BRAIN INJURY

CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

www.braininjurycanada.ca
Did you know?

- 452 people suffer a serious acquired brain injury (ABI) every day in Canada. In other words, one ABI every 3 minutes.
- 165,000 serious brain injuries per year (does not include concussions, military injuries, or unreported cases).
- The annual incidence of ABI in Canada:
  - 44 times more common than spinal cord injuries
  - 30 times more common than breast cancer
  - 400 times more common than HIV/AIDS.

My worst fear is what will happen to my daughter if I can no longer care for her. There is no housing for ABI. I am told it is a 15-20 year waitlist and a long-term care home is definitely not an option for Sarah! - K.N.

Mike was just 19 when he was involved in a boating accident and suffered a severe brain injury. After two weeks in a coma and 11 months in rehabilitation, he moved home with us, but he needed 24 hour supervision and care. His medical needs were too complex for us to handle, but the only space available for him was in a seniors nursing home. He should be in a facility where not only his medical needs can be met, but also his needs for socialization and peer engagement. - L.P.

Acquired brain injury is the leading cause of death and disability for Canadians under the age of 40.

Children and youth represent 30% of all brain injuries in Canada, with ABI the leading cause of death and disability among children.
Cost Of ABI

- Each severe brain injury costs our medical system over $1,000,000 at the time of injury
- Costs remain approximately $400,000 each year following the incident due to indirect expenses and follow-up treatment
- The economic burden of acquired brain injuries and treatment, when combined, is estimated to be greater than $12.7 billion per year

Acquired brain injury is a major public health concern yet does not receive the attention it should. Currently a national strategy exists for stroke, spinal cord injury, cancer and cardiac care but nothing exists for acquired brain injury. This needs to change.

**We can't do it alone**

Brain Injury Canada continues to work directly with provincial and federal levels of government, as well as provincial ABI associations and many other partners to advocate for those living with brain injury. Work with us to:

- De-stigmatize brain injury and empower survivors by providing appropriate housing
- Provide much need caregiver respite and housing options with trained ABI staff
- Educate employers to provide accommodations in the workplace
- Change the 2 year benchmark recovery myth to recovery for life of all brain injured

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About Brain Injury Canada

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for those living with acquired brain injury (ABI) and their families/caregivers.

Brain Injury Canada is a national organization working in partnership with provincial brain injury associations across the country to raise awareness, educate the public and advocate on behalf of those with brain injury.

Our Strategic Priorities:

- Promote greater awareness of ABI - concussions to catastrophic brain injuries
- Increased funding and access to services
- Address disparity across the country for access to services
- Promote increased funding to specialized ABI housing
- Promote increased research funding

“There is a truth about disability: when that disability is truly understood and included by our communities, it CEASES to be a disability"

Demian Ryefield Ford

Brain Injury Canada
200-440 Laurier Ave. West
Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 7X6
Toll Free: 1-866-977-2492
Phone: 613-762-1222
Fax: 613-782-2228
info@braininjurycanada.ca

www.braininjurycanada.ca