



VBIS

Victoria Brain Injury Society

A Voice, a Community, a Path Forward

2025/2026

Annual Report

Our Values



Inspired

We consistently seek out and apply feedback with a vision to advance and progress collaboratively as a team, leveraging technology to interact efficiently with our stakeholders and our community.



Accountable

We take responsibility for our actions and the overall success of the organization. We are honest, transparent, clear and kind.



Community

We create and embrace a welcoming, collaborative, and supportive community haven.



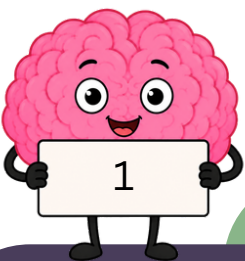
Compassionate

We exemplify compassion towards each other, ourselves, and our community.



Engaged

We work to ensure all of our interactions reflect a responsive, empathetic, and optimistic outlook.



Message From Our Board

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to share the Victoria Brain Injury Society's annual report and reflect on a year of growth, connection, and meaningful progress.

At the heart of our work are the individuals and families we support. Each day, VBIS provides practical support to people living with acquired brain injuries, helping them feel seen, understood, and included in their community. This work is made possible by our dedicated staff and volunteers, as well as the donors, funders, and community partners who believe in our mission.

Looking ahead, in addition to expanding our programs, a key priority will be developing a new strategic plan to guide VBIS over the coming years. This process will build on our strong foundation while helping us identify opportunities for growth and long-term sustainability. We look forward to engaging with our community, partners, and stakeholders as we shape a shared vision for the future.

As a Board, we remain committed to supporting the continued growth of VBIS while staying grounded in our mission and values. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and confident in our ability to expand our impact and reach more individuals and families affected by brain injury.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, donors, funders, and community partners for your dedication and support. Most importantly, thank you to the individuals and families we serve for allowing us to be part of your journeys. Together, we are building a community where people living with brain injury are supported, connected, and valued ensuring that no one has to navigate the journey alone.



Shannon Kowalko
Board Chair



Program Highlight: NeuroTracker

NeuroTracker is a 3D multiple-object tracking cognitive exercise. On a screen, participants have to visually track designated moving objects among other moving objects. As performance improves, the task adapts and becomes more challenging, providing clients with feedback and data to improve upon during their sessions and over their recovery journey.

The activity simultaneously challenges cognitive processes including:

- Attention and sustained focus
- Working memory
- Visual tracking
- Processing complex movement
- Information-processing capacity
- Coordination between different cognitive systems



Clients Served

83

Appointments

1057

Hours Completed

1100



Program Highlight:

Coping Strategies

Our Coping Strategies Program is a 24-week educational and skills-building course designed to help individuals living with concussion and brain injury better navigate the challenges of everyday life. Building on the foundation provided through ABI 101, participants learn practical tools to manage the cognitive, emotional, and day-to-day impacts of brain injury.

Through education, led by our program leader, Coping Strategies empowers participants to better understand their needs, develop their coping abilities, and build confidence and independence in their daily lives.



*Sometimes you need
somebody to take you by
the hand to show you
there is help out there.*

- Former CS Client

Clients Served

35

Individual Visits

359

Example of Topics Covered:

Grief, Fatigue, Sleep, Attention,
Memory, Impulsivity, Social Skills



Program Highlight: Yoga

Our Yoga Drop-In includes both Gentle Yoga and Hatha Yoga, providing participants with options based on their individual needs and abilities.

Gentle Yoga is a low-impact, accessible class designed for individuals of all abilities, including those with physical or mobility limitations.

Hatha Yoga is a beginner-friendly class that offers a slightly greater physical challenge and is best suited for individuals with fewer physical or mobility limitations.

Our Yoga Program helps clients relieve stress, build strength, and increase flexibility. It is designed to be enjoyed by people of all shapes, sizes, and abilities. Our goal is to provide a safe space where everyone can participate at their own pace while supporting their overall physical and emotional well-being.



Clients Served

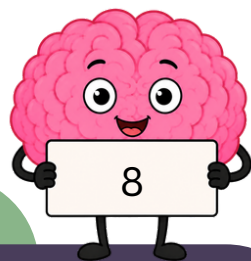
38

Appointments

89

Hours of Relaxation

178



2026 Gala

Our 2026 Gala, “An Evening of Black and White... Because Gray Matters,” was a tremendous success across many metrics this year, bringing together supporters, community partners, sponsors, and friends of the Victoria Brain Injury Society.

This year, we were proud to highlight our Peer Support Program and the important role connection, understanding, and shared experience can play in a survivor’s journey. Through the generosity of everyone who participated in the evening, we raised more than \$160,000 to help ensure that VBIS can continue to provide the vital program that many of our clients and their families rely on.

We are sincerely grateful to everyone who contributed to making the evening possible. Through sponsorship, auction donations, ticket purchases, or volunteering, every contribution played a part in the evening’s success.

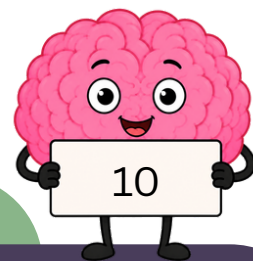


Westshore Opening

2026 marked an exciting step forward for the Victoria Brain Injury Society with the opening of our new Westshore location. This expansion allows VBIS to bring crucial brain injury services and support closer to individuals and families living in the Westshore communities, helping to make our programs more accessible to those who need them.

Our new location provides a welcoming space where brain injury survivors can access and participate in VBIS programs within their own community. By expanding our presence beyond our Victoria location, we are working to reduce barriers to accessing services while ensuring more survivors and their families have a place to turn for support.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make this expansion possible and look forward to building new relationships within the Westshore community as we continue our commitment to ensuring that no one affected by brain injury has to navigate their journey alone.



Our Team



Sharlene Law
Executive Director



Myles Beaman-Dodd
Operations Manager



Ian Bermeo
Case Manager



Samantha Coleborn
Volunteer Coordinator



John Kendall
Accountant



Brooklyn Kroeker
Administrator



Pam Prewett
Grant Writer



Ian Petula
Case Manager



Adam Scott
Event Coordinator



Avery Sikkes
Summer Student



Jennifer Taylor
Marketing Coordinator



Carly Ward
Summer Student



Board of Directors



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Chair



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Co-Chair



Steve Wellburn
Treasurer



Fatimah Banki
Secretary



Ed Adams
Director at Large



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Director at Large



Brad Norris-Jones
Director at Large



Leigh Anne Swayne
Director at Large



Tracey Thompson
Director at Large



Thank You to Our Funders

Allen and Loreen Vandekerkhove Family Foundation
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BC Gov Innovate BC
BC/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion
BioTalent Canada
Brain Injury Alliance
Brain Injury Alliance – Dr. Gur Singh Memorial Education Fund
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City of Langford
Costco
First West Foundation
Government of Canada
Hamber Foundation
Harbourside Rotary
ICBC
Island Health Brain Injury Program
Music Heals
Outdoor Recreation Council of BC
Quail Rock Foundation
Saanich Peninsula Community Foundation
Saint Mary's Health Foundation
Sara Spencer Foundation
Sutherland Foundation
Tony & Mignon Fenton Trust
United Way British Columbia
Vancity Community Foundation
Victoria Foundation
Walmart Canada
West Shore RCMP CPAC



From Our Executive Director

This year has been especially meaningful for me as it marked my first year serving as Executive Director of the Victoria Brain Injury Society. Stepping into this role has given me the privilege of getting to know the remarkable individuals, families, staff, volunteers, and partners who make up the VBIS community. Throughout the year, I have been inspired by the strength, resilience, and determination of the people we serve and by the dedication of those who support them.

One of the highlights has been working alongside an exceptional team of staff and volunteers. Their commitment, expertise, and genuine care for our members are evident in everything they do. I am grateful for the warm welcome I received and for the passion they bring to advancing our mission. Their efforts, combined with the generosity of our donors, funders, and community partners, ensure that VBIS continues to be a trusted resource for those who rely on our programs and services.

As we move into the coming year, I am excited about the opportunities ahead. With a strong foundation, a dedicated team, and an engaged community, VBIS is well positioned to continue building meaningful connections and enhancing the support we provide. I look forward to working alongside our members, staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, and community partners as we continue this important work together.

Thank you for the trust, encouragement, and support you have shown throughout my first year. It has been an honour to join the Victoria Brain Injury Society, and I am excited for what we will accomplish together in the years ahead.



Sharlene Law
Executive Director



To learn more, access our free
services, or donate, please visit

www.vbis.ca

