2020 Annual Report

There is hope, there is help!

ONTARIO BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION
education • awareness • support
Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Alice Bellavance  
President of the Board, Ex-Officio of all Committees

Sabrina Chagani  
Vice President, Finance Committee, Nominating Committee

Brad Borkwood  
Treasurer, Finance Committee

Caron Gan  
Corporate Secretary, Government Relations Committee, Nominating Committee

Ruth Wilcock  
Executive Director

Directors

Mary Lou Dalaire  
OBIA Advisory Council Representative, Fund Development Committee

Roger Foisy  
Fund Development Committee, Government Relations Committee

Jane Grech  
Fund Development Committee

Zeenat Khoja  
Government Relations Committee, Quality Improvement Committee, Finance Committee

Chrisanthi (Chrissy) Lefkimmiatis  
Finance Committee, Quality Improvement Committee

Keith Lindsay  
Fund Development Committee

Claire Smith  
Government Relations Committee, Nominating Committee

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

Melissa Vigar  
OBIA Advisory Council Co-Chair, Government Relations Committee

Hazel Wood  
Fund Development Committee, Government Relations Committee

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In my role as President of the Board, I am privileged to share this annual report to our members and supporters.

This past fiscal year we have seen continued growth through a variety of grants and funding streams, which has allowed us to expand our reach while fulfilling our vision, mission and values as set out in our strategic plan. We hosted a extremely successful Provincial ABI Conference with the highest number of registrants to date.

OBIA continues to be influential in many spheres, with its ongoing Unmasking Brain Injury Project, Brain Injury Awareness Month, partnerships with the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation and its relationships with regional Brain Injury Associations.

The amazing staff team, under the leadership of Ruth Wilcock, certainly has kept the wheels rolling smoothly, particularly as we came to the end of the fiscal year when we were thrust into the world pandemic of COVID-19. With our technology, we were able to smoothly transition to virtual care. We will also be moving to deliver some of our training programs in an online format. Some of the practices and processes that we develop during this time may evolve as best practices that will continue post COVID-19.

I am proud to be chairing this board, and I’m blessed to be surrounded by amazing staff and volunteers who strive to meet all the goals and objectives of our strategic plan. I look forward to OBIA continuing to make a positive impact for Ontarians living with the effects of brain injury.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Bellavance
President of the OBIA Board of Directors
We are proud that for more than 30 years we have been a leader, not only in Ontario, but Canada, in educating professionals who are working in home and community-based rehabilitation. We have had more than 500 people attend our training programs this year alone. This past fiscal year we took our Level One course to Nova Scotia and were able to train 82 individuals serving those with brain injury. Additionally, almost 700 people attended our Provincial ABI Conference, which is held in collaboration with our affiliated community associations, making it the largest ABI conference in Canada.

OBIA continues to be passionate about bringing awareness to brain injury. Through the Unmasking Brain Injury 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 has disseminated more than 2,200 masks to participating brain injury associations and organizations across the province in the past two years. The masks have been shown in museums, art galleries, cafes, and communities across the province. I am so pleased to share with you that Unmasking Brain Injury has been the most successful awareness campaign that OBIA and our local community associations have engaged in.

To launch Brain Injury Awareness Month in 2019, OBIA and community associations showcased the “Unmasking Brain Injury” movement at Queens Park. Together with our local associations, we hosted a luncheon for MPP’s from across the province. The MPP’s had the opportunity to view the masks, read the stories and speak with representatives from local brain injury associations in their riding.

Support continues to be at the heart of OBIA and the work of OBIA’s support services, such as: the 1-800 helpline, personal advocacy, peer support, online concussion support group, public involvement (including systemic advocacy) and research. I would like to highlight some of our work this past fiscal year.

- 1-800 Helpline received well over 2,700 requests for support
- Peer Support had 2,631 phone calls between mentors and partners
- Our Online Concussion Support Group has had 365 people attend
- New! Pilot Online Caregiver Conversations Group had 61 people
- North Eastern Advocacy Program (87 complex individuals requiring ongoing one-on-one support)
- Held close to 40 training programs for Caregivers
- New! Launched a new online resource for Caregivers https://caregiverinfo.ca
- Brain Injury Speaks (Stakeholder Engagement Network) – reaches 500 members

With the support of the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation, we are revising the OBIA research study and it will now be called the Brain Injury Impact Study. We are looking at the long-term outcomes of those who have sustained a brain injury (including concussion). We will also be exploring what services have been received (or not) and how this may affect outcome. Furthermore, there is a stronger emphasis on co-morbidities such as mental health and substance use. We currently have more than 600 participants in the study and hope to increase participation to 2,000 people.

OBIA continues to serve on various research committees and community initiatives that are focused on improving the lives of those living with a brain injury and their families.

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), Solene Abdulla (Research Coordinator), Terry Bartol (Member, Donor and Events Coordinator), Diane Dakiv (Training Program Coordinator), Laura Fabiano (PR & Marketing Summer Student), Virginia Hack (Advocacy Specialist), Lauren Hough (Community Outreach and Assistant to the Executive Director), Vijaya Kantipuly (Online Concussion Support Group), Gazal Kukreja (Stakeholder Engagement), Katy Kumar (Support Services), Leah Mills (Support Services), Jennifer Norquay (Communications and Special Projects Assistant), Steve Noyes (T/I, 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 the dedication, passion and expertise they bring to the organization. The Board truly functions as a cohesive team and I am privileged to work with them.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Wilcock
Executive Director, OBIA
FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members:
Alice Bellavance (Ex-officio)  Jane Grech
Hazel Wood (Chair)  Ad Lewis
Mary Lou Dalaire  Keith Lindsay
Roger Foisy  Ruth Wilcock

In 2020 the Fund Development Committee (FDC) met the obligations of its Terms of Reference by carrying out the following functions:
1. Carry out due diligence with respect to the fiscal health of OBIA
2. Nurture a culture of philanthropy within the board
3. Collaborate and support the Executive Director (ED) in fulfilling the fund development objectives identified in the strategic plan

FISCAL HEALTH OF OBIA:
The FDC is fully satisfied that the ED consistently considers funding trends, environmental factors, and organizational capacity in its plans. The FDC has provided recommendations on potential sources of funds. Based on the results of the Fund Development Action Plan and the Financial Statements, the FDC consistently finds that OBIA is in a strong fiscal position.

CULTURE OF PHILANTHROPY:
The FDC encourages the use of the individual Board Member Fund Development Plan to optimize use of the resources of board members. Board members are encouraged to use their personal relationships and resources to bring in funds for OBIA.

SUPPORT FULFILLMENT OF FUND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES
The FDC supported the excellent efforts of the staff in securing new sponsorships, Third Party Fundraisers, new corporate champions, and new donors. We explored opportunities for a new signature event.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hazel Wood
Chair, Fund Development Committee

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members:
Alice Bellavance (Chair)  Claire Smith  Ruth Wilcock
Sabrina Chagani  Caron Gan

As with previous reports, the maximum number of board members as determined by the OBIA Board of Directors is 22, which includes four OBIA Advisory Committee (OAC) members. Although one of our board members needed to resign this year for personal reasons, currently the Board of Directors has 14 members; three of these members are non-voting OAC members. Our mandate requires that we have board representatives from across the province as well as expertise in areas such as legal, public relations, diversity and advocacy. We have completed a board skills matrix, which outlines areas of representation, expertise and skill sets. We recognize that there are some gaps in the matrix, however given the current environment with COVID-19, we have chosen not to pursue recruitment at this time.

Again, I would like to thank the Nominating Committee for their careful deliberation around the skills matrix. Once we have a better sense of how the province will re-open, we will revisit the gaps on our Board of Directors and bring those nominations forward at the appropriate time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice Bellavance
Nominating Committee Chair

OBIA ADVISORY COUNCIL (OAC) REPORT

Committee Members:
Alice Bellavance (Ex-officio)  Dr. Mary-Ellen Thompson, Co-Chair
Melissa Vigar, Co-Chair  Ruth Wilcock
Mary Lou Dalaire

The OBIA Advisory Council continues to be comprised of representatives from 21 affiliated associations across the province. Each association appoints one member with lived experience and one administrative member (usually the Executive Director or Board member) to represent them at its four meetings held yearly, either in person or via a virtual platform. The Co-Chairs and two members with lived experience also attend OBIA Board Meetings.

The recent events surrounding COVID-19 have only served to strengthen the ties between the associations. At the onset of this pandemic, an open discussion was held virtually amongst the associations where resources, strategies and creative programming ideas were shared. Each member of the OAC will continue to work together to support one another as we all navigate these unprecedented times, especially around the areas of funding, member support and protecting the safety and well-being of our staff, volunteers and members. We are committed to continuing the work we do and working together across the province to ensure that each association is able to offer support in some capacity. OBIA remains open for all associations to direct their members to, should they require additional support.

The OAC are key stakeholders of the biennial OBIA Conference in Niagara Falls. In 2019, members from each association assisted with a variety of tasks including reviewing abstract submissions, introducing speakers, assisting with timekeeping and gathering feedback forms. All participating associations received a dividend of the conference profits for their efforts. This year’s conference was a huge success in terms of number of attendees, sponsorship and the quality of the presentations. We are grateful that we had this time with our colleagues across the province to connect, share and learn from one another.

The ongoing goal of the OAC is to provide educational and peer-based support to each association as they carry out their missions of supporting individuals with brain injury and their families. This year, the OAC welcomed the following speakers to increase awareness and capacity of their organizations:
- Julia Borsato from Aphasia Friendly Canada - Discussed their new initiative that offers Canadian businesses training and resource development support to become Aphasia Friendly.
- Kristen Reilly, Knowledge Management and Translation Specialist from ONF - Provided a review of a harmonization strategy in an effort to employ consistent ABI messaging across all brain injury associations
- Nancy Lajoie, OBIA - Presented an update on Provincial Caregiver Education Program
- Gazal Kukreja, OBIA - Presented an update on Brain Injury Speaks, the ABI Stakeholder Engagement Network
- Melissa Vigar, BST – Presented information on an online toolkit designed to protect individuals with ABI from Financial Abuse and Fraud

As the plight of those with disabilities such as brain injury continues to be highlighted by the recent pandemic, it remains the goal of the OAC to increase the visibility of this community. We will do this by sharing ABI survivor experiences of resiliency and strength, along with bringing attention to the significant challenges they face. We will continue to work together to ensure those with brain injuries continue to be supported, seen and serviced throughout this Province.

We hope that everyone continues to stay safe and well.

Submitted by:
Melissa Vigar, Co-chair, OAC
Mary-Ellen Thompson, PhD, Co-chair, OAC
ABIEducation

Brock

OBIA offered the following training programs in brain injury and community-based rehabilitation during the 2019-20 fiscal year.

- Neurorehabilitation: Assisting Recovery in Everyday Life Following Brain Injury (Level 1) - at Brock University, St. Catharines
- Neurorehabilitation: Assisting Recovery in Everyday Life Following Brain Injury (Level 1) - at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia
- Advanced Brain Injury Rehabilitation (Level 2)
- Children & Youth with Acquired Brain Injury (Level 1)
- Brain Basics Training Program - In Community and eLearning

2019 - 2020 Community-Based Brain Basics Training Program:

- Belleville - hosted by OBIA and Brain Injury Association of Quinte District
- Timmins - hosted by OBIA and Seizure and Brain Injury Association (Timmins)

507 ATTENDED OBIA TRAINING PROGRAMS
CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Provincial ABI Conference 2019

This conference was made possible through the collaborative efforts of OBIA and the participating community associations.

The conference theme was: Forging New Pathways, Navigating Challenges, Exploring Breakthroughs. The goal of the conference was to optimize learning in addition to providing ample opportunity for networking and viewing exhibits.

In addition to the 22 concurrent sessions, our Keynote Speakers included:
- Dawn Neumann, PhD, FACRM - Know Thy Emotions: A New Treatment Approach for Emotion Regulation after Brain Injury
- Meg Soper - Bring It On: Strategies for Balance and Resilience
- Robert van Reekum MD, FRCPC and Emma van Reekum - Understanding and Coping With the Dual Challenge of TBI and Psychosis
- Tom Dow - I Survived a Brain Injury: So Now What?

Thank you to our generous sponsors (see page 27 for lead sponsors), exhibitors, volunteers and attendees for making this conference a huge success.

Bursaries & Awards

2019 Healthcare Professional Bursaries
OBIA is proud to offer annual bursaries awarded to hospital clinicians working within the brain injury field to a maximum of $2,500 per bursary. These awards are sponsored by PIA Law and used to attend upcoming conferences, workshops, or attend continuing education courses. Winners from 2019 are as follows:

June 2019
- Sara Bedard, Hamilton Health Sciences, Hamilton, ON
- Danielle Perkin, Hamilton Health Sciences, Hamilton, ON
- Rebecca Bond, Hamilton Health Sciences, Hamilton, ON
- Andrea Brocato, Hamilton Health Sciences, Hamilton, ON
- Taylor Strande, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, Toronto, ON

December 2019
- Elena Ballantyne, St. Joseph’s Healthcare, Hamilton, ON
- Lauren Kirkham, The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa, ON
- Jenni-Lynn Warren, The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa, ON

Awards of Excellence in Brain Injury Rehabilitation
The Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA) in collaboration with the Personal Injury Alliance (PIA Law) presented the 2019 Awards of Excellence in Brain Injury Rehabilitation. These awards recognized those who consistently provide exceptional service to the brain injury community. Congratulations to our award winners:

- Case Manager of the Year - Lisa Bauer
- Community Brain Injury Association of the Year - Brain Injury Association of Sudbury & District
- Healthcare Provider of the Year - Dr. Hiten Lad
- Rehabilitation Company of the Year - Complex Injury Rehab
- Hospital Social Worker of the Year - Janna Di Pinto

2019 AGM Award Winners
OBIA is proud to present the annual AGM Award Winners as follows:

- Fellowship Award - Dr. Angela Colantonio
- Professional Award - Dr. Mark Bayley
- Philanthropic Award - André Réháume and Robert Fitzhenry Family Foundation
- Volunteer Award - Debby Vigoda
- Corporate Fellowship Award - McKeil Structured Settlements
- Media Award - Mary ten Doshcote, Cogego Your TV

OBIA Pioneer Awards
Since the late 1980’s, many of the pioneers in developing community supports for persons living with brain injury were caregivers. These family caregivers not only took care of their loved ones, but developed supports through the establishment of local community associations. In celebration of the launch of OBIA’s “Support, Hope & Resiliency” an Education and Training Program for Caregivers of ABI Survivors, we would like to honour these pioneers who have dedicated their lives to supporting people living with the effects of brain injury.

- Carole Vincent - BIA Quinte District
- Wendy Charbonneau - BIA Ottawa Valley
- Shirley Athoe & Jackie Denham - BIA Fort Erie
- Toby Meehan - Hamilton BIA
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:

**Heightened Awareness and Understanding of ABI**
- IBIA Conference
- Queens Park Unmasking Brain Injury Event
- Correctional Service Canada Institutional Health Fairs
- Hamilton Health Sciences Conference
- OTLA Conference
- Ontario Rehab Alliance – Seminars
- Podcasts
- International Concussion Conference (DSBN)
- Connect Concussion Workshop
- Hosted Webinar – Practical Strategies for Achieving Success after MTBI.
- Hosted Webinar – Planning and Pacing
- Presentations at Ganohkawsa Family Assault Support Services in Ohsweken
- Presentation at Banyan Community Centre in Hamilton

**Systemic Advocacy and Participation in Committees**
- Vulnerable Road User Advocacy
- Queens Park Event – Structured Settlements and ODSP/OW
- Connect Research Project – Ontario Brain Institute
- ONF/REPAIR – Research for long term outcomes for people living in the community with ABI
- Concussion Collaborative for HNH
- Concussion Steering Committee ONF
- Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee (North Bay)
- TBI Resiliency Research Committee
- ONF Neurotrauma Care Pathways
- Ontario Injury Prevention Practitioners Network (OIPPN)
- PABIN – Provincial Acquired Brain Injury Network
- ONF Data Collection Committee
- ABI Steering Committee - ONF

**CORRELATION BETWEEN BRAIN INJURY AND PROBLEM GAMBLING**

In 2019, OBIA pursued a community research grant supported by Gambling Research Exchange Ontario to explore problem gambling in the brain injury community. The goal was to raise awareness and develop suitable programming for those struggling with problem gambling.

Four populations were surveyed from across Ontario including individuals with a brain injury, family members, and service providers for both brain injury and problem gambling. The results from OBIA Problem Gambling Research initiative suggests there is a gap in current programming, and nearly all participants felt they would benefit from more information about problem gambling and acquired brain injury.

This project highlights the importance of implementing the appropriate screening measures during intakes at addiction centres. As well, reducing the negative perception associated with gambling may help those with a brain injury feel comfortable disclosing a gambling problem to a loved one or health care provider and encourage them to seek help.

OBIA is grateful to all who participated in our study and hopes this research will increase awareness and help support individuals with a brain injury who struggle with problem gambling.

**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 pleased to distribute the funds to the family of a 5-year old in Milton, Ontario so they could purchase a much-needed hospital bed for their child.

$5,000 DISTRIBUTED TO A FAMILY IN NEED
CAPACITY BUILDING & AFFILIATE SUPPORT

COMMUNITY BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATIONS

Southwestern Ontario
Chatham-Kent
New Beginnings ABI & Stroke Recovery Association

London and Region
Brain Injury Association of London and Region

Waterloo-Wellington
Brain Injury Association of Waterloo-Wellington

Windsor-Essex
Brain Injury Association of Windsor and Essex County

Sarnia-Lambton
Brain Injury Association of Sarnia-Lambton

Southcentral Ontario
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

Niagara Area
Brain Injury Association of Niagara

Peel-Halton
Brain Injury Association of Peel & Halton

Toronto (GTA)
Brain Injury Society of Toronto

York Region
Brain Injury Association of York Region

Northern Ontario
North Bay Area
Brain Injury Association of North Bay and Area

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

Eastern Ontario
Belleville
Brain Injury Association of Quinte District

Ottawa
Brain Injury Association of Ottawa Valley

Peterborough Area
Brain Injury Association of Peterborough Region

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 more than $273,495 to our affiliated community brain injury associations. Capacity building and affiliate support activities include:

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

$273,495 DISSEMINATED TO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

BRAIN INJURY SPEAKS

OBIA has created: Brain Injury Speaks, the Stakeholder Engagement Network of Ontario. The purpose of this network is to identify provincial issues impacting people with brain injuries and to establish an allied voice to reach government planners and policy makers. In recognizing system gaps, OBIA is looking to unify the voice of the brain injury community by connecting stakeholders across the province. This network connects people with lived experience, family members/caregivers across the province to one centralized platform to inform and respond to issues as One Provincial Voice.
OBIA HELpline

There is hope, there is help!
CALL THE OBIA HELpline
1-800-263-5404

Whether you have sustained a mild traumatic brain injury (concussion), or moderate to severe brain injury, you are not alone, we are here to help!

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

The Ontario Brain Injury Helpline:
• Provides a listening ear and emotional support to help with the difficulties and frustrations associated with brain injuries.
• Empowers the caller to cope with specific aspects of their life.
• Supports families, friends, co-workers, and 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 coping with a brain injury.
• Loneliness and isolation.
• Invisible disability.
• Income supports such as OW, ODSP, CPP, WSIB, criminal compensation.
• Information about brain injuries and concussions.
• Caregiver Supports.
• Other information including legal, financial assistance, housing, employment, transportation.

You are not alone when dealing with challenging issues relating to brain injury. We are here to help!

“I want to thank you for the help and support you’ve given me during the bleakest time of my life. The first time I talked to you on the phone I felt someone in this world actually understands what I’m going through. That call gave me hope and confidence to go on.”

“Thanks for helping me navigate the medical system where brain injuries are concerned. It’s not at all easy, but you are a fantastic resource and support system. I very much appreciate all you have done so far and all the time you have spent on the phone with me!”

NORTH EASTERN ONTARIO ADVOCACY SERVICES

Our support services in North Eastern Ontario place support at the direct service level and brings together agencies who have acknowledged that shared support is necessary to maintain complex clients in the community. The program also supports caregivers who are burnt out by years of caring for their loved one with no or limited support. Also, it connects individuals to primary care, increases access to the appropriate services, and decreases the frequent use of emergency services, crisis services or inefficient supports that are based on a lack of understanding of acquired brain injury.

The support, though intended to be short-term, often leads to longer-term or repeated support for individuals who have no other services or collaborative support. Typically, this is a result of the complexity of their needs. The need for support in North Eastern Ontario is great and OBIA continues to be committed to meet this need.

ONLINE CONCUSSION SUPPORT GROUP

The Online Concussion Support Group is especially helpful for members living with a concussion and persistent post-concussion symptoms, who need education, awareness, resources about concussion, and above all, emotional support. The 8-week sessions are accessed by computer or telephone and are facilitated by a registered Social Worker.

Since September, 2018, OBIA has hosted 31, eight-week online concussion support groups for a total of 330 individuals. These groups provide topic-focused discussions based on the interests of the group to help participants feel less alone and find the strength to navigate the problems they are facing. Online support groups provide an alternative method of support for people with a concussion who need additional support between traditional support groups, or who live in a rural area with little access to other supports.

NEW! ONLINE CAREGIVER CONVERSATIONS GROUP

Our free Caregiver Conversations Support Group is there to help caregivers (family member or friend of a person with a brain injury). We offer a safe, confidential virtual space to meet other caregivers, exchange ideas, and manage stress. Each group includes approximately 10 participants who meet online once a week for 8 weeks. The group is run under the supervision of a registered social worker. We cover a wide range of topics from managing challenging behaviours to stress management to self-compassion.
CAREGIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, OBIA implemented the "Support, Hope & Resiliency: An Education and Training Program for Caregivers of Acquired Brain Injury Survivors" across Ontario. This program was developed in broad consultation with ABI caregivers and other stakeholders, as well as in collaboration with Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and The Ottawa Hospital, Robin Easey Centre.

This caregiver education program provided workshops at 38 locations across the province and were hosted by members of local brain injury associations and service providers.

On March 31, 2020 OBIA launched a new information website: Caregiving After Brain Injury. The new website is comprised of six modules and resources to assist caregivers caring for a loved one with a brain injury. The website is funded by the same grant that enabled OBIA to offer the Caregiver Education Workshops throughout Ontario.

OBIA launches new website: Caregiving After Brain Injury

Website: caregiverinfo.ca

Funding provided by: Ontario

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.

$11,838 SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTED

PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Peer Support program is now in its 14th year, and we have a lot to celebrate! Our dedicated Mentors have provided 4,225 hours of care to their Partners in the last year. The success of the program is strongly due to working collectively and collaboratively with the local associations and the continued investment from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care via the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

The Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) has funded the University Health Network (UHN) for a research project utilizing OBIA’s Peer Support Program. “A Randomized Controlled Feasibility Trial on the Ontario Brain Injury Association Peer Support Program” will address the community rehabilitation component of the Promoting Reintegration and Participation section of the Clinical Practice Guideline for Rehabilitation of Adults with Moderate to Severe TBI. The research has now been completed and we are anxiously waiting for the preliminary findings of the study.

OBIA continues to receive calls and emails about the Peer Support Program from individuals and services within Canada and internationally. Many have expressed interest in modelling a Peer Support Program after OBIA’s. We look forward to continuing to grow and expand the program across Ontario and beyond.

"Since becoming a peer mentor I have found that I may have lost my career but gained so much more. Many people associate their career with their quality of life, I have learnt that volunteering, listening, discussing and learning from others very engaging. But that helping others can have a significant meaning for us and enhance our quality of life”

"I feel that having someone to talk to that is going thru a similar circumstance, relieves my stress and I always feel much better after talking to my mentor, as we both have sons with an ABI.”

"Mentor provided praise and encouragement. As I went through my week, I looked forward to telling my mentor what I’d accomplished, and this gave me the motivation to do things. Other people in my life cannot easily sustain a role of getting all excited about getting normal, routine things done. The mentor did this very well. It really helped.”

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

90% of Partners recommend the Peer Support Program.
# 2019-2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Ontario Brain Injury Association
### Statements of Revenues and Expenses

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<th>Year ended March 31</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support programs and services</td>
<td>$1,227,912</td>
<td>$1,091,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and awareness</td>
<td>$425,195</td>
<td>$190,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$55,467</td>
<td>$51,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$55,202</td>
<td>$67,753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$1,763,776</td>
<td>$1,401,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excess of revenues over expenses before non operational gain</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non operational gain</strong></td>
<td>$121,833</td>
<td>$1,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>$(22,683)</td>
<td>$34,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excess of revenues over expenses for the year</strong></td>
<td>$99,150</td>
<td>$(35,690)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Ontario Brain Injury Association
### Statement of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year ended March 31</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$ 957,077</td>
<td>$ 488,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term deposits (Note 3)</td>
<td>$329,410</td>
<td>$427,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>$ 50,602</td>
<td>$ 69,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>$ 12,419</td>
<td>$ 11,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>$ 5,515</td>
<td>$ 20,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$1,355,023</td>
<td>$1,017,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments (Note 4)</td>
<td>$ 665,722</td>
<td>$ 712,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment (Note 5)</td>
<td>$  9,285</td>
<td>$  11,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$ 775,007</td>
<td>$ 823,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
<td>$ 127,091</td>
<td>$ 43,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government remittances payable</td>
<td>$ 19,026</td>
<td>$ 31,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue (Note 6)</td>
<td>$517,777</td>
<td>$396,276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$ 763,894</td>
<td>$461,444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued pay equity (Note 7)</td>
<td>$ 69,616</td>
<td>$ 72,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$ 733,510</td>
<td>$534,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>$250,274</td>
<td>$191,966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets invested in equipment</td>
<td>$ 9,285</td>
<td>$ 11,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internally restricted funds (Schedule 1)</td>
<td>$1,036,961</td>
<td>$993,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$1,296,520</td>
<td>$1,197,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$ 2,030,030</td>
<td>$ 1,741,798</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** The financial information has been extracted from the 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statement completed by Grant Thornton LLP. Complete details of the Auditor's Report are available upon request.
2019-2020 DONOR LIST

thankful

- Daphne Akinsulie
- Mary Anderson
- Jane & Bryan Aspden
- Ron & Pauline Austin
- Guloo Austin
- Abbey Baluyot
- Bob Bamford
- Terry Bartol
- Pat Sprigle
- Lisa Bauer
- Andrea Beatty
- Christine Bell
- Alice Bellavance
- Susan Bell-Gastle
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- Jane Clark-Foster
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- Combustion Creativity
- Community Solutions
- Amanda Connolly
- Mike Corcoran
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- Linda Davies
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- Jerome Diotte
- Diana Dumenic
- Lesley Dunbar
- Gunta Edwardsen
- Janet Elliot
- Heather Elliott
- Duncan Embury
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- Nickie Felts
- Caron Gan
- Tina Garbas-Tyrell
- Judy Gargaro
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- Cory George
- Gary Gerber
- Gloria Gilbert
- Greenfield Global
- Bernie Gluckstein
- Vanita Goela
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- Shawn Hurst
- Pamela Irwin
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- Ken Johnson
- Peggy Jouwsma
- Lori Kanes
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- Zeenat Khaja
- Barbara Kustec
- Terry Lamont
- Caroline Landry
- Matthew Lapain
- Vicki Lavender
- Diane LeBlond
- Ad Lewis
- Peter Lind
- Keith Lindsay
- Judith Linton
- Cora Loeblein
- Adam Lowy
- Beverley Mantell
- Manulife Financial
- Lisa Marinzel
- Monique Martin
- (Estate of) Darrell McDermott
- Neil McCavin
- June McGregor
- Ken McIntyre
- Darcy Merkur
- Robert Miron
- Franca Molella
- Pamela Monteith
- Larry Munnings
- Greg Neinstein
- Vivian Ng
- Teri Nitti
- Steve Noye
- Oatley Vigmond
- Karen Patchett
- Paypal Giving Fund
- Ellen Pellett
- Gabriella Pezzutti
- Hillary Plater
- Chantal Poliquin
- Jennifer Price
- Nick Pseniczny
- Jackie Quemby
- Jane Reynolds
- Alanna Robillard
- Robert Roddy
- Thomson Rogers
- Anne-Gaelle Rolland
- Rothsay, Rothsay
- Peter Runney
- Howie Sacks
- Tyler Sanders
- Russell Scott
- Linda Selman
- Melissa Shannon
- Claire Smith
- Pat Spriel
- St. Joseph High School
- St. Mary’s High School
- Fred Stanley
- Tyler Stemmller (Skeate 4 the Brain)
- Saverio Stillo
- Nicole Strachan
- William Stuttle
- Janice Sutton
- Jillian Tester
- United Way
- Christine Upton
- Michael Vetter
- Debby Vigoda
- Peeranut Visetsuth
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- Evelyn Wilson
- Paula Windsor
- Hazel Wood
- Ellen Woolfrey
- Kelsey Young
- Luciana Zazzara
- Anonymous (21 donors)