

 **BC Epilepsy Society**



Anniversary

1959 - 2019

2017/18 Annual Report

Improving lives. Inspiring courage.



Annual Report

BC Epilepsy Society 2017/18 Annual Report

Message from the Chair & Executive Director

As the BC Epilepsy Society moves into its 60th year, we have been reflecting on the decades of supporting individuals living with epilepsy and their families through the struggles of daily living. One thing for certain is that the BC Epilepsy Society has had a significant impact on strengthening the fabric of our society.

Thousands of people have walked through our doors and we have helped them through the most intimate internal struggle. The impact of that moment in time can change the trajectory of a person's life, and subsequently the lives of their family members, their friends, their schools and their communities.

We continue to be inspired by the courage of the people who come to us in their time of need. They place their trust in our dedicated and committed staff, who, day after day, continue to be on the ground changing lives one day at a time. And our staff simply could not do this work without the tremendous commitment of our supporters. Every single one of you has played an important role in continuing to make the BC Epilepsy Society the lifeline it is for the thousands of people living with epilepsy in BC. Thank you. We are committed to continuing to make all communities the kind and caring communities that we all want.

We are blessed to have a dream team of staff, Board members and Professional Advisors associated with the BC Epilepsy Society. We both want to take a moment to thank you: to the people we serve, thank you for putting your trust in us; and to our donors, funders, and partners, thank you for putting your trust in us.

Sincerely,

Kim Davidson
Executive Director
BC Epilepsy Society

Dan O'Brien
Chairman of the Board
BC Epilepsy Society



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HISTORY

The BC Epilepsy Society was founded in 1959 by pediatric neurologist Dr. Norman Auckland, who believed that the more people with epilepsy understand their seizure disorders the better they will be able to help themselves.

VISION

Improving Lives. Inspiring Courage.

MISSION

To empower, educate and support British Columbians living with epilepsy and their families, and support research to make their lives easier.

2017/18 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan O'Brien, CPA, CA, Chair
Trevor Young, MBA, Treasurer
Steven Fruitman, LLB, Secretary
Katy Fairley, Director
Kasi Lubin, Director

Linda Huh, MD, FRCPC, PAC Co-Chair
Stuart Cain, PhD, PAC, Co-Chair
Carmen Ekelund, Director
Kim Davidson, Executive Director

STRUCTURE

The BC Epilepsy Society has a volunteer Board of Directors that develops and leads the strategic direction of the Society. The Board oversees several working committees that help implement strategic plans with the support of full-time staff.

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Our longest-standing committee is comprised of a team of professional experts who volunteer their time to assess and revise our resources, programs, and services to keep them current and accurate.

Stuart Cain, PhD, Co-Chair
Linda Huh, MD, FRCPC, Co-Chair
Mary Connolly, MB, BCh, FRCP(C), FRCP(Edin)
Sherri Purves, MD, PhD, FRCPC, FAAN
Anita Datta, MD, FRCPC
Chantelle Hrazdil, MD, FRCPC

Jing Tan, PhD, ABPP-CN
Sharon Peinhof, RN, BSN
Islam Hassan, MBChB, MMedSc, MPsych,
MRCP(UK), MRCPsych, FRANZCP, FRCPC



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PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Partnership with BC Children’s Hospital Neurology Team

Our partnership with the neurology team at BCCH is now in its 14th year. BC Epilepsy Society staff assist families in connecting with our services or finding the appropriate community support to meet their individual needs. We are proud to have assisted over 2,000 families on their journey with epilepsy.

Partnership with Vancouver General Hospital, Epilepsy Clinic

We have entered our 4th year of service with the epilepsy clinic at VGH. BC Epilepsy Society staff provide a community presence and offer information on Society services, programs, and resources to patients living with epilepsy.

Partnership with Jimmy Pattison Outpatient Clinic at Surrey Memorial

We have entered our 2nd year of service with the Jimmy Pattison Outpatient Clinic. Our staff provide and offer information, resources, and referrals to community and government services.

Partners in Teaching

Staff delivered - workshops to teachers, students, child care providers, disability support workers and others. Workshops focus on facts and myths about epilepsy, recognizing and responding to a seizure, and the psychosocial implications of living with epilepsy. Resource kits containing educational and informational materials are provided to each group. The program continues to grow.

Total number of workshops delivered: 77 Total number of participants: 1501

Early Childhood Educators:..... 25
Elementary School Teachers:285
Secondary School Teachers:160
Education Assistant Programs:169
Summer Camp Staff:..... 23
Other Community Groups:203
Student Presentation:318

Areas covered:

- **Surrey**
- **Vancouver**
- **Port Moody**
- **Langley**
- **Delta**
- **Burnaby**
- **North Vancouver**
- **New Westminister**
- **Delta**
- **Aldergrove**
- **Richmond**

Bursaries

Bursaries are awarded to youth with lived epilepsy experience. We have awarded 70 bursaries since 2007. BC Epilepsy Society Bursaries are awarded annually for youth to use towards an array of educational opportunities.

Kids Up Front

This partnership, of 7 years, allows us to offer families living with epilepsy the opportunity to access entertainment and sports events at no charge.

Camp Subsidies

Camp subsidies give children, youth and adolescents living with epilepsy the opportunity to go to fully accessible summer camp programs. This allows them to grow as individuals and gain meaningful connections with others.



E-Newsletter

Now in its 11th year, we have updated the look and feel of our monthly newsletter and continuously strive to circulate to over 2,500 members.

Blog

We have a regular online correspondence with our constituents through the blog section on the BC Epilepsy Society website.

Blogs posted include:

- Epilepsy in Older Adults
- The Health and Role of the Caregiver
- Considerations for Caregivers to Children with Epilepsy
- An Athlete's Courage: A Story of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Recovery
- The Potential Benefits of a Seizure Service Dog
- Tips for Transitioning to Post-Secondary School
- Back to School for Children with Epilepsy
- October 23rd is SUDEP Action Day!
- BC Epilepsy Merchandise Now Available
- Remembrance Day is November 11th – Veterans & Epilepsy
- Coping with Epilepsy During the Holidays

Information Sheets

We have over 75 information sheets on a wide range of topics relating to living with epilepsy. They are updated at least every five years with the assistance of medical professionals at BCCH Clinic, VGH Clinic, Jimmy Pattison Outreach Clinic, BC Epilepsy Society office and on our website.

<http://bcepilepsy.com/resources/information-sheets>

MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUPS

Vancouver In-Person:

This group has been active for 15 years and is a vibrant peer led community helping each other on their respective journeys with epilepsy.

BC On-Line:

This is an option for people who cannot attend in-person due to location, health, or logistics. This group has been very well attended and continues to grow.

Epilepsy Friends Forever (EFF)

Epilepsy Friends Forever (EFF) was a new program introduced as a way for children, youth and adolescents living with epilepsy to meet other children, youth and adolescents living with epilepsy. EFF allows this community to have fun and relax with their peers, with whom they share common experiences. These sessions provide friendship, understanding, education and support in a fun and creative environment for children, youth and adolescents living with epilepsy.



BC Epilepsy Parents Network (BCEPN):

The BC Epilepsy Parents Network (BCEPN) is a support group for parents of children with epilepsy. These sessions allow parents to share their experiences and get advice from others going through similar situations.

Kootenay Region Support Group

The Kootenay Region Support Group is a new support group structured with an on-site group facilitator to provide emotional support, allowing



people to share their experiences and feelings, and learn from each other. Group discussions are focused around common experiences or concerns, and questions.



DONORS, FUNDERS & SPONSORS



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CKNW Orphans Fund

Benevity Community Fund

Hamber Foundation

Vancouver Foundation

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Will McDermitt

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United Way Central and Northern Vancouver Island

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vancouver
foundation



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Driven by **science**.

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Making A Donation

Without the financial support of our donors, we simply would not be able to develop and deliver the many services on which our members rely.

Successes like our Partners In Teaching program and this website are created thanks to the financial support of friends like you.

Thanks for your support.

There are several ways to donate to the Society:

By Mail:

Send your cheques to the BC Epilepsy Society at #2500 – 900 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 1E5

By Phone:

Call us at (604) 875-6704

to donate using your Visa or MasterCard

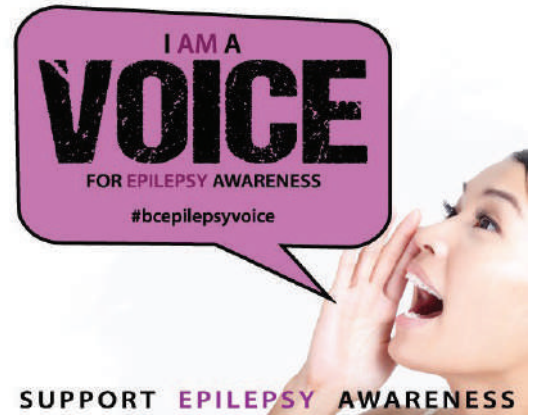
Online: Through Canada Helps

www.bcepilepsy.com/donations/making-a-donation



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