



Spinal Cord Injury Manitoba
Lésions Médullaires Manitoba

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT



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Nature and Purpose

The mission of Spinal Cord Injury Manitoba is to assist persons living with spinal cord injury to achieve independence, self-reliance, and full community participation. We are a charitable, non-profit organization representing more than 1,000 Manitobans living with spinal cord injury. We provide professional rehabilitation counselling, information, and advocacy services, supplemented by a dedicated group of peer volunteers.

Our Six Core Services

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

Rehabilitation Counselling

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

Service Coordination

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

Peer Support

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

Education and Employment

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

Information Services

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

Community Advocacy

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

Board of Directors

Corrine Deegan*
Linda Godin-Sorin - Vice President
Lyll Hallick - President
Keith Klaassen*
Amanda Kozak*
Justin MacKay

Ron May
Robert Pruden
Leonard Steingarten*
Adam Terwin - Treasurer
Mark Wherrett*

*living with spinal cord injury

Report from the President and Executive Director

Another year in the rearview mirror and it was a busy one for SCI Manitoba. Most critically, 60 Manitobans and their loved ones experienced the sudden devastation that accompanies the onset of a spinal cord injury in 2024-25, and learned first hand about the consequences that penetrate into every aspect of one's life. But every journey through injury, rehabilitation, and reintegration begins with our promise: you're not alone.

In October 2024, SCI Manitoba adopted a Declaration Respecting Indigenous Peoples in Manitoba and proclaimed that Indigenous Disability Awareness Month (IDAM) will be celebrated in November each year. Together, these two documents set out a series of commitments we have made to advance the work of Reconciliation, inside and outside of the organization. During last year's inaugural IDAM celebration, all staff participated in a full day of Indigenous cultural awareness and safety training.

Following up on one of the priorities from our strategic planning efforts in 2022-23, we engaged and began working with a team of fundraising consultants to help grow our revenues and subsequently launched a combined direct mail, email and targeted corporate fundraising campaigns with the goal of raising funds for (1) improving access for SCI Manitoba members to see psychological and similar care providers, and (2) establishing a formally-structured peer support program. By the end of the fiscal year, we had secured sufficient funds for the first two members to begin treatment with a provider of their choosing. Similarly, when combined with grants received from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation and

the federal government (through the SCI Canada network), we were able to launch the peer support program officially. Much work remains to get this program fully operational, but we expect to recruit and train 12 new peer support volunteers during 2025-26 and start using them both in the community and in the SCI rehabilitation program at HSC Winnipeg. On a related note, we were excited to see a great deal of interest for the Social Club, a new offering where SCI Manitoba members come together, enjoy snacks, make friends, and learn about each other's successes and challenges.

The operational reorganization of SCI Canada is now well underway, with several of the provincial partners having assumed responsibility for specific duties that previously fell on the shoulders of the executive director and/or the Executive Directors Council. The new operating structure is working well and will be further discussed by network partners at national meetings in Calgary in September 2025.

On the financial side, we ended the fiscal year with a small deficit this year, which mainly reflects the fundraising consulting fees that were only partly offset by grant funding (see page 5 for the summarized financial statements).

We want to thank our donors (page 7) for their generous support, and our funders for their continued enthusiasm for the difference we're making in the lives of our members. We also want to express our sincere gratitude to the staff, volunteers, and directors of SCI Manitoba, whose contributions to this organization are truly incalculable - THANK YOU!



Lyall Hallick
Board President



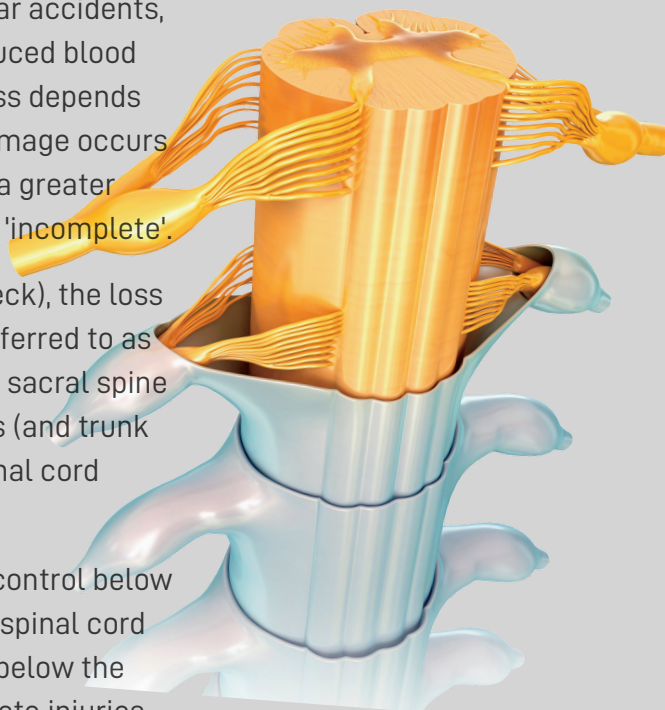
Dan Joannis
Executive Director

What is spinal cord injury?

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

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

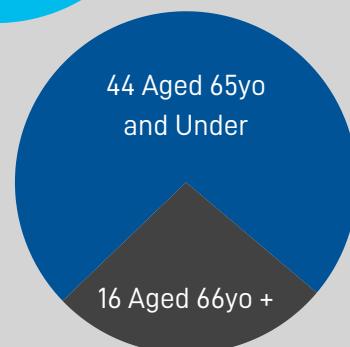
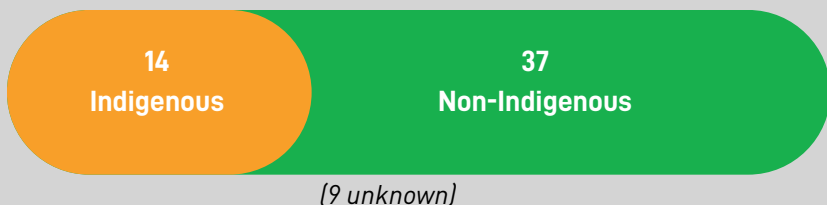
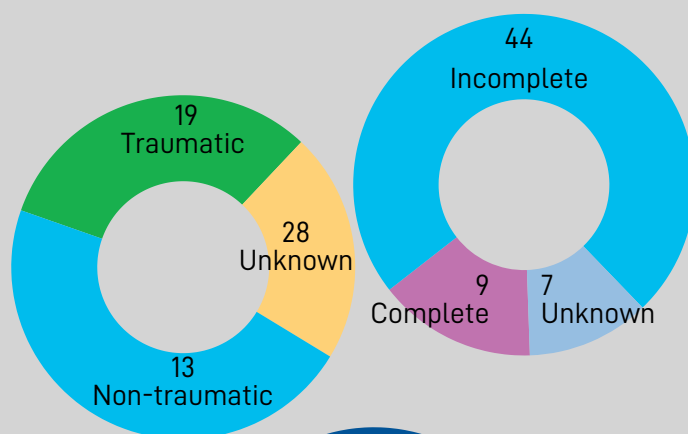
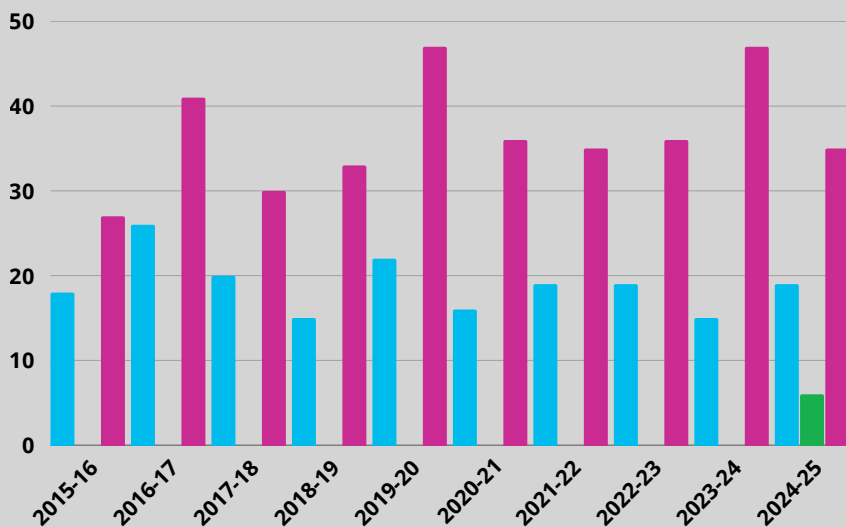
In a complete spinal cord injury, there is no sensation or motor control below the level where the spinal cord was damaged. In an incomplete spinal cord injury, there is some sensation and/or motor control remaining below the level of injury. Because of improvements in acute care, incomplete injuries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



60 New Spinal Cord Injuries in 2024-25



● Tetraplegia (19) ● Unknown (6) ● Paraplegia (35)



Treasurer's Report

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to report SCI Manitoba continues to provide services of the highest quality to Manitobans living with spinal cord injury, which is only made possible with the ongoing support of our funders - Manitoba Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation, Manitoba Health, Seniors, and Long-Term Care, United Way Winnipeg, Shared Health, Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba, Manitoba Paraplegia Foundation, and SCI Canada. We were also grateful for the generous support of our donors, who contributed \$25,605 during the year.

Overall operating revenue and expenses at yearend resulted in a modest deficit of -\$20,276. Total revenues were higher by \$77,437 this past year (\$1,116,869 in FY25 vs \$1,039,432 in FY24), while expenses were

also higher this year by \$115,857 (\$1,137,145 in FY25 vs \$1,021,288 in FY24).

We saw professional fees increase primarily because of outsourcing the accounting function, which correspondingly resulted in a decrease in administration salaries and benefits. The largest increase in expenditures was in rehabilitation salaries and benefits, which supported an increase in the service delivered to our members.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to our funders, members, and donors for their continued support of our programs and services, and to SCIM staff for their professionalism. Thank you also to the team at Balncd for their bookkeeping and accounting services, and to MNP LLP for their services in the preparation of our audited financial statements.

— Adam Terwin, Treasurer

Spinal Cord Injury Manitoba Inc.

Summary Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
Assets		
Current		
Cash – operating	409,008	288,408
Cash – restricted for computer reserve	26,356	25,693
Accounts receivable	22,042	46,978
Advances to Manitoba Paraplegia Foundation Inc.	46,717	33,354
Investments	-	104,837
Prepaid expenses	8,293	2,425
	512,416	501,695
Capital assets	36,388	51,191
	548,804	552,886
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	150,805	126,412
Deferred revenue	73,145	81,344
	223,950	207,756
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	188,051	185,215
Investment in capital assets	62,744	76,884
Internally restricted	74,059	83,031
	324,854	345,130
	548,804	552,886

Summary Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

As at March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
Revenue		
Amortization of deferred revenue	15,197	6,882
Donations	25,605	13,573
Fees for service	20,000	20,000
Grants and contracted revenue	1,008,455	929,290
Miscellaneous	7,433	42,781
Realized gain on investments	704	-
Unrealized gain on investments	-	4,140
Vocational training	39,475	25,131
	1,116,869	1,041,797
Expenses		
Amortization	14,803	16,484
Bad debts	-	-
Information services	27,470	21,016
Office	13,713	9,812
Professional fees	134,662	77,941
Rent	75,300	82,546
Salaries and benefits administration	182,502	211,438
Salaries and benefits rehabilitation	617,746	552,484
Telephone and internet	8,698	9,610
Travel	27,456	16,709
Vocational training	34,795	25,613
	1,137,145	1,023,653
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(20,276)	18,144
Net assets, beginning of year	345,130	326,986
Net assets, end of year	324,854	345,130

A complete set of the Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report may be obtained from SCI Manitoba.

SERVICE TYPE	# DIRECT SERVICES PROVIDED	% OF DIRECT SERVICES
ACCOMMODATION	381	3.11%
EDUCATION	803	6.54%
EMPLOYMENT	866	7.06%
EQUIPMENT	481	3.92%
FAMILY/RELATIONSHIPS	83	0.68%
FINANCIAL	171	1.39%
HEALTH & WELLNESS	6,171	50.29%
LEGAL	18	0.15%
RECREATION/LEISURE	48	0.39%
SEX AND FERTILITY	8	0.06%
TRANSPORTATION	88	0.72%
DIRECT SERVICES	9,118	74.30%
INDIRECT SERVICES	3,154	25.70%
TOTAL	12,272	100%

Staff

Dan Joannis* | Executive Director

Gail Burnside | Director of Rehabilitation Services

Adrienne Conley | Executive Assistant

Alina Rose Babu | Rehabilitation Counsellor - Transitional Services

Terra Coulter | Rehabilitation Counsellor - Hospital / Transitional Services

Laurence Haien | Senior Rehabilitation Counsellor - Vocational Services

Coleen Junio | Rehabilitation Counsellor - Transitional Services

LéAmber Kensley | Rehabilitation Counsellor - Health Promotion Services

Rebecca Norman | Rehabilitation Counsellor - Indigenous Services

Annika Onosson* | Rehabilitation Counsellor - Indigenous Services

Natasha Schreyer | Rehabilitation Counsellor - Hospital Services

Alexandria Toews | Rehabilitation Counsellor - Vocational Services

**living with spinal cord injury*

2025 E. Arthur Braid SCI Manitoba Merit Award



This year's recipient of the E. Arthur Braid SCI Manitoba Merit Award is the Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba ('WCB Manitoba').

WCB Manitoba was established by statute (The Workers Compensation Act) many years ago to ensure workers who'd been injured on the job had access to a range of benefits while they recovered from their injuries so they could eventually return to work.

Every year, there are an average of 55 new spinal cord injuries in Manitoba, and for a small number of people, their injuries happen in the workplace. Unfortunately, some workers' injuries are so severe that they are not able to return to the same work they were doing before the injury happened. But whatever the circumstances, SCI Manitoba Rehabilitation Counsellors frequently interact with assigned case workers from WCB Manitoba to ensure members have information about, and access to, the various benefits available under the no-fault insurance scheme. As a result of this close

alliance, there is a natural tendency to build strong, trusting and collaborative relationships between SCI Manitoba and WCB Manitoba. This could not be better illustrated than by highlighting the excellent work done this past year and the excellent support we received from Ms. Sherry Cowan and Mr. Justin Beaudin.

Sherry began her career at WCB Manitoba as an adjudicator in 2013 in Thompson, MB but soon thereafter became a case manager. For the past ten years, Sherry has been working in the Specialized Services Unit (SSU). Justin joined WCB Manitoba in 2008 as an adjudicator, then moved on to become a case manager, then supervisor of short term claims, and finally as the manager of SSU. More recently, Justin moved to the role of director for WCB Manitoba's Fair Practices Office.

It is always a joy to work with individuals who share our values and are committed to providing the best quality of care and services to our mutual clients/members, and both Sherry and Justin have amply demonstrated those qualities when working with SCI Manitoba members.

Thank you, Justin and Sherry, and WCB Manitoba, for all your efforts over many years, and for your leadership and commitment to supporting Manitobans living with spinal cord injury in achieving greater independence, self-reliance, and full community participation. It is our great pleasure to present you with the 2025 E. Arthur Braid SCI Manitoba Merit Award - congratulations!

Thank you to our donors and supporters in 2024-25

Doug Barker	Ed Giesbrecht	Dr. Lindsay Nicolle
Patricia Bayn	Linda Godin-Sorin	Rudy Niebuhr
Janice Becking	Cherise Griffin	Kathy Penner
Stephen Bilan	Walter Gross	Minerva Perez
Bradley Boisselle	Lyall Hallick	Robert Pruden
Fred Boyko	Marianna Carol Hryniuk-Adamov	Guy Reeve
Gail Burnside	Dan Joannis	James Richardson
Yvette and Alain Cenerini	Douglas Kerr	Arnold (late) and Orpha Schryvers
Dennis Dart	Kat Kupca	George Silar
Corrine Deegan	Armand Langan	James Smith
Bishop Noël Delaquis	Nancy Leith	Kay Stewart
Linda Demers	Norman Magnusson	Larice Sych
David Duncan	Larry Maguire	Ten Ten Sinclair Housing
Marjorie Dyck	Ron May	Adam Terwin
Dr. Karen Ethans	Cheryl McDougall and Ed Gluck	June Thomson
Brian Everton	Audrey McIlraith	Arthur Williams
	William (Bill) Neill	



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YES!

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

Members also receive discounts at various health care supply stores.

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

PLEASE ENTER MEMBERSHIP FOR:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY: PROV:

POSTAL CODE: PHONE:

E-MAIL:

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

SIGNATURE: DATE:

I wish to select the following category of Membership:

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

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

NEW RENEWAL

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

IMPORTANT!

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

For more information:

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Toll free within Manitoba: 1-800-720-4933