Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Ruth Wilcock
Executive Director of OBIA

Barbara Claman
President of the Board, Ex-Officio of all Committees

Alice Bellavance
Co - Vice President, Fund Development Committee, Government Relations Committee, Nominating Committee, Quality Improvement Committee

Sabrina Chagani
Co - Vice President, Nominating Committee

Brad Borkwood
Treasurer, Finance Committee

Dr. Debby Vigoda
Corporate Secretary, Finance Committee

Directors

Christina Cunningham
Fund Development Committee

Wendy Charbonneau
OBIA Advisory Council Co-Chair, Nominating Committee

Mary Lou Dalaire
OBIA Advisory Council Representative, Fund Development

Roger Foisy
Fund Development Committee, Government Relations Committee

Wendy Charbonneau
OBIA Advisory Council Co-Chair, Nominating Committee

Caron Gan
Government Relations Committee

Jane Grech
Fund Development Committee

Zeenat Khoja
Government Relations Committee, Quality Improvement Committee

Chrisanthi (Chrissy) Lefkimmiatis
Quality Improvement Committee

Keith Lindsay
Fund Development Committee

Nancy Nicholson
Finance Committee

Veronica Pepper
Government Relations Committee, Quality Improvement Committee

Tim Slykhuis
OBIA Advisory Council Representative, Government Relations Committee

Dr. Mary-Ellen Thompson
OBIA Advisory Council Co-Chair, Quality Improvement Committee

Hazel Wood
Fund Development Committee, Government Relations Committee
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I’m happy to welcome you all to the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Brain Injury Association. Your presence here is a testimony to your interest in, involvement with and commitment to OBIA and we sincerely thank you for that.

Shortly after I arrived in Ontario in the mid-1980s the Ontario Government determined that those folks who had previously resided in Ontario and who had sustained an ABI but were receiving rehabilitation in the United States would be “repatriated” to Ontario. This meant that they would be closer to home, family, friends and their natural support networks; however, the province did not have the resources to provide the necessary rehabilitation and support services people required.

At that time, Ray Rempel, whose son Jeremy had sustained injuries, partnered with a group in Ottawa and initiated the beginnings of OBIA. In fact, he served as Executive Director of OBIA from 1986 until September of 1993. His intention was to establish strategic priorities that would heighten awareness and develop a unified provincial voice for ABI. I met Ray and became involved with OBIA in 1989-1990, when I presented at the first OBIA “New Beginnings” conference. As they say, thus began the start of something great; however, it wasn’t always great. It was a challenging time as people returned from rehabilitation in the USA and found that in Ontario, acquired brain injury was literally unknown! And, as you all know, anything worth doing goes through serious growing pains. These growing pains resulted in John Kumpf, the Executive Director of OBIA from 1998-2010, launching an intensive campaign to bring local Brain Injury Associations together in a collaborative relationship with OBIA with a shared vision. I was at that time serving as the President of the Four Counties Brain Injury Association (FCBIA) Board of Directors and met John when he, the FCBIA Executive Director and members of the board met with him to discuss our professional relationship with OBIA and he presented the idea of affiliated community associations. Today 21 local associations are “affiliated” with OBIA.

A few years prior to his retirement, John asked if I would be interested in applying for a position on the Board of Directors and thus began my involvement with OBIA as a Board member. As you know, for the last eight years, Ruth Wilcock has served as the Executive Director of OBIA. What has occurred is that John created a solid foundation and Ruth, her team and the Board of Directors have spent the last eight years building on that foundation. OBIA’s development has been significant.

Over the past 30 years, OBIA has grown to be a leader in the field of ABI; it is seen as highly influential, involved with the government on a number of levels, a participant in numerous provincial committees and the recipient of numerous grants and research funds. OBIA’s opinions are not only heard but sought out. The accomplishments over the years have been numerous; too numerous to list here; but the vision and values have remained the same.

“to enhance the lives of Ontarians living with the effects of acquired brain injury through education, awareness, and support.”

On a final note, I need to report that, as per the policy relating to the tenure of Directors on the Board, after nine years of serving on the OBIA Board, Dr. Debbie Vigoda, Nancy Nicholson and my terms have come to an end! The Board thanks Debbie and Nancy for their extraordinary commitment and contribution, as well as their wisdom and guidance throughout their tenure. Veronica Pepper is leaving the Board as well after 3 years, as is Wendy Charbonneau who is retiring. They will be sorely missed. I am, however, confident that the new members of the Board will bring with them fresh energy and significant talent that will facilitate continued enhancement of services in Ontario. In 2017, the Board welcomed the following new Directors:

• Christina Cunningham - with expertise in the areas of Marketing and IT
• Caron Gan - with expertise in the areas of Pediatric Brain Injury & Family
• Zeenat Khoja - with expertise in the areas of Financial & Business Management and IT
• Chrissy Lefkimiatis - with expert Clinical & Research Skills
• Keith Lindsay - with expert Clinical & Business Skills

BARBARA CLAIMAN
BOARD PRESIDENT
It has been a privilege to have been indirectly and directly involved with OBIA for more than 30 years and to have served on the Board of Directors for nine of those years. I leave feeling that I have been a participant in extraordinary growth and change in “enhancing the lives of Ontarians living with the effects of acquired brain injury.”

Thank you for the opportunity and absolute pleasure of working with the OBIA Board of Directors and the most excellent operational team.

Barbara Claiman, M.A., RRP MCVP
President of the OBIA Board of Directors
Brian’s poem is a wonderful reminder that in all of the work OBIA engages in, our core principle remains the same—how can we better support people living with brain injury? This principle can never be lost; it is and must always remain at the forefront of everything we do.

OBIA’s mission is to enhance the lives of those living with brain injury through education, awareness and support. OBIA continues to be a leader in educating professionals who are working in home and community based rehabilitation with close to 460 people attending our programs this year alone. Additionally, almost 700 people attended our Provincial ABI Conference, held in collaboration with our affiliated community associations, making it the largest ABI conference in Canada.

Although great strides have been made to bring awareness to brain injury, there is still much work to be done. This past year we continued to bring to the forefront the correlation between domestic violence and brain injury through our Concussion Hits Home Campaign. Through a new partnership with the Ontario Brain Institute, we hosted a symposium in Toronto, which was live-streamed on TVO.

Another new and exciting initiative this past year was the Unmasking Brain Injury (UBI) Project. UBI is an international movement and Ontario has become the first province in Canada to participate. Through the unmasking project, hundreds of people living with brain injuries are making the invisible injury, visible, by unmasking their stories through an artistic display of masks that represent their personal journeys. OBIA disseminated over 1400 masks to 28 participating brain injury associations and organizations across the province.

Support continues to be at the heart of OBIA and the work of OBIA’s support services includes, the 1-800 helpline, personal advocacy, peer support, online concussion support group, public involvement (including systemic advocacy) and research.

This past year we have been working very hard on several new initiatives that will come into fruition over the next number of years. Through the generous funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, OBIA will be able to grow our Online Concussion Support Group Program and expand our reach by 10 times the amount of our current capacity.

Support, Hope and Resiliency is a new education and training program that we are developing for caregivers of acquired brain injury. Funding from the Ministry of Long-Term Care and Health has provided
the funding for this program. We have more than 42 in-person training programs planned for across the province as well as the development of an online training program.

Another initiative will use the data from survivors and caregivers from the current Research Questionnaire to further OBIA’s ongoing research on brain injury. OBIA is collaborating with the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) and we are looking at how to use this data and build on the current questionnaire to target more specific subjects and areas of interest in the brain injury realm.

In addition, in a unique partnership, ONF and OBIA will be working together on growing a stakeholder engagement network throughout the province.

All of the good work that is being accomplished at OBIA is possible through our incredible staff team. A special thanks to: Ad Lewis (Financial Controller and Assistant Director of Operations), Terry Bartol (Member, Donor and Events Coordinator), Diane Dakiv (Training Program Coordinator), Chad Debison-Larabie (Stakeholder Engagement), Virginia Hack (Advocacy Specialist), Tanya Jewell (Community Engagement Coordinator), Katy Kumar (Support Services), Katie Muirhead (Support Services), Jennifer Norquay (Communications and Special Projects Assistant), Steve Noyes (I.T. Coordinator) and Carla Thoms (Provincial Peer Support Coordinator) for all of their expertise, compassion and caring.

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their dedication, passion and expertise that they bring to the organization. The Board truly functions as a cohesive team and I am privileged to work with them.

Ruth Wilcock
Executive Director, OBIA
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee members:
Barbara Claiman (Ex-officio)             Veronica Pepper
Alice Bellavance (Chair)               Ruth Wilcock
Wendy Charbonneau

The maximum number of Board members as determined by the OBIA Board of Directors is 22, including OAC members. At this time, the Board of Directors has 15 members, and four (4) of those members are non-voting OAC members. Last year a number of people completed their terms on the Board, obliging the Nominating Committee to review the status of the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee found that a few significant areas of Ontario were left unrepresented and OBIA’s mandate requires that we have Board representatives from across the province. As well, the committee observed that there were now gaps in the Board’s areas of expertise; such as legal, public relations, diversity and advocacy.

Advertising, recruitment, interviewing and selection took place during the months of March and April 2017. We were very fortunate to recruit five new board members and welcomed: Christina Cunningham, Caron Gan, Zeenat Khoja, Chrisanthi Lefkimmiatis and Keith Lindsay. Claire Smith from the Ottawa area was also interviewed and we would like to recommend her for ratification to the board this year.

We will be saying farewell to Barbara Claiman, Nancy Nicholson, Debby Vigoda, Wendy Charbonneau and Veronica Pepper. We appreciate their invaluable contributions to the Board ranging anywhere from four to nine years.

Again, I would like to thank the Board Nominating Committee, for their careful deliberation on the skills sets required of a new board member. With the number of retirees this year, recruitment will begin in earnest this fall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Bellavance
Chair, Nominating Committee

FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee members:
Barbara Claiman (Ex-officio)             Roger Foisy
Hazel Wood (Chair)                   Jane Grech
Alice Bellevance                       Ad Lewis
Christina Cunningham                    Keith Lindsay
Mary Lou Dalaire                          Ruth Wilcock

The Fund Development Committee (FDC) reviewed historical Fund Development activities and outcomes. We revised the Terms of Reference to make them clearer, more concise and to clarify responsibilities of staff and board members. In keeping with the governance model, the Executive prepared a Fundraising Work Plan for 2018 – 2019. The plan identifies opportunities related to Sponsorships, Third Party Fundraising opportunities, Corporate Champion Program, Individual and Corporate donors, Business/Home Events, and a Signature Event. The FDC is in the process of working through the plan.

Board members bring with them knowledge and contacts which can facilitate staff efforts at fund raising. The FDC proposed that each board member submit an annual Individual Board Member’s Fund Development Plan. The individual plans will assist the FDC in determining available In-Kind and Financial resources amongst board members.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hazel Wood
Chair, Fund Development Committee
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee members:
Barbara Claiman (Ex-officio)  Chrissy Lefkimmiatisi
Veronica Pepper, (Chair)     Dr. Mary-Ellen Thompson
Alice Bellavance            Ruth Wilcock
Zeenat Khoja

As per the Terms of Reference (TOR), the duties and responsibilities of the Quality Improvement Planning Committee is to monitor the progress of OBIA’s strategic plan through continuous monitoring of performance and outcomes. Other responsibilities can be identified and mandated by the Board of Directors.

The Quality Improvement Planning (QIP) Committee held its first meeting on January 4, 2018. At this meeting the Committee Chair was elected. The Terms of Reference (TOR) were reviewed at the meeting with no changes or amendments. The 2017/18 Quality Plan Narrative was reviewed with minor changes made to reflect the current year. The Strategy Map and the Balance Scorecard for 2018/19 were reviewed. The 2017 - 2018 Strategic Map identifies four primary perspectives: Stakeholders and Clients, Finance, Culture and Governance.

The Objectives, Indicators, Targets and Outcomes of each perspective of the Strategy Map are reflected in the 2018 - 2019 Balance Scorecard. Next steps include bringing the Strategic Plan, Strategy Map and Balance Scorecard to Board Members for review and approval at the next Board meeting. The Quality Committee also met on March 12, 2018 unfortunately there weren’t enough members present to make a quorum.

Moving forward the QIP Committee will meet consistently to continue to support the 2018-2019 Quality Improvement Plan.

Respectfully Submitted,
Veronica Pepper
Chair, Quality Improvement Planning Committee
OBIA ADVISORY COUNCIL (OAC) REPORT

Committee members:
Barbara Claiman (Ex-officio)
Wendy Charbonneau, Co-Chair
Mary Lou Dalaire

Dr. Mary-Ellen Thompson, Co-Chair
Tim Slykhuis
Ruth Wilcock

THE OBIA Advisory Council is comprised of representatives from our 21 affiliated associations across the province. Each association appoints one member with lived experience and one administrative member (usually Executive Director or Board member) to represent them at our four meetings held yearly, either via webcast or in person. Our Co-Chairs and two members with lived experience also attend OBIA Board meetings.

The administrative capacity and organization of our affiliated associations varies across the province, but our goal is to provide educational and informative meetings to support our local associations as they carry out their missions of support, information, advocacy and service at the community level. This year, we had guest speakers from two organizations; Jeff Dobbin and Carolyn Fast shared information and resources on empowering families and individuals to take charge of their futures, and Veronica Utton, a Human Resources Professional from V. Utton and Associates, provided information on the changing labour market and new regulations for employment in Ontario.

One of the main purposes of the OAC is to provide a stronger voice for people living with acquired brain injury and to develop a province-wide program. To this end, the OAC adopted the Unmasking Brain Injury Project, an international movement, which aims to increase understanding of what it is like to live with a brain injury. Those with lived experience create masks to represent their personal experiences, which often remain invisible to others. The OAC supports the mission of this project to promote awareness of the prevalence of brain injury, give a voice to those with lived experience, educate others, demonstrate the many talents of those with lived experience, and help others understand that persons living with a brain injury deserve dignity, respect, compassion and the opportunity to contribute to their communities as valued citizens. We are exceedingly proud of the response from our affiliated associations and congratulate them on their participation. The unveiling took place across Ontario on June 1st and we are truly grateful for this opportunity to celebrate Brain Injury Awareness Month.

Over the past year, our members also participated in the annual conference in Niagara Falls, including serving on the organization and planning committees, acting as volunteers at the conference, and participating in conference events.

Lastly, we at the OAC wish to thank Wendy Charboneau for her dedication to our organization. She has made many trips from Ottawa in all kinds of weather and has truly dedicated herself to improving the lives of those living with acquired brain injury. Thank you for giving brain injury a voice in Ontario and a voice in the Ottawa Valley – we will miss you, but we will remember the lessons you have shared!

We look forward to the future, continuing to make brain injury “visible” on the political and public stage, and supporting our members across the province. Thank you to all our associations for continuing to give brain injury a voice! We look forward to moving forward together!

Respectfully Submitted:
Dr. Mary-Ellen Thompson
Co-chair, OAC

A proud partnership of:

[Logos and text of partner organizations]
OBIA offered the following training programs in brain injury and community-based rehabilitation during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

- **Neurorehabilitation: Assisting Recovery in Everyday Life Following Brain Injury (Level 1)**
- **Children and Youth with Acquired Brain Injury (Level 1)**
- **Advanced Brain Injury Rehabilitation (Level 2)**
- **Brain Basics Training Program - In Community and eLearning**

458 ATTENDED OBIA TRAINING PROGRAMS

2017 - 2018 Community-Based Brain Basics Training Program:

- **Belleville** - hosted by OBIA and Brain Injury Association of Quinte District
- **Orangeville** - hosted by OBIA and Headwaters Acquired Brain Injury Group
- **Sudbury** - hosted by OBIA and Brain Injury Association of Sudbury & District
- **Timmins** - hosted by OBIA and the Seizure & Brain Injury Centre
- **Toronto** - hosted by OBIA and the Brain Injury Society of Toronto
2017 Healthcare Professional Bursary Awards
These bursaries, sponsored by PIA Law, are provided to increase support and encourage healthcare professionals working within the brain and spinal cord injury fields to continue to pursue professional development in the areas of brain injury rehabilitation.

HOSPITAL CLINICIAN Educational Bursary Recipients June 2017

Caron Gan
Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital
Toronto, ON

Penny Welch-West
Parkwood Institute,
St. Joseph’s Health Care
London, ON

Congratulations to our June 2017 winners!

HOSPITAL CLINICIAN Educational Bursary Recipient December 2017

Linda Bunch
Supervisor,
Radiation Therapy
The Ottawa Hospital

Congratulations to our December 2017 winner!

With thanks to the bursary sponsor:
CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

International Concussion Summit
In May 2017, OBIA once again participated in the International Concussion Summit. Guest speakers included Dr. Charles Tator, former Toronto Maple Leaf Captain Wendel Clark and WWE superstar and current brain injury advocate, Chris Nowinski. OBIA was pleased to present at one of the breakout sessions during this conference.

Back to School Conference: Acquired Brain Injury Across the Ages
In September 2017, OBIA, in collaboration with PIA Law, hosted the annual Back to School Conference in Toronto. The proceeds from this conference were donated to OBIA. Also highlighted at this conference were the recipients of the Awards of Excellence in Brain Injury Rehabilitation.

Intimate Partner Violence and Concussion Symposium
In March 2018, OBIA partnered with the Ontario Brain Institute for a Women’s Day Talk at an Intimate Partner Violence Symposium held in Toronto. Guest speakers Dr. Eve Valera, Ruth Wilcock and Deidre Reddick, gave a talk on concussions related to intimate partner violence and how to find information on appropriate care and support programs across Ontario. The talk was moderated by Heather Mallick, staff columnist for the Toronto Star.
2017 Acquired Brain Injury Conference - Making a Difference
In November 2017, OBIA and participating community associations hosted the sixth biennial conference, which saw more than 650 people attend. Keynote speakers included: Dr. Kim Gorgens, Dr. Keith Yeates, Sheila MacDonald, Dr. Eve Valera and Dr. Angela Colantonio, along with a variety of multi-disciplinary educational sessions on diverse topics related to ABI. The goal of the conference was to optimize learning in addition to providing ample opportunity for networking and viewing exhibits. Plans for the 2019 Provincial conference are already underway.
HEIGHTENED **AWARENESS** AND **SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY**

In line with OBIA's strategic priorities to heighten awareness of acquired brain injury and to develop a unified provincial voice for ABI, OBIA takes a very active role in community initiatives, events and provincial committees.

Some of the activities we participated in throughout the year:
- Concussion Clinic Standards Committee
- Ontario Caregiver Coalition
- Ontario Concussion Care Strategy
- Ontario Concussion Prevention Network
- Policy Forum: Ensuring the Right to Supported Decision-Making
- Provincial Acquired Brain Injury Network
- Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee on Special Education Advisory Committees (PAAC on SEAC)
- Ontario Concussion Prevention Network
- Ontario Injury Prevention Practitioners Network
- ONF Data Collection Committee
- ONF ABI Coordinating Committee
- ONF/REPAR: Long term Outcomes for people living in the community with ABI
- HHS Concussion Collaborative
- Caregiver Show
- Rowan’s Law - Bill 149
- Development of five awareness videos
- Canadian Access and Inclusion Project
- Bill 158, Protecting Vulnerable Road Users Act

Skate 4 the Brain

On August 26, 2017, Tyler Stemmler organized the second annual Skate 4 the Brain, a local skateboarding competition to raise funds and awareness of brain injuries (acquired and traumatic). Throughout the last 17 years, Tyler noted OBIA had been there to educate and support him throughout his journey. Tyler felt it was time to give back. His goal was to raise funds and awareness for OBIA so we could continue to educate, provide awareness and support of those living with the effects of brain injuries and their families.

**Neuro-Rehab Services Inc. (NRS) 30th Anniversary**

On October 3, 2017, NRS was thrilled to have many of their community partners join them at Second City Theatre to help celebrate their 30th anniversary, and to pay tribute to OBIA as they too celebrated their 30th anniversary. All proceeds from the event were donated to OBIA.
P4P Planning Network
OBIA has partnered with P4P Planning Network to provide free resources designed to empower people with disabilities, families and caregivers to create meaningful lives and secure futures.

Elder Abuse Ontario
OBIA has partnered with Elder Abuse Ontario (EAO) to work collaboratively on the development of new materials for provincial stakeholders.

HEADWAY HOMES FUND
It is our sincere pleasure to manage this fund every year and to be involved with families trying to improve the quality of life of their loved one living with a severe brain injury.

This year we were happy to distribute the funds: to a young man in Oakville who required a seating system so he could sit without support; assisted a young man in Hammond to provide a mattress topper for his bed. Funds were also distributed to assist in a floor sitter for a young man in Milton.

ONLINE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
OBIA has continued to increase its online community presence in the digital world. Be sure to follow us to stay up to date with everything OBIA is envolved with.
CAPACITY BUILDING & AFFILIATE SUPPORT

We are continually inspired by the work done in communities across the province by our 21 affiliated community brain injury associations.

Helping community brain injury associations to continue their work of supporting people living with brain injuries in their communities, is an important strategic priority for OBIA. This year, through shared activities and joint provincial programs, we are pleased to have been able to disseminate over $311,000 to our affiliated community brain injury associations. Capacity building and affiliate support activities included:

- OBIA Advisory Council (OAC) meetings and workshops
- Board governance training and support
- Strategic planning workshops
- Participation in locally organized conferences and events
- Coordination and administration of the provincial Brain Injury Awareness Month campaign
- Peer Support Program
- Dual Membership
- Directory of Services

OBIA’S JANE HAYMAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Every year OBIA offers scholarships to staff, board members and volunteers of affiliated community brain injury associations to attend OBIA training programs. The purpose of the scholarship program is to build capacity within our affiliates. In 2017, approximately $10,000 in scholarships were granted by OBIA to affiliated community brain injury associations.

COMMUNITY BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATIONS

Belleville
Brain Injury Association of Quinte District

Chatham-Kent
New Beginnings ABI & Stroke Recovery Association

Dufferin County
Headwaters ABI Group (HABI)

Durham Region
Brain Injury Association of Durham

Fort Erie
Brain Injury Association of Fort Erie

Hamilton-Wentworth
Hamilton Brain Injury Association

London and Region
Brain Injury Association of London and Region

Niagara Area
Brain Injury Association of Niagara

North Bay Area
Brain Injury Association of North Bay and Area

Ottawa
Brain Injury Association of Ottawa Valley

Peel-Halton
Brain Injury Association of Peel & Halton

Peterborough Area
Brain Injury Association of Peterborough Region

Sarnia-Lambton
Brain Injury Association of Sarnia-Lambton

Sault Ste. Marie
Brain Injury Association of Sault Ste. Marie & District

Sudbury and District
Brain Injury Association of Sudbury & District

Thunder Bay
Brain Injury Association of Thunder Bay & Area

Timmins
Seizure & Brain Injury Centre

Toronto (GTA)
Brain Injury Society of Toronto

Waterloo-Wellington
Brain Injury Association of Waterloo-Wellington

Windsor-Essex
Brain Injury Association of Windsor and Essex County

York Region
Brain Injury Association of York Region
OBIA HELPLINE

There is hope, there is help!

Whether you have sustained a Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (Concussion), moderate to severe brain injury, you are not alone, we are here to help!

OBIA Helpline provides confidential, emotional support for anyone who needs a caring, compassionate and non-judgmental listening ear.

The Ontario Brain Injury Helpline:
- Provides listening and emotional support to discuss the difficulties and frustrations associated with brain injuries
- Empowers the caller to cope with specific aspects of their life
- Supports families, friends, co-workers as well as professionals who may be supporting survivors and seeking information
- Is responsive to the needs of persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences
- Makes the appropriate community referrals

Our callers discuss issues and feelings related to but not limited to:
- Problems with coping with a brain injury
- Loneliness and/or isolation
- Invisible disability
- Income supports such as OW, ODSP, CPP, WSIB, criminal compensation
- Information about brain injuries and concussions
- Caregiver Supports
- Other services including legal, financial assistance, housing, employment, transportation

These are just some of the issues. You are not alone when dealing with difficult or challenging issues relating to Brain Injury we are here to help!

HELPLINE
1-800-263-5404
Calls answered Mon-Fri, 9am - 5pm EST
NORTH EASTERN ADVOCACY SERVICES

With thanks to the program funder, the Aqueduct Foundation, we are pleased to celebrate our third very successful year of our North Eastern Ontario (NEO) Advocacy Services program. The program continues to work with over 30 community partners across the North Bay region. We have seen a continual increase in demand for our help in this geographic area and have now expanded into the Sudbury and Sault Ste Marie region. Plans are for a continued growth as the demand continues to increase.

ONLINE CONCUSSION SUPPORT GROUP

After a successful pilot phase of the Online Support Group for people living with Concussions and persisting Concussion Symptoms, we were in a position to increase the level of support provided by this group by offering more groups and thus supporting more people.

This past year OBIA has hosted five separate Online Support Groups. All participants who completed the post group survey indicated that the group was helpful and would recommend it to others. The most common feedback from groups was that they wished it was longer than the 8 weeks and that there was an organized means of remaining connected. In response to that feedback, OBIA is currently exploring options to offer ongoing support once the groups have finished.

In response to feedback from stakeholders who identified the importance and value of the group, OBIA worked with a 3rd party grant writer and was successful in receiving an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant to expand the program. We are very excited to be able to offer more groups in the near future and support more people thanks to the grant. We have recently hired a registered social worker who will facilitate and organize the groups moving forward. This grant will be invaluable in allowing us to increase the number of groups run, and thus, the number of people supported.
Get Connected with Peer Support

82% of Mentors say that being a Mentor improved their quality of life!

90% of Partners recommend the Peer Support Program.

OBIA’s Provincial Peer Support Program connects persons with lived experience (the Mentor) with an individual who is living with the effects of acquired brain injury and who requires support (the Partner). This program is available to survivors, family members and/or unpaid caregivers.

For more information contact:
Ontario Brain Injury Association
1-800-263-5404 peersupport@obia.on.ca

Funding provided by:

Development Sponsors:

[Imagery of logos from GLUCKSTEIN, HENDERSON, and Sibley]
The success of the Peer Support Program can be attributed to working collectively and collaboratively with the local associations and the continued investments from the Ministry of Health via the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). The program is being offered through 15 brain injury associations in Ontario and is garnering interest from service providers nationally and internationally. During this fiscal year, we are pleased to now offer bilingual collateral materials for the local associations to distribute within their communities. We look forward to continuing to grow and expand the program this coming year and are excited about new partnerships.

I had a mentor who helped me immensely by listening & offering encouragement I needed. I live in a small northern town with no brain support group. He kept me connected to my “new” world. I always said if I had the opportunity to connect to someone & help that person even a percentage of what he did for me then I would certainly take it. I have my partner now & hearing her talk reminds me so much of where I was. I feel as though we connected & it works both ways. She has suggestions for me as I do for her & she cheers me on as I try to attain new goals.

I enjoy being able to give back to a program that has impacted me in a positive way.

I had felt isolated and confused as to what happened to me. Having someone to reach out to made me feel less alone.

It was nice to have someone who could directly relate to my experience. It was less isolating. It was helpful to have someone listen to my struggles of seeking appropriate healthcare.

My mentor was, to me, like a ray of light and hope. Just to talk with someone who has been through/ is going through similar challenges, someone to relate to through the hard things to accept was so freeing. I have other friends with mTBIs, but we’re all relatively early in our recoveries. Meeting my mentor who is further along was inspiring and encouraging, each time we spoke.

My partner in the peer support program has given me a lot of good tips, suggestions and has listened to me and understands how I feel which is a nice thing to have.
## 2017-2018 Financial Statements

### Ontario Brain Injury Association

#### Statement of Financial Position

**Year ended March 31**

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<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
<td>$41,632</td>
<td>$46,729</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government remittances payable</td>
<td>$18,626</td>
<td>$13,940</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue (Note 6)</td>
<td>$206,051</td>
<td>$282,106</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$266,309</td>
<td>$342,775</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued pay equity (Note 7)</td>
<td>$75,086</td>
<td>$77,731</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Long-term Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$341,395</td>
<td>$420,506</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>$133,975</td>
<td>$116,216</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets invested in equipment</td>
<td>$13,108</td>
<td>$13,006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internally restricted funds (Schedule 1)</td>
<td>$1,014,597</td>
<td>$960,622</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,161,680</td>
<td>$1,089,844</td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,503,075</td>
<td>$1,510,350</td>
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</table>
## Ontario Brain Injury Association

### Statements of Revenues and Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grants</strong></td>
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<td>Fee for Service - HHS</td>
<td>$271,056</td>
<td>$263,136</td>
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<td>One source projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Eastern Ontario Advocacy</td>
<td>60,136</td>
<td>73,584</td>
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<td>Ministry of Health - Peer Support</td>
<td>290,841</td>
<td>290,841</td>
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<td>Other grants</td>
<td>19,689</td>
<td>20,302</td>
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<td>Donations and fundraising</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
<td>25,952</td>
<td>39,168</td>
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<td>Events</td>
<td>187,457</td>
<td>222,000</td>
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<td>Break open ticket lotteries, net (Schedule 2)</td>
<td>52,408</td>
<td>50,419</td>
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<td><strong>Membership and directory</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>10,865</td>
<td>12,505</td>
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<td>Directory</td>
<td>23,570</td>
<td>20,315</td>
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<td>Training programs and conferences</td>
<td>532,902</td>
<td>322,869</td>
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<td>OBIA Review</td>
<td>62,025</td>
<td>57,649</td>
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<td>Resource Sales</td>
<td>2,998</td>
<td>3,849</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>340</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$1,540,060</td>
<td>$1,376,977</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Support programs and services</td>
<td>1,019,574</td>
<td>935,577</td>
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<td>Education and awareness</td>
<td>351,404</td>
<td>225,062</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>54,458</td>
<td>52,177</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
<td>71,696</td>
<td>72,171</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,497,132</td>
<td>1,284,987</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Excess of revenues over expenses before</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Non operational gain</td>
<td>42,928</td>
<td>91,990</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non operational gain</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>28,908</td>
<td>98,876</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Excess of revenues over expenses for the year</strong></td>
<td>$71,836</td>
<td>$190,866</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** The financial information has been extracted from the 2017-2018 Audited Financial Statement completed by Grant Thornton LLP. Complete details of the Auditor’s Report are available upon request.
2017-2018 DONOR LIST

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- Marlon Mark Andrews
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- Tahir Arif
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- Mark Mantell
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- Wayne Maw
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