75
1946 – 2021

Spinal Cord Injury Manitoba

Proud History | Vibrant Future

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

www.scimanitoba.ca
info@scimanitoba.ca
204.786.4753
1.800.720.4933

Onwards and Upwards

As we reflect on the past year, we must again begin by acknowledging the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although public health orders were replaced by public health recommendations and some individuals resumed familiar pre-pandemic daily routines, that has not been the experience for all Manitobans, including many within SCI Manitoba's membership who continue to protect themselves against COVID-19 by adhering to the disease mitigation measures first introduced in early 2020.

Notably, our office at 825 Sherbrook Street in Winnipeg remained closed with staff working remotely. We have maintained our core office space but relinquished some adjacent space to eliminate unnecessary expenses as the organization prepares for a restructuring aimed at optimizing efficiency – a hybrid work environment where staff will work partly from home and partly from the office. This will include a mix of dedicated and shared workspaces, some storage, and space for meetings with clients, funders, and other stakeholders.

Our team of dedicated rehabilitation counsellors continued to support SCI Manitoba members by phone, by email, and by post throughout the year, with an exciting trial underway at year end to assess the feasibility of using videoconferencing technology for direct service provision, which would allow more dynamic interactions with members who have the required resources to access this emerging mode of communication. If the results are favourable and members find the technology adds meaningfully to the quality of interaction, we will begin developing a plan for deploying videoconferencing technology more widely in the year ahead.

In August 2021, responding to a call from the provincial government asking disability serving organizations to encourage their members to get vaccinated against COVID-19 (because their vaccination rate was lower compared to the Manitoba population as a whole), we partnered with Manitoba Possible, St.Amant, and the Rehabilitation Centre for Children to host a COVID-19 vaccination clinic and invited SCI Manitoba members living in or near Winnipeg to register for this event.

In January 2022, SCI Manitoba was invited to resume attending weekly rounds in person (rather than participating by phone), and by the end of March we were allowed once again to start seeing patients in person on a limited basis at the HSC Rehabilitation Hospital. As many readers will know, the inpatient rehabilitation admission is a critical period for establishing relationships with newly injured Manitobans and their families, so having a presence on the spinal cord injury unit again is essential for providing the most impactful support possible.

With respect to funding, we are pleased to report that all service agreements were maintained at the same level in 2021-22, and we believe this reflects a truly genuine understanding of the work we do on the part of our principal funders and supporters: Manitoba Economic Development, Investment and Trade (EDIT), Manitoba Health and Seniors Care (HSC), United Way Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, the Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba, and the Manitoba Paraplegia Foundation.

On the governance front, our board of directors remained as committed to supporting our work as it did in 2020-21, which had the highest meeting attendance rate in many years. This is due in no small way to using videoconferencing technology, but also the result of a

sincere interest in tackling a mixture of novel and ongoing challenges, including those related to fiscal management, personnel transitions, developing a comprehensive strategic plan that will help focus our work over the next three years, and our 75th anniversary celebrations. Added to that was a need to update several aging policies and to adopt a number of new policies to reflect important changes in the operating and funding environments.

The board has also begun to explore what role the organization can play in Truth and Reconciliation, and has created a committee to consider how our work can better align with the needs of our Indigenous members and how we might work more effectively with Indigenous-lead agencies across the province. Look for more details on this important work in upcoming editions of ParaTracks.

On November 3, 2021, we celebrated 75 years of supporting Manitobans living with spinal cord injury, and we joined with host Ace Burpee from 103.1 Virgin Radio in Winnipeg to livestream this event on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. During the event, we unveiled a series of newly produced videos focused on our history, our services, and the impact of our collective work over many decades on one SCI Manitoba member, Yvette Cenerini, an accomplished educator, artist, wife, and mother of two who has been living with tetraplegia for more than 30 years. All of these videos, which feature parts of interviews with noteworthy people in our history, are available on our website and YouTube channel.

One of the most memorable segments of the entire event was the inaugural presentation of the E. Arthur Braid SCI Manitoba Merit Award (2021), unanimously given posthumously to our dear friend, Art Braid, who devoted his time, energy, and passion over more than fifty years to improving the welfare of people living with spinal cord injury. His influence and impact are impossible to quantify, but to all who had the pleasure of knowing and working alongside this impressive man, there is no mistaking that he was a driving force behind the work of SCI Manitoba, the SCI federation, and the Manitoba Paraplegia Foundation throughout those fifty years, and his legacy will continue to live on in the award that now rightfully bears his name.

The past year was also one of transition, which saw necessary upgrades to our phone systems, IT infrastructure, and an enhanced online presence with the launch of our Facebook page and YouTube channel.

In closing, we want to thank all staff and board directors, including those who moved on to new challenges during the year, for their energy and passion for supporting Manitobans living with spinal cord injury. We also want to recognize our funders, donors, and supporters - the critical services we provide would not be possible without your incredibly generous and continuing support.

Lyall Hallick
Board President

Dan Joanisse
Interim Executive Director

Nature and Purpose

The mission of Spinal Cord Injury Manitoba is to assist persons living with spinal cord injury to achieve independence, self-reliance, and full community participation. We are a non-profit organization recognized as a designated agency by the provincial government, and we engage professional staff and peer volunteers to represent and support people living with spinal cord injury in Manitoba.

Our Six Core Services

SCI Manitoba operationalizes its mission through a rehabilitation services framework and the delivery of six core services. This transitional approach focuses on four phases: (1) recovery and rehabilitation, (2) reintegration, (3) community participation and growth, and (4) sustainability.

Rehabilitation Counselling

Professional counselling services assist individuals in their return to an independent life in the community. We provide continuous support, information, community links, and follow-up.

Service Coordination

A unique framework ensures overall coordination for the rehabilitation process, from onset through community reintegration.

Peer Support

"*Someone who's been there*" can act as a mentor and role model to encourage and sustain others through the challenges they face.

Education and Employment

These services assist individuals to identify vocational options and obtain employment consistent with their values, skills, abilities, and interests.

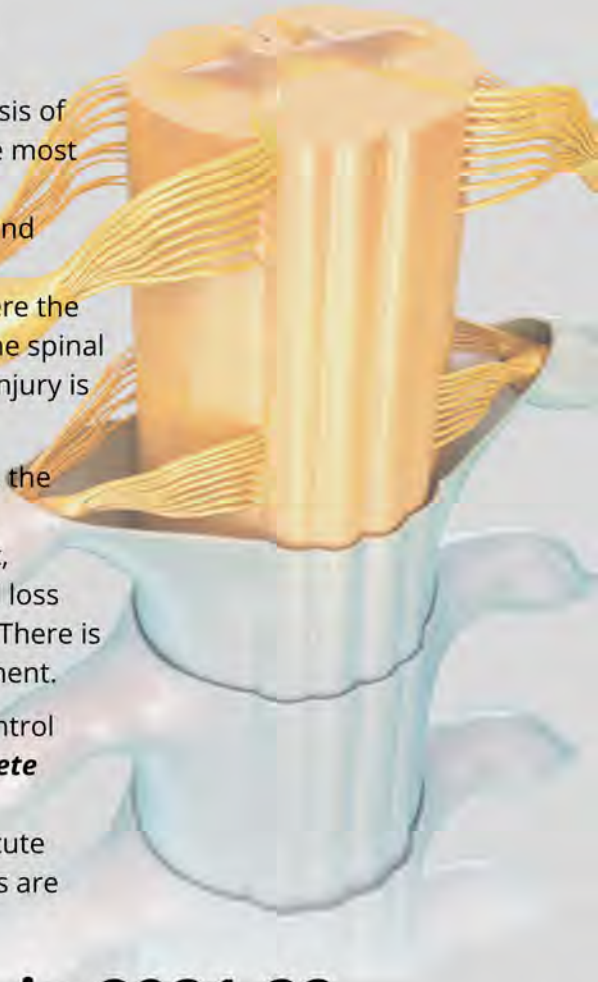
Information Services

We provide comprehensive and relevant information for all stakeholders - Manitobans living with spinal cord injury, their families, employers, community agencies, funders, insurers, and governments.

Community Advocacy

We strive to create a society based on inclusion. These efforts involve identifying, reducing, and working with others to eliminate barriers to full community participation, including leadership in preventative measures.

What is spinal cord injury?



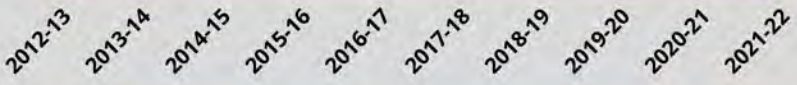
A spinal cord injury is damage to the spinal cord that causes paralysis of muscles, loss of sensation, and changes in autonomic function. The most common causes of spinal cord injury are trauma (for example car accidents, sports injuries, and falls) and disease (such as tumours and reduced blood flow to the spinal cord). The extent and severity of functional loss depends on two main factors: first, the location where the spinal cord damage occurs (generally, damage at higher levels of the spinal cord produce a greater loss in function), and second, whether the injury is 'complete' or 'incomplete'.

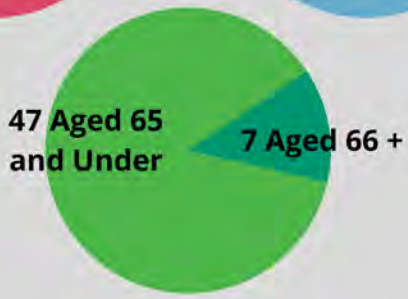
When damage to the spinal cord occurs in the cervical spine (neck), the loss of function extends to the arms, hands, trunk, and legs, and is referred to as ***tetraplegia***. When the damage occurs in the thoracic, lumbar, or sacral spine (upper, mid, and lower back), the functional loss affects the legs (and trunk in some cases) and is called ***paraplegia***. There is no cure for spinal cord injury - damage to the spinal cord is permanent.

In a ***complete spinal cord injury***, there is no sensation or motor control below the level where the spinal cord was damaged. In an ***incomplete spinal cord injury***, there is some sensation and/or motor control remaining below the level of injury. Because of improvements in acute care for people who sustain spinal cord injuries, incomplete injuries are becoming more common.

54 New Spinal Cord Injuries in 2021-22

34 Males, 20 Females





SERVICE TYPE	# SERVICES PROVIDED	% TOTAL SERVICES
ACCOMMODATION	550	4%
EDUCATION	912	8%
EMPLOYMENT	1,299	11%
EQUIPMENT	765	7%
FAMILY/RELATIONSHIPS	402	4%
FINANCIAL	554	4%
HEALTH & WELLNESS	6,145	54%
LEGAL	198	1%
RECREATION/LEISURE	192	1%
SEX AND FERTILITY	165	1%
TRANSPORTATION	668	5%
DIRECT SERVICES	11,450	77%
INDIRECT SERVICES	3,272	23%
TOTAL	14,722	100%

Staff

Dan Joanisse* - Interim Executive Director
Darlene Cooper - Director of Rehabilitation Services / Assistant Executive Director
Gail Burnside - Rehabilitation Counsellor / Assistant Director of Rehabilitation Services
Adrienne Conley - Executive Assistant
Denise Balliet - Accounting Officer
Laurence Haien - Senior Rehabilitation Counsellor
Maria Cabas - Rehabilitation Counsellor
Melanie White - Rehabilitation Counsellor
LeAmber Kensley - Rehabilitation Counsellor
Artem Dolia* - Rehabilitation Counsellor
Natasha Schreyer - Rehabilitation Counsellor
Annika Onosson* - Rehabilitation Counsellor
Michael Reimer* - Rehabilitation Counsellor
**living with spinal cord injury*

Service Outputs for 2021-22

INFORMATION SERVICES - SCI Manitoba's provincial news magazine ParaTracks is published three times annually and our website is maintained by member George Tataryn. We also post regularly to our Facebook page with information about local news, SCI research opportunities, and community events. In addition, SCI Manitoba offers several information resources, including:

- *Life After Spinal Cord Injury* manual
- *Life After Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury* manual
- *Life Interrupted: For Youth with a Spinal Cord Injury and their Families* manual
- *Guide to Pressure Ulcer Prevention* manual
- *So Dad Uses a Wheelchair* children's book
- *STEP-UP Stakeholder Training and Education for Pressure Ulcer Prevention* program
- Various brochures, articles, and videos about spinal cord injury
- Targeted education sessions

CLIENT SERVICES - SCI Manitoba's computerized database system tracks program activities (outputs) and program indicators are derived through analysis of these outputs. In 2021-22, rehabilitation counselling services staff provided 14,722 services to 766 clients (see table).

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY SERVICES - SCI Manitoba was involved in a wide variety of community advocacy activities this past year, which makes possible the exchange of relevant information on priority issues for Manitobans living with SCI. This year, we collaborated with more than 80 external agencies and committees to ensure the collective voice of our members is heard loud and clear.

Board of Directors

Corrine Deegan*
Linda Godin-Sorin - Vice President
Lyall Hallick - President
Keith Klaassen*
Ron May
Barbara Rapson
Leonard Steingarten*
Adam Terwin - Treasurer
Mark Wherrett*

living with spinal cord injury

Treasurer's Report

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to report SCI Manitoba continues to deliver essential, life-changing services to Manitobans living with spinal cord injury. This is made possible by the continuing support of our funders and the professionalism of our staff, which allowed the organization to continue delivering these critical services despite the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the year ended March 31, 2022, the Excess of Revenue over Expenses was $130,280, due in large part to a $90,000 bequest received from an estate midway through the year. Our contracted revenue was consistent with the prior year thanks to the continuing support of our funding partners, though our overall revenue increased by $113,703 because of the bequest, donations related to our 75th anniversary celebrations, and higher than usual miscellaneous revenue. The bequest enabled SCI Manitoba to create an Internally Restricted Fund, established to support future staff training and development, which will ensure staff can continue to deliver rehabilitation counselling services of the highest quality.

Overall expenses decreased by $10,817 compared to the prior year. There was a significant decrease in salary and benefit costs due to staff changes, but this was offset by increased expenses for information services and consulting activities.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to our funders, members, and donors for their continued support of our programs and services. Thank you also to our Accounting Officers, Denise Balliet and Neil Okumura, for their hard work and dedication, and to Deloitte LLP for their services in the preparation of our Audited Financial Statements.

— Adam Terwin, Treasurer

2021-22 Donors and Supporters

William K. Adair
All Charities Campaign
Ginette Balcaen
Denise Balliet
Janice Becking
Stephen Bilan
Bradley Boisselle
Fred Boyko
Karina Cardona Claros
Yvette Cenerini
Alonza Chase
Jonathan Coté
Dennis Dart
Linda Demers
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Arthur Williams
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John Wyndels

SPINAL CORD INJURY MANITOBA INC.
Summarized Financial Statements
March 31, 2022

Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements
To the Members of
Spinal Cord Injury Manitoba Inc.

Opinion
The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2022 and the summary statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended (collectively referred to as the "financial statements") are derived from the audited financial statements of the Spinal Cord Injury Manitoba Inc. (the "Organization").

In our opinion the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements.

Summary Financial Statements
The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Organization's audited financial statements. The summary financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial statements.

The Audited Financial Statements and our Report Thereon
In our report dated October 7, 2022, we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements
Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Deloitte LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

October 7, 2022
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Summary Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2022

	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2021
Assets		
Cash	$ 466,171	$ 154,507
Accounts receivable	44,877	221,941
Prepaid expenses	8,113	9,137
Fixed assets	22,269	12,833
Trust assets	66,408	66,311
	$ 607,838	$ 464,729
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Assets		
Accounts payable and accrued	$ 70,305	$ 53,264
Accrued vacation pay	63,734	68,139
Deferred revenue	37,891	37,795
CEBA Loan	60,000	60,000
Trust liabilities	66,408	66,311
Net assets	309,500	179,220
	$ 607,838	$ 464,729

Summary Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets
For the year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
Revenue		
Grants and contracted revenue		
Province of Manitoba Family Services	$ 320,949	$ 319,400
United Way of Winnipeg	135,755	133,255
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority	57,897	57,897
Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba	25,000	25,000
Rick Hansen Foundation Quality of Life Grant	1,170	4,440
Flooring replacement	3,469	3,469
	544,240	543,461
Fees for service	30,000	20,000
Miscellaneous	153,157	47,003
Recovery of equipment & training costs from/on behalf of paraplegics	43,013	46,243
Total revenue	770,410	656,707
Expenses		
Amortization of fixed assets	7,643	4,494
Rehabilitation Services Program	449,663	465,470
Advocacy/Information Program	136,814	131,826
Vocational assistance	44,840	44,779
Quality of Life Grant	1,170	4,440
Total expenses	640,130	651,009
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	130,280	5,698
Net Assets, beginning of year	179,220	173,522
Net Assets, end of year	$ 309,500	$ 179,220

A complete set of financial statements and Auditor's Report may be obtained from the Organization

Spinal cord injury affects more than 86,000 Canadians and can result in permanent disability, lifelong health complications, unemployment, poverty, isolation, and mental health challenges.

The economic cost of spinal cord injury in Canada exceeds $2.7B annually.

2022 E. Arthur Braid SCI Manitoba Merit Award

John Lane, Tony Mann, Allan Simpson (1994)

I first met John Lane in the summer of 1991, when I was still a patient at the HSC Rehabilitation Hospital. I was introduced to many truly caring and compassionate people working for SCI Manitoba at that time, but John really made an impression on me. In the years that followed, I had the good fortune of working on various summer projects for SCI Manitoba and watched with great interest how John interacted with members, colleagues, and other stakeholders. He was an incredibly hard-working and effective leader, always putting the needs of members first.

As it happened, John left SCI Manitoba in 1994 after 19 years as executive director, having been personally recruited for the position by his predecessor, Tony Mann, in 1976. However, John was always generous with his time and made a point of keeping in touch with the organization over the years. Shortly after his departure, I joined the board of directors and it was then that I began to hear about all the accomplishments that had been realized during John's tenure. They are too numerous to recount here, but among them were remaining an autonomous agency in the face of heavy pressure to amalgamate with another organization, changes to the federal Elections Act to improve accessibility at voting stations, improvements to the building code, securing federal funding to provide culturally appropriate services to Indigenous members, introducing computers to the office, expanding services to Brandon and Thompson, professional training for counsellors, developing long-term accessible housing in Winnipeg, making self-managed home care services available, creating the Manitoba Paraplegia Foundation in 1980, establishing the Spinal Cord Research Centre at the University of Manitoba in 1987, and perhaps most critically, continuing to ensure that SCI Manitoba services were responsive to members' needs. This was never more evident than when SCI Manitoba helped organize the first ever conference for farmers with disabilities, which drew delegates from several Canadian provinces and US states. Farmers were able to share stories and learn from each other how to manage the considerable physical demands of operating a farm with a disability.

Audrey McIlraith, John Lane, Harriet Hart, Kris Cowley (2006)

For his outstanding leadership, his many valuable contributions, and his commitment to supporting people living with spinal cord injury in achieving independence, self-reliance, and full community participation, SCI Manitoba is delighted to present John Lane with the richly deserved 2022 E. Arthur Braid Spinal Cord Injury Manitoba Merit Award.

— Dan Joanisse, Interim Executive Director

THANK YOU AGAIN!

As we turn the page on 2021-2022, we again wish to express our gratitude to the following individuals for their indispensable assistance with our 75th anniversary celebrations:

Also, sincere thanks to John Lane, Harriet Hart, Arnie Schryvers, Glen Macdonald, the late Ernie Hasiuk, Doug Finkbeiner, Lianne and Penny Welburn, Matt Hallick, and the staff and board of SCI Manitoba for giving so much of their time and energy helping with the production of several videos we debuted during the livestream event on November 3, 2021.

THANK YOU ALSO TO OUR SPONSORS AND PRIZE DONORS!

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Yvette Cenerini
Visual Artist

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

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Spinal Cord Injury Manitoba

1946 – 2021

Proud History | Vibrant Future

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YES!

Count me in as a member of Spinal Cord Injury Manitoba Inc. All members receive "ParaTracks" SCI Manitoba's newsletter and voting privileges at the Annual General Meeting.

Members also receive discounts at various health care supply stores.

Stevens Home Health Care Supplies (10% off supplies & equipment), The Access Store (10%), Northland Home Health Care (10% off medical supplies) and Fido Mobile ($10 off monthly phone plan).

PLEASE ENTER MEMBERSHIP FOR:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY: **PROV:**

POSTAL CODE: **PHONE:**

E-MAIL:

(PROVIDING YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS WILL HELP SAVE ON MAILING COSTS)

SIGNATURE: **DATE:**

I wish to select the following category of Membership:

- ☐ **MEMBER $15 - $24**
- ☐ **SUPPORTING MEMBER $25 - $99**
- ☐ **SUSTAINING MEMBER: $100 - $249**
- ☐ **CHARTER MEMBER: $250 - $499**
- ☐ **PATRON MEMBER: $500 AND OVER**

All Monies donated remain in Manitoba to support SCI Manitoba. An income tax receipt will be issued for any amount over $15.00. Sustaining, Charter and Patron Members will receive recognition of their generous contribution in the context of events such as our Annual General Meetings or in the programs of other SCI Manitoba functions.

☐ **NEW** ☐ **RENEWAL**

Make cheque payable to: Spinal Cord Injury Manitoba
Mail to: 825 Sherbrook Street, Winnipeg MB R3A 2M5

IMPORTANT!

By signing above, you are consenting to the use of your personal information (name and address only) by SCI Manitoba for the purposes of sending out SCI's newsletters, membership cards and receipts, reminder notices and meeting notices. SCI Manitoba does not sell or trade personal information and does not rent out its mailing lists.

For more information: **Phone: 204-786-4753** **Fax: 204-786-1140** **Email: info@scimanitoba.ca**
Toll free within Manitoba: 1-800-720-4933