, families, service providers, researchers, community organizations, and governments, recognizing that lasting change happens when people come together around a shared purpose.

A defining moment this year came in October 2025, when the BC Brain Injury Association dissolved and came under the umbrella of the CGB Centre. This transition gives us both a provincial and national platform from which to work, allowing us to strengthen coordinated leadership within the brain injury community while connecting that work to a broader national presence. It reflects not an ending but an evolution, one that positions us to serve survivors and families more effectively across both sides.

That work took us from Haida Gwaii, where we were invited to facilitate consensus circles, to Ottawa, where a delegation from the CGB Centre and BCBIA spoke for Bill C-206 alongside Brain Injury Canada, MP Gord Johns, and senators. We hosted the sold-out Shattering the Silence with The Cridge Centre for the Family, joined the BC Rehab and Recovery Coalition, and gathered community feedback on the draft BC Consensus statement.

At the heart of all our work is lived experience. The voices of survivors, families, caregivers, and communities continue to guide our priorities and shape our vision. Their experiences remind us that brain injury is not simply a medical condition. It affects relationships, housing, employment, education, mental health, justice involvement, and community participation. Understanding these realities is essential to creating systems that are responsive, equitable, and person-centred. As we look ahead, our priority remains ensuring people with lived experience stay at the centre of policy, practice, research, and service development.

We are deeply grateful to the survivors, families, volunteers, donors, researchers, clinicians, community organizations, government partners, and supporters who have contributed to this work. Together, we are building more than programs and initiatives. We are helping create a future where people affected by brain injury and traumatic life losses are recognized, supported, connected, and able to thrive.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Janelle Breese Biagioni
Founder and CEO, CGB Centre for Traumatic Life Losses

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Who We Are



“What began as one family’s loss continues to evolve into a movement for change.”

The **CGB Centre for Traumatic Life Losses (CGB Centre)** was founded from one family’s experience with brain injury, grief, and resilience.

On May 19, 1990, Constable Gerald (Gerry) Breese, a 17-year veteran of the RCMP, sustained a severe traumatic brain injury when his police motorcycle was struck by a vehicle while responding to a critical incident. Gerry later died from complications related to his injuries, leaving behind his wife, Janelle, and their two daughters.

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of Gerry’s death, his family established the Constable Gerald Breese Centre for Traumatic Life Losses (CGB Centre) in 2016 to support individuals and families navigating catastrophic life changes caused by death, injury, trauma, and other life-altering events. Grounded in lived experience, the organization was built on a simple belief: that no one should have to navigate traumatic life losses alone.

Over time, stories shared by survivors, families, and communities revealed that many of the challenges people faced were not simply personal — they were systemic.

Fragmented services and gaps in coordination across sectors created barriers extending far beyond healthcare.

These experiences inspired the CGB Centre to expand from individual support to collective action, uniting people with lived experience, service providers, researchers, community organizations, insurers, and governments to drive change.

Today, the CGB Centre continues to provide education and grief and loss counselling for individuals and families, while serving as the umbrella organization for a growing ecosystem of initiatives dedicated to improving how Canada understands, prevents, and responds to brain injury. These include the BC Brain Injury Association, the BC Consensus on Brain Injury, Mental Health and Addictions, and the pursuit of a National Strategy on Brain Injury.

Through collaboration, research, education, advocacy, and systems leadership, the Centre continues to transform lived experience into meaningful action and lasting change.

BC Brain Injury Association

"Every policy, partnership, and initiative begins with a person, a family, and a story that deserves to be heard."

BC Brain Injury Association (BCBIA)

is a program of the CGB Centre, dedicated to strengthening collaboration, education, connectivity, and advocacy across British Columbia's brain injury community.

Originally incorporated in 1982, BCBIA has a long history of supporting people affected by brain injury. In October 2025, it formally transitioned under the umbrella of the CGB Centre, creating a unified structure that reduces duplication and strengthens coordination across the province.

Setting the Direction

In June 2025, with the support of sponsors, BCBIA hosted a provincial roundtable at the West Coast Brain Injury Conference.

Brain injury associations, service providers, researchers, and people with lived experience came together to discuss BCBIA's direction under the CGB Centre.

Participants asked BCBIA to provide leadership in four areas: **Collaboration, Education, Connectivity, and Advocacy**. These priorities now guide our work.

- **Education:** In partnership with The Cridge Centre for the Family, BCBIA hosted ***Shattering the Silence***, a sold-out event on Intimate Partner Violence and Brain Injury. BCBIA also joined Royal Purple Canada to increase public awareness of IPV/BI at the Pendray Inn Tea held in Victoria, BC.
- **Collaboration:** BCBIA joined the BC Rehab and Recovery Coalition, working alongside the Rick Hansen Foundation, Heart and Stroke Foundation, SCI-BC, and March of Dimes Canada to improve post-acute services and programs for people living with stroke, spinal cord injury, and brain injury.
- **Advocacy and Connectivity:** BCBIA continued as a partner in the ICBC Navigators Pilot Project to connect individuals with community-based brain injury service providers.
- **Provincial Guidance:** BCBIA was invited to join the Interior Health Strategic Brain Injury Council, providing provincial guidance on the insights and recommendations from the Service and Support Pathways Regional Working Groups.

How We Create Change

CGB Centre creates change by turning lived experience into action.

We bring survivors, families, service providers, researchers, insurers, and governments to the same table, build shared roadmaps for systems change, and advance them through education, research, and advocacy.

Together, we close the gaps across sectors that no one can fix alone.

Working with Indigenous Partners

Meaningful change in brain injury care must be shaped with Indigenous peoples, not for them.

The CGB Centre works with Indigenous communities and partners by invitation, as guests, and with respect for their leadership, protocols, and priorities.



Photo: Team at Masset Airport

On April 9 and 10, 2025, the Haida Gwaii Society for Community Peace, a community site for the BC Consensus, invited our team to Masset, on the Territory of the Haida Nation, to facilitate two days of consensus circles. The Society extended this invitation while navigating the deeply felt impacts of a local toxic drug crisis.

Researchers and community experts in brain injury, intimate partner violence, housing, and criminal justice travelled to Masset to engage in dialogue with community members, respected Elders, and people with lived experience.

We are grateful to the Society and the community for welcoming us and sharing their knowledge. Key insights and outcomes will be shared with the community first, through a forthcoming brief.

We are committed to building these relationships with humility and reciprocity, and to ensuring that what we learn is shared back with the communities who offer their knowledge.

2025 – 2026 By the Numbers

National Impact

Measure	2025–2026
ePetition signatures (e-6620)	1,038
Petitions presented in the House of Commons	[5] , carrying [1,233] signatures
MPs sent printed petitions	10
MPs engaged	16 (4 individual meetings, and approximately 12 at the Ottawa reception)
Senators met	3
Bills introduced	1 (C-206, June 10, 2025)
National press conferences	1



*Photo: Gord Johns, MP Courtenay—Alberni,
and Janelle Breese Biagioni.
National Press Conference - Ottawa Nov. 2025*

2025 – 2026 By the Numbers

British Columbia Impact

Measure	2025–2026
Meetings with BC government	10 (8 with MLAs, 2 with Ministry staff)
Provincial partnership tables joined	3
Provincial roundtable	1 (June 2025, approximately 100 attended)
BC Consensus Summit participants	20 (14 in person, 6 online)
Community Consensus Circles	1 site (Haida Gwaii), 2 days
Conference presentations on the BC Consensus	3 plus researchers presentations
Peer-reviewed publications	2
Shattering the Silence Conference	125 attended
Purple Thursday – Public Awareness	October 2025
BC Association of Clinical Counsellors	2 webinars (grief and loss training)



Voices, #PeopleLikeUs

Every policy begins with a person. In June 2025, for Brain Injury Awareness Month, 32 people affected by brain injury shared why they support a National Strategy. Here are two longstanding supporters:



"People like us believe in hope, resilience, and action. A National Strategy on Brain Injury is possible—if we fight for it together. "

~ Barb

#NationalStrategyOnBrainInjury #PeopleLikeUs
#BeTheChange #WeCanDoThis

Barb Butler

Brain Injury Survivor, Past President of Brain Injury Canada,
Volunteer - Regina Brain Injury Support Group, Saskatchewan
Brain Injury Association



"People like us know that the worst possible outcome of brain injury is death. People who live with a brain injury need, and should have, equitable access to care not only across the country but within the healthcare system. We are fighting for our loved ones. Support us as we support others. Demand this right, right now."

~ Shirley

#NationalStrategyOnBrainInjury #PeopleLikeUs
#BeTheChange #WeCanDoThis

Shirley Wilson

Dedicated mom of Jacob, Brain Injury Advocate



BC Consensus on Brain Injury, Mental Health, and Addictions

Brain injury, mental health, and addictions are deeply connected, yet services are often designed as though they were separate. The BC Consensus brings together people with lived experience, researchers, clinicians, service providers, and policy makers to build shared recommendations for a more coordinated system. Building on the 2020 Heads Together Think Tanks, the CGB Centre has served as community lead since 2022, with funding from BC's Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the Vancouver Foundation.

After three annual BC Consensus Days on the overdose crisis, intimate partner violence, and homelessness, 2025–2026 was a year of consolidation, as we focused on completing the community dialogue and shaping the consensus statement.

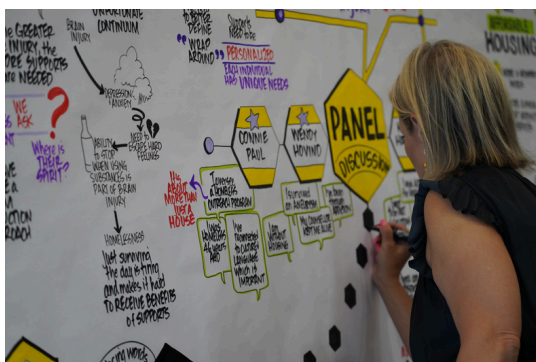


Photo: Graphic Recorder Year 3 (UVic)

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2025–2026 Highlights

- **Haida Gwaii, April 2025:** At the invitation of the Haida Gwaii Society for Community Peace, we facilitated two days of consensus circles in Masset, our one community site this year (see Working with Indigenous Partners).
- **BC Consensus Summit, June 8, 2025:** Twenty participants, 14 in person at Sunset Labs in Victoria and 6 by Zoom, reviewed the foundational outline of the draft consensus statement and gave feedback.
- **Sharing the work:** We presented on the BC Consensus at the Canadian Concussion Network, Increase BC, and the Brain Changes Conference in 2025.
- **Research:** A peer-reviewed study published in August 2025 drew on 163 stakeholders, including 74 with lived experience of brain injury and/or homelessness. A second paper on community-generated recommendations was published in BMC Health Services Research in 2025.
- View the consensus statement: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/mzsr/o/jvuq/#p=11>

BC Consensus on Brain Injury, Mental Health, and Addictions

Research Behind the Consensus

- Warren, G.C., Kennedy, C.J., Gavas, N., Schmidt, J., Woodin, E., Breese Biagioni, J., & Garcia-Barrera, M.A. (2025). Barriers and facilitators to housing and healthcare services for people experiencing homelessness with concurrent brain injury, mental health and substance use disorders: A qualitative study. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 13, 1643689. Published August 19, 2025.
- Kennedy, C.J., Grewal, J., Warren, G., et al. (2025). Brain injury, mental health and substance use in homeless populations: community-generated recommendations for healthcare service delivery and research. *BMC Health Services Research*, 25, 715.
- Kennedy, C.J., Woodin, E., Schmidt, J., Biagioni, J.B., & Garcia-Barrera, M.A. (2024). Ten priorities for research addressing the intersections of brain injury, mental health, and addictions: A stakeholder-driven priority-setting study. *Health Expectations*, 27, e14136.
- Grewal, J., Kennedy, C.J., Mamman, R., Biagioni, J.B., Garcia-Barrera, M.A., & Schmidt, J. (2024). Understanding the barriers and facilitators of healthcare services for brain injury and concurrent mental health and substance use issues: A qualitative study. *BMC Health Services Research*, 24. Published August 2, 2024.

With Gratitude to Our Research Partners

Systems change needs evidence as well as stories. We are deeply grateful to **Dr. Mauricio Garcia-Barrera, Cole Kennedy, Nicholas Gavas, Grace Warren, Dr. Erica Woodin**, and students from CORTEX Lab at the University of Victoria, and **Dr. Julia Schmidt** and students from CEDAR Brain Injury Lab at the University of British Columbia for their partnership on the BC Consensus. Their community-engaged research turns what survivors, families, and service providers tell us into published findings that decision makers can use, and it keeps people with lived experience at the centre of every study. Thank you for helping us move from stories to systems change.

National Strategy on Brain Injury – Bill C-206

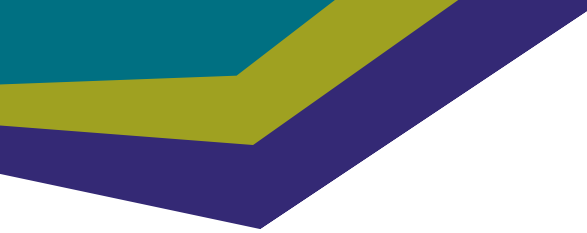
Brain injury sits beneath many of Canada's most urgent social issues, including homelessness, addictions, and intimate partner violence, yet there is no coordinated national response. The CGB Centre has advocated for a National Strategy on Brain Injury since 2018, alongside partners across the country.

2025-2026 Highlights

- June 2025, Brain Injury Awareness Month: We ran the #PeopleLikeUs campaign and launched ePetition 6620 on June 23.
- Petitions: ePetition 6620 gathered 1,038 signatures, and the Government of Canada tabled its response on December 4, 2025. Printed petitions were mailed to 10 MPs and circulated by our supporters, and [5 petitions carrying 1,233 signatures] were presented in the House of Commons.
- June 10, 2025: Bill C-206, An Act to establish a national strategy on brain injuries, had first reading in the House of Commons, sponsored by MP Gord Johns. The previous Parliament's version passed the House unanimously in June 2024 but did not reach the Senate.
- August 24, 2025: We hosted Senator Woo for brunch during the Victoria Forum to brief him on the National Strategy. He went on to co-host the November reception in Ottawa.
- November 2025, Ottawa: A delegation from the CGB Centre and BCBIA travelled to Ottawa to speak for Bill C-206. The reception was co-hosted with Brain Injury Canada, MP Gord Johns, Senator Flordeliz Osler, and Senator Yuen Pau Woo, and was attended by approximately 12 MPs and 2 assistant deputy ministers. We also joined MP Gord Johns and Brain Injury Canada at a press conference on November 25.
- Individual meetings: We met with 4 MPs and 3 senators to make the case for a national strategy.



Photo: Brunch with Senator Yuen Pau Woo and MP Gord Johns



Looking Ahead

In 2026–2027 we move from consensus to action with three priorities.

- **From Consensus to Action:** On November 23, 2026, we will host the inaugural BC Brain Injury Leadership Summit in Victoria. The morning will focus on implementing the BC Consensus, followed by a lunch with guest speakers and MLAs, and an afternoon on the National Strategy.
- **A National Strategy on Brain Injury:** Bill C-206 remains before Parliament, and we will keep building all-party support. We are preparing a brief for the Fall Economic Statement calling for federal investment in a national strategy; submission is by mid-October..
- **BCBIA leadership in the four priority areas:** Guided by the June 2025 roundtable, BCBIA will continue to strengthen Collaboration, Education, Connectivity, and Advocacy, including building partnerships with people with lived experience, organizations, communities, provinces and territories, government while also expanding the Step Up for Brain Injury Provincial Walk and the annual BC Brain Injury Leadership Summit.

Sustaining the work

The CGB Centre and BCBIA are sustained by grants, foundations, private donors, and partners who share our belief that no one should face brain injury and traumatic life loss alone. This year, that support made possible a sold-out education event for 125 people, consensus circles in Haida Gwaii, a Summit on the draft BC Consensus statement, two peer-reviewed publications, and a delegation to Ottawa to speak for Bill C-206.

It also keeps our education and grief and loss counselling available to individuals and families, and it lets BCBIA bring people together across British Columbia to learn, collaborate, and advocate. In 2026–2027, your support will help us move from consensus to action: implementing the BC Consensus recommendations, growing our research partnerships, and continuing to press for a National Strategy on Brain Injury.

Donations can be made online at: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/36010>

Recognition and Gratitude

Recognition

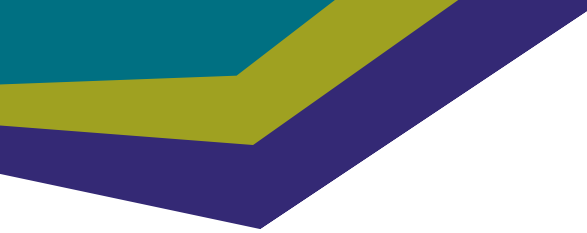


In November 2025, our Founder and CEO, Janelle Breese Biagioni, was named Disability Changemaker of the Year by March of Dimes Canada for her work in pursuing a National Strategy on Brain Injury. This recognition reflects the work of survivors, families, partners, staff, and volunteers who have shaped this movement.

With Gratitude

This work belongs to a community. We thank:

- **Funders and sponsors:** ICBC, The Cridge Centre to the Family, The Hamber Foundation, UBC Cues, Civil Forfeiture, Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, BC Royal Purple, Royal Purple Canada, Pendray Inn, BC's Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, the Vancouver Foundation, and the sponsors of the June 2025 provincial roundtable Connect Communities, March of Dimes Canada, South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society, Brain Injury Alliance, and BrainTrust Canada.
- **Partners:** The Cridge Centre for the Family; the Haida Gwaii Society for Community Peace; University of Victoria; University of British Columbia, Victoria Brain Injury Society, Brain Injury Canada; the Rick Hansen Foundation, Heart and Stroke Foundation, SCI-BC, and March of Dimes Canada in the BC Rehab and Recovery Coalition; Royal Purple Canada; Interior Health; and our partners in the ICBC Navigators Pilot Project.
- **Parliamentarians:** MP Gord Johns, MP Will Greaves, MP Michael Kram, MP Brendan Hanley, Senators Yuen Pau Woo and Flordeliz Osler, senators, MPs, MLAs and officials who made time to listen.
- **People with lived experience:** the survivors and families who shared their stories, including those who took part in the #PeopleLikeUs campaign.
- **Practicum counsellors:** whose no-cost counselling to the brain injury community has provided approximately \$95,000 in support to date.



Recognition and Gratitude

Thank you to all the supporters behind the scenes. Your tireless efforts are deeply appreciated and make a difference in the lives of others.

Board of Directors:

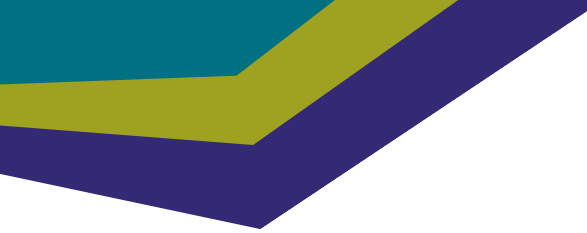
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Toni King, President
Kent Black - Treasurer
Rita Forrest - Secretary
Dale Breese - Director
Myriah Breese - Director
Tori Dach - Director
Cathy Stacey - Director
Tony Mok - Director
Ali P - Director
Amelia Hayden - Director
Rebecca Manten - Director

Contractors

Shirley Johnson - Bookkeeper
Lauren Mok - Webweaver
Niki Campbell - Web Design
Zoey Wells - Strategic Plan and Fund Development

Volunteers

Shauna Fenwick
Cole Kennedy



Governance and Financial Statements

Financial statements

The financial statements of the CGB Centre for Traumatic Life Losses for the fiscal year April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 have been audited by Baker Tilly, Chartered Accountants and are presented separately at the Annual General Meeting on September 28, 2026.

Board of Directors

Matt Woodford, Chair
Toni King, President
Kent Black – Treasurer

(See Recognition and Gratitude for a full list of the Board)

About the CGB Centre

The CGB Centre for Traumatic Life Losses has been a federally registered charity since 2017 (BN72020 2720 RR0001). The BC Brain Injury Association operates as a program of the CGB Centre.

Websites:

www.cgbcentre.com | www.bcbia.org

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