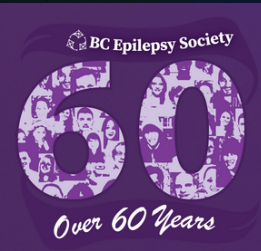


# BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



BC Epilepsy  
Society

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This was a transformational year for the BC Epilepsy Society!

Our year began with a Strategic Planning Session where we refined our purpose, our goals, and values.

We hosted our “I’m Still Standing” Gala, an incredible evening of epilepsy awareness with our special guests Alex Russell and the Canadian Senior Men’s Sevens Rugby team; Canadian Olympian/Paralympian and World Record Holder, Kate O’Brien; Miss BC, Miss Canada and Ms. Universe Millennial, Christine Jamieson; and author and Vancouver business, Allison Hegedus. We ate fantastic food and bet on wonderful auction items at the exciting and fun live auction, led by the amazing auctioneer, Crystal Campbell. Ali Pejman was the perfect emcee for the entire evening. Our sponsors and donors were so incredibly generous.

So much love, dedication, and time went into the planning of that event, which you will hear more about as we give out this year’s awards. Thank you one and all! This event was enjoyed by everyone who attended, and they all look forward to the next one.

Our gala raised funds for a new and exciting program which is now open! Our Mental Wellness Program offers one-on-one counselling support to people living with epilepsy and their immediate family members. After careful consultation with experts across the country and clients who would access the program, we further engaged Dr. Macrodimitris, a professional who specializes in psychological interventions for patients with epilepsy as well as being involved in several multidisciplinary research and program development initiatives in this area, to develop a training program for our professional counsellors and to advise on our overall program framework. We are so honoured to have her involved! Most of our counsellors also live with epilepsy themselves.

The reaction to this program has been heartwarming. Our counsellors are trained and ready to help our community and, because they live with epilepsy themselves, our clients are coming forward when they otherwise would not. We hear clients say “If they have epilepsy, then I’m in. They will understand.” And that is just what this program is for, to create a place for understanding and support.

**DEIRDRE SYMS**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY

**TREVOR YOUNG**

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY





# IMPROVING LIVES. INSPIRING COURAGE.

## OUR VISION:

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Improve the lives of people living with epilepsy by inspiring hope and empowering them to live their best lives.

## OUR MISSION:

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We provide support and resources to British Columbians living with epilepsy, and their families, through education, advocacy and creating a sense of community.

## OUR VALUES

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**CONNECTION:** Creating a sense of belonging

**COURAGE:** Stepping up and leading the conversation around epilepsy

**COMPASSION:** Caring is at the heart of everything we do

**COMMUNITY:** We work together to amplify our impact

## OUR HISTORY

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BC Epilepsy Society was incorporated as a registered charity on August 17th, 1959, under the leadership of pediatric neurologist, Dr. Norman Auckland, who believed the more people living with epilepsy understood their epilepsy, the more they could help themselves. BC Epilepsy Society programs and services today remain true to Dr. Auckland's original vision of support & education.

## WHAT IS EPILEPSY?

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Epilepsy is a medical condition that causes recurring seizures. An epileptic seizure is the sudden, brief and temporary disturbance of electrical activity in the brain. It has been found that 1 in 10 people will experience a seizure at some point during their lifetime and that 1 in 100 people will develop epilepsy at some point during their lifetime. Epilepsy affects approximately 1% of the population, with over 65 million people living with epilepsy worldwide; over 380,000 people living with epilepsy in Canada; and over 50,000 people living with epilepsy in British Columbia.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The BC Epilepsy Society has a volunteer Board of Directors that develops and leads our strategic direction. The BC Epilepsy Society Board of Directors oversee several working committees that help implement strategic plans with the support of staff. The Board consists of the following individuals:

- Trevor Young, MBA - Chair
- Dan O'Brien, CPA, CA - Treasurer
- Dr. Harinder Dhaliwal, MBBS, FRCPC - PAC Chair
- Steven Fruitman, LLB - Director
- Jacci Sandler, BSocSci - Director
- Kasi Lubin, BA - Director
- Sal Toor, MBA - Director
- Shannon Walker, BA, MA - Director
- Jennifer Pearson - Director
- Deirdre Syms, PLP, CPHR, MSc, AKC - Executive Director

## PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

The PAC is the BC Epilepsy Society's longest-standing committee, comprised of a team of members, each playing a professional role across a variety of disciplines involving epilepsy, who volunteer their time to assess and revise our resources, programs, and services to keep them current and accurate. The PAC consists of the following members:

- Dr. Harinder Dhaliwal, MBBS, FRCPC - PAC Chair
- Dr. Mary Connolly MB, BCh, BAO, FRCP(C), FRCP(I), FRCP(Edin)
- Dr. Chantelle Hrazdil, MD, FRCPC
- Dr. Anita Datta, MD, FRCPC
- Dr. Jing Ee Tan, PhD, ABPP-CN
- Dr. Linda Huh, MD, FRCPC
- Dr. Jennifer Percy, MD, FRCPC
- Dr. Cyrus Boelman, MD, FRCPC
- Dr. Harjinder Parwana, BSc(Pharm), ACPR, PharmD
- Jocelyn Collin, RN, BSN

## BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY STAFF

- Deirdre Syms, PLP, CPHR, MSc, AKC - Executive Director
- Sonia Ali, BA, MPH - Provincial Manager of Programs and Services
- Jas Lachar, MSW, RSW - Support Services Coordinator
- Christine Jamieson - Epilepsy Outreach and Education Coordinator
- Paul Naswell - Film and Media Specialist
- Jacquoline Martin - Community Partners Coordinator
- Erin Turton - Administrative Assistant
- Ronda Foden - Bookkeeper
- Chris Lal - Epilepsy Peer Support Lead



# IN LOVING MEMORY OF SHAUN RODGERS

## 04/27/1967 - 04/22/2023

**In 2023, the BC Epilepsy Society suffered a tremendous loss with the sudden passing of our friend and board member, Shaun Rodgers.**

**Shaun was born in Quesnel, BC and spent his formative years in Campbell River, BC, before moving to the Vancouver area to attend University.**

**Shaun completed a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, a Bachelor of Education, and a Masters degree in Counselling. In addition to being book-smart and very adept in mathematics, Shaun also possessed a high emotional intelligence, providing the framework for an excellent and highly empathetic teacher.**

**Shaun started his career at Earl Marriott Secondary as a youth care worker in 1996 and returned to teach there until June 2022. He then transferred to Grandview Heights Secondary in September 2022. He loved teaching and possessed an innate ability to establish positive relationships with his students and colleagues. Many of his former colleagues, students and their parents have shared what a positive impact he has had on their lives.**

**Shaun was a wonderful man whose gift for connecting with people enabled him to maintain a close bond with his large extended family and friends and he will be missed greatly.**



# CONGRATULATIONS TO BCES STAFF FOR THEIR HAPPY NEWS IN 2023!

In October 2023, our Support Services Coordinator, Jas Lachar, and her husband welcomed their first child. Congratulations to Jas and your family!

In December 2023, our Epilepsy Outreach and Education Coordinator, Christine Jamieson, and her husband welcomed their first child. Congratulations to Christine and your family!

In December 2023, our Provincial Manager of Programs and Services, Sonia Ali got married. Congratulations to Sonia and your family!





# PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## NON-CLINICAL SUPPORT SERVICES:

Our staff provide non-clinical support services to people living with epilepsy and their family, friends, and loved ones across the province through one-on-one meetings that provide them with assistance with finding resources and community services; information on seizure education, safety planning, and epilepsy self-management strategies; and peer counselling for people living with epilepsy and their loved ones.

We help guide you, whether you are new or well known to us, through diagnosis and life transitions with evidence-based strategies to foster self-sufficiency and resiliency. In other words, we are with you every step of the way.

## CONNECTING WITH OTHERS:

The BC Epilepsy Society offers people living with epilepsy and their families, friends, and loved ones the opportunity to meet other inspirational people who truly understand life with epilepsy. Whether we are laughing together or sharing tips and tricks we have learned along the way, connecting with others makes the journey much more fun! In 2023, we offered the following groups:

- In-Person Peer Support Group
- Adult Support Group
- BC Epilepsy Youth Network
- BC Epilepsy Parents Network
- Family Peer Group
- Young Adult Peer Group
- Epilepsy Surgery Group

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**IT'S A PLACE TO MEET YOUR PEOPLE!**  
BC Epilepsy Society Group Participant

## PROJECT UPLIFT:

Project UPLIFT (Using Practice and Learning to Increase Favourable Thoughts) teaches mental health coping skills to people living with epilepsy, using cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and mindfulness to help people living with epilepsy better manage mental health and teaches many valuable skills that have been proven to improve depression, stress, anxiety, psychological well-being, and quality of life in people living with epilepsy.

In 2023, we continued to offer this program, which is an 8-week program with sessions facilitated by a trained facilitator and a mental health professional, one of whom must live with epilepsy. We also had some of our staff members undergo training for the program so that they could offer it in the future.

## NEW DIAGNOSIS PROGRAM:

In 2023, we continued to offer our New Diagnosis Program which provides interactive sessions that gives participants (whether they have been newly diagnosed with epilepsy or have had epilepsy for a while) the opportunity to learn more about their epilepsy and the practical matters they will need to know, combining medical information with practical recommendations from the real-life experiences of facilitators living with epilepsy.

# PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## PARTNERS IN TEACHING EPILEPSY WORKSHOPS:

Through our Partners in Teaching program, the BC Epilepsy Society delivers free educational workshops to schools, workplaces, and other organizations across BC. Our workshops focus on facts and myths about epilepsy and seizures; how to recognize and respond to a seizure, including the steps of seizure first aid; and other safety considerations to do with epilepsy and seizures.

Workshops specific to schools include information on the psychosocial implications of living with epilepsy, including the potential impacts on learning and behaviour and workshops specific to workplaces discuss sample workplace accommodations for people living with epilepsy. In addition, resource kits containing educational and informational materials are provided to each group.

We are excited about the growth of this program year after year.



**YOUR PRESENTATION GARNERED HIGH PRAISE FROM  
OUR MEMBERS, WHO WERE DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE  
WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE YOU SHARED.**

*Partners in Teaching Participant*

## HOBSCOTCH:

In 2023, we continued to offer the HOBSCOTCH (HOMe-Based Self-management and COgnitive Training CHanges lives) program and had more staff members trained in this program. HOBSCOTCH is a behavioral program designed to address memory and attention problems in adults with epilepsy. This program is designed to help adults with epilepsy find ways to manage and cope with memory and attention problems in order to lead happier, more productive lives and has been shown to be effective for adults with epilepsy who are experiencing memory problems.



**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE WONDERFUL  
PROGRAM. I REALLY ENJOYED MY TIME IN THE GROUP!**

*BC Epilepsy Society Member*



# PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY BURSARY PROGRAM:

Bursaries for post-secondary education are awarded by the BC Epilepsy Society annually to people living with epilepsy to use towards an array of post-secondary educational and trade school opportunities. We have awarded a total of 84 bursaries since 2007.

## BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY CAMP SUBSIDIES PROGRAM:

Camp subsidies awarded annually by the BC Epilepsy Society to give children and youth living with epilepsy the opportunity to go to accessible summer camp programs. This allows these children and youth to learn and grow as individuals and gain meaningful connections with others.

## RESOURCES - INFORMATION SHEETS:

The BC Epilepsy Society website is home to over 75 Information Sheets on a wide range of topics related to epilepsy, available in English and translated into five additional languages.

## RESOURCES - BLOG AND SOCIAL MEDIA:

In 2022, we created regular blogs posts on both the blog section and the Christine's Corner section on the BC Epilepsy Society website and uploaded regular social media posts across four social media platforms - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn - on a variety of epilepsy-related topics.

## COMMUNITY PARTNER - KIDS UP FRONT:

This partnership of over 10 years builds community by allowing us to offer children and youth living with epilepsy and their families the opportunity to receive access to tickets for recreational, educational, entertainment, and sports events at no charge.



THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO AND [THE] HELP [YOU'VE PROVIDED]  
THROUGH THE TIME I'VE MET YOU!

*BC Epilepsy Society Member*

# I'M STILL STANDING FUNDRAISER

## IN FEBRUARY 2023, THE BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY HELD THE I'M STILL STANDING FUNDRAISER

On February 7, 2023, through our *I'm Still Standing Fundraiser*, the BC Epilepsy Society embarked on a journey of creating a much-needed epilepsy mental wellness program to help the lives of people living with and affected by epilepsy in British Columbia.

We ended up raising much needed funds to begin our epilepsy mental wellness program that will help us attain our goal of providing one-on-one counselling services to address the needs of people living with and affected by epilepsy.

We truly appreciate the support of our organizers, staff, volunteers, sponsors, donors, funders, speakers, and attendees who helped us change the epilepsy mental wellness landscape in British Columbia!



*I'm Still Standing*  
FUNDRAISER FOR MENTAL WELLNESS





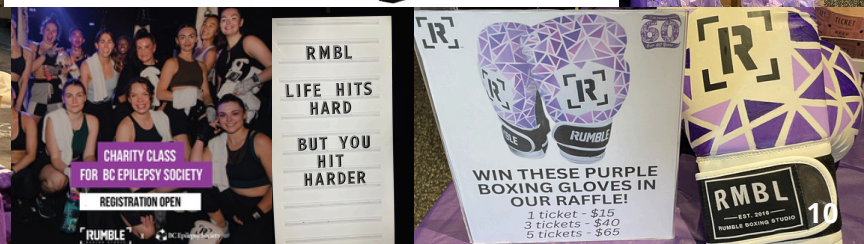
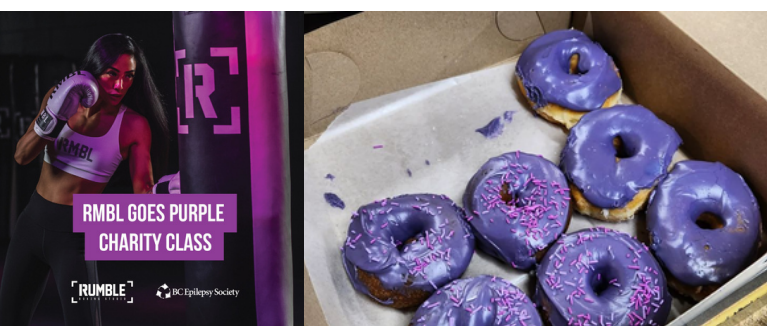
# RUMBLE GOES PURPLE FOR EPILEPSY AWARENESS

## IN MARCH 2023, RUMBLE BOXING STUDIO PARTNERED WITH BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY FOR THEIR RUMBLE GOES PURPLE INITIATIVE

In honour of March being Epilepsy Awareness Month (also known as Purple Month) and March 26th being International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness, Rumble Boxing Studio partnered with BC Epilepsy Society through their *Rumble Goes Purple* initiative.

Rumble Boxing put on charity heavy bag classes that raised funds for the BC Epilepsy Society and also raised the awareness of epilepsy in the community.

Each class featured goodie bags that included limited edition epilepsy awareness boxing wraps created by Fight Cartel as well as delicious post-class eats and drinks!



# RIDE 4 EPILEPSY CHARITY BIKE RIDE

IN AUGUST 2023, CHRIS WINWOOD, A CYCLIST LIVING WITH EPILEPSY PUT ON THE RIDE 4 EPILEPSY TO RAISE AWARENESS OF EPILEPSY AND FUNDS FOR EPILEPSY IN NORTHERN BC

Through the *Ride 4 Epilepsy Charity Bike Ride*, Chris and his team cycled from Prince George, BC to Jasper, AB to raise awareness of epilepsy. Chris is passionate about building an epilepsy community in Northern BC and generously donated the money raised from the *Ride 4 Epilepsy Charity Bike Ride* to the BC Epilepsy Society

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I WANT TO RAISE MONEY FOR EPILEPSY IN THE NORTH AND FOR THE NORTH. I WANT TO HELP CREATE A STRONG, DIVERSE, AND POSITIVE COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY SO THAT THEY CAN FIND OTHER PEOPLE WHO ALSO HAVE EPILEPSY AND SHARE THEIR STORIES AND LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER, FIND STRENGTH IN ONE ANOTHER, AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER. I WANT TO CREATE A COMMUNITY TO SAY THE THINGS I WASN'T TOLD WHEN I STARTED MY JOURNEY THAT THE LIFE I WANTED TO LIVE WAS NOT OUT OF REACH. THAT I COULD RIDE INTO BETTER TOMORROW AND I PLAN ON DOING THAT AGAIN WITH THIS RIDE AND ALL FUTURE RIDES GOING FORWARD.

-Chris Winwood





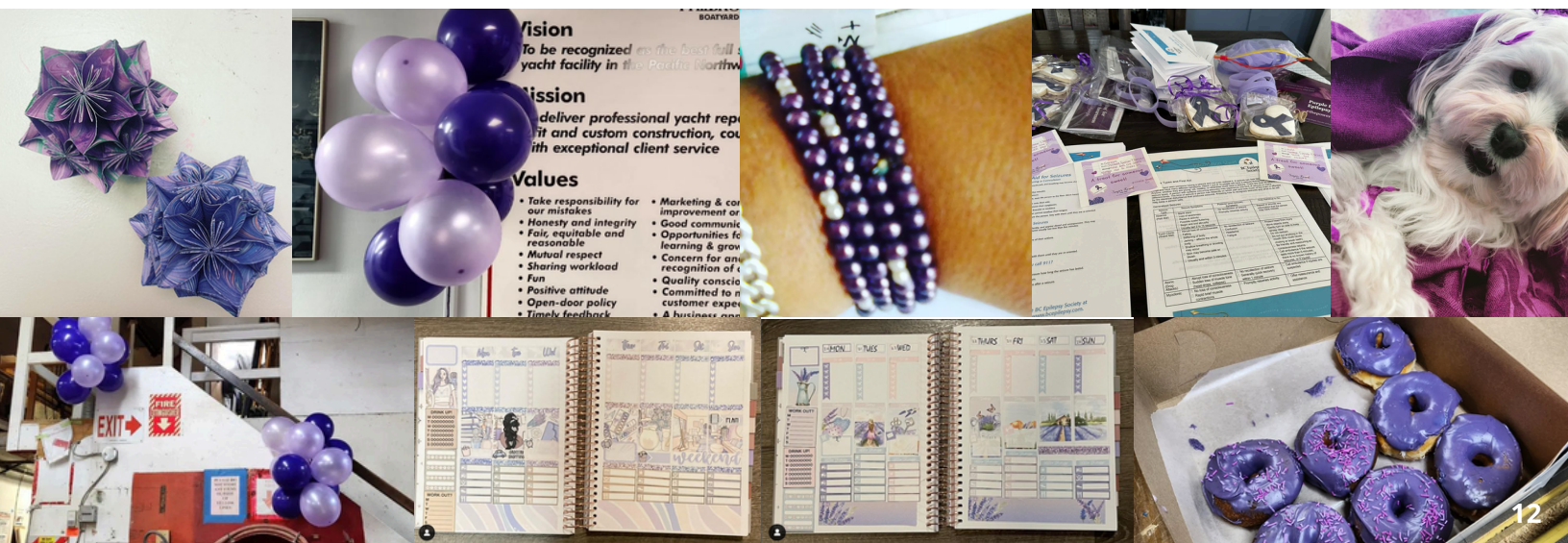
# BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY CONTESTS

## EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH CONTEST:

March is Epilepsy Awareness Month (also known as Purple Month), which culminates on International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness being held annually on March 26th.

To mark the occasion, we held our *#ShowYourPurple Contest* on social media where people entered by posting a photo of the “purple” thing they did to celebrate Epilepsy Awareness Month/Purple Month and International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness.

Everyone that entered this contest was placed into a draw where they had the chance to win a gift card!





# BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY CONTESTS

## BCES PUMPKIN CONTEST:

In 2023, we brought back our *BCES Pumpkin Contest* from 2021 and 2022.

We invited people to help us raise awareness of epilepsy during the month of October in honour of Halloween.

To enter, people could either carve an epilepsy-related pumpkin or paint a pumpkin with purple paint and send a photo to us.

We received many amazing photos of pumpkins painted purple and with epilepsy-related carvings.

Everyone that entered was placed into a draw and one lucky winner was picked to win a gift card!

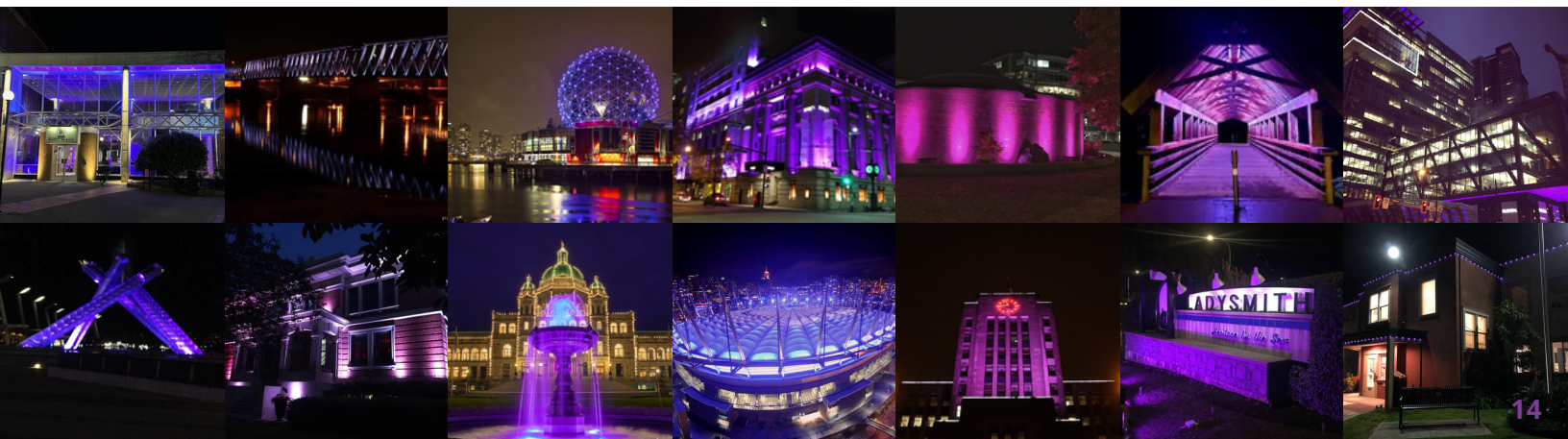


# BCES IN THE COMMUNITY

## International Purple Day® for Epilepsy Awareness

**Proclamations:** Places across British Columbia proclaimed International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness including the Province of British Columbia, the City of Campbell River, the District of Central Saanich, the Village of Chase, the City of Courtenay, the Town of Creston, the Township of Esquimalt, the Town of Gibson, the District of Hudson's Hope, the Town of Ladysmith, the City of Langford, the District of Mackenzie, the City of Mission, the City of Nanaimo, the City of New Westminster, the District of North Saanich, the District of Oak Bay, the City of Port Coquitlam, the Village of Pouce Coupe, the City of Powell River, the City of Prince George, the City of Prince Rupert, the City of Richmond, the District of Sechelt, the District of Sicamous, the District of Sooke, the District of Squamish, the City of Trail, the City of Vancouver, the City of Victoria, the Town of View Royal, and the City of Williams Lake!

**Illuminations:** Every year on International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness, buildings and landmarks light up purple in support of epilepsy awareness. In 2022, the Skytrain Pillars at Metrotown Skytrain Station in Burnaby, the Kinnaird Interchange Overpass in Castlegar, Colwood Fire Rescue in Colwood, Lafarge Lake fountain, the Skytrain Guiding Lights and the Light Pillar at Pinetree Way in Coquitlam, the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre in Dawson Creek, the World's Largest Hockey Stick and Puck in Duncan, the Archie Browning Sports Centre and Esquimalt Adventure Park in Esquimalt, the City Hall clock tower in Grand Forks, the Heartbeat Light Structure at the Arts + Innovation Hub in Granville Island, Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops, Kelowna Visitor Centre in Kelowna, Municipal Hall in Kent, City Hall and the Town Sign in Ladysmith, Douglas Spirit Square in Langley, Mackenzie Recreation Centre in Mackenzie, the Nanaimo Bastion in Nanaimo, City Hall in New Westminster, City Hall and the Civic & Technology Centre in Parksville, City Hall in Port Coquitlam, the Marquee Sign in Port Hardy, City Hall in Port Moody, the Mr. PG Statue in Prince George, the Fraser River Footbridge in Quesnel, the Municipal Tower in Sechelt, the Roundabout Structure in Sicamous, Civic Plaza in Surrey, Victoria Street Bridge in Trail, the District Sign in Ucuelet, BC Place, the Bentall Centre, the Bloedel Conservatory, the Burrard Street Bridge, the Canada Place Sails of Light, City Hall, the Convention Centre, the Olympic Cauldron, Telus Garden, Science World, in Vancouver, the BC Parliament Building and City Hall in Victoria, the lights at the pier in White Rock, Fitzsimmons Creek Bridge in Whistler, and City Hall in Williams Lake were illuminated in purple lights for PURPLE DAY®!





# BCES IN THE COMMUNITY

## BC Epilepsy Society at the Vancouver Sun Run

In 2023, the BC Epilepsy Society became a charity partner of the Vancouver Sun Run for the first time.

This involved us receiving donations from individuals signing up to take part in the Vancouver Sun Run as well as donations made directly to our Vancouver Sun Run Fund.

Not only that, but the BC Epilepsy Society had a wonderful team of walkers and runners taking part in the Vancouver Sun Run on April 16, 2023!

The BC Epilepsy Society was excited to be partnering with the Vancouver Sun Run. The passion, energy, and support from the Vancouver Sun Run and all of its participants will help us in our mission of supporting the over 50,000 people living with epilepsy in BC and their families, friends, and loved ones and raising awareness of epilepsy in the community and around the world. The incredible support of donors like you allows this important work to continue. On behalf of everyone at the BC Epilepsy Society, we thank you for your support.





# BCES IN THE COMMUNITY

## BC Epilepsy Society at the Burnaby Pride Festival!

In July 2023, the BC Epilepsy Society had a booth at the Burnaby Pride Festival held at Burnaby Civic Square.

At this event, BC Epilepsy Society staff and volunteers were able to raise epilepsy awareness by handing out information and resources on epilepsy and talking about epilepsy with the public.

We also loved meeting many members of the community and talking with them about what we do in the community!





# BCES IN THE COMMUNITY

## BC Epilepsy Society celebrates 64th Anniversary with Sail for Epilepsy!

In August 2023, the BC Epilepsy Society partnered with Sail for Epilepsy to celebrate our 64th Anniversary at an event where we got to listen to the inspirational epilepsy journey of Dr. Phil Haydon, the President of Sail for Epilepsy and the Chair of Neuroscience at Tufts University School of Medicine and learn why he's sailing the oceans of the world.

Attendees also got to the chance to participate in empowering family-friendly nautical activities for all ages and abilities, including a knot-tying demonstration and the creation of flags for Phil's ship.

All of us also got to take the One More Step Challenge to become a Sail For Epilepsy Virtual Shipmate!



Angela Malea Taryn Lynn Laura David John Ahmed Eryn Megan Samantha Donna Joseph  
Elizabeth Johnny Nicole Anja Tyler Amy Mackenzie Edward Brian Kate Jenny Bill Bruce Manuel  
Andrew Robin Megan Carlos Monica Farooq Heather Derek Kelly Randy Yousuf Alyssa Cristina  
Garett Arman Francine Jacquoline Grey Deirdre Cindy Andrew Sonia Jude Lane Beth Ellie  
Kristen Owen Matt Addie Judi Rosmeri Isabel Thalia James  
Isabella Stephen Baltaus Mengot Eamon Sophie Laura Geoffrey  
David Chris Greg Kelly Susan John Corin Cassidy Gabe  
Babette Jacqueline Peter Melanie Andria Monica Freya Joshua  
Evelyn Michael Ellerie Vanessa Paige Marines Suzanne Maimona  
Ashley Alexandra Mason Sonia Julia Corin Jeff Kelly Baxter Holly Max Christine  
Patricia Hamza Daniele Lisa Amy Danny Cristina Carla Marlin Jessie Kayla Parker Adrian Gregory  
Carolina Aaron Vincent Stanley Alynn Em-Rose Jane Jennifer Danny Joaquim Irma Odete Gabi



# BCES IN THE COMMUNITY

## BC Epilepsy Society Partners with Maan Farms

In October 2023, the BC Epilepsy Society partnered with Maan Farms Country Experience & Estate Winery for an epilepsy awareness campaign where they created a purple pumpkin display to raise awareness of epilepsy in the community and to raise funds for the BC Epilepsy Society. The result was this beautiful display of purple for all to see at Maan Farms!





# BCES IN THE COMMUNITY

## Congrats to Alex Russell, our Epilepsy Ambassador!

In November 2023, the Rugby Canada Senior Men's Sevens Team (including Alex Russell, our amazing Epilepsy Ambassador) won the Bronze medal at the 2023 Pan American Games after a win against the USA.

Alex is a person affected by epilepsy, being the brother to a sister living with epilepsy and is also a player on Rugby Canada's Seniors Men's Sevens Team.

In 2023, in addition to winning the bronze medal, he took part as a speaker at our I'm Still Standing Fundraiser for Mental Wellness and took part in our 2022 AGM in June 2023.

Congratulations to Alex and the rest of the team! We couldn't be prouder of you!





# BCES IN THE COMMUNITY

## Congrats to Kate O'Brien, our Epilepsy Ambassador!

In December 2023, Kate O'Brien, our amazing Epilepsy Ambassador, and her wife, Meghan Grant, welcomed their first child. Congratulations to Kate and Meghan for your new bundle of joy. We couldn't be happier for you!





# BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY 2024 AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

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## 2024 CHAMPION FOR CHANGE AWARD

The BC Epilepsy Society is pleased to announce that Jacci and Brett Sandler are the recipients of our 2024 Champion for Change Award.

In 2023, Jacci and Brett were the powerhouses behind our I'm Still Standing Fundraiser! They worked countless hours organizing every aspect of this fabulous fundraiser, including organizing the gala committee, seeking out sponsors and donors, sourcing items for the auction, and acting as hosts during the event itself. With their incredible support, we were able to raise much-needed funds for our epilepsy mental wellness program!

Congratulations Jacci and Brett! We can't wait to continue working with you in the future!



BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY  
2024 AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

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## 2024 COMMUNITY SPIRIT CORPORATE AWARD

The BC Epilepsy Society is pleased to announce that Onni Group is the recipient of our 2024 Community Spirit Corporate Award.

Onni Group was the Presenting Sponsor for our I'm Still Standing Fundraiser in February 2023. They helped us raise much-needed funds for our epilepsy mental wellness program. We are so grateful for their incredible support.

Congratulations to Onni Group! We are excited to continue working with you in the future!





# BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY 2024 AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

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## 2024 PURPLE HEART AWARD

The BC Epilepsy Society is pleased to announce that Eliza Woods is the recipient of our 2024 Purple Heart Award for exemplary youth in the community.

In 2023, Eliza organized a rugby tournament for her Grade 11 Capstone Project where each team submitted information about epilepsy to enter.

The tournament was an amazing afternoon of talented women playing great rugby and it proved that a diagnosis of epilepsy doesn't have to stop a person from doing what they love to do.

Congratulations Eliza! We can't wait to continue working with you in the future!





# DONORS, FUNDERS & SPONSORS

Adam Boyer	Dominique and Matthew Kowalczyk	Kate Binns	Rachelle Potter
Adam Fitzgerald	Don Craigdallie	Katherine Xu	Raman Sidhu
Adam Suban-Loewen	Donald MacRitchie	Kathleen Landry	Randy Chapman
Adam Williamson	Donna Charlene Hay	Kelly March	Raymond Anderson
Adeelah Saad	Donna Forsyth	Ken Myers	Rebecca Neal
Aileen Hernandez	Donna Moore	Kevin Schill	Rebecca Staffanson
Aimee Lydon	Donna Popovich	Kevin Wang	Regard Hulsbos
Al Schadlich	Doug Grant	Kim Gagnon	Renata Vieira Ferreira
Alan Hancock	Eamon OKeefe	Kim Park	Richard Harmon
Alex Carmichael	Edwin Forbes	Kim Sangha	Ring Zheng
Alex Cristall	Eimear Lyons	Kingswood Capital Corporation	RLA Insurance Services Inc.
Alexandra Philbrook	Elaina Tom	Kris Garbet	Rob Watt
Ali Pejman	Elaine Picher	Krishna Yeragudipati	Robbie McDermid
Alice Trommel	Elena and Jason Smith	Kyley Jeck	Robert Emery
Alissandra De Moura Gomes	Elizabeth Barnett	Lance Parker	Robert Kraft
Altus Group	Elizabeth Davidson	Laura Bullock	Robyn Wiebe
Aman Gill	Emma McKeen	Lawdell Services Limited	Ron Paquette
Amor Gianelli Lavarez	Envision Financial	Partnership	Rosa Levac
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Anastasija Sparynjakova	Evolve Sport and Cycle	Leah Methuen	Royal Bank of Canada
Andrea Somerville	First National Financial LP	Leona Patrick	Sabrina Ramzan
Angela and Douglas Einarson	Francesca Furlanetto	Linda Morgan	Sadick Mawiya
Anita Dodd	Frank Seager	Lindsay Reid	Sally & Wilfrid Mennell
Anita Vermeer	Garry Logan	Lisa Gagnon	Sandy Yen
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Anne Bockman-Cobban	Genny Veloso	Lokesh Chaudhry, Inc.	Sara Shaw
Anne Weir	Geoffrey Wheelwright	Lyle Frizzell-Croy	Sasko Taskov
Anwar Dhanani	George Meek	Lynne Fehr	Scotiabank
Aon Canada Inc.	Gerry Knetchel	Magellan Law	Sean White
Ashley McCrae	Gillian Charpentier	Maimona Elwan	Sebastien Davies
Austin Rae	Gloria Trimble	Mainland Group of Companies	Sepehr (Sam) Saadati
Beatriz Pardo-Bonilla	Dr. Harinder Dhaliwal	Mandy Samra	Shanaia Meyer
Ben Angus	Harold Sanders	Margaret Tse	Sharon Alexander
Ben Jansen	Harry Woodhouse	Maria Skyes	Sharon McCrae
Benjamin Colussi	Heather Crandall	Mariah Schuurman	Sharon Street
Blaine Bowe	Heather Hiebert	Marilou Bordeleau	Shawn Kishi
Blue Sky Properties	Hilary Van Cuylenborg	Marilyn Anderson	Sheila Dumont
Bonnie C. Schmelke	Hillary Kimberly Ching	Mario Soriano	Sheila Kirkwood
Borden Ladner Gervais LLP	Hollyburn Family Services	Mark Curtis	Shelley Huebner
Borja Montilla Revilla	Howard Young	Mark Monahan	Shirley Syms
Brandon May	HSBC	Mark Rosengarten	Slade Young
Brian Flower	Ibis Nolasco Canales	Markus Toolsie-Worsnup	Sofia Kowalczyk
Brittney Driver	Interior Savings Credit Union	Martin Fletcher	Sonam Mahun
Caley Denton	Irlana Bondar	Mary Bert	Sonia Ali
Cameron Stolz	Jacci and Brett Sandler	Maryam Selhivaziri	Sonja Schutz
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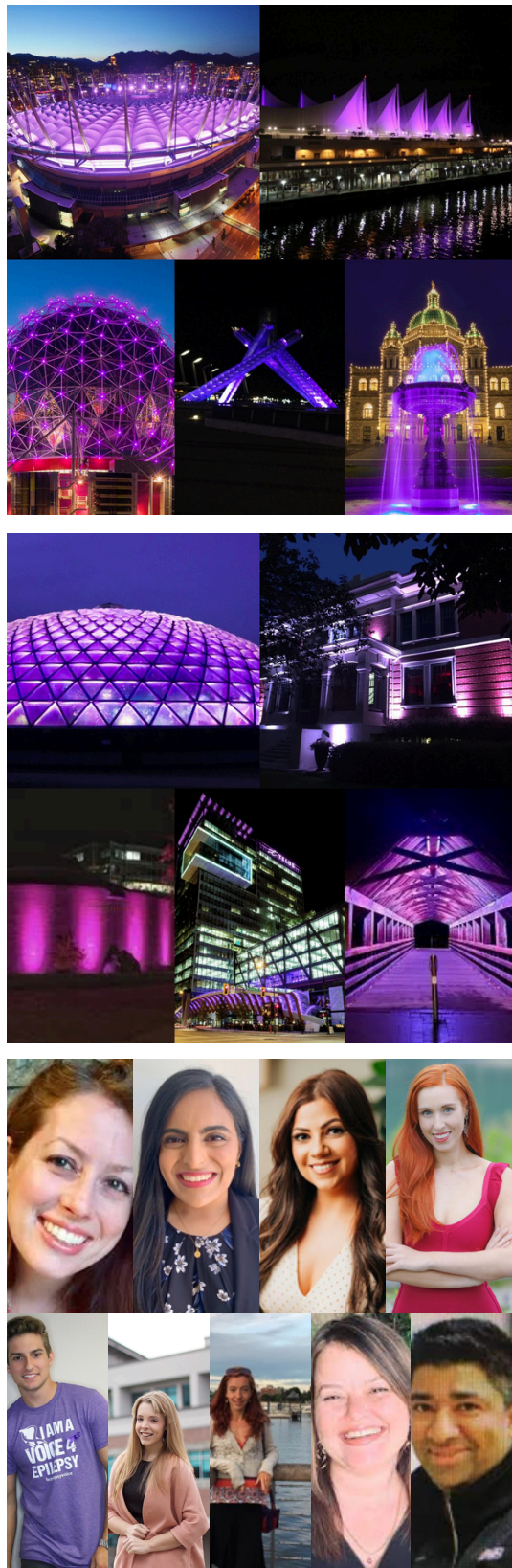
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I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED THIS INCREDIBLE ORGANIZATION FROM THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN OUR PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND EVENTS, TO THOSE WHO DEDICATE THEMSELVES TO VOLUNTEERING OR WORKING WITH US. WE HAVE A TEAM WHO IS HERE BECAUSE THEY LOVE IT AND I AM SO HONOURED TO WORK WITH THEM! WE ARE ALSO INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL TO THOSE WHO DO SO MUCH TO SUPPORT US THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS, FRIENDSHIPS OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT. TOGETHER WE ARE BUILDING SOMETHING SPECIAL!

*-Deirdre Syms, BC Epilepsy Society Executive Director*



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