

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

SCIO 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT



SPINAL CORD INJURY ONTARIO
LÉSIONS MÉDULLAIRES ONTARIO

Peer to peer. Strength to strength.



BOARD CHAIR AND CEO MESSAGE

After 75 years, Spinal Cord Injury Ontario has earned a reputation for community strength. Resiliency and an instinct to rise to any challenge characterize our community members, who support our work and champion our mission and vision with passion. This motivated group includes our clients, family members, staff, volunteers, donors, activists, clinicians and our corporate, community and government partners.

We have, after this length of time in operation as an organization and a community, faced our share of challenges - lack of funding, systemic discrimination, inaccessible environment, isolation, lack of housing and employment opportunities, and restricted access to SCI medical care, medical supplies and mobility devices. These serious barriers to living a full life with an SCI have reinforced our appetite for progress and driven our work since our founding in 1945 and, together, we've come a long way in changing policy, attitudes and access.

We set out this past year with optimism, talking about how we'd celebrate this growth and our milestone 75th anniversary in 2020, and mark all the ways we worked together to lessen the burden and increase the opportunities of living with an SCI. And then came coronavirus.

As awareness grew in early 2020 that this was a deadly serious risk to our community, we steeled ourselves for this new, urgent challenge. In doing so, that strength emerged to generate efficient co-operation and collaboration. Our priorities would shift and change: sharing the most updated information, which was also shifting and changing; finding ways to support our clients without meeting in person; securing supplies and resources; maintaining vital funding; addressing the emotional impact of the pandemic; setting up shop online, from home, connecting with colleagues who were facing their own personal challenges. »



We invite you to review the year that was,
from **April 2019** to **March 2020**...

We're still in lockdown as we write these words and still relying on our community's strength to move our important work forward. It's clear to us that the devastating scope of this pandemic has been met by the sheer depth of that strength. Our community members who live with SCI have openly shared their needs, accepted help as they've helped others in every way without a moment's hesitation. Our volunteers have found creative, safe ways to be there for SCIO and their peers. Our donors have understood the great need to respond adroitly to this crisis while also funding our ongoing programs. Our corporate and clinical partners have identified ways to help and taken the lead to do so with pride. Our community has helped us develop urgent communications with government to review barriers and provide support without delay. And our staff have made SCIO a priority in their disrupted days to ensure our mission and vision aren't diminished by this crisis but, instead, strengthened.

On behalf of every member of our Board of Directors, we express our deep gratitude for our founders' bold vision back in 1945 and thank you for helping uphold that vision since. We invite you to review the year that was, from April 2019 to March 2020, in this Annual Report, as we share our appreciation for the role you play in strengthening our resolve to see people with spinal cord injury live the life they choose in a fully inclusive Ontario.

Bob Nigol
Chair, SCIO Board of Directors

Dr. Stuart Howe
CEO, SCIO

STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY

We've come together this past year in important ways to share what we know, strive for change and support efforts to ease and improve life with an SCI. This took many forms: providing bursaries to learn and share at a Niagara Falls SCI conference; celebrating our community at dynamic events across the province; partnering with government to make urgent changes to policy and practices; digging deeper into SCI research; and connecting in new ways to identify problems and devise solutions. The following are a few highlights of our community's efforts last year.



APRIL 2019 - MARCH 2020



4,514

Hours
volunteered

During National Volunteer Week in April, friends and family (back row) gathered at an upbeat luncheon at Zoomer Hall hosted by SCIO in Toronto to honour **Marjorie Francoz** (front row, third from left) recipient of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers and long time SCIO Peer Mentor. We announced at the event the expanded family peer arm of SCIO Connect, our long running peer program, represented by Peer Program Co-ordinators **Ivan Rendulic** and **Charlie Warriner** (front row, l-r) and **Peter Athanasopoulos** (front row, far right) who became a Peer Mentor, Peer Program Manager and now Director of Public Policy for SCIO after Marjorie first mentored him 25 years ago. Back row, far right is Marjorie's daughter Dana Francoz, now a proud volunteer member of the SCIO Board of Directors.

164

Proud corporate
partners



Three strategic objectives were identified in our 2017-2021 five-year strategic plan: *Share Information; Expand our impact across Ontario; Amplify our community's voice.* A key initiative of that plan that supports all three is our website at sciontario.org, which we enjoy keeping fluid, moving with changing times and priorities so there's something for everyone. Unsurprisingly, one of the most visited areas is our Living with an SCI section and, thanks to our corporate partners, it's also a source of revenue to support our programs and services. **Bard Canada Inc.** was our first topic page sponsor, and each year, we welcome new sponsors. We're proud to partner with our 2019-20 web sponsors:

Bowel & Bladder: **Bard Canada Inc.**
Financial Health: **Hudson Wealth & Trust**
Insurance: **IBC** (in development)
Technology & Accessibility: **Bell Mobility**
Vehicle Modification: **Universal Motion**

APRIL 2019

MAY 2019



4,264

Community
event guests

The inaugural Rolling Thunder Charity Golf Tournament was held at Hamilton's Flamborough Hills Golf and Country Club on a sunny day in May, thanks to community members **Brian and Claire Campbell** (centre front and right, with Director Resource Development **Ari Wahl**, left, and CEO **Stuart Howe**). "One of the first things Brian said after he woke up from his traumatic surgery was that he was worried he would never play golf again," said Claire at the tournament. "Now, 18 months later, not only is he playing the sport again, but he is encouraging others with disabilities to continue doing what they love." Our thanks to Brian and Claire, and all Rolling Thunder supporters!

SCIO CONNECT

Experience and expertise. Shared.

SCIO's Regional Services Co-ordinator **Sheri Upper** was on hand to host our York Region community at **Coloplast Canada** in late May to talk about accessible summer activities. Sharing ideas and experiences by people with lived experience in SCI is the heart of our Peer Connections workshops, which are supported by Premier Partner **Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC)** and which happened every month last year across the province on a variety of important topics such as: *Are you sitting comfortably?; Bowel & Bladder Care; Adaptive Sports; Vehicle Modification Fair; Direct Funding Program; and Taxes.* Thanks to all hosts, panelists, guests and sponsors!



Bill C-81, an Act to ensure a barrier-free Canada, was passed in the House of Commons on May 29, 2019 and received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019. **Carla Qualtrough**, Minister of Public Services and Procurement and Accessibility, (pictured

with SCIO's Director of Public Policy **Peter Athanasopoulos**) said she was "Pleased to share that our government intends to accept all Senate amendments to Bill C-81, the Accessible Canada Act. This historic Bill reflects the work, commitment and contributions of the disability community and has been improved upon through each phase of the process."

1,115

Activists

JUNE 2019

137

Cortree users welcomed



SCIO has always been about sharing knowledge on all aspects of living with an SCI through relationships between staff and clients, clinicians and staff, and peer to peer. Leveraging that vast expertise and experience, we developed a new social venture called Cortree Disability Education Centre to house and deliver top-notch learning and training on issues relating to disability. We launched Cortree in June 2019 and have never looked back - except of course to evaluate, adjust, improve and expand, honouring our own learnings. Explore Cortree at scionario.org/cortree.



We celebrated the strong Hamilton community at the beautiful Waterfront Banquet and Conference Centre on a warm and rainy night in June. It was the 13th year we hosted an event to honour our community at this venue and you could feel the positive energy in the room as our friends from **Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS)**, SCIO volunteers, staff, clients, corporate partners, family and friends talked, laughed and shared. We held similar events this year to celebrate our deeply dedicated communities in **London, Ottawa, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury** and **York**.

JULY 2019



Rob Oliphant (far right), Liberal Member of Parliament for the Toronto riding of Don Valley West, dropped by our Lyndhurst office to meet the two summer students his office sponsored through Canada Summer Jobs. (l-r) SCIO's HR Generalist **Linda Ma**, student **Charlotte Minnes**, SCIO's Director Public Policy **Peter Athanasopoulos**, student **Emma Lavery**.

28,000

Community magazines distributed

AUGUST 2019

Staying in contact with our community is important to us and we're always looking for ways to do it better, through work, play and publications of the digital and print kind. *Community* magazine is published four times a year, thanks to our fine advertisers, and our digital FYlonSCI newsletter comes out monthly. This past year, we've relied on both to share stories, insights and information for and by our community. We're refining our internal systems to ensure distribution channels are efficient and reflect our community members' preferences. If you would like to update yours, please let us know at communications@scionario.org.



SEPTEMBER 2019



This happy foursome was one of 36 who played 18 holes in the sold-out 29th annual Rebuilding Lives Golf Tournament at the Georgian Bay Club on September 11. Our great thanks to lead sponsors **Bruce Power** and the **Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario**, and all kind sponsors, guests and volunteers who helped us reach a new fundraising milestone of over \$132,000. What an extraordinary show of community support!

1,404

Fundraising event participants



In the weeks leading up to the federal election of October 21, 2019, our community members used their voice to make a difference. Through yourmoveontario.ca, they engaged 147 MP candidates across four major parties through email, phone, face-to-face, websites, events and party fundraisers in Ontario on issues related to accessibility and disability. Way to make change!



Getting up at the crack of dawn to take on a challenge really speaks to the grit and determination of our community. People travelled from across the province to be at the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon on the start line, sporting this year's blue Let's Go SCIO t-shirts. Runners, rollers and walkers raised over \$14,000. Big thanks to **Chris Channon** (back row, third from right), who trained for weeks to walk the entire route and generated great media coverage for the event and SCIO, and to our kind sponsors for this event, **Oxford Properties** and **Black & Sutherland**.

OCTOBER 2019



In honour of the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2019, and to celebrate 25 years since the grassroots origins of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 150 people gathered at Queen's Park in Toronto to hear a clear and urgent message: this province is not nearly accessible and inclusive enough. Spearheaded by Spinal Cord Injury Ontario and **March of Dimes Canada**, and joined by other disability organizations including **ALS Canada**, **AODA Alliance**, **Arthritis Society**, **Centre for Independent Living in Toronto (CILT)**, **CNIB**, **Easter Seals**, **MS Society**, **Muscular Dystrophy Canada** and **Ontario Brain Injury Association**, the event featured a vibrant panel of speakers, including MPPs, disability organization reps and community members **Clara McIntosh**, 17-year-old autism advocate, and **Danielle Kane**, accessibility advocate (pictured).



Staff from across the province shared their own year-end New Year's video messages to thank our community and, because he stood in minus-30 weather to record his, and tends to go that extra kilometre, Regional Services Co-ordinator **Morgan Austin** won the prize for the most appreciated submission. Our solution-focused RSCs work around the province every day, helping clients reach their goals and improve their lives.

1,401
Regional Services
clients

DECEMBER 2019

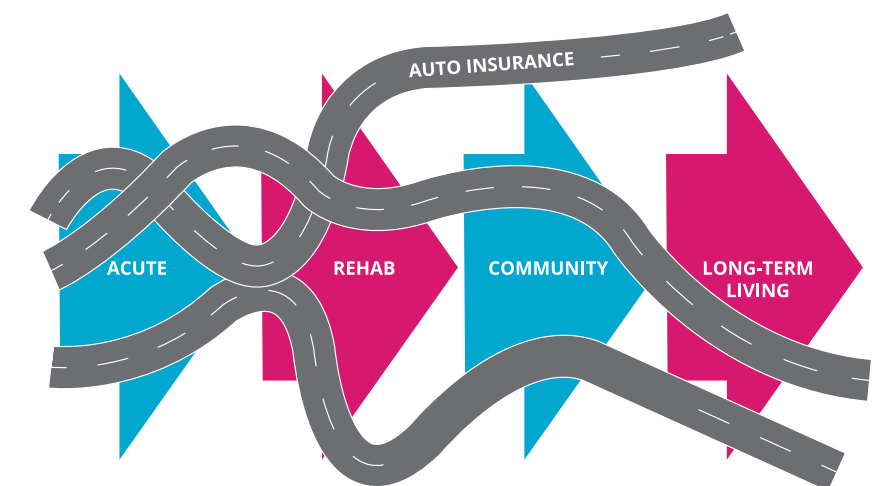
NOVEMBER 2019



Oda Al-anizi, SCIO's Information and Resource Specialist, staffed the information booth at the **CSCIRA National SCI Conference** in Niagara Falls in November 2019, where we had an impressive contingent. The **Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation** and **PRAXIS Spinal Cord Institute** generously provided funding for 10 delegates and we were able to invite another 12 through matching donor dollars to travel from anywhere in Ontario to participate in the conference. Together the group developed a series of questions for every workshop, and were reported back on the answers. Great learning!

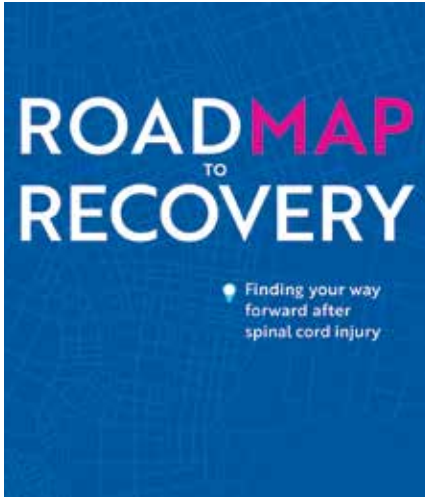
JANUARY 2020

As Ontario's largest organization working on behalf of the 36,000 Ontarians with spinal cord injury, we work closely with other health agencies and governments at all levels to ensure our community's voice is heard and their needs are well represented. Each year, the Ontario government invites input into their annual budget and, in January, we presented a deputation relating to the urgent need for budget and strategy for Neurotrauma Care Pathways within the government's newly established network of Ontario Health Teams. This strategy will ensure people receive the right services and supports at the right time in the right place during their functional recovery from spinal cord and brain injury (whether from traumatic injury, disease or aging).





On February 13, 2020, Spinal Cord Injury Ontario hosted our 20th Ski and Snowboard Day, a fun and active day, thanks to our dynamic community. The volunteers and sponsors behind this special day are extraordinary. People who are newly injured find the support they need, thanks to our volunteer experts at **CADS** and **Track 3**, to feel the exhilaration of sit-skiing against the beautiful backdrop of Georgian Bay. Businesses bring out their staff and clients to support a great charity and build team spirit. And SCIO programs and services benefit. All this would not be possible without the commitment and generosity of our stellar group of corporate champions. We are grateful to our 20th anniversary volunteer committee, sponsors, guests and donors.



Thanks to generous funding by the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**, *Roadmap to Recovery* was published in February 2020 for people who are newly injured and their families. Author **Julie Sawchuk** worked with community members, clinicians and other professionals to capture insights and information to ease the SCI journey. Access at sciontario.org/roadmap.



FEBRUARY 2020

MARCH 2020



98,337
Attendant
hours

March 31 marked the end of SCIO's fiscal year, as well as the day we said farewell to our attendants and our Attendant Services (AS) program staff (some of whom are pictured here). Our Board and leadership team worked together with **March of Dimes Canada** (MODC) over the past year to divest this program to MODC. There are important benefits to clients and the attendants who serve them in this move but the closure of our Toronto-based program was felt deeply. CEO **Stuart Howe** and Client Services Director **Sheila Casemore** shared a message to our AS team during COVID-19: "Though we can't be together to give a goodbye hug, you are in our hearts. We thank you for giving your best."

When the SCIO leadership team received word of the pandemic, we made immediate plans to take every step necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of our clients, staff, volunteers and wider community regarding risks associated with COVID-19. Knowing our community is a high-risk group, we understood how important it would be to share sound information on accessible channels and alter our face-to-face services to virtual platforms, such as VIP4SCI (sciontario.org/vip). Every step of the way, lived experience with SCI came into play to ensure the validity of our response. To secure funding for our new mix of virtual service delivery options, we launched the Safe@Home campaign, which has, in turn, inspired a powerful response from our caring community. COVID-19 has altered a great deal - for SCIO, our province and the world - and, in spite of the pain and loss around us, we believe our community, having worked together in support, will emerge even stronger.

SAFE@HOME
Connecting in a Crisis

STRENGTH IN GIVING

When we say there is strength in numbers, we mean that the contribution of every member of our community is not only profoundly valuable, it makes us all stronger. Thousands have contributed this past year in many important ways. Here, we are proud to thank and acknowledge individuals and organizations that have donated financially to SCIO in support of our provincial programs and services.

Bourassa Savaria Foundation

We are excited to announce a new relationship with the **Bourassa Savaria Foundation**. The Foundation has become a pivotal partner in our new *SCIO Connect* for families. With a pledge of \$100,000 over five years to support the development and implementation of the program, the Foundation becomes our largest supporter of this new initiative.

The Bourassa Savaria Foundation was created in 2014 to support people facing mobility challenges. It was founded by Marcel Bourassa, President and CEO of Savaria Corporation. The Foundation aims to provide financial assistance to in-need Canadians who face barriers to travel, work or sport due to disabilities related to physical mobility.

Thank you to the Bourassa Savaria Foundation for helping us extend the reach of *SCIO Connect* Peer Program to the family members of individuals facing the challenges of spinal cord injury – un grand merci.



We are grateful to our Premier Provincial Partner, **Insurance Bureau of Canada** (IBC), for their extraordinary commitment to the SCI community.

Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough

We are so happy to announce that SCIO was selected as a recipient of funding from the **Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough** (CFGF) for 2020. The CFGF awarded \$116,500 in grants this year to 26 local charities and SCIO received \$5000 – the maximum grant offered. The organizations vary in the work that they do from increasing participation in the community and removing barriers to inclusion to helping those at risk of social isolation to nurturing intergenerational connections.

This funding will allow us to build a mini starter version of SCIO Connect Peer Program in the Peterborough community – something that has been on the SCIO wish list for quite some time. We are hopeful to be able to leverage this grant with other regional donors who might be willing to step up as community partners for the program. We have a great volunteer base in the community to build on and this is an exciting opportunity for us.

Many thanks to the CFGF for their generous contribution to SCIO and for their incredible commitment to building a vital community, for everyone.

THANK YOU TO OUR VIBRANT SCIO COMMUNITY!

We endeavour to include everyone in this list of supporters to express our gratitude and thanks, and apologize if we have mistakenly missed you or your organization. Please be aware, this list is for recognition purposes only and does not represent a financial report; for financial information please see our audited financial statements.

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ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE
Coloplast Partnership Programme

Coloplast A/S has partnered with Spinal Cord Injury Ontario through its visionary Access to Healthcare Partnership Program. They are supporting the Fair Access to Catheters in Ontario Project which is working to provide people living with a disability in Ontario access to proper public funding for catheters.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS CONT.

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Hazel’s Grandfather
The Hall Family

Sarah Hicks
Arie Kojokaro
Vincent Lorefice
Antonio Ignatius Lue
Gerry Martin
Diana McCauley
Cindy McEvoy
Murray McKee
Susan Monahan
Jean-Guy Poirier

Quinn Rehab
Roland Robert
The Staff of SCIO
Leonardo Serravalle
Clara Stubina
Pierre Tessier
Barbara Turnbull
Shaun Westlake

IN MEMORY OF | GIFTS WERE MADE IN MEMORY OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Connor Brady
Agnes Breadner
Wayne Brocklebank
David Carr
Patti Dawson
Nello D’Intino
Margaret E. Dixon
Maxwell Fiegen
David M. Filipchuk
Jason Fonger
Nicanor Giocada
Shane R. Harnden

Michael Henderson
Robert A. Johnston
Robert A. Kosiorek
Betty Lofthouse
Robert McDonnell
Kathleen McMullen
Lewis Nafizger
Kanyawtee Narsingh
Wanda Norton
Lorraine Oosterloo
Antonio Pistilli
Desmond B. Regehr

W. Kirby Rowe
Bruce S. Russell
Jakob Schiller
James R. Smith
Phillip Stiles
Garry Stockfish
Margaret M. Thomas
Stephane Tourigny
Bruce Doreen Trouton
Bob Webber

ESTATE GIFTS

The Estate of Gertrude Noriene Frederick

LONG TERM DONORS (YEARS OF CONSECUTIVE GIVING)

Eleanor Ellins 37
Daniel Haas 35
Peter Monti 35
E. Alex Newcombe 35
Dorothy Amos 34
Deanna Carbert 34
Robert Jackson 33
Dorothy McClelland 33
Doug Gilbert 32
Osworth Blake 31
Eric McIntyre 31
Robert Feldgaier 30
Richard Horner 30

Margaret Whyte 30
Jim Wood 29
Ingeborg Koenig 28
Ruth Read 28
Brian Wilding 28
John Bernard 27
Douglas Humphreys 27
Sylvia Cohen 26
Marcus James 26
E. A. Marriage 26
Angeline Tannis 26
Harley Nott 26
Juergen Hoffmann 25

Richard Klosler 25
Ann Sutton 25
Francis Fernandes 24
William Kauppinen 22
Claire Shaw 22
Margaret Ainsworth 22
Beverley Cockburn 21
Robert Gillespie 21
Jerome Hanley 22
Brian O’Neill 21
Tina Spithoff 21

STRENGTH IN ACTION

It's almost impossible to identify award winners among our winning community because everyone contributes in unique and welcome ways, but we do it to celebrate those who've especially embodied our mission and vision. Thanks to all those who work toward improved accessibility, equality and services for people with SCI in Ontario. We're proud to introduce our 2019-20 award recipients.

Photo: Chris Stigas

PATTI DAWSON ACTIVIST OF THE YEAR AWARD - CHRIS STIGAS

I was a commercial industrial electrician and, in November 2014, I sustained a C5 C6 spinal cord injury. Since then, my life has done a complete 180° turn. All the things I thought mattered, really didn't matter. I faced a whole new world of actual problems, adaptations and just simply surviving day-to-day, literally minute-to-minute.

My journey has taken me through the full spectrum of the health care system from the 911 call, emergency decompression surgery, ICU, inpatient, outpatient, rehab, transitional housing and, finally, living independently in the community.

As my recovery began to progress, I began to look into how I could re-engage myself with life. Advocacy quickly became a natural and easy fit for me. Now five years out, I am on the AODA Council for UHN, the Advisory Council on Accessible Transit to the TTC, the Young Professionals Board for SCIO, and have successfully completed the Rick Hansen Accessibility Certification at George Brown College. In between all that I have managed to create my own product

called the HandiCup, a pera- and tetraplegic-friendly cupholder for both manual and power chairs (www.handihelp.ca).

I'm keenly focused on advocating for people with disabilities for inclusion, while pushing decision makers for equitable and meaningful access to goods and services. COVID-19 has highlighted these inequities and need for representation. We are a highly under represented and unused resource, who can be huge architects of positive change for all.

As my involvement with life increases, so does the quality, along with every other aspect of my life. I have more confidence, I'm more positive, I have better relationships and continue to push and find ways to increase my independence both financially, physically and especially emotionally.

I am indebted to family and friends who supported me after my accident, and who have helped me give my new life meaning, purpose and dignity. It is both my pleasure and honour to give back to my community.

VIGMOND PHILANTHROPY AWARD - TED BERGERON & CHRIS CLIFFORD

Bergeron | Clifford Injury Lawyers

For more than a decade, Ted Bergeron and Chris Clifford of **Bergeron | Clifford LLP** have been the SCIO Connect sponsors in the Kingston region. Beyond their support of SCIO, Ted and Chris have been representing spinal cord injury

clients as personal injury lawyers since 1999 and have received several distinctions for their tireless work for their clients, in and out of court.

This generous support of our Peer Program has allowed us to develop the flagship version of SCIO Connect. Monthly meetings in Kingston are regularly attended by more than 60 clients, family members and members of the spinal cord injury community. Ted and Chris's unwavering support of our mission and the program has helped so many navigate their way through the early days post-injury to their return home and to their communities and beyond. They are also proof positive of the importance of stable, predictable program funding.

Our thanks to Ted and Chris for generously supporting SCIO Connect and helping us bring the knowledge and support that can only come through lived experience to those who are newly injured and their families.



EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION (CNE)

SCIO and the people at **CNE** have worked closely together since 2010 and, as a result, our job seekers have gained meaningful short-term employment, developed work skills and gained self-confidence. And CNE management has made significant gains in increasing accessibility for people with disabilities, whether it be for their visitors or employees. They are seen as leaders in accessibility in North America for their sector.

Our Employment Services Team (based in Toronto) found CNE hiring managers very open to suggestions, such as changing up traditional job positions, creating accessible workstations like kiosks with ramps to accommodate people who use mobility devices, and training all staff on best practices related to disability awareness to ensure all new staff are treated with respect.

This past year, 25 job seekers were hired by the CNE or their partner organizations to work in a variety of roles, including disability consultant, customer service and support positions associated with the rides. Experience has taught us that these short-term roles are often the first step towards more long-term employment opportunities in the future.

The thoughtful, measured steps taken by the CNE management to become a truly inclusive employer is why we have named them our 2019-20 SCIO Employer of the Year.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Every year, we celebrate the best among us across the province. Each of our communities is filled with extraordinary people dedicated to doing their best for others. Though we weren't able to honour them in every SCIO region this past year, we honour them now in spirit and introduce you to those we presented with awards at our Community Celebration events in 2019-20.

LONDON

- Peer Support Volunteer Award
Mike Mulligan
- Volunteer Award
Cy Hartland
- Community Partner Award
Cheshire London
- Fundraising Partner Award
Marcus & Associates/Hoare Dalton

SAULT STE. MARIE

- Peer Support Volunteer Award
Denise Elliot
- Health Care Professional Award
Karen McKinley
- Community Partner Award
The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie

OTTAWA

- Peer Support Volunteer Award
Luc Polnicky
- Family Support Volunteer Award
Maura Athayde
- Volunteer Award
Andrew Zwirko
- Community Partner Award
Burn Tucker Lachaine, LLP
- Health Care Professional Award
Tracey Palmer
- Fundraising Partner Award
Mario Le Bouthillier OT
Consult Ergo
- Community Partner Award
Les Latchford

PETERBOROUGH

- Peer Support Volunteer Award
Carl Bax
- Health Care Professional Award
Carrie Cleverdon

YORK

- Peer Support Volunteer Award
Christopher Rice
- Health Care Professional Award
Erlinda Erfe
- Accessibility Advocate Award
Tyler Barker

HAMILTON

- Peer Support Volunteer Award
Matt Sagan
- Health Care Professional Award
Ann Hammer
- Community Partner Award
Anne-Marie Covello-Baxter

*Visit our online gallery at spinalcordinjuryontario.smugmug.com to view photos of our Community Celebrations and all SCIO events.

LONG TERM STAFF RECOGNITION

20 YEARS

- Barb Ewan
- Meverly Williams

25 YEARS

- Elma Ricketts
- Morene Robinson

FINANCIALS

As of March 31



HOW FUNDS WERE RAISED

Government Support	68%
Donations & Other Public Support	31.7%
Fees for Service	0.1%
Other	0.2%

* As a percentage of total revenue of \$5.843 million as per audited statement (net of the separate line item reporting discontinued operations), plus \$132,000 of direct fundraising costs disclosed in audited statement notes; adjusted total gross \$5.975 million.

HOW FUNDS WERE SPENT

Programs and Services	73.4%
Administration	6.7%
Resource Development (Direct & Indirect)	12.4%
Other	7.5%

* As a percentage of total expenditures of \$5.623 million as per audited statement, (net of the separate line item reporting discontinued operations), plus \$132,000 of direct fundraising costs disclosed in audited statement notes; adjusted total expenses \$5.755 million.

ABRIDGED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of March 31	2020	2019
ASSETS (FIGURES ARE IN THOUSANDS)		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 469	\$ 526
Accounts receivable	676	249
Prepaid expenses and other assets	85	102
Total current assets	1,230	877
Capital assets, net	163	192
Assets associated with Discontinued Operations (Note 1)	8	59
	\$ 1,401	\$ 1,128
LIABILITIES (FIGURES ARE IN THOUSANDS)		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	360	364
Deferred revenue	228	166
Deferred capital contributions	75	84
Liabilities associated with Discontinued Operations (Note 1)	509	286
	1,172	900
Net Assets		
Invested in capital assets	89	108
Unrestricted	140	120
Total Net Assets	229	228
	\$ 1,401	\$ 1,128

ABRIDGED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Year ended March 31	ACTUAL 2020	ACTUAL 2019
REVENUE		
Grants	\$ 4,063	\$ 4,069
Donations and other public support, net (Notes 2,3)	1,763	1,720
Fees for service	8	0
Recognition of deferred capital contributions	9	14
	\$ 5,843	\$ 5,803
EXPENSES		
Staff salaries and benefits	4,148	4,244
Purchased services (Note 4)	642	564
Office	360	414
Travel	167	156
Payments on behalf of clients	89	89
Medical research grants	101	121
Amortization of capital assets	35	33
Professional development	49	31
Miscellaneous	32	39
	\$ 5,623	\$ 5,691
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	220	112
Net Discontinued Operations (Note 1)	-219	-110
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	1	2

NOTES:

- This year we are presenting our financial statements slightly different than past years, this is being done to present the net of our discontinued operations related to the Attendant out reach program, as we have transferred this service to another organization
- Donations and other public support grossed revenue of \$1.899 million (2019-\$1.832 million). Direct fundraising expenses of \$132,000 (2019-\$105,000) have been netted against this total.
- Donations and other public support include grants of \$558,000 (2019-\$343,000) from the Ontario Paraplegic Foundation, which was established in March 2000 to receive designated bequests and donations from supporters of SCI Ontario. The Foundation is registered under the Income Tax Act and SCI Ontario appoints the majority of the Foundation's Board of Directors. According to the Foundation's bylaws, all resources of the Foundation must ultimately be used for the benefit of SCI Ontario. SCI Ontario's complete audited statements, which are available on our website, include abridged audited statements for the Foundation.
- SCI Ontario is highly dependent on the support of dedicated volunteers. Their value is not quantifiable in the above financial statements.

The financial information in the condensed statements is drawn from SCI Ontario's audited financial statements. If you would like a copy of the complete audited financial statements, please contact us at 1-877-422-1112 or visit www.sciontario.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark Abraham, Treasurer Chair, Finance & Audit Committee

It is my pleasure to report on Spinal Cord Injury Ontario's financial results for the year ended March 31, 2020.

Note: This year we are reporting revenues slightly differently than in past year. The divestiture of the Attendant Services Program will represent a significant change in our revenues and expenses going forward. In order to provide better comparability of financial performance from year to year, the Attendant Services Program revenue and expenses are being reported separately in our financial statements and fall under the heading 'discontinued operations'. In the commentary below these figures are reported separately and in many cases reported at totals to compare to last fiscal year.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Total revenue ended the year at \$5.84M, with an additional \$4.33M of revenue from discontinued operations, totaling \$10.17M, essentially the same as prior year. Our three main streams of revenue were government funding, fundraising, and our foundation. Each is discussed in turn below.

Government funding totaled \$4.06M for the year, with an additional \$4.27M of government funding associated with discontinued operations, for a total of \$8.33M or approximately 82% of our total revenues. The government funding we receive helps to support service delivery such as peer support, provincial services including knowledge exchange and Toronto-based employment.

Gross donations and public support revenue totaled \$1.3M, down 10% from prior year due to the cessation of the OCE grant we received for the development of VIP4SCI. Fundraising makes up the bulk this category at \$1.2M. While this was same level of fundraising as last year, our plans to exceed this target were tempered by the COVID-19 pandemic as we approached year-end. Fundraising revenue helps support our non-government funded areas, such as enhanced peer services, the development of our on-line education platform Cortree and advocacy, as well as underlying functions such as marketing, communications, and administration.

Our third source of revenue represented grants from the Ontario Paraplegic Foundation, a charitable foundation controlled by SCIO. The Foundation provides grants to SCIO for strategic initiatives and to cover unexpected expenses or revenue shortfalls. Conversely, the Foundation receives funds from SCIO when SCIO has a financial surplus. This year, total grants from the Foundation stood at \$558,000 which was up from prior year's grants of \$343,000. Foundation funding was used to support strategic initiatives, such as our fundraising development plan, an associated marketing plan as well as business development for mediation, PSW training initiatives and creating business cases for support to the newly formed Ontario Health Teams and Service System Managers for Employment Services. The

Foundation also provided a grant to cover an operating deficit that was primarily a result of additional costs associated with the discontinuation of the Attendant Services Program and the shortfall in fundraising.

Funds in the Foundation are invested and monitored carefully throughout the year. For the year ended March 2020, the foundation experienced a loss on investment in the amount of 0.70%, which is primarily due to market instability related to the pandemic. The Foundation closed the year with a balance of \$5.836M.

SCIO's expenses for the year are \$5.62M, plus expenses for the discontinued Attendant Service program (\$4.54M) for a total of \$10.17M. Of this \$4.2M (42%) was dedicated to delivering our ongoing programs and services, and \$4.1M was dedicated to the discontinued Attendant Services operations (45%). The balance of expense was associated with administration and fundraising.

The organization ended the year with a small surplus of \$577.

The financial statements have been prepared by management, were reviewed and approved by the Finance and Audit Committee and the Board of Directors and have been audited by Grant Thornton LLP. The complete audited statements are available on our website.

LOOKING AHEAD

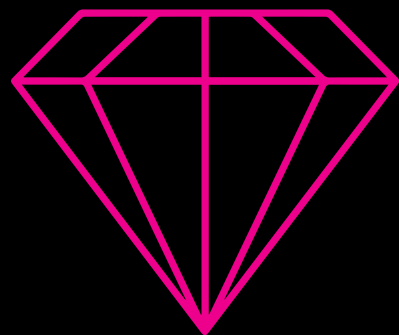
While discontinuing our Attendant Services program was not an easy decision, our partnership with March of Dimes Canada allowed us to find a solution that minimally impacts our existing clients and creates an opportunity for improving services to new clients across the province. And while our resulting revenues will be reduced going forward, as we no longer have funding associated with the Attendant Services program, we are in fact financially stronger for it and can be more focused and strategic as an organization.

The COVID-19 pandemic presents a real risk to our ability to raise funds in the coming year. Our in-person events are cancelled, and the broader economic instability creates a situation where fewer are able to give. At the same time, we are hearing from many who are in a position to help and our relatively high proportion of revenue that comes from government grants insulates us from the full financial impact the pandemic could potentially bring.

The coming year is full of changes - in the way we work, our operating environment, and the programs we offer. The financial planning and processes we undertake as an organization allows us to measure and anticipate the impact of these changes, and give us the tools we need to proactively adjust. We will remain focused on how best to use SCIO's financial resources in the year ahead.

I would like to thank each and every donor for financially supporting SCI Ontario during the past year. I would also like to thank all of our volunteers, members and employees for your generosity and support to our organization. We simply couldn't be successful without you! Peer to peer. Strength to strength.

CELEBRATE STRENGTH



We honour our founders and all who've built
Spinal Cord Injury Ontario these last 75 years.
And we thank you wholeheartedly for
contributing - past, present and future -
to our vital mission and vision.

THE DIAMOND BALL
NOVEMBER 5, 2020

[SCIONTARIO.ORG/DIAMONDBALL](https://sciontario.org/diamondball)

75
& BEYOND»



SPINAL CORD INJURY ONTARIO
LÉSIONS MÉDULLAIRES ONTARIO

75

THANK YOU.



SPINAL CORD INJURY ONTARIO
LÉSIONS MÉDULLAIRES ONTARIO

Provincial Office | 520 Sutherland Drive
Toronto, Ontario M4G 3V9 (and all over Ontario)
416-422-5644 | 1-877-422-1112 | sciontario.org

philanthropy@sciontario.org
We'd love to hear from you!

Charitable Registration No. 11883 5081 RR0002