

**BRAINTRUST**  
CANADA



**PUSHOR MITCHELL** LLP  
LAWYERS

# **WEST COAST** **BRAIN INJURY** **CONFERENCE**



***A SYNTHESIS OF SYSTEMS***  
Working Together to Fill the Gaps

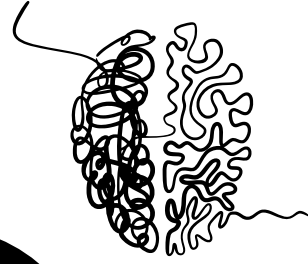
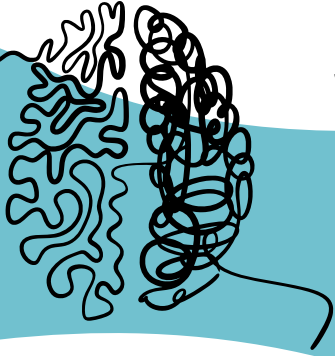
**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**  
JUNE 14, 2023 - KELOWNA, BC

[braintrustcanada.com/events/wcbic2023](https://braintrustcanada.com/events/wcbic2023)

# BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

June 2023

JOIN  
US!



Brain injury is a community issue that requires a community response. Every June we celebrate Brain Injury Awareness Month to bring awareness to the cause of brain injury and educate the community on brain injury.

## 1. RAISE AWARENESS

Start a discussion with your friends, family, and coworkers about brain injury.

## 2. SHARE YOUR BRAIN INJURY STORY

Help us turn invisible injuries into visible stories. Whether you have a brain injury or care for someone that does, tell us how brain injury has impacted you and what you wish others knew about brain injury.

## 3. ATTEND AN EVENT

Check out our website to learn more about events happening in the Okanagan.

## 4. BOOK A TRAINING PRESENTATION

Contact us to book an interactive training presentation for your business, team, or organization. We customize presentations to meet your needs and give you strategies and information you can apply.

## 5. MAKE A DONATION

All donations to BrainTrust Canada directly support programs for brain injury survivors in our community.

[braintrustcanada.com/biam](https://braintrustcanada.com/biam)





# PUSHOR MITCHELL LLP

LAWYERS

## BRAIN INJURY GROUP

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for our client.**

**We provide legal services in a  
variety of areas, including:**

- *Personal Injury*
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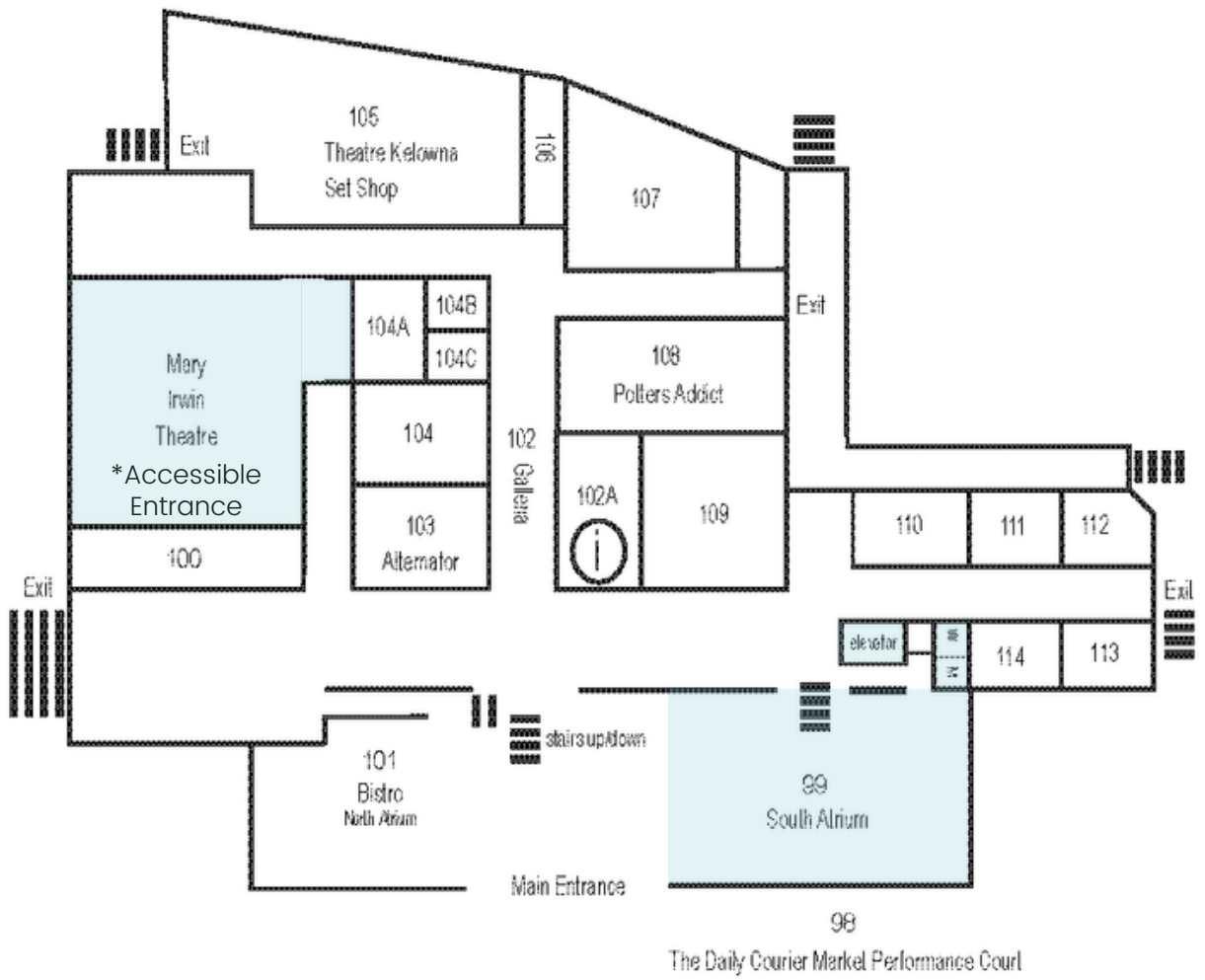
*Extensive Experience with Serious Brain Injury Claims*

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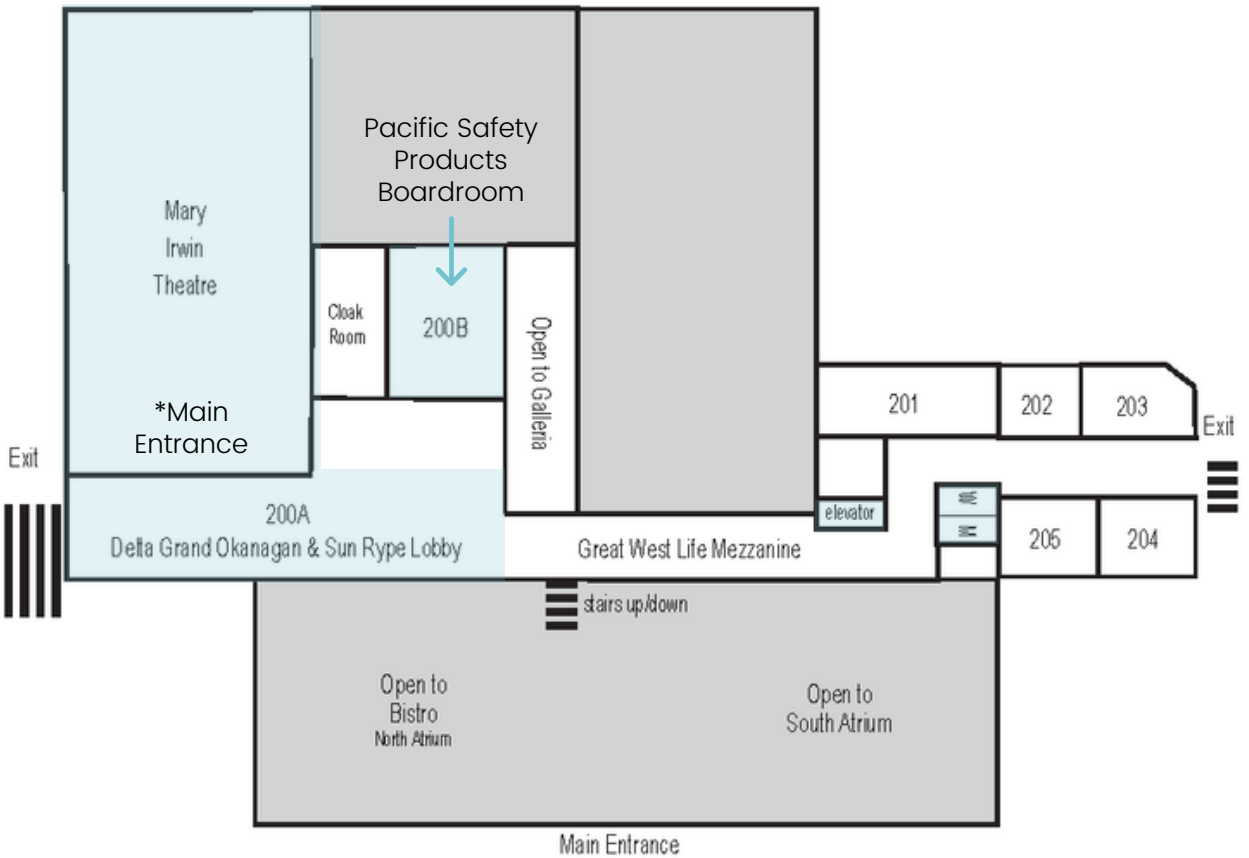
301 - 1665 Ellis Street Kelowna, BC V1Y 2B3

TF 1.800.558.1155 PH 250.762.2108 FAX 250.762.9115

# 1st floor



# 2nd floor



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 2023 WEST COAST BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE

1	Land Acknowledgment .....	1
2	Welcome Message .....	5
3	Information .....	6
	3.1 Organizer - BrainTrust Canada .....	6
	3.2 Title Sponsor - Pushor Mitchell LLP .....	7
	3.3 Livestream & Recorded Sessions .....	7
	3.4 Venue .....	8
	3.5 Contact & Support .....	9
	3.6 Check-In & Exhibition Hours .....	9
4	Conference Program .....	11
	4.1 Schedule at a Glance .....	11
	4.2 Full Program .....	12
	4.3 Speaker Profiles .....	19
5	Exhibitor Hall .....	27
	5.1 Exhibition Area & Details .....	27
	5.2 Exhibitor Profiles .....	27
6	Sponsors & Partners .....	30
7	Conference Hashtag & Social Media .....	34

# 1 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & APPRECIATION

## A HISTORY OF THE SYILX PEOPLE OF THE OKANAGAN NATION

PROVIDED BY THE SYILX OKANAGAN NATION ALLIANCE - SYILX.ORG

This year, the West Coast Brain Injury Conference will take place at the University of British Columbia's Okanagan Campus in beautiful Kelowna, BC. The Conference Organizing Committee respectfully and humbly acknowledges the *Syilx Okanagan* Nation and their Peoples, in whose traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory UBC Okanagan is located on.

### About the *Syilx* People of the Okanagan Nation

The *Syilx* People of the Okanagan Nation are a trans-boundary tribe separated at the 49th parallel by the border between Canada and the United States. Our Nation is comprised of seven member communities in the Southern Interior of British Columbia: Okanagan Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band, Upper Nicola Band, Upper and Lower Similkameen Indian Bands, and Westbank First Nation; and in Northern Washington State, the Colville Confederated Tribes. Our members share the same land, *nsyilxcən* language, culture, and customs. We are a distinct and sovereign Nation.

Today the *Syilx Okanagan* People continue to assert their jurisdiction and responsibility over the stewarding of our land, resources, and quality of life of our citizens. Our *nsyilxcən* language and our *Syilx Okanagan* culture respectfully honour the natural laws of the *tmix<sup>w</sup>* – *that which gives us life*.



## Territory

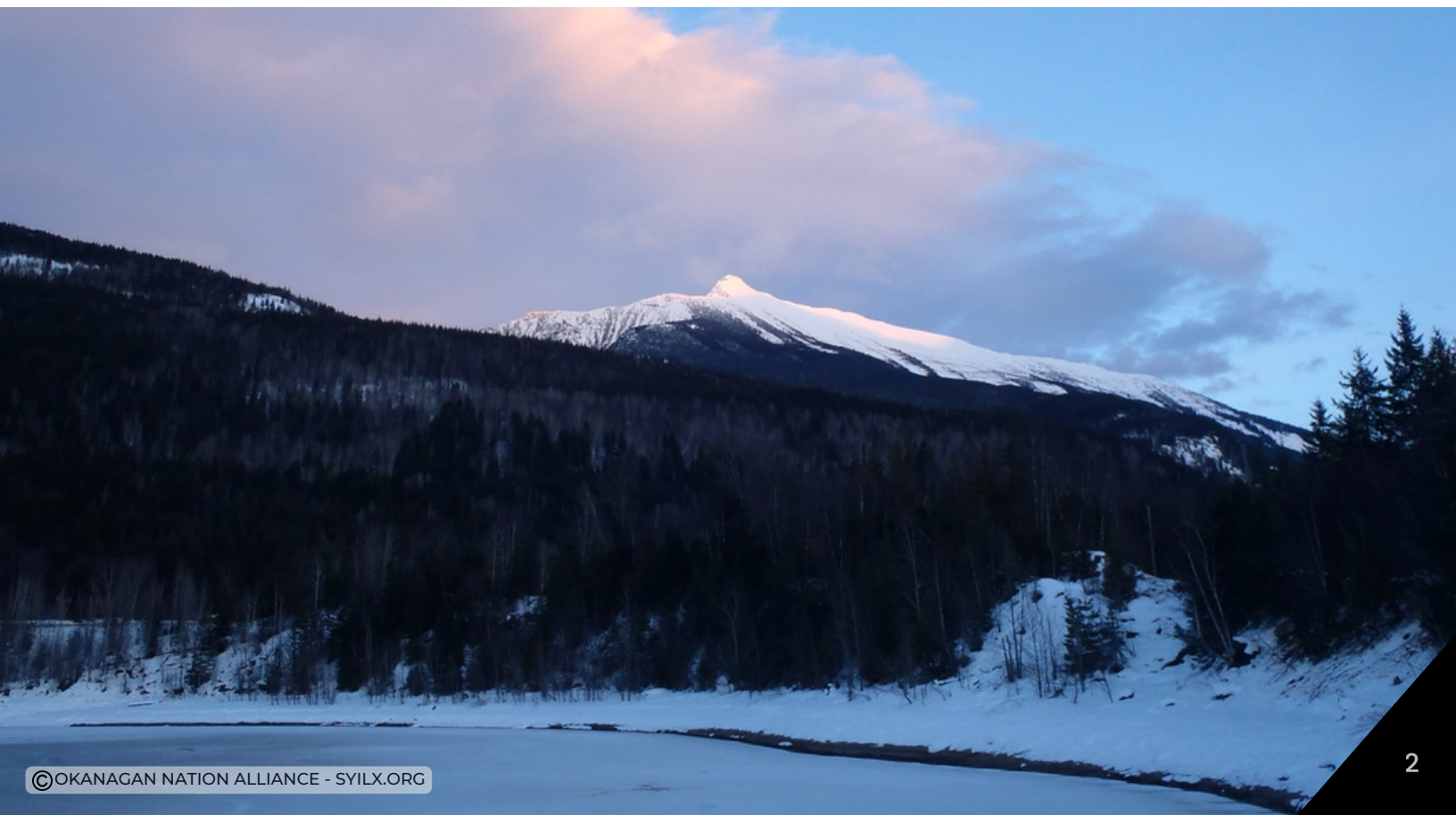
The *Syilx Okanagan* People's territory is a diverse and beautiful landscape of deserts and lakes, alpine forests and endangered grasslands. It extends over approximately 69,000 square kilometers. The northern area of this territory was close to the area of Mica Creek, just north of modern day Revelstoke, BC, and the eastern boundary was between Kaslo and Kootenay Lakes. The southern boundary extended to the vicinity of Wilbur, Washington and the western border extended into the Nicola Valley.

## *nsyilxcən* Language

*nsyilxcən* is the language spoken by and distinguishes the *Syilx Okanagan* from other indigenous peoples. It is part of the Salish language family which is distinct from our Salish neighbours, like the *Spokan*, the *Nlaka'pamux*, and the *Secwepemc*. *nsyilxcən* is spoken in all the districts of the *Syilx Okanagan* territory with varying dialects.

As part of colonization, Indian Residential Schools were introduced and Indigenous Peoples were severely punished for speaking their own languages and forced to speak English, resulting in a severe loss of the language retention in our communities.

Today, community based language revitalization strategies such as immersion schools, language nests, developing curriculum, web based tools and books are all making language a major component of educational curriculum.



## Okanagan Nation Declaration

The *Syilx Okanagan* people signed the Okanagan Nation Declaration on August 1987 at Komasket Park, declaring their sovereignty.



*We are the unconquered aboriginal people of this land, our mother; The creator has given us our mother, to enjoy, to manage and to protect; we, the first inhabitants, have lived with our mother from time immemorial; our Okanagan governments have allowed us to share equally in the resources of our mother; we have never given up our rights to our mother, our mother's resources, our governments and our religion; we will survive and continue to govern our mother and her resources for the good of all for all time.*



## Unity Declaration

On July 15th and 16th, 2010 at Spirit Ridge Resort in Osoyoos B.C., the member Chiefs and Council of the *Syilx Okanagan* Nation signed the Declaration of Unity with the Colville Confederated Tribes Business Council (CCTBC). Hundreds of members from our Nation on both sides of the international border, including Chiefs, Councilors and Elders attended the event to witness the signing.





## captikʷł

captikʷł are a collection of teachings about *Syilx Okanagan* laws, customs, values, governance structures and principles that together define and inform *Syilx Okanagan* rights and responsibilities to the land and to our culture. These stories provide instruction on how to relate to and live on the land. captikʷł stories serve as reminder of *Syilx Okanagan* natural laws and protocols that need to be followed in order for future generations to survive in harmony with the tmixʷ. These stories are embedded in our culture and language and play a vital role in cultural renewal and revitalization.

In our histories, we are told that kʷuləncutn (Creator) sent sənklip (Coyote) to help our people survive on this land. sen'k'lip's travels are a record of the natural laws necessary for our *Syilx Okanagan* people to survive and carry on. We weren't born with the instincts to know how to live in nature's laws. Instead, we were given memory to remind us of what we can and cannot be doing. Understanding and teaching our young generations about the land and how to become a "part of it" is the way that we, the *Syilx Okanagan*, have survived.

Today, our captikʷł are still used in this fast paced modern world. *Syilx* knowledge and cultural values from the captikʷł are being passed on to the youth to help them live in this modern world and to let them know who they are and where they come from.

## Resources

For more information on the Original *Syilx Okanagan* People, the first chapter of "*We Get Our Living Like Milk From the Land*", a book compiled by the Okanagan Rights Committee and The Okanagan Indian Education Resources Society for the Okanagan People, is a great resource for further education.

To find the first chapter of this book and to learn more about the Enowikin Center, Okanagan First Peoples, Nk' Mip Desert Cultural Centre and Sncəwips Heritage Museum please visit:

<https://www.syilx.org/about-us/syilx-nation/resources/>

## Attending Virtually?

We encourage all attendees to acknowledge, appreciate, and learn about the traditional land they are located on. If you are attending the conference virtually, please check out:

Native Land Digital  
[native-land.ca](http://native-land.ca)

Native Land Digital creates spaces where non-Indigenous people can be invited and challenged to learn more about the lands they inhabit, the history of those lands, and how to actively be part of a better future going forward together.

## 2 WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues, Friends and Community,

I take great pride in welcoming you to the 2023 Pushor Mitchell West Coast Brain Injury Conference on June 14th, 2023, located upon the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Syilx Nation. I respectfully and humbly acknowledge that we are guests of the Syilx Okanagan Nation. Our venue is the Rotary Centre of Arts, located in the heart of downtown Kelowna.

We are grateful for our loyal and long-standing partnership with Pushor Mitchell LLP, as they celebrate 50 years of exceptional work within our community. Thank you for allowing us to continue our legacy of brain injury education, we are eternally grateful.

Brain Injury is a highly misdiagnosed, stigmatized, and mistreated health issue. This growing epidemic has the unfortunate ability to intersect with the growing crises within our cities, nationwide. Addiction, homelessness, mental health, justice involvement, as well as the breakdown of family systems and loss of employment. The losses are devastating.

I often question why brain injury is so often overlooked. Brain injury is a leading cause of death and disability. With growing rates of opioid poisoning, many are left to live with the impacts of anoxic brain injury.

Despite extreme social and health care systems shortages and a lack of brain injury-specific funding, brain injury associations across the province are working diligently to fill these gaps and create ethical solutions.

I envision a day where brain injury is no longer an invisible injury. A world where access to diagnosis and support is available regardless of gender, race, social class, or behaviour.

I am sincerely grateful to each of you for choosing to show up and share in learning and conversation for a better world for those living with brain injury. I encourage you all to challenge your current beliefs, ask vulnerable questions, and leave here as an ally to the brain injury community.



AMANDA MCFARLANE  
Executive Director  
BrainTrust Canada

## 3 INFORMATION

### 3.1 ORGANIZER - BRAINTRUST CANADA

Founded in 1986, BrainTrust Canada is the only organization in the Central and North Okanagan that solely focuses on providing brain injury rehabilitation, prevention, and education programs and services. Our overall mission includes bringing the issue of brain injury to the forefront, reducing preventable brain injuries and maximizing the potential of those affected by brain injury.

In line with this year's conference theme, "A Synthesis of Systems: Working Together to Fill the Gaps", our focus is on the brain and behaviour in the context of current social issues, community connection, and systems change. As organizer of the annual West Coast Brain Injury Conference (WCBIC), we actively encourage the development of brain injury professionals and ardently support the dissemination of scientific and practical information related to brain injury.

# BRAINTRUST CANADA



### 3.2 TITLE SPONSOR - PUSHOR MITCHELL LLP

Pushor Mitchell LLP celebrates its 50th anniversary this year of providing legal services to clients throughout the Okanagan Valley and beyond, as well as supporting our beautiful community. With a reputation for excellence, integrity and commitment, the full-service law firm has become a trusted legal resource for individuals, families and businesses alike.

Today, Pushor Mitchell has a team of 37 lawyers plus over 100 support staff who are dedicated to upholding the firm's values and delivering outstanding legal services. The firm offers service in more than 25 practice areas, including business law, employment, immigration, wills and estates, estate litigation, family law, real estate, First Nations, commercial litigation and much more. The firm's lawyers are known for their deep knowledge, strategic approach and commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes for their clients.

Pushor Mitchell has always been deeply committed to giving back to the community and supports a number of charitable organizations and community initiatives. We are all very pleased to be the Presenting Sponsor once again for this year's Pushor Mitchell Westcoast Brain Injury Conference coordinated by BrainTrust Canada. We applaud BrainTrust Canada for their valuable work in our community supporting those with brain injury, as well as bringing awareness to the importance of prevention.



### 3.3 LIVESTREAM & RECORDED SESSIONS

The recorded speaker sessions will be available to participating in-person and virtual attendees. On Tuesday, June 13, virtual attendees receive an email with instructions on how to access the livestream. Please check your spam folder for this email. If you did not receive an email or you have trouble connecting,

**please contact: [marketing@braintrustcanda.com](mailto:marketing@braintrustcanda.com)**

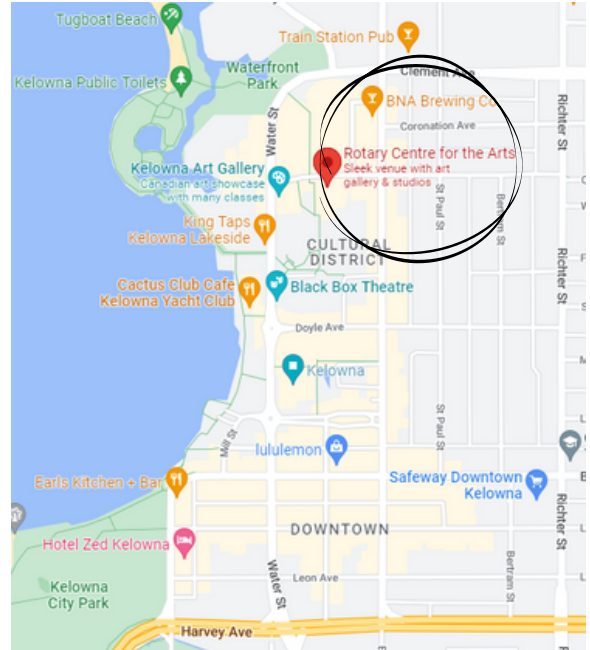
The recorded speaker sessions will be emailed to all attendees within two weeks from the date of the conference. The smaller workshop sessions (Jason McIntyre, Brent Coyne, Honourable Judge Lisa Wyatt) will not be livestreamed, but recordings of the sessions will be provided after the conference.

### 3.4 VENUE

**Rotary Centre for the Arts**  
1421 Cawston Avenue  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 6Z1

Located in the heart of Kelowna’s Cultural District, the Rotary Centre for the Arts is a multi-purpose venue designed to accommodate special events, theatre, music and visual arts.

Opened in 2002, the Rotary Centre for the Arts is a place where individuals of all ages and backgrounds can come together to share in the excitement of strengthening art, culture, and community in the Okanagan.



#### ACCESS



1 minute walk from Queensway bus terminal  
Bus lines 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 18, 70, 97



Taxi/rideshare services - Checkmate Cabs, Current Taxi, Kelowna Cabs, Uber, Uride



21 minutes from Kelowna International Airport



#### PARKING

Paid street parking is available.

Conveniently located behind the Rotary Centre for the Arts is the Library Plaza Parkade (entrance on Ellis Street).

Pay for parking by phone at:  
[www.paybyphone.com](http://www.paybyphone.com)



### 3.5 CONTACT & SUPPORT

For general inquiries, please contact [marketing@braintrustcanada.com](mailto:marketing@braintrustcanada.com)

For day-of support, please see one of the volunteers at the registration table or text/call 250-575-4697.

### 3.6 CHECK-IN & EXHIBITION HOURS

#### Check-In

Check-in will be at the front entrance of the Rotary Centre for the Arts between 7:30 AM and 8:30 AM. Grab-and-go breakfast will also be served at this time and during the morning break.

#### Exhibition

The Exhibition will be held in the Delta Grand Okanagan & Sun-Rype Upper Theatre Lobby (2nd floor) between 12:00 PM and 5:00 PM. The Exhibition officially opens during the Lunch Reception.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR





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**Acquired** (brain injury and concussion)

**Developmental** (pediatric optometry)

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**DISCOVER HOW VISION THERAPY CAN HELP YOU!  
CONTACT US FOR AN ASSESSMENT**

**(236) 420-4448**

**OKANAGANVISIONTHERAPY.CA**



# 4 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## 4.1 SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

7:30	Registration & Breakfast		Exhibitor Hall
7:45			
8:00			
8:15			
8:30	Krystal Lezard - Traditional Syilx Welcome		
8:45			
9:00	Angela Price-Stephens & Amanda McFarlane - Opening Ceremony		
9:15	Mary Clare Kennedy - Responding to the Overdose Crisis in British Columbia: Opportunities & Challenges		
9:30			
9:45			
10:00			
10:15	BREAK		
10:30	Robin Green - Identifying and Filling Gaps in Treatment for People in the Chronic Stages of Brain Injury		
10:45		Jason McIntyre - Enhancing Organizational Awareness	
11:00			
11:15			
11:30			
11:45	Corbin Coulter - From Surviving to Thriving: Building Better Habits for Brain Health		
12:00			
12:15	LUNCH	Brent Coyne - How Brain Injury and Other Disabilities Can Affect Spousal Support and Other Family Law Related Issues	
12:30			
12:45			
1:00	Laura Hockman - Disability Justice and Ethical Responsibility	Honourable Judge Lisa Wyatt - Brain Injury in the Justice System: Kelowna's Integrated Court	
1:15			
1:30			
1:45	BREAK		
2:00	Lara Boyd - How Can We Make Neurorehabilitation More Effective?		
2:15			
2:30			
2:45			
3:00	Panel Discussion - Part of the Solution: Addressing Harm Reduction and Anoxic Brain Injury as a Community		
3:15			
3:30			
3:45			
4:00	Closing Ceremony		
4:15			
4:30	Pushor Mitchell LLP Wine & Cheese Reception		
4:45			
5:00			
5:15			
5:30			
5:45			



## 4.2 FULL PROGRAM

### Wednesday - June 14, 2023

#### 7:30 - 8:30 Registration & Breakfast

**Location:** Front Entrance and Delta Grand Okanagan & Sun-Rype Upper Theatre Lobby

#### 8:30 - 9:15 Opening Ceremony & Traditional Syilx Welcome

**Location:** Mary Irwin Theatre

The WCBIC 2023 Opening Ceremony will explain the theme of the conference and include a Syilx opening acknowledgement song and share.

- **Master of Ceremony**



*Angela Price-Stephens*  
Lawyer  
Counsellor  
BrainTrust Board  
of Directors

- **Welcome Address**



*Amanda McFarlane*  
Executive Director  
BrainTrust Canada

- **Syilx Welcome**



*Spaxwawim Krystal Lezard*  
Knowledge  
Keeper  
Westbank First  
Nation

#### 9:15-10:15 Speaker Session: Mary Clare Kennedy

**Location:** Mary Irwin Theatre

Responding to the Overdose Crisis in British Columbia: Opportunities and Challenges

British Columbia is contending with an escalating epidemic of overdose deaths driven by a toxic drug supply. Although a public health emergency was declared in 2016 in response to this crisis, overdose deaths have continued to increase, and the morbidity associated with non-fatal overdose pose a range of new challenges. This presentation will review the latest epidemiology specific to the overdose crisis, and will highlight the role of emerging substances, including illicitly-manufactured synthetic drugs. A range of interventional and policy approaches will be discussed, including those spanning the prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and enforcement pillars. Also discussed will be the role of ongoing healthcare provider education and clinical guideline development as key components to the response to the overdose emergency.

#### Speaker



*Dr. Mary Clare Kennedy*  
University of British  
Columbia Okanagan  
BC Centre on Substance  
Use

#### Speaker Introduced By

**BRAINTRUST**  
CANADA

**10:15-10:30 Break**

**10:30-11:45 Speaker Session: Robin Green**

**Location:** Mary Irwin Theatre

**Identifying and Filling Gaps in Treatment for People in the Chronic Stages of Brain Injury**

This presentation will discuss clinical diagnosis of brain injury as a gateway to services, including barriers to obtaining a clinical diagnosis and the importance of self-advocacy. The dangers and implications of misdiagnosis for people with brain injury and comorbid mental health and substance use issues will be explored. This presentation will also highlight recent work on telerehabilitation research and models.

**Speaker**



*Dr. Robin Green*  
University of Toronto  
University Health Network

**Speaker Introduced By**



**10:45-11:45 Workshop: Jason McIntyre**

**Location:** Pacific Safety Products Boardroom

**Enhancing Organizational Awareness**

BC Corrections provides correctional services and programs to individuals 18 years and older. We are 2,647 probation officers, correctional officers and staff working together to reduce reoffending and protect communities in BC. Across the province we operate 10 correctional centres holding approximately 1700 individuals and 56 Community Corrections offices supervising around 20,000 clients. It is estimated that 60-80% of individuals in a correctional setting could have a history of brain injury. Over the last 5 years we have been working on increasing the awareness of staff and clients about the impacts of brain injury with the goal of being more responsive to the needs of these individuals in our care. This presentation will explore the ways we are bringing this knowledge and awareness to our organization, including a project with Brain Injury Canada to create a first of its kind education resource for staff in provincial correctional settings.

**Speaker**



*Jason McIntyre*  
BC Corrections

**11:45-12:15 Speaker Session: Corbin Coulter**

**Location:** Mary Irwin Theatre

**From Surviving to Thriving: Building Better Habits for Brain Health**

In my talk, I will discuss how sustaining a severe traumatic brain injury as a young adult changed my life, including my mental health, and how I came to focus on brain health. I will talk about the importance of brain health for prevention of illness and injury. As well, I will discuss the value of breathwork and mindfulness-focused interventions in my brain injury recovery.

**Speaker**



*Corbin Coulter*  
TBI Survivor

**Speaker Introduced By**



**12:15-1:00 Lunch Reception**

**Location:** South Atrium

Lunch will be served in the South Atrium. The Exhibitor Hall opens at lunch in the Delta Grand Okanagan & Sun-Rype Upper Theatre Lobby and continues till 5:00 pm.

**12:30-1:00 Speaker Session: Brent Coyne**

**Location:** Pacific Safety Products Boardroom

**How Brain Injury and Other Disabilities Can Affect Spousal Support and Other Family Law Related Issues**

This presentation will review what people with disability are entitled to from a legal perspective, including disability and spousal support, as well as how disability of a minor can impact child support.

**Speaker**



*Brent Coyne*  
Pushor Mitchell LLP

**Speaker Introduced By**



**1:00-1:45 Speaker Session: Laura Hockman**

**Location:** Mary Irwin Theatre

**Disability Justice and Ethical Responsibility**

This presentation will discuss principles of disability justice from an Indigenous perspective. Further, the ethical responsibility of service providers will be discussed in the context of disability justice. Important issues, such as the importance of ongoing consent, will be explored.

**Speaker**



*Laura Hockman*  
Independent Living Vernon  
University of British  
Columbia Okanagan

**Speaker Introduced By**



**1:00-1:45 Workshop: Honourable Judge Lisa Wyatt**

**Location:** Pacific Safety Products Boardroom

**Brain Injury in the Justice System: Kelowna's Integrated Court**

Kelowna's Integrated Court is a court for individuals whose offending is due, at least in part, to an underlying issue such as mental health, substance use, or brain injury. The court operates from the view that the most effective way to avoid or prevent offending is to assist these individuals in managing and overcoming these underlying circumstances. As a founding member of Kelowna's Integrated Court, Honourable Judge Lisa Wyatt will explain how the court was established, the importance of community engagement, and the process by which cases are seen in the court. This interactive discussion will include a question-and-answer period.

**Speaker**



*Honourable Judge Lisa Wyatt*  
Provincial Court of British Columbia

**1:45-2:00 Break**

**2:00-3:00 Speaker Session: Lara Boyd**

**Location:** Mary Irwin Theatre

How Can We Make Neurorehabilitation More Effective?

The most difficult questions in rehabilitation are “What is this patient’s potential for recovery?” and “What is the best rehabilitation strategy for this person?” Without answers to these questions, clinicians struggle to make decisions regarding the focus of therapy, researchers design studies that mix participants who have a high likelihood of responding with those who do not, and patients suffer from suboptimal outcomes. Biomarkers are measures that can be used to categorize patient subtypes and identify who will respond to certain therapies. This talk will explain how biomarkers can be used to personalize rehabilitation. Ongoing research that pairs magnetic resonance imaging with noninvasive brain stimulation will be presented as an illustration of evidence based, person centered care.

**Speaker**



*Dr. Lara Boyd*  
University of British  
Columbia

**Speaker Sponsored By**



**3:00-4:00 Panel Discussion**

**Location:** Mary Irwin Theatre

Part of the Solution: Addressing Harm Reduction and Anoxic Brain Injury as a Community

Local community leaders will share their perspective on harm reduction and anoxic brain injury and how this relates to systemic issues affecting our community including homelessness, crime, mental health, and community supports for individuals with complex needs. The interactive panel will discuss how we can work together as community partners to build a foundation of support and be part of the solution. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions to the panel of speakers.

**Speakers**



*Ali Butler*  
Urban Matters



*Cpl. Michael Kube*  
Community Safety  
Unit, Kelowna RCMP



*Mike Gawliuk*  
CMHA Kelowna



*Shannon Pedlar*  
John Howard  
Society of  
Okanagan &  
Kootenay

**4:00-4:30 Closing Ceremony**

**Location:** Mary Irwin Theatre

This presentation will discuss principles of disability justice from an Indigenous perspective. Further, the ethical responsibility

**4:30-6:00 Pushor Mitchell LLP Wine & Cheese Reception**

**Location:** South Atrium

Join us after the speaker talks for the Pushor Mitchell LLP Wine & Cheese Reception in the stunning South Atrium. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic options will be available. We encourage you to visit the exhibitor booths, open until 5:00 pm.

**Reception Sponsored By**



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TLABC is proud to  
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West Coast  
Brain Injury  
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CARE IN ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY SERVICES

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[connectcommunities.ca](http://connectcommunities.ca)

## 4.3 SPEAKER PROFILES

### Angela Price-Stephens - MC



*Lawyer - Counsellor*

Angela Price-Stephens is an English and Canadian lawyer, an experienced mediator, arbitrator, parental coordinator and practicing Registered Clinical Counsellor. Angela is also a facilitator with the Restorative Justice Society in Kelowna, diverting youth from the criminal justice system, where appropriate. She has a special interest in family dynamics and co-parenting challenges and is well versed on the uniqueness of brain injuries and their impact on the family system. Angela is a director of BrainTrust Canada and a passionate supporter of therapeutic jurisprudence, exemplified by restorative justice and integrated court.

### Dr. Thomas Kerr



*BC Centre on Substance Use  
University of British Columbia*

Dr. Thomas Kerr, PhD, is Director of Research with the BC Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU) and is a Professor in and the Head of the Division of Social Medicine in the Department of Medicine at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Kerr holds a doctoral degree in counselling and health psychology, and brings over 15 years of clinical experience working with a range of populations, including people who use substances, individuals living with mental illnesses, and people living with HIV. His primary research interests involve substance use, harm reduction, HIV/AIDS, and health policy and service evaluation. His long history of involvement in healthcare issues in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside includes ground-breaking work on peer-driven interventions, needle exchanges, and supervised consumption sites.

Dr. Kerr's work impacts policy and practice both close to home and internationally. At home in Vancouver, his leadership in research on needle exchanges and supervised consumption sites has helped inform the redesign of harm reduction programs locally and internationally. Abroad, his community-based research in Thailand has been cited extensively in reports by the World Bank and the Global Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Dr. Kerr has provided invited expert testimony to House of Commons and Senate committees, the United Nations, and he was an expert witness for the Missing Women's Commission of Inquiry. Dr. Kerr has published more than 700 scientific papers in international peer-reviewed journals and has received numerous local and national awards for his contributions to public health, human rights, and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

**Last week, we received a call informing us that Dr. Thomas Kerr sustained a traumatic brain injury as a result of a motor vehicle accident. Rest and gradual return to activity is vital to promote brain healing, especially in the acute stages of recovery. Please join us in sending out thoughts and wishes to Dr. Kerr and his family at this time.**

**Dr. Mary Clare Kennedy will deliver the talk "Responding to the Overdose Crisis in BC: Opportunities and Challenges". We wish to thank Dr. Kennedy for stepping in to support her colleague and friend.**



**Dr. Robin Green**



*University of Toronto  
University Health Network*

Dr. Robin Green is a Clinical Neuropsychologist and senior scientist in cognitive neurosciences at the University Health Network - KITE, and the Saunderson Chair in Acquired Brain Injury. Her program of research addresses brain and behavioural mechanisms of recovery from traumatic brain injury, and the development of interventions based on these findings. Her lab has helped to better understand impediments to recovery, challenging prevailing assumptions of moderate-severe traumatic brain injury as a static disorder, and reconceptualizing it as progressive, with early recovery of brain and behaviour followed often by declines in the months and years post-injury in many. Encouragingly, the lab has identified novel, modifiable (post-injury) treatment targets, and has been using these findings to develop interventions for mitigation of decline and improvement of clinical outcomes.

Dr. Green and colleagues established the TeleRehab Centre for Acquired Brain Injury to treat and study the enduring effects of mild to severe brain injury of any etiology. Patients across Ontario receive remotely delivered, group-based assessments and behavioural interventions (pro bono); the clinical findings are used to continuously enhance treatment. The Centre was created to address a considerable gap in treatment for patients in the chronic stages of injury, and provides access to evidence-based treatments for patients regardless of geographic location, mobility restrictions or socio-economic status. A future goal is to treat patients in other provinces. Dr. Green is a co-founder and co-lead of ECHO Concussion, she is the Neuropsychology lead for the Canadian Concussion Centre at UHN, and a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto. She completed her PhD at Cambridge University, and her clinical neuropsychology training at the University Health Network in Toronto.

**Jason McIntyre**



*BC Corrections*

Jason McIntyre has worked for BC Corrections since 2008 as a Probation Officer, Provincial Trainer and the last 4 years as an analyst.

**Corbin Coulter**



*TBI Survivor*

Corbin Coulter is a traumatic brain injury survivor, BrainTrust client, and brain health advocate. When Corbin was 24 years old, he sustained a traumatic brain injury from a fall while drinking with friends. Following his injury, he experienced physical and sensory difficulties, as well as difficulties with his mental health.

Corbin credits his progress in recovery to his focus on brain health through meditation, nutrition, exercise, and other healthy habits. He is always learning more by reading books and listening to podcasts. Corbin meditates every morning and has attended several silent meditation retreats.

## Brent Coyne



Brent Coyne is a litigation lawyer with Pushor Mitchell in the area of Family Law. Brent assists clients whose family issues may not be suitable or otherwise conducive to mediation. He is primarily geared towards resolving disputes through litigation and has successfully argued cases at all levels of court in British Columbia. Brent is an active member of the Trial Lawyers Association of BC, the Canadian Bar Association, the Kelowna Bar Association. Brent also serves as a Director of the Kelowna Art Gallery. Brent was called to the bar in 2012.

*Pushor Mitchell LLP*

## Honourable Judge Lisa Wyatt



Lisa Wyatt was appointed to the B.C. Provincial Court in December 2013, after having practiced family law in Kelowna for 22 years. She graduated from UBC Law School in 1990 and spent all of her practice years in Kelowna. During the course of her career as a lawyer, she represented clients in matters arising from separation and divorce, and acted as counsel for the Director in child protection cases for a number of years early on in her career. She was trained in collaborative practice as well, and focused to a large degree in out of court resolution wherever possible.

*Provincial Court of British Columbia*

She served her profession in various capacities, including as President of the Kelowna Bar Association, Chair of the Family Law Subsection of the Okanagan Branch of the Canadian Bar Association, and as an elected member of the Provincial Council of the Canadian Bar Association (B.C. Branch) for six years. She was an active volunteer in the community as well, serving on the Boards of the Elizabeth Fry Society, the Children's Festival Society of Kelowna, and the Kelowna Community Food Bank.

Judge Wyatt was assigned to head up the Integrated Court in Kelowna in 2021, a task she took up with great enthusiasm. In her life away from the court, she enjoys travelling, photography, skiing, camping and hiking with her family, which includes her husband, three adult sons and their partners, and several very spoiled dogs.

**Laura Hockman**



*Independent Living Vernon  
University of British  
Columbia Okanagan*

Laura is Gitxsan from Gitanmaax, which is near Old Hazelton, in northern BC. Following a matriarchal clan system, Laura is a member of the Wolf clan. Her maternal grandfather was hereditary chief of the Frog Clan. Her maternal grandmother was the hereditary chief of the Wolf Clan. Cultural traditions and protocols and traditional governance all strongly guide her practice as a social worker.

Laura completed her Bachelor of Social Work Degree here in Kelowna in 1999. Immediately she took on the position of Executive Director of Independent Living Vernon (ILV), a disability resource centre for people with a variety of disabilities. In 2010, Laura completed her Master’s of Arts (Interdisciplinary Studies) here at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. Her thesis was titled “A Longer Journey” An Exploration of Individuals’ with Disabilities Experiences of Employment Programs in Vernon, BC. The research highlighted the importance of connection and control within the realm of employment for people with disabilities.

While still working part time at ILV, Laura works at Splatsin Health Services, near Enderby BC. As the Health Lead, Laura oversees a team of social workers and clinicians to provide a range of culturally safe and trauma informed services for First Nations people.

**Dr. Lara Boyd**



*University of British Columbia*

Dr. Lara Boyd is a Neuroscientist and Physical Therapist at the University of British Columbia. She is a professor and has held a Canada Research Chair, a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Career Scientist award and been a Peter Wall Early Career Scholar. Dr. Boyd directs the Brain Behaviour Lab at the University of British Columbia. Her TEDx talk “After this your brain will not be the same” has over 25 million views. Dr. Boyd is an expert in mapping how behaviours, environments and experiences affect brain health and learning using techniques such as magnetic resonance imaging and non-invasive brain stimulation. To date this work has largely examined the impact of exercise and learning on neurobiology.

### Ali Butler



*Urban Matters*

Ali Butler is a proud member of the Syilx Nation from the Lower Similkameen, and a Social Worker specialized in working with Indigenous communities. She brings many years of frontline and leadership experience working collaboratively with a variety of social-serving organizations in the areas of community outreach, health promotion, suicide prevention, and education. She has extensive knowledge in areas that impact vulnerable populations with expertise in the areas of mental health, crisis response, homelessness, intergenerational trauma and addictions, community navigation and advocacy both on reserve and within an urban setting. Ali is passionate about decolonizing systems, land-based healing, integrating Indigenous language concepts into practice, building community capacity, and responding to the needs of community in a holistic, inclusive and culturally safe way. She blends traditional teachings and contemporary practices and works to support people to come together in safe spaces without judgment or shame. Ali holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, Indigenous Specialization, from the University of Victoria and a diploma from Okanagan College in Human Service Work.

### Dr. Mary Clare Kennedy



*University of British  
Columbia Okanagan  
BC Centre on Substance Use*

Dr. Mary Clare Kennedy is a Canada Research Chair in Substance Use Policy and Practice Research and an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at UBC Okanagan. She is also a Research Scientist with the BC Centre on Substance Use. Dr. Kennedy's research draws on quantitative and qualitative methods to examine social-structural dimensions of health among people who use drugs, and to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of novel harm reduction interventions, including safe supply programs and innovations in supervised consumption service delivery. She is currently co-leading the scientific evaluation of the Safer Alternatives for Emergency Response (SAFER) initiative, a Health Canada-funded, low-barrier safe supply pilot program in Vancouver that seeks to: (1) reduce overdose risk through the prescription of pharmaceutical alternatives to the unregulated drug supply; and (2) serve as a low-barrier point of access to the continuum of care for people who use drugs. Dr. Kennedy is also currently co-leading a CIHR-funded study investigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on supervised consumption service delivery, access and outcomes in Vancouver and Surrey.

**Cpl. Michael Kube**



Michael Kube is a home grown Kelowna resident and a 30 year veteran of Law Enforcement. In his current role with the Kelowna RCMP, Michael works closely with partner agencies to connect those experiencing mental health, addiction and housing challenges with services and shelter resources. Michael also has a passion for building relationships, awareness and trust between Police and Kelowna’s diverse BIPOC, 2SLGBTQAI+ and new Canadian communities. Michael is committed to a safe, prosperous and inclusive Kelowna for everyone.

*Community Safety Unit,  
Kelowna RCMP*

**Mike Gawliuk**



Mike completed his Bachelor Degree in Psychology and then went on to earn his Masters in Leadership at Royal Roads. Mike started on the front line, working with youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. After that, he moved into program leadership and into senior leadership roles in the non-profit sector.

Mike is interested in collective impact and how this approach holds significant potential to address the particularly difficult issues we are wrestling with (e.g. homelessness, poverty, systems change in mental health and substance use care, etc.).

*Canadian Mental Health  
Association Kelowna*

**Shannon Pedlar**



Shannon Pedlar is the Harm Reduction Coordinator for John Howard Society Okanagan & Kootenay, overseeing the delivery and development of harm reduction services and programs provided by this agency across Supportive Housing, Shelter Services, and outreach. Shannon has extensive front-line experience and education working with people who use substances.

Shannon values innovation and flexibility as key components necessary to address the ongoing toxic drug poisoning crisis and addressing the many harms – including brain injury – that result from the ever-increasing toxins present in the drug supply.

*John Howard Society of  
Okanagan & Kootenay*



# Enhanced Care is here

Your clients now have access to better care and recovery benefits if they're injured in a crash.

ICBC is committed to working closely with Disability Advocacy organizations to ensure that you get the information you need to support our mutual clients.

Thanks for supporting Enhanced Care.





# Not just a prescription pad:

A multimodal approach to chronic non-cancer pain management

Join us at our community presentations to learn about evidence-based treatments integrating non-pharmacological and pharmacological approaches. To learn more, visit [worksafebc.com/news](https://worksafebc.com/news).

## 5 EXHIBITOR HALL

### 5.1 EXHIBITION AREA & DETAILS

The WCBIC 2023 Exhibitor Hall runs from 12:00 - 5:00 pm in the Delta Grand Okanagan & Sun-Rype Upper Theatre Lobby.

### 5.2 EXHIBITOR PROFILES



#### Bayshore Home Health

Bayshore Home Health is one of the most trusted names in home care, delivering high-quality care to Canadians for more than 55 years. Our team of experts allow clients to remain in the comfort and safety of their own home, ensuring quality of life and independence for aging seniors. Each family works with a dedicated Care Manager to design a customized care plan for their loved one.

Personal Care services include Respite Care, Foot Care, Fall Prevention, Companionship, Medication Reminders, Bathing & Dressing, Light Housekeeping, Meal Prep and Nutrition, and Life Guardian Medical Alert System.



#### BrainTrust Canada - BISEY Program

In 2023, BrainTrust Canada launched the Brain Injury and Substance use Education for Youth (BISEY) program, with the support of Interior Savings. BISEY was created to reduce preventable substance-use related brain injuries in our community with the guiding idea that safe use = safe brain. Interactive activities and resources on substance use and brain injury will be available. Visit our booth to try on a pair of alcohol or cannabis simulation goggles and evaluate how substances impact your brain, body, and thinking.



A Better Way After Brain Injury

#### Connect Communities

CONNECT's mission is to Make Lives Better. We achieve this by providing complex and specialized services for people living with brain injury and stroke in a nurturing and innovative community environment. Through our Life Redesign Model™, we empower people by applying our knowledge and experience to coach, challenge and motivate each person to reach their unique personal goals and build a fulfilling life for themselves. CONNECT is one of few organizations accredited through Accreditation Canada using the Acquired Brain Injury standards. Just outside of Kelowna is CONNECT Lake Country, a condo-style building with six homes, each supporting seven individuals.



#### CGB Centre for Traumatic Life Losses

The CGB Centre for Traumatic Life Losses, in partnership with the University of Victoria and University of British Columbia, has embarked on three years of research (2022 - 2025) that are guided by yearly BC Consensus Building Days. This project acts upon the recommendations of the BC Heads Together Think Tanks, a joint summit of multiple key stakeholders' perspectives and research evidence, to gather data and knowledge for the purpose of developing a Consensus Statement on Research and Community Priorities, which could include best practices in serving individuals with a brain injury and concurrent mental health conditions and substance use/addiction challenges.





## Framework Health

Framework Health specializes in Occupational Therapy assessment and treatment services throughout the Okanagan with expertise in brain injuries and other complex conditions. Evidence-based and practical solutions are tailored to meet the unique needs of our clients and funders. Visit [www.frameworkhealth.ca](http://www.frameworkhealth.ca) for more information!



## ICBC

ICBC is a provincial crown corporation providing auto insurance, driver licensing, vehicle registration, road safety, and other products and services. ICBC is committed to protection and peace of mind for BC Drivers, quality products and services, and offering customers the best coverage at the lowest possible price. On May 1, 2021, ICBC implemented a new care-based insurance model, one that lowered the price of insurance for drivers in B.C. and provided access to significantly better care and recovery benefits. ICBC will continue to focus on creating a supportive and transparent customer experience. Enhanced Care enables customers to achieve recovery through quality care and delivers the greatest value to British Columbians.



## Lakeside Hearing

Lakeside Hearing, Balance & Tinnitus is a locally owned and operated comprehensive audiology clinic that offers both audiological and vestibular services including diagnosis, education, counselling, and treatment/rehabilitation. Following head injury, various audiological symptoms can occur. Lakeside offers specialized services to BC's Interior for individuals affected by hearing loss, tinnitus, sound intolerance, auditory processing difficulty, and/or vestibular dysfunction. Using an interdisciplinary approach to hearing health care, the team at Lakeside provides thorough and individualized treatment plans for complex audiological and vestibular cases.



## March of Dimes

March of Dimes Canada is a leading national charity committed to championing equity, empowering ability, and creating real change that will help the more than six million people living with disabilities across the country unlock the richness of their lives. March of Dimes Canada's Brain Injury Services provides experienced and flexible care for people dealing with the effects of brain injury. We offer rehabilitation and social support services. Our After Stroke program is a personalized recovery program that helps survivors and their families move forward after a stroke.



## Metis Community Services

MCSBC is a non-profit Society that is recognized and empowered by Metis citizens in BC to provide holistic services that ensure the health and well-being of the Metis community.



## Okanagan Clinical Trials

Okanagan Clinical Trials (OCT) is a local research center that has been part of the community for over 30 years and specializes in conducting research studies for the pharmaceutical industry. Dr. Kim Christie, President of OCT, launched the Memory Clinic in 2015 to offer free, cognitive assessments to the community to fill an unmet need to support the aging population. Feedback is provided on the spot and the results can lead to an opportunity to participate in a clinical research study. Our passionate staff are committed to supporting the community by prioritizing their concerns and providing support through research opportunities and tracking their memory over time.



## Okanagan Vision Therapy

Okanagan Vision Therapy is the region's first and only dedicated centre for Optometric Vision Therapy & Rehabilitation. We provide functional vision evaluations, therapeutic eyeglass prescriptions, and vision therapy. Visit [okanaganvisiontherapy.ca](http://okanaganvisiontherapy.ca) for more information!



## Orthoquest

Helping you Move Well, Be Well with custom foot orthotics, shoes, bracing and kinesiology. At Orthoquest, our mission is to provide high quality products and services in a friendly and fun environment to help you Move Well, Be Well. But our philosophy extends far beyond the four walls of our store front, it is a way of life we live and breath every day, and it is a message we promote throughout our community. Visit [orthoquest.ca](http://orthoquest.ca) for more information!



## Psychopathology Lifespan and Neuropsychology Lab

The Psychopathology Lifespan and Neuropsychology (PLAN) Laboratory is a CFI-funded research space directed by Dr. Maya Libben, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at UBC-Okanagan. Research in the PLAN lab relies on neurocognitive methodological platforms such as eye-tracking, EEG, behavioural testing and neuropsychological assessment to better understand the cognitive aspects of psychopathology as well as functional outcome following stroke and brain injury.



## Public Guardian and Trustee of British Columbia

Public Guardian & Trustee of BC, Services to Adults provides a range of services to adults who may need help managing their financial, legal and personal affairs. Our services to adults include the following; Assessments and Investigations, Personal Decisions, Financial Management and Legal Actions, Review and Monitoring of Private Committees, and Information on Personal Planning.



## WorkSafeBC

We are a provincial agency dedicated to promoting safe and healthy workplaces across B.C. We partner with workers and employers to save lives and prevent work-related injury, disease, and disability. Our services include education, prevention, compensation and support for injured workers, and no-fault insurance to protect employers and workers. We are honored to serve more than 2.6 million workers and close to 270,000 registered employers in our province. We collaborate with them to prevent injury or illness, and help employers comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation and the Act. When work-related injuries or diseases occur, our no-fault insurance system provides peace of mind for workers and their families, and for employers. We provide compensation and support workers in their recovery, rehabilitation, and safe return to work.

## 6 SPONSORS & PARTNERS

As a non-profit, BrainTrust depends on the support of sponsors, donors, and community partners to achieve our mission. We are incredibly grateful for the support of all the sponsors who came together to make this important learning event a reality. Visit each sponsor's website and learn more about what makes them great!

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Sponsors & Partners



# Notes

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# Notes

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THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE   
**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**

## WCBIC 2023

BrainTrust Canada  
Conference Organizing Committee  
100-215 Lawrence Ave  
Kelowna, BC V1Y 6L2

marketing@braintrustcanada.com  
250-762-3233

[www.braintrustcanada.com/events/wcbic2023](http://www.braintrustcanada.com/events/wcbic2023)

**BRAINTRUST**  
CANADA

ENJOYING THE CONFERENCE? DON'T FORGET  
TO TAG US IN YOUR CONFERENCE POSTS!

**#WCBIC2023**

LIKE & FOLLOW





## Recovery is possible

[BRAINTRUSTCANADA.COM/SERVICES](https://braintrustcanada.com/services)



**Each personality and every brain injury is unique. At BrainTrust Canada, we create individualized plans for recovery based on the particular needs of the person with brain injury.**

Once the plan is in place, we embrace a "whatever it takes" model of care, providing our clients with strategies, tools, and supports that draw from several possible areas. This could include mental health counselling, life skills retraining, crime prevention and reduction, group programs, and cognitive enhancements with compensatory strategies that assist in managing a life with a brain injury.

We also help affected individuals adjust to the devastating social changes that a brain injury can bring by focusing on maintaining relationships with family and friends, providing opportunities for social and community re-integration, and offering peer and caregiver support.