

NAVIGATING THE LANDSCAPE OF BRAIN INJURY

2022



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

MAY 25 & 26

www.braininjurycanadaconference.ca

WELCOME

Brain Injury Canada is a national charitable organization focused on education, awareness, and advocacy for the brain injury community. The board, staff and volunteers of Brain Injury Canada are dedicated to facilitating post-trauma research, education, awareness and advocacy in partnership with national, provincial/territorial and regional associations and other stakeholders.

Mission

Advance awareness, education, opportunities, and support by:

- Advocating at a national level on issues important to the brain injury community
- Establishing meaningful connections and collaborations with stakeholders
- Educating and empowering people living with acquired brain injury, families/caregivers, healthcare workers, researchers, and the general public
-

Vision

A better quality of life for all people affected by acquired brain injury in Canada.

Values

At Brain Injury Canada, we firmly stand behind our values.

- Accountability
- Compassion
- Connection/collaboration
- Diversity
- Integrity
- Stewardship

Message from the Executive Director

We are so honored to have you here with us today. This virtual conference format truly enables this to be a national brain injury conference. Brain injury Canada strives to create platforms to bring people together in the interest of education, information and awareness of brain injury. We have participants from all over the country, and we can use this opportunity to come together in a truly collaborative way. We have an amazing line-up of speakers from across Canada and we have endeavored to touch on topics pertinent to this day and age. Turn on your camera, use the chat feature and network with people to share experiences, successes and challenges over the past few years, as we navigate these unprecedented times. Use this event is an opportunity to learn from each other. We want you to walk away with new information, new knowledge and new contacts. Enjoy the conference!



Michelle McDonald

CONFERENCE AGENDA

DAY 1

Wednesday May 25th, 2022

- 11:00 am** **OPENING REMARKS**
- 11:05 am** **RESILIENCY RESQ: RE-THINK, RE-NEW, RE-ENERGIZE**
SAJEL BELLON - Ed.D, RP, CTSS, Canadian Psychotherapist, Stress Specialist,
Professor, and Professional Speaker
- 12:20 pm** **ADOLESCENT IDENTITY AFTER TBI: WHAT CLINICIANS NEED TO KNOW**
LISA KAKONGE- M.Sc., Reg. CASLPO, CCC-SLP
- 1:00 pm** **VISIT EXHIBIT HALL AND BREAK**
- 1:30 pm** **HURT, ALONE, AND DUMB: LIVING THE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY**
BRIAN MENDOZA DOMINGUEZ, DSocSci, MAL, CPIM, Practicing Partner
- 2:15 pm** **THE CHALLENGE OF PROLONGED POST-CONCUSSION SYMPTOMS: PATIENT EDUCATION EFFORTS OF THE CANADIAN CONCUSSION CENTRE**
LESLEY RUTTAN, Ph.D., C.Psych.
CHARLES TATOR, PhD, MD
- 2:55 pm** **VISIT EXHIBIT HALL AND BREAK**
- 3:25 pm** **BUILDING BRIDGES AND ENHANCING CAPACITY: IMPROVING CLIENT OUTCOMES THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMING BETWEEN COMMUNITY REHABILITATION AND ACUTE HOSPITAL SETTINGS.**
JANE SAVAGE, BA, MSW, RSW, Clinical Social Worker
- 4:10 pm** **RESPECTING TRADITIONS: HEALTHCARE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN A DIFFERENT LENS**
ANNIE SMITH ST-GEORGES, Algonquin Traditional Elder
- 4:40 pm** **CLOSING REMARKS**

CONFERENCE AGENDA

DAY 2

Thursday May 26th, 2022

- 11:00 am** **OPENING REMARKS**
- 11:05 am** **HOUSING FIRST – A PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND HAVE COMPLEX NEEDS: ARE THERE LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FOR PATIENTS WITH BRAIN INJURY?**
SAM TSEMBERIS, PhD, CEO Pathways Housing First Institute
- 11:50 am** **THE POWER AND THE PERILS OF MINDFULNESS FOR BRAIN INJURY CARE**
JESSIE SMITH, Mindfulness Teacher
- 12:30 pm** **VISIT EXHIBIT HALL AND BREAK**
- 1:00 pm** **IMPLICIT BIAS – RECOGNIZE, CHALLENGE, INTERRUPT**
ANIA HARRIS, Personal Injury Law Clerk & Vice Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Caucus of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA)
NAKEMA WALKER, Service Director & Member of the Ontario Rehab Alliance Black Network
- 1:45 pm** **INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND BRAIN INJURY: EXPERIENTIAL OUTCOMES FROM A DIRECT SERVICES PROGRAM**
CANDACE STRETCH, Manager of Supportive Housing & Family Services
TORI DACH, Community Program Coordinator
- 2:25 pm** **VISIT EXHIBIT HALL AND BREAK**
- 2:55 pm** **COMMUNITY BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATIONS AND RESEARCHERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO NAVIGATE THE CURRENT AND FUTURE PANDEMIC LANDSCAPE: THE BRAIN INJURY PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS (BIPP) PROJECT**
ANA PAULA SALAZAR, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher
LISA ENGEL, BKin, MScOT, PhD, OT Reg. (MB), Assistant Professor
- 3:40 pm** **EXAMINING THE SOCIAL, ROMANTIC AND SEXUAL EXPERIENCES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH ABI**
JAN GELECH, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology
ANASTASIA SMITH, BA Honors Psychology
- 4:20 pm** **CLOSING REMARKS**



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SPEAKERS



SAJEL BELLON

Ed.D, RP, CTSS, Canadian Psychotherapist, Stress Specialist, Professor, and Professional Speaker

Sajel Bellon is the Founder of Mind Armour® & SOS Psychotherapy, specializing in the sciences of well-being, human connection, and transformative growth for organizations. As a Behavioural Science Professor, she has developed programs and delivered talks around the globe for a variety of institutions, organizations and government agencies like Harvard, Berkeley, TEDx, the Canadian Armed Forces, the International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association, the International Association of Fire Fighters and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. She teaches people to put their pain into context so they can cope, adapt, and see the possibilities. She has a passion for educating and inspiring others about the ‘human’ experience of mental health. Her hope is to inspire and assist leaders and workplaces to create systemic, sustainable changes to support their people’s mental wellness, while minimizing the incidence of Occupational Stress Injuries (OSI) by promoting cultures that foster psychological safety & connection.



TORI DACH

Community Program Coordinator

Tori (Victoria) Dach is the Community Program Coordinator at The Cridge Centre for the Family in Victoria, British Columbia. With an undergraduate degree in Criminology and ongoing Master’s studies in Counselling, her passion and work focus around the many intersections of brain injury with mental health, addictions, homelessness, and intimate partner violence. Tori sits on the Board of Directors for the British Columbia Brain Injury Association, and she is passionately involved raising awareness of brain injury in intimate partner violence through training, direct services, advocacy, prevention and research.



BRIAN MENDOZA DOMINGUEZ

DSocSci, MAL, CPIM, Practicing Partner

Dr. Dominguez is a practicing partner with THE MDMOTO Group (ARIA) and can be found living in the Yucatan, British Columbia, or Baja California Sur at the best parts of the year. He has a passion for motorcycling and adventure touring, health and fitness, and plant-based diets. Brian and his wife Deyanira conducted a 26 month tour through 16 countries on their motorcycles, while conducting research on operational improvements. Brian’s motto is “learn and apply, learn and apply” and is a life-long learner.

SPEAKERS



LISA ENGEL

BKin, MScOT, PhD, OT Reg. (MB), Assistant Professor

Lisa Engel (MScOT, PhD, OT Reg, (MB)) is a registered Occupational Therapist in Manitoba and an Assistant Professor at the University of Manitoba (Department of Occupational Therapy, College of Rehabilitation Sciences; Canada). She received her Masters of Science in Occupational Science/Therapy in 2007 and PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences in 2018, both from the University of Toronto. Her research program evolved from her clinical occupational therapy practice, that included working with brain injury survivors, and aims to improve wellbeing from a community-based research approach.



JAN GELECH

Ph.D., Professor of Psychology

Jan is a professor of psychology at the University of Saskatchewan. The lab she shares with Dr. Michel Desjardins explores the intersections of health, disability, and culture from a variety of perspectives. Jan is also active in the Saskatchewan brain injury community, having served with various organizations over the past two decades. In this time, she has met many treasured friends and colleagues and learned a great deal about life, love, and family.



TANIA HARRIS

Personal Injury Law Clerk and Vice Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Caucus of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA)

Tania Harris is a Personal Injury Law Clerk at Howie, Sacks & Henry, working closely with Senior Partner, Adam Wagman, and associates Joel Dick and Melissa Miller. She joined the firm in 2004, and am honoured to be the recipient of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association Outstanding Law Clerk Award for 2019. Tania is currently the Vice Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Caucus of the Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) and was Vice-Chair of the OTLA Law Clerk section from 2015-2016. Tania is also an active member of the Brain Smart Committee of Hamilton, and has partnered with many organizations committed to preventing brain injuries.



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SPEAKERS



LISA KAKONGE

M.Sc., Reg. CASLPO, CCC-SLP

Lisa Kakonge is a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist from Toronto, Ontario, Canada, with over 15 years' experience in pediatric acquired brain injury (ABI). She provides intervention for cognitive communication disorders across a continuum of rehabilitation for children and adolescents with ABI at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. She has coordinated numerous collaborative projects aimed at improving evidence-based care, including Brain Gain, a multi-year study that integrated technology into cognitive retraining group therapy. As a PhD student in the School of Rehabilitation Science at McMaster University, Lisa's research seeks to understand computer-mediated communication in adolescents with acquired brain injuries as well as the potential uses of assistive technology.



LESLEY RUTTAN

Ph.D., C.Psych.

Dr. Lesley Ruttan is a registered psychologist practicing in the areas of Clinical Neuropsychology and Clinical Psychology. She has been a part-time staff neuropsychologist at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute/University Health Network since 2002 having worked with inpatient and outpatients with a wide range of acquired brain injuries. She has been working with the Canadian Concussion Centre for the past 7 years assisting in the development of and delivery of concussion education and support workshops and now moderating their ongoing webinar series. She served as Practice Leader for Psychology at TRI/UHN and is actively involved in the training of clinical residents and practicum students. She holds an Adjunct Lecturer position at the University of Toronto Scarborough's Graduate Department of Psychological Clinical Science and also maintains a private practice at Main St. Psychological Centre in east Toronto.



ANA PAULA SALAZAR

PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher

Ana has a bachelor's degree in physical therapy and a PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences with emphasis in neurological rehabilitation. Her research focuses on improving the wellbeing and function (motor and cognitive) of elderly and stroke survivors. She is currently working as a postdoctoral researcher at the Université de Montréal (Rehabilitation Sciences Program) in a brain injury community-based research project.

SPEAKERS



JANE SAVAGE

Clinical Social Worker, BA, MSW, RSW

Jane has focused her training and experience on cognitive behavioural, dialectical behavioural, and mindfulness-based approaches to managing anxiety, mood, obsessive-compulsive and related difficulties. Jane was employed by several community based agencies in therapeutic roles providing crisis management and mental health and addiction services for concurrent disorders and dual diagnosis. During her Masters of Social Work at Wilfred Laurier University, she was trained in the assessment and treatment of individuals who committed a violent crime at the Forensic Services at St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton and the Ontario Review Board (ORB). Currently, Jane works as a clinical social worker for Head Injury Rehabilitation Ontario (HIRO) where she provides therapy for individuals to help establish a new normal after the traumas of sustaining a brain injury. She also counsels individuals using a harm reduction approach to substance use disorders.



ANASTASIA SMITH

BA Honors Psychology

Anastasia Smith was born and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. She began attending the University of Saskatchewan in 2010 with the goal of obtaining a degree in drama. Miss Smith took time away from university to work as a restaurant manager and travel abroad. To date, she has visited 26 countries. It was on one of her many excursions that she decided she would pursue her passion for psychology. In 2019 Miss Smith went back to the University of Saskatchewan as a full-time student where she obtained her Honors degree in psychology in 2022. Over the course of her degree, Miss Smith gained invaluable experience as a qualitative researcher, peer mentor, teaching assistant, and volunteer/ employee working with the brain injury survivor community. Miss Smith will begin a Masters in Clinical Applications of Psychology at Kingston University in London, England beginning in the fall of 2022. She hopes to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology upon completion of her Masters.



JESSIE SMITH

Mindfulness Teacher

Jessie Rain Anne Smith is a brain injury survivor and a qualified mindfulness teacher, trained through the University of California's Center for Mindfulness. She is continually learning more through deepening her personal mindfulness practice and via professional development such as David Treleaven's Trauma Sensitive Mindfulness courses. She is the founder of Mindful Concussion, through which she runs courses and other educational offerings to help fellow survivors learn to cultivate calm clarity in the middle of the storms that come with a brain injury.

SPEAKERS



ANNIE SMITH ST-GEORGES

Elder

Annie Smith St-Georges is a well-known Algonquin Traditional Elder born and raised on the Kitigan-Zibi reservation near Maniwaki. Daughter of a trapper, she has acquired many teachings from her grandfather, her uncle, the internationally renowned Grand Father William Commanda, and from many aboriginal elders from across North America. Annie's teachings are based on respecting Mother Earth and all its creatures, on spirituality and on promoting harmony between one other.

Annie was chosen by all National Aboriginal Organizations and the Government of Canada as the Algonquin Elder to perform the Welcoming and Smudging Ceremony for the June 11, 2008 Apology for the Residential School Victims in the presence of the Governor General, the Prime Minister, Opposition Chiefs, The National Aboriginal Organizations' Chiefs and Representatives, Ministers and Senators, other honorable guests and the public. In 2010, Annie was also chosen as the Algonquin Elder to perform the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the Re-opening of the Commission on the Residential School Victims at Rideau-Hall. Annie is also the Home Elder at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

Annie is the former owner and founder of the WÀGÉ Health Center which promotes the integration of Aboriginal, Alternative and Scientific medicines through a concept based on the medicine wheel. She continues to work as a traditional healer. She was also instrumental in founding the KUMIK Elder's Lodge in Gatineau and was the instigator of the federal government's interdepartmental, annual Aboriginal Awareness Week. Annie holds a teaching certificate from the University of Quebec and has worked for several years as a federal civil servant.



CANDACE STRETCH

Manager of Supportive Housing & Family Services

Candace Stretch is the Manager of Supportive Housing & Family Services at The Cridge Centre for the Family, Western Canada's oldest non-profit organization, in Victoria, BC. Candace has worked in the non-profit realm for 22 years, and in the area of intimate partner violence (IPV) since 2007. Candace has a Master's Degree in Counselling, and has lead numerous workshops and training sessions on issues impacting women who have experienced IPV, with a more recent focus on the intersection of IPV and brain injury. A resident of Victoria since 1998, Candace is passionate about seeing systemic change in her community that will make it a safer and more supportive place for women escaping IPV.

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SPEAKERS



CHARLES TATOR

PhD, MD

Dr. Charles Tator trained in Neurosurgery and Neuropathology and was Chair of Neurosurgery, at the University of Toronto. He headed Neurosurgery at the Toronto Western Hospital, and was a founder of ThinkFirst, Canada, a national brain and spinal cord injury prevention foundation, and Parachute Canada, a national injury prevention agency. He held two research chairs at the University of Toronto, and is an Officer of the Order of Canada, and an inductee of the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame. Currently, he is a Scientist in the Krembil Brain Institute and Director of the Canadian Concussion Centre at Toronto Western Hospital. He is the author of 423 publications in peer review journals. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Neurotrauma and the Neuroscientist.



NAKEMA WALKER

Service Director and Member of the Ontario Rehab Alliance Black Network

Nakema Walker is a service Director for Bartimaeus Rehabilitation Services, she has the responsibility for a team of rehabilitation support workers for the Greater Toronto Area, Peel region, and Dufferin County. She brings a clients-first focus into the analysis and advocacy aspects of her work and into her role as a member of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Rehab Alliance (ORA). Since becoming an active member of the ORA Nakema has been instrumental in establishing the ORA Black Network. She is also a member of the Board's Advocacy (Government Relations) Committee and plays a key role in the ORA's network of non-regulated (RT, PSW) members. Nakema is an active member of her community, and was awarded the Black Excellence community award 2022.





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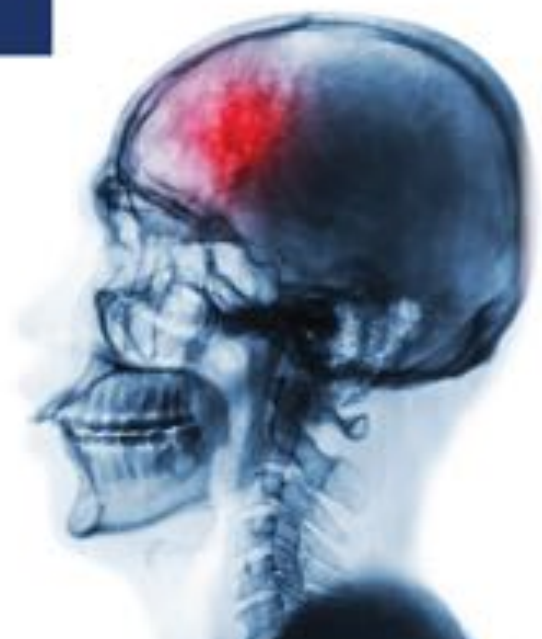
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You can find more information about your local brain injury association at braininjurycanada.ca/brain-injury-associations

Alberta

- Southern Alberta Brain Injury Society
- Brain Care Centre
- Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured

British Columbia

- British Columbia Brain Injury Association
- Braintrust Canada
- Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association
- Comox Valley Head Injury Association
- Kamloops Brain Injury Association
- Nanaimo Brain Injury Association
- Northern Brain Injury Association of BC
- Powell River Brain Injury Association
- Prince George Brain Injured Group Society
- South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society
- West Kootenay Brain Injury Association
- Vancouver Brain Injury Association
- Victoria Brain Injury Association

Manitoba

- Manitoba Brain Injury Association

Newfoundland & Labrador

- Newfoundland & Labrador Brain Injury Association

Nova Scotia

- Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia

Ontario

- Ontario Brain Injury Association
- Brain Injury Association of Quinte District
- Brain Injury Association of Fort Erie
- New Beginnings - Chatham-Kent
- Brain Injury Association of Durham Region
- Hamilton Brain Injury Association
- Brain Injury Association of London and Region
- Brain Injury Association of Niagara
- Brain Injury Association of North Bay and Area

- Brain Injury Services of Northern Ontario
- Brain Injury Association of the Ottawa Valley
- Brain Injury Association of Peel Halton
- Brain Injury Association of Peterborough Region
- Brain Injury Association of Sarnia Lambton
- Brain Injury Association of Sault Ste Marie
- Seizure & Brain Injury Centre
- Brain Injury Association of Sudbury
- Brain Injury Association of Toronto
- Brain Injury Association of Waterloo/Wellington
- Brain Injury Association of Windsor Essex
- Brain Injury Association of York Region

Quebec

- CONNEXION - Regroupement des Associations des Personnes TCC du Québec
- Association des personnes ACVA-TCC du Bas-Saint-Laurent
- Association des traumatisés crâniens de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Association des handicapés adultes Côte-Nord
- Association des accidentés cérébro-vasculaires et traumatisés crâniens de l'Estrie
- Association des TCC et ACV de la Gaspésie et des Îles-de-la-Madeleine
- Association des personnes handicapées physiques et sensorielles du secteur Joliette
- Centre d'aide personnes traumatisées crâniennes et handicapées physiques Laurentides
- Association des traumatisés cranio-cérébraux Mauricie-Centre-du-Québec
- Association des Traumatisés cranio-cérébraux de la Montérégie
- Association québécoise des traumatisés crâniens
- Association des neurotraumatisés - Outaouais
- Association des TCC des deux rives
- Association Renaissance des personnes traumatisées crâniennes du Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean

Saskatchewan

- Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association
- Lloydminster and Area Brain Injury Society