



Brain Injury **Alliance**

# Alliance Annual Report

2024 - 2025

## President's Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my privilege to present the 2024–2025 Annual Report of the Brain Injury Alliance. This year's report highlights the extraordinary impact achieved by our 13 member organizations across British Columbia — and the measurable value of the province's investment in community-based brain injury services.

Over the past year, Alliance-funded programs reached more than 5,600 individuals and families. These programs not only changed lives; they reduced costs and pressures across our public systems. Thousands of hospital visits were avoided, hundreds of housing crises were prevented, and dozens of individuals avoided justice system involvement because they had access to timely, compassionate support in their own communities. The outcomes are both deeply human and fiscally responsible, proof that the Alliance model delivers exceptional return on investment for the people of British Columbia.

As a board, our role is to ensure that this impact is matched by transparency, accountability, and a commitment to continuous improvement. We are proud of the financial and programmatic stewardship demonstrated by the Alliance this year, and we remain deeply grateful to the Ministry of Health for its partnership and trust in this important work.

However, our success also underscores a growing urgency. With the current provincial contract set to expire in March 2026, the continuity of this network, and the stability it brings to thousands of British Columbians, depends on renewed and sustained government support. The data is clear: funding the Brain Injury Alliance is not a cost; it is an investment in health, equity, and prevention.

To our member organizations, thank you for your tireless dedication, professionalism, and compassion. To our Ministry partners, thank you for recognizing that recovery is not confined to hospital walls, it happens in homes, workplaces, and communities, where survivors are supported to rebuild their lives.

Together, we are building a safer, healthier, and more inclusive British Columbia.

With appreciation,



Dr. John Higenbottam  
President, Brain Injury Alliance  
Clinical Professor, Psychiatry, UBC

## Executive Summary

In 2024–2025, the Brain Injury Alliance (BIA) continued to strengthen the network of community-based brain injury organizations that provide essential rehabilitation, outreach, and reintegration services across BC.

Through funding from the Ministry of Health, the Alliance distributed \$1.3 million in community grants to 13 regional brain injury societies, enabling them to reach individuals in every health authority region of the province. Collectively, these societies served more than 5,600 individuals, including survivors of brain

injury, family members, and caregivers, through case management, employment support, peer programs, group education, housing navigation, and prevention initiatives.

Across every region, the data and stories converge on a consistent theme: the Alliance's investment not only transforms lives, it reduces demand on hospitals, emergency rooms, and the justice system. By supporting timely, community-level interventions, this network ensures that survivors have the stability, housing, and health supports needed to live safely and independently.

---

## Themes and Insights

### Integrated, Trauma-Informed Support Works

The success of Alliance-funded programs lies in their holistic model: combining medical navigation, housing, mental health, and peer support. This integrated approach reflects the complexity of brain injury recovery and exemplifies person-centered care in action.

### Community-Based Care Prevents Institutionalization

- Every society emphasized the critical importance of early, consistent, and local intervention. When clients have access to community supports, they stay out of hospitals, avoid incarceration, and maintain housing—outcomes that deliver measurable savings to the province.

### Staffing and Funding Stability Are Urgent Needs

- Across all 13 societies, staffing challenges were the most cited barrier to service delivery. Recruitment, retention, and compensation disparities threaten program stability. Sustainable funding from the Ministry remains the single most effective mechanism for protecting this essential workforce.

## Executive Director Message

This past year has reminded us of both the resilience of British Columbians living with brain injury and the essential role that community-based services play in our health system. Across the province, the 13 member organizations of the Brain Injury Alliance have provided thousands of individuals with the support, connection, and advocacy needed to live safely and independently.

### **The outcomes tell a clear story:**

When individuals with brain injury receive consistent local support, hospital visits decrease, incarceration rates fall, and community stability rises. Through our provincial funding partnership, more than 5,600 clients and families were served this year. Over 3,700 health system interactions were avoided, 1,200 people gained or maintained housing, and more than 190 individuals achieved or sustained employment. Each of these numbers represents a person who is healthier, more connected, and contributing to their community.

### **These successes are not theoretical, they are deeply human.**

Behind every statistic is a survivor who found stability after years of crisis, a family who no longer fears losing housing, or a young person who learned to manage their recovery and return to work. Collectively, these stories reflect what happens when public investment meets compassion, evidence, and collaboration.

At the same time, this year's data also underscores a growing concern shared by every region: the stability of the brain injury

support network is at risk without sustained funding. Staff shortages, rising costs, and unpredictable grants threaten to undo years of progress. The Alliance and its members have demonstrated extraordinary efficiency, but there are limits to what can be achieved without continuity and multi-year commitments.

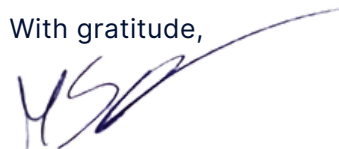
### **Looking ahead to 2025–2026, our focus is**

**twofold:** to continue strengthening the coordination and capacity of our network, and to work closely with the Ministry to secure a renewed contract that reflects the proven value of this provincial partnership. The cost of doing nothing is far greater, for hospitals, for social systems, and for the individuals who would once again fall through the cracks.

To our Ministry partners, we thank you for recognizing that recovery happens in community, not in isolation. To our member societies, thank you for your tireless dedication, compassion, and professionalism. And to every staff member, volunteer, and survivor whose story shapes this work, your courage and commitment continue to inspire everything we do.

Together, we are not only improving lives. We are strengthening the very fabric of public health in British Columbia.

With gratitude,



Maggie Spizzirri, Executive Director  
Brain Injury Alliance

## ROI and Fiscal Impact Analysis

### Reduced Strain on the Health System

- 3,742 instances of reduced hospital or ER involvement reported province-wide
- Significant declines in repeat emergency visits and readmissions via local case management
- **Estimated savings:** \$12.5 million+ in avoided acute-care costs (based on reduction estimates from CIHI & program data)

### Reduced Criminal Justice Involvement

- 84 individuals diverted from or out of the justice system via advocacy, counselling, and coordinated supports
- **Estimated savings:** \$7.1 million+ in justice and correctional system cost-avoidance

### Employment and Economic Reintegration

- 198 individuals gained or maintained employment
- Survivors rebuilt confidence, income stability, and purpose through supported work and volunteering
- **Estimated savings:** \$2.3 million+ via reduced benefit reliance and increased income tax/revenue contribution

### Housing Stability and Safety

- 1,248 individuals gained or maintained housing
- Stable housing prevented homelessness, shelter use, and hospital readmissions
- **Estimated savings:** \$1.25 million+ via reduced shelter and crisis service use

### Mental Health and Substance Use

- 1,600+ clients received mental-health support; 400 addressed substance-use challenges
- Peer, counselling and wellness programs reduced isolation and relapse risk
- **Estimated savings:** TBD – strong qualitative impact; further research needed for dollar estimate

### Education and Prevention

- 34,000+ British Columbians reached through injury-prevention and education initiatives
- School and community outreach promoted safer communities and early intervention
- **Estimated savings:** Long-term preventive value — estimated 20:1 ROI on prevention interventions based on literature

**ROI: ~ \$23 – \$40 million+ in annual public-system cost avoidance this year.**

Based on conservative modelling grounded in program outcomes and peer literature. Of note, some organizations did not provide numbers for participants in peer groups due to the safety, confidentiality and security of participants.

## Key Metrics: The Impact of Strategic Government Funding on Brain Injury Support Services

| Brain Injury Alliance Quarterly Report Summary & Comparison July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025     |                  |                |                  |                 |        |
|--|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Number of Agencies Reporting (out of 13)   | July - Sept 2024 | Oct - Dec 2024 | Jan - March 2025 | Apr - June 2025 | Totals |
| New individuals screened   | 404              | 365            | 423              | 399             | 1591   |
| New individuals accepted   | 253              | 255            | 257              | 249             | 1014   |
| Clients (new) with concurrent mental health, substance use and/or justice system involvement | 137              | 103            | 134              | 117             | 491    |
| Clients (new) currently unhoused or inadequately housed                                      | 52               | 56             | 60               | 52              | 220    |
| Clients (new & existing) charged with a crime  | 26               | 16             | 13               | 13              | 68     |
| Clients (new & existing) seen in the hospital emergency department                           | 97               | 70             | 85               | 69              | 321    |
| Clients (new & existing) admitted to the hospital  | 90               | 38             | 48               | 36              | 212    |
| Societies assisting communities without services   | 5                | 8              | 7                | 8               | 28     |
| Front-line staff participated in cultural sensitivity training                               | 18               | 13             | 21               | 24              | 76     |
| Front-line staff participated in training in trauma-informed service provision               | 23               | 17             | 26               | 29              | 95     |

“Being able to talk to someone and release what I carry alone—it’s more possible here than ever before in my life. I can be myself. I leave sessions feeling a lot of relief with a smile on my face. I look forward to these sessions.”

— Nanaimo Brain Injury Society Participant



## 2024-2025 Programs and Services

The Brain Injury Alliance funded a total of **45 programs** across its 13 member agencies, delivering diverse and impactful services. These programs addressed immediate survival needs, rehabilitation, and community engagement, reflecting the Alliance’s holistic approach to brain injury support.

**Supported 5,307 clients through case management services, connecting them to vital resources such as medical care, housing, and education.**

**Types of Services Funded:**

- **One-to-One Services:** Personalized client support, including case management, navigation, and life skills coaching.
- **Group Services:** Support, educational workshops, and life skills development.
- **Specialty Services:** Professional counselling, employment assistance, and correctional system support.
- **Community Programs:** Education and injury prevention initiatives aimed at reducing the incidence of brain injuries and raising community awareness.

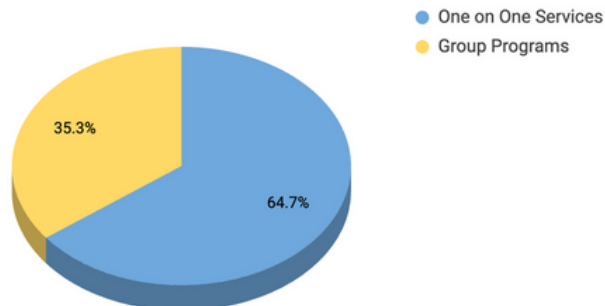
Cost per Client  
(All Services Combined):  
\$292 (Alliance Funds Only)

| Service Category                          | Clients Served                     | Average Cost per Client           |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Overall                                   | 5,307                              | \$531                             |
| One-to-One, Counselling & Case Management | 2,821                              | \$706                             |
| Group Services                            | 1,787                              | \$480                             |
| Life Skills                               | 1,523                              | \$748                             |
| Employment Assistance                     | 505 (193 obtained, 312 maintained) | — (included in one-to-one totals) |
| Community Education & Injury Prevention   | 60,851                             | \$3                               |

## One-to-One Services

Over this past year, PG BIG's Case Management team assisted with 430 appointments to do with housing (homelessness, risk of homelessness, maintaining home or finding a new home). Out of those 430 interactions, 243 were directly related to maintaining the current home as there are very little housing options here (this supported 88 unique members). Additionally, 164 of those interactions were assisting a member in finding a new home (this supported 38 unique members). This articulates the incredibly complex landscape and housing crisis in our community and that approximately 500+ hours went into housing supports this reporting year. — Prince George Brain Injury Group

Client Service Categories Funded by the Alliance 2024-2025



“Having an outreach worker helped me feel human again.”

Through individualized, goal-oriented support, outreach workers helped clients maintain housing, access financial and medical services, and rebuild daily living skills—reducing isolation and improving quality of life for individuals living with ABI across the Kootenay region. — Kootenay Brain Injury Association

## Group Services

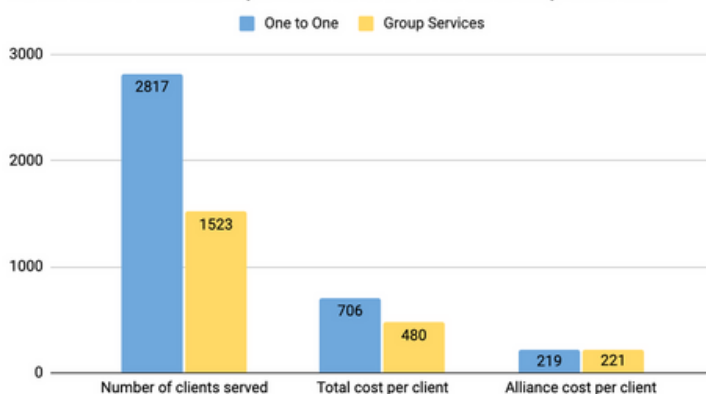
NBIS hosted 154 free group events, including 51 social programs, 37 coffee drop-ins, and 50 virtual sessions.

**“I don't know what I would have done, or where I would be now without NBIS.”**

Clients reported a 75% increase in well-being, highlighting the profound impact of social and skill-building opportunities.

Campbell River Head Injury Support Society's Garden-to-Kitchen programs built community and food security. Participants showed leadership by mentoring peers and creatively overcoming budget challenges through reusing and repurposing materials

2024-2025 Cost Comparison One to One vs Group Services





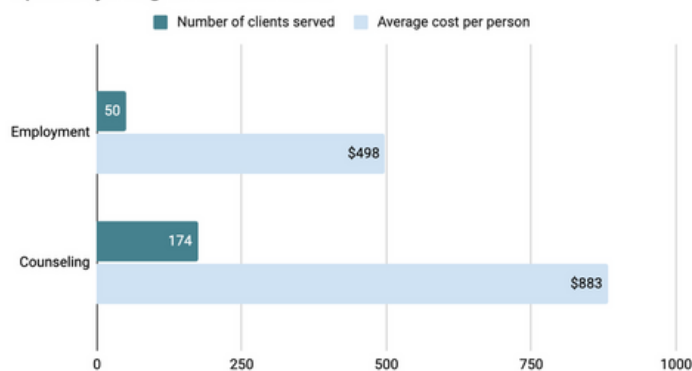
## Specialty Services

BrainTrust integrated employment readiness into its case management and life-skills programming, supporting clients to rebuild stability through structured work and vocational goal-setting. Participants received individualized assistance with resumes, job searches, and workplace adaptation, leading several to secure meaningful employment. These efforts illustrate how stable, trauma-informed employment support reduces crisis recurrence and strengthens long-term community reintegration.

Kamloops Brain Injury Association is working on partnerships with local probation offices and community reintegration programs to support justice-involved clients with housing, employment, and counseling.

“The Volunteer Incentive Program helps me feel useful again. I’m learning to balance work with my recovery.” - Comox Valley Head Injury Society Participant

Specialty Programs 2024-2025



## Community Programs

Northern Brain Injury Association’s Brain Injury Community Injury Prevention Program reached over 15,000 youth across Northern B.C.

Highlights include helmet-fitting events, culturally responsive education with First Nations, and targeted outreach to high-risk groups.

Participants reported improved safety practices and concussion awareness, contributing to measurable long-term injury reduction.

Cowichan Brain Injury Society (CBIS) continued to “build independence through education, connection, and community” through a wide range of responsive programs tailored to local needs. Foundational offerings such as Introduction to Brain Injury were complemented by evolving sessions on substance use, emotional regulation, and housing education (Rent Smart). Together, these programs strengthened participants’ independence, resilience, and community connection—demonstrating how adaptable, person-centred support fosters meaningful recovery across the Cowichan Valley.

## Financial Summary

### Use of Funds: Allocation by Category

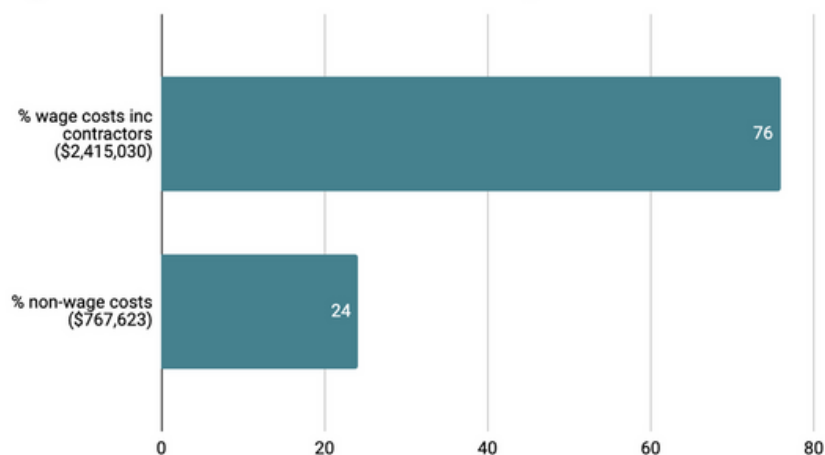
#### A. Personnel: 76%

The majority of funding supported the people who deliver the work—case managers, counsellors, life-skills coaches, and outreach staff. These professionals are the foundation of every program, providing trauma-informed, culturally responsive care that helps survivors rebuild stability and independence.

#### B. Program Costs: 24%

Direct program funding covered transportation, materials, and client supports that make local delivery possible—from housing stability and peer programs to education and employment workshops.

Wage Costs in 2024-2025 were 76% of Expenditures



#### Impact Summary:

**Every \$1 invested through the Brain Injury Alliance strengthens 13 community-based programs and supports more than 5,000 British Columbians living with the effects of brain injury.**

“Thank you to the Brain Injury Alliance for the financial support for programs that impact so many people with brain injuries and their families. The Alliance has also had a significant impact on FVBIA’s ability to provide staff training in trauma-informed care, mental health and Indigenous culture, along with improving client care pathways, and data collection.”

- Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association

## Recommendations and Calls to Action

### 1. Renew and Secure Long-Term Funding

The Brain Injury Alliance requests the renewal and expansion of the provincial Brain Injury Fund for a minimum of five years (2026–2031) to ensure continuity of essential community-based services. Stable, annualized funding will protect a network that serves over 5,600 British Columbians annually, prevents hospitalization and incarceration, and delivers an estimated \$23–\$40 million in annual public-system savings.

### 2. Increase Investment to Meet Rising Demand

A 20% increase in provincial funding is recommended to address growing needs among individuals with concurrent mental health, substance use, and housing challenges. Current funding levels constrain staff retention and limit the ability to expand trauma-informed and culturally safe services.

### 3. Establish a Legislated BC Brain Injury Support Fund

Long-term stability could be achieved through a legislated provincial fund, modeled after other core health streams, ensuring consistent access to community-based brain injury services that align with BC's mental health, addictions, and primary care strategies.

Renewing and expanding provincial investment in the Brain Injury Alliance is not an expense—it's a preventative health strategy. It sustains a coordinated, transparent, and evidence-based system that strengthens communities, reduces pressure on hospitals and correctional facilities, and ensures survivors of brain injury receive the care they need, when and where they need it most.

## Success Stories: Social Impact of Alliance Funding

A few years prior to the accident, Chuck was involved in many extracurricular activities at school, such as student council, basketball and baseball. Growing up, he spent a lot of time with his family and in the outdoors. Some of his fondest memories include his baseball games that he and his family would play. And although he hasn't played since the accident, because of the supports received at the South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society (SOSBIS), specifically the benefit of receiving orthotics to help him stand up straight, he's hopeful he can pick up playing sports again.

On October 18, 1996, Chuck was driving home to Hedley from a job in Princeton B.C., when he was involved in a motor vehicle collision that changed his life forever. He was not expected to survive when he was taken to a Vancouver based hospital; yet after 27 days in a coma and a few months of rehabilitation at GF Strong, he began to heal at a rapid pace while learning strategies to cope with his brain injury. Early into his recovery, a staff member from SOSBIS reached out to him. He continues to struggle with memory loss and doesn't always know where he fits in, but he continues to use the supports offered to him at SOSBIS.

Always an avid outdoorsman, he remains physically healthy and loves to walk. Chuck continues to use strategies such as writing important information and appointments in a notebook.

A very positive person, Chuck often expresses his gratitude for the support and services that he has received, such as connecting to community services, the advocacy he receives on his behalf and support he receives with any paperwork that needs to be filled out. He has also volunteered his time to help at SOSBIS events. "You just have to put a smile on your face when you leave home," he said.

One of his greatest accomplishments is that he attended Kwantlen Polytechnic University post injury, and has had steady employment for 25+ years.

South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society Survivor Story – Chuck Holmes

## Success Stories: Social Impact of Alliance Funding

When Jane (not her real name) first came to the Victoria Brain Injury Society, she was feeling completely disconnected from her family, her community, and even from herself. After sustaining a brain injury in a fall, she experienced memory loss, fatigue, and difficulty regulating her emotions. Everyday conversations became overwhelming, and she began withdrawing from the people she loved most.

Thanks to funding from the Brain Injury Alliance, Jane was quickly matched with a Case Manager.

Together, they identified small, manageable goals to rebuild her confidence and reduce her sense of isolation. Over time, Jane developed coping strategies for overstimulation, started attending weekly peer support groups, and began reconnecting with her adult children - relationships that had become strained during her recovery.

Through consistent, trauma-informed support, Jane began to rebuild her social life. She now volunteers at a local food bank, attends community yoga classes, and feels more in control of her daily routines. "I didn't think I'd ever feel like myself again," she shared. "But having someone believe in me helped me believe in myself."

Brain Injury Alliance funding made it possible for Jane to receive that timely, personalized support, changing not just her life, but the lives of those around her.

Victoria Brain Injury Society Survivor Story



## Acknowledgments

### Member Organizations

The Brain Injury Alliance is proud to work alongside 13 dedicated non-profit brain injury organizations across British Columbia. Each organization plays a vital role in providing community-based services to individuals living with acquired brain injuries, helping them lead more independent and fulfilling lives:

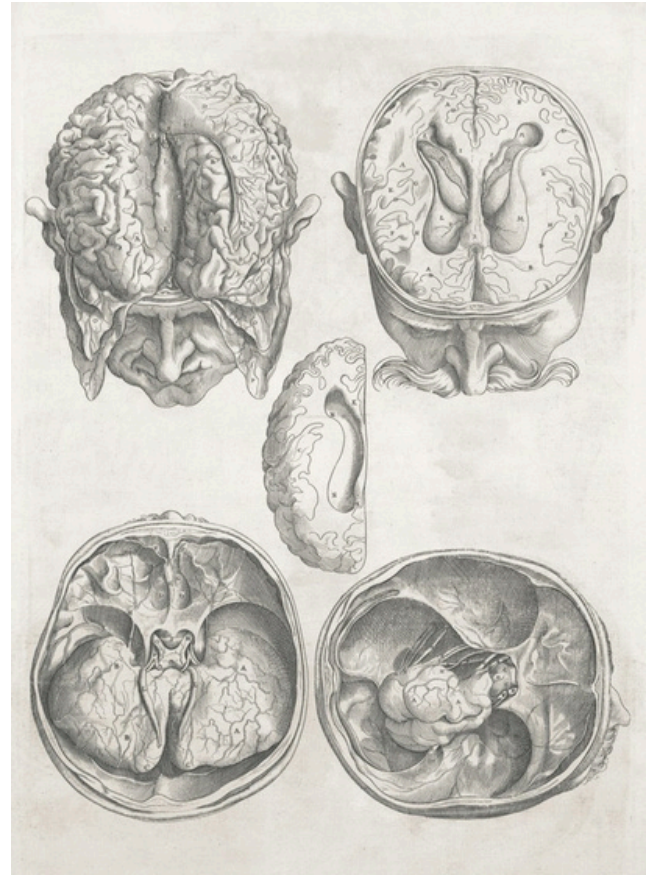
- **BrainTrust Canada**, based in Kelowna, BrainTrust Canada provides brain injury prevention, education, and rehabilitation services for survivors and their families. [www.braintrustcanada.com](http://www.braintrustcanada.com)
- **Campbell River Head Injury Support Society**, serving the Campbell River area, this society offers counselling, life skills, and peer support to individuals recovering from brain injury. [www.crhis.ca](http://www.crhis.ca)
- **Comox Valley Head Injury Society**, this society offers support programs, wellness activities, and peer support services to brain injury survivors in the Comox Valley area. <http://www.cvhis.org>
- **Cowichan Valley Brain Injury Society**, this society provides critical support services, including advocacy and rehabilitation, to brain injury survivors in the Cowichan Valley. [www.cvbis.ca](http://www.cvbis.ca)
- **Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association**, serving the Fraser Valley, this organization provides case management, peer support, and education for brain injury survivors and their families. [www.fvbis.org](http://www.fvbis.org)
- **Kamloops Brain Injury Association**, located in Kamloops, this association offers services including life skills, counselling, and group programs to help brain injury survivors integrate back into the community. [www.kbia.ca](http://www.kbia.ca)
- **Kootenay Brain Injury Association**, this organization supports survivors throughout the Kootenays by offering one-on-one case management, peer support, and community reintegration services. [www.kootenaybia.ca](http://www.kootenaybia.ca)
- **Nanaimo Brain Injury Society**, providing life skills, group programs, and employment services, this society helps survivors in Nanaimo navigate life post-injury. [www.nbis.ca](http://www.nbis.ca)
- **Northern Brain Injury Association**, serving the northern regions of BC, this association offers support and education for survivors and their families in remote and rural communities. [www.nbia.ca](http://www.nbia.ca)
- **Powell River Brain Injury Society**, located in Powell River, this society provides a range of services including peer support, rehabilitation programs, and life skills training. [www.braininjuriesociety.com](http://www.braininjuriesociety.com)
- **Prince George Brain Injured Group**, offering a variety of services such as case management, educational and supportive programs and employment services, this organization supports brain injury survivors in Prince George. [www.pgbig.ca](http://www.pgbig.ca)
- **South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society**, this society provides support groups, counselling, and life skills programs to survivors in the South Okanagan region. [www.sosbis.com](http://www.sosbis.com)
- **Victoria Brain Injury Society**, based in Victoria, this organization helps survivors with case management, peer support, and life skills education to promote recovery and independence. [www.vbis.ca](http://www.vbis.ca)



## Funding Partners

The Brain Injury Alliance would like to extend its deepest gratitude to the Province of British Columbia who has made this work possible. Continued support ensures that brain injury survivors across British Columbia have access to the vital services they need.

We are also grateful for the support towards our members from private donors, foundations, and local communities whose contributions have been instrumental in enhancing the scope and quality of brain injury services across British Columbia. Your generosity has directly impacted the lives of thousands, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.



## Land Acknowledgement

The Brain Injury Alliance recognizes the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out our work on these lands.

## Appendix A: Regional Highlights & Voices from Across BC

Across British Columbia, the 13 Brain Injury Societies supported through the Brain Injury Alliance continue to transform lives through connection, compassion, and community-based care. These highlights showcase both the measurable outcomes and the human stories behind them.

### BrainTrust Canada

BrainTrust's prevention and education programs reached 5,142 youth, adults, and seniors across the Okanagan in 2024–2025.

- 1,800 students participated in classroom presentations on concussion and brain-injury prevention.
- 72% of participants reported increased awareness of safety practices.
- The organization also piloted a workplace safety training module now being shared province-wide.

As a leader in prevention and research, BrainTrust continues to demonstrate that education saves lives and reduces long-term system costs.

### Campbell River Head Injury Support Society

Campbell River's One-to-One Life Skills Program:

- Increased staff hours allowed the organization to reduce its client waitlist to approximately two weeks.
- With expanded programming, 32% of clients successfully transitioned into group programs once ready to do so.
- Staff provided additional one-to-one support to help clients navigate the ongoing housing crisis and connect with available resources, though many continue to face homelessness despite these efforts.

These outcomes demonstrate how Campbell River's team continues to adapt to regional housing pressures while ensuring that survivors receive consistent, compassionate, and individualized support that fosters long-term stability.



## Comox Valley Head Injury Society

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my sessions with [the practitioner]. As a head injury survivor, I am prone to be more overwhelmed by life than necessary. Sessions with [him] offer me some quiet time where I can be held and witnessed in my joy and in my tears.-a safe space to come and be nurtured. Every session helps me calm down and reset, so I can continue moving forward in life with more stability and calm."

— Alla McQueen, program participant

### Program Highlights:

- CVHIS maintained cost-effective and fiscally prudent strategies to ensure uninterrupted delivery of its core programming. The multi-year grant cycle with the Brain Injury Alliance allowed the society to plan ahead and respond to community needs with stability and confidence.
- The bike program continued to thrive, providing clients with accessible recreation and transportation options that promote both physical health and independence.
- A peer-led art class blossomed under the leadership of a survivor whose own growth, confidence, and empowerment have inspired others to explore creative expression as part of their healing journey.
- The Volunteer Incentive and Employment Support programs expanded, helping survivors on disability to engage in meaningful work, track income, manage gas receipts, and advocate for themselves with confidence.

Through creativity, fiscal responsibility, and survivor-led innovation, CVHIS continues to demonstrate how community-based programming supports emotional recovery, skill development, and social connection. Their steady approach ensures that every dollar is maximized — and every participant is valued.

## Cowichan Brain Injury Society

"The Case Management program supports brain injury survivors and families to better understand the recovery process, develop compensatory strategies, and become more independent."

— Shelley Kuecks, Executive Director

### Program Highlights:

- Delivered comprehensive case management and family support, helping survivors regain stability and confidence after injury.
- Peer Support groups offered safe spaces for survivors to share experiences, develop coping strategies, and rebuild community connections.
- Community education initiatives increased awareness of brain injury across the Cowichan Valley, engaging local organizations, schools, and service providers.
- Staff worked closely with local housing and health partners to reduce isolation and strengthen coordinated care for clients with complex needs.

Cowichan Brain Injury Society continues to demonstrate how consistent, person-centered support improves long-term outcomes for survivors and families alike. By combining education, peer mentorship, and individualized case management, CBIS fosters independence, belonging, and resilience — outcomes that ripple through families and the wider community.

## Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association

“Support work that has the most positive impact is the casework. Our trained personnel who meet clients one on one, see each person as an individual with individual needs.”

— Feedback from FVBIA Strategic Planning Survey 2025

### Program Highlights:

- **Case Management:** Case managers supported individuals with increasingly complex needs, including severe brain injuries, aphasia, apraxia, and co-occurring mental health or addiction issues. Despite a four-month waitlist earlier in the year, the team successfully cleared all clients requiring intensive in-person support, maintaining consistent education, resource sharing, and family engagement.
- **Corrections Outreach:** Continued programming in correctional facilities provided education and screening to individuals at high risk of undiagnosed brain injury, helping them access supports upon release.
- **BCIRPU Partnership:** Collaborated with the BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit to expand Indigenous-focused brain injury prevention and awareness, improving cultural accessibility and early intervention within Indigenous communities.
- **Community Education:** Through the Small Talk with Nancy Guitar video series, FVBIA shared survivor stories, including that of LM, a car accident survivor who spent nine months in hospital, relearning to walk, talk, and eat. Years later, she graduated from the University of the Fraser Valley and is now learning her Indigenous language — a story of remarkable perseverance and hope.

FVBIA’s programs exemplify the impact at the intersection of health, justice, and community. By reaching into correctional facilities, partnering with research institutions, and telling survivor stories that inspire the province, the Fraser Valley team continues to expand the understanding of brain injury recovery while delivering compassionate, client-centered care.

## Kamloops Brain Injury Association

“Many survivors are leery of seeking help. When they do, they want prompt help, but IHA takes some time to review files before deciding if they will be funded. With Alliance funding, we can start assisting immediately, ensuring the survivor overcomes their reluctance to seek help and ensuring they get the help they need, when they need it.”

— Kamloops Brain Injury Association Report, 2024-2025

### Program Highlights:

- Delivered brain injury awareness and prevention education to schools, community agencies, and correctional facilities, reaching a broad cross-section of the community.
- Provided immediate case management and support for survivors through Alliance funding, enabling timely intervention without service delays.
- Maintained strong partnerships with social service agencies and health authorities to ensure survivors receive coordinated care and access to needed supports.

Alliance funding allows KBIA to meet survivors where they are — providing timely, compassionate assistance that prevents crises and promotes long-term recovery.

## Kootenay Brain Injury Association

“One client shared that before accessing Counselling for Connection, they felt isolated, overwhelmed, and unsure how to move forward after their injury. Through ongoing counselling support, they learned new ways to manage frustration, rebuild self-esteem, and reconnect with friends and family. The client now participates regularly in group activities and describes feeling “more like myself again.” Stories like this highlight how access to specialized counselling can be life-changing for individuals living with acquired brain injury.”

— Kootenay Brain Injury Association Report, 2024-2025

### Program Highlights:

- Provided individualized, goal-oriented outreach to help clients maintain housing, access financial and medical supports, and rebuild daily living skills.
- Observed significant gains in emotional regulation, coping skills, and community connection among participants who were previously isolated or at risk of crisis.
- Facilitators noted that group programs help clients “stay grounded” and “feel part of something again,” reinforcing the value of community-based rehabilitation.
- Continued to face challenges in serving rural clients, with growing mileage and staffing costs across a large geographical region despite operating at full funding capacity.

Kootenay Brain Injury Association’s outreach and counselling programs clearly demonstrate the importance of sustained, accessible, and localized brain injury supports. Their success stories highlight how consistent funding enables survivors to rebuild connection, confidence, and stability.

## Nanaimo Brain Injury Society

“Dear Brain Injury Alliance, Navigating the complexities of living life with a TBI and its effect, is extremely challenging. This, all at a time when one’s capacity and functionality are compromised in ways never before imagined or experienced. Accessing timely healthcare and mental health supports in the current medical health crisis we are experiencing, is extremely challenging. Even for those fortunate enough to have a healthy network of support. Being able to access professional counselling, provided at no charge for NBIS clients is an invaluable source of relief and support for those experiencing these mental health challenges. My hope is to see this program continue to receive the financial and human resources it deserves to allow this crucial and essential service to continue and to thrive.”

— Sincerely and gratefully, David Dawson, Program Participant

### Program Highlights:

- Hosted 154 free social and wellness activities, including 51 Social Program events, 37 Coffee Drop-In sessions, 50 Virtual Drop-Ins, and 16 Wellness Wednesday classes — each fostering connection and community among survivors.
- Client survey feedback showed that 75% of respondents experienced an increase in overall well-being while participating in NBIS Group Programs.
- One client reflected, “I don’t know what I would have done, or where I would be now without NBIS,” underscoring the organization’s vital role in survivor recovery.
- Clients identified the need for additional counsellors trained in both ABI and trauma-focused modalities, emphasizing the growing demand for integrated mental health and brain injury expertise.

Through its commitment to accessible programming, peer connection, and trauma-informed counselling, NBIS continues to play a crucial role in improving emotional well-being and stability for brain injury survivors across the mid-Island region.

## Northern Brain Injury Association

### Program Highlights:

- Delivered extensive case management services supporting 409 individuals with acquired brain injury (ABI) and 29 family members. Case managers provided assessment, planning, advocacy, crisis intervention, and coordination with agencies including Central Interior Native Health, First Nations Health Authority, and community partners to promote independence and recovery.
- Collaborated with local health authorities, RCMP, First Nations communities, and schools to deliver accessible, culturally safe education and expand helmet distribution and safety programming across remote regions.
- Continued to face geographical and funding challenges, as travel distances and weather affect accessibility across northern and rural areas, highlighting the importance of stable funding to sustain outreach in these vast regions.

NBIA’s coordinated approach to both direct client support and prevention education exemplifies how community-based service delivery can reduce system costs, prevent injury, and strengthen social and health outcomes across northern British Columbia.

## Powell River Brain Injury Society

“Thank you for your support! Being part of a community of brain injury organizations is invaluable, helping us connect clients, strengthen programs, and improve lives across the qathet Region.”

— Powell River Brain Injury Society Report, 2024-2025

### Program Highlights:

- Clients reported feeling less isolated and more empowered to participate in activities, while families and caregivers expressed appreciation for the consistent support and resources provided by the Society.
- The strong sense of family and belonging among participants continues to be a defining feature of PRBIS’s culture and the foundation for all program success.
- Staff and volunteers delivered a range of social, educational, and recreational programs, designed to foster connection, build coping skills, and promote confidence among survivors.

Powell River Brain Injury Society continues to demonstrate the power of community-based rehabilitation in rural and coastal regions. Its welcoming, family-centered approach ensures that survivors, families, and caregivers have access to the consistent support needed to thrive.

## Prince George Brain Injury Group

### Program Highlights:

- The Case Management team supported clients through 430 housing-related appointments, addressing homelessness, risk of homelessness, and housing retention or relocation.
- The Rebuilding Program achieved a 92% completion rate, with participants gaining critical life skills, coping strategies, and self-awareness to support recovery.
- Participant self-evaluations showed a 90% increase in physical health and a 96% increase in mental health during the program year — a powerful indicator of the program’s success.
- PG BIG launched a new Introduction to Brain Injury and PG BIG Services session at UHNBC’s Rehabilitation Department, improving awareness and establishing a direct referral pathway for hospital patients transitioning to community-based care.

PG BIG’s integrated approach, linking hospital discharge, housing stability, and skills-based rehabilitation, demonstrates measurable health and social gains for survivors in the region.

## South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society

### Program Highlights:

- The ABI Life Skills Program significantly improved accessibility to social interactions and independent living by reducing barriers that often limit full participation in community life.
- Program participants extended their impact through hospital visits, offering encouragement and sharing lived experience with individuals newly affected by brain injury.
- A dedicated peer group began developing tools and resources to support others in early recovery, empowering survivors to take an active role in helping others heal.
- The organization expanded its outreach to include education sessions for people experiencing homelessness, addressing overlapping vulnerabilities and promoting inclusion.
- While the program achieved meaningful outcomes in increasing independence, housing stability, and social connection, challenges remained in meeting the rising demand for individualized life-skills support.

Through these efforts, SOSBIS continues to strengthen community integration and peer leadership, showing how survivor-led support and outreach can reduce isolation and enhance recovery for individuals living with acquired brain injury.

## Victoria Brain Injury Society

“Coping gave me tools, support, and a sense of belonging that I didn’t think was possible anymore.”

— Program Participant, Coping Strategies Program

### Program Highlights:

- 82% of clients reported a reduction in feelings of isolation, demonstrating strong progress toward VBIS’s goal of increasing social connectedness. Case Managers built trust and provided tailored support to help survivors re-engage with peers, families, and community activities.
- 85% of participants showed improved self-esteem and confidence, with many taking on new roles, activities, or volunteer opportunities — evidence of the program’s success in fostering empowerment and resilience.
- The Intake & Navigation Program surpassed its 2025 goal of reaching 300 clients, connecting 302 individuals to support. Of these, 253 completed full intake appointments, ensuring that over 83% of those who reached out were successfully linked to services — a strong indicator of program accessibility and follow-through.

VBIS’s integrated, person-centered approach continues to reduce isolation, build confidence, and ensure timely access to care for brain injury survivors in Greater Victoria. These measurable outcomes demonstrate both the organization’s effectiveness and the critical value of sustained provincial support.



[braininjuryalliance.ca](http://braininjuryalliance.ca)