



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26



[info@scimanitoba.ca](mailto:info@scimanitoba.ca)  
[www.scimanitoba.ca](http://www.scimanitoba.ca)  
204.786.4753 | 800.720.4933



# 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, continuous support, information, community links, and follow-up that assist individuals in their return to an independent life in the community.

### **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**

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

### **Information Services**

Comprehensive and relevant information for all stakeholders - Manitobans living with SCI, their families, employers, community agencies, funders, insurers, and governments.

### **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.

## 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 extent and severity of functional loss depends on two main factors: the location where the spinal cord damage occurs, and whether the injury is 'complete' or 'incomplete'. Generally, damage at higher levels of the spinal cord produces a greater loss in function. There is no cure - damage to the spinal cord is permanent.

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.

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 preservation of sensory and/or motor function remaining below the level of injury. Because of improvements in acute care, incomplete injuries are increasingly common.



## **Board of Directors**

Corrine Deegan\*  
Lyall Hallick - President  
Keith Klaassen\*

Amanda Kozak\*  
Ron May  
Robert Pruden

Leonard Steingarten\*  
Adam Terwin - Treasurer  
Mark Wherrett\*

\*living with spinal cord injury

# Report from the President and Executive Director

It has been another incredibly busy and productive year at SCI Manitoba and we are pleased to share some of the highlights from 2025-26. As we enter our 80<sup>th</sup> year of operations in 2026-27, it's important to reflect not only on the past year, but also on the ongoing legacy of our founders.

This past year, there were a total of 56 new injuries to welcome into the SCI Manitoba Family - 35 were referred to us through the SCI inpatient rehabilitation program at Health Sciences Centre, while 21 came to us as community referrals. In total, we provided 11,035 services this past year to more than 1,000 SCIM members living across the province.

The year also heralded a number of important changes at SCIM, including the retirement of Gail Burnside, Director of Rehabilitation Services, after more than 16 years of faithful and devoted service to innumerable SCIM members.

In November 2025, SCI Manitoba celebrated Indigenous Disability Awareness Month (IDAM) with an Indigenous cultural awareness and safety training for staff for a second consecutive year. Our work around Indigenous Reconciliation also included preliminary discussions with a consultant who will be assisting us, in the year ahead, with outreach to our Indigenous members to evaluate the extent to which our services are meeting their needs, and to help identify service gaps requiring remediation.



Lyall Hallick  
Board President

Our fundraising efforts carried forward in 2025-26 with our second annual fall campaign that raised funds for mental health care and miscellaneous support needs for SCIM members.

Our support for the SCI Canada network continued during 2025-26 through monthly meetings of the Executive Directors Council and the Peer Support Working Group. As a result, the SCI Canada partner network remains a vital part of a national strategy ensuring the collective and unified voice of Canadians with SCI and their supporters is heard by government on critical federal advocacy issues.

In Manitoba, we have been engaged in discussions with government focused on restoring and growing occupational therapy services in northern Indigenous communities, and addressing the longstanding issue of inadequate accessible and affordable housing.

The Social Club, which has been operating on a monthly basis since May 2025, is celebrating its first anniversary, and we are excited about the potential impact it - and our Peer Support Program - will have in the years ahead by bringing members together to **Connect \* Support \* Belong**. This work, and peer support more generally, is the principal legacy of our founders during our organization's nascent years in the post-WWII era.

Financially, SCIM had a strong year that ended with a modest surplus (see page 4 for the summarized audited financial statements).

Finally, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, and funders for their generous support as we help our members and their loved ones make the difficult transition towards optimal independence. We also want to thank our amazing staff and volunteers for their continuing dedication to our mission and the members we serve.



Dan Joannis  
Executive Director

# 56 NEW SPINAL CORD INJURIES IN 2025-26

## INJURY CLASSIFICATION

**PARAPLEGIA**  
31

**TETRAPLEGIA**  
25

## REFERRAL TYPE

**HOSPITAL CONSULTS**  
31

**COMMUNITY  
REFERRALS**  
25

## ONSET TYPE

**TRAUMATIC**  
24

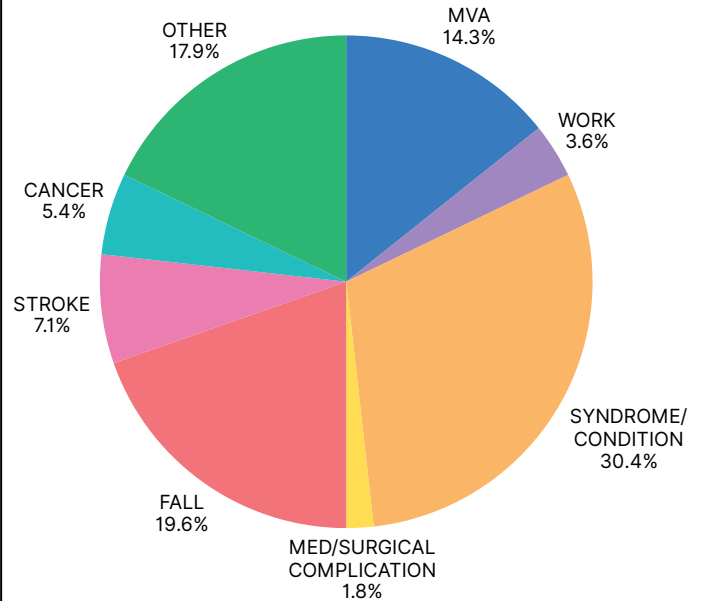
**NON-TRAUMATIC**  
32

## SCI SEVERITY

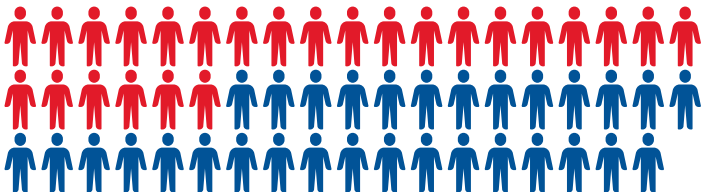
**COMPLETE  
(AIS A)**  
9

**INCOMPLETE  
(AIS B, C, D)**  
47

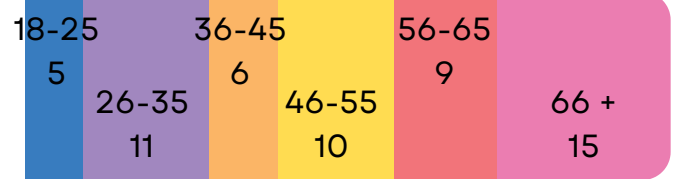
## CAUSE OF INJURY



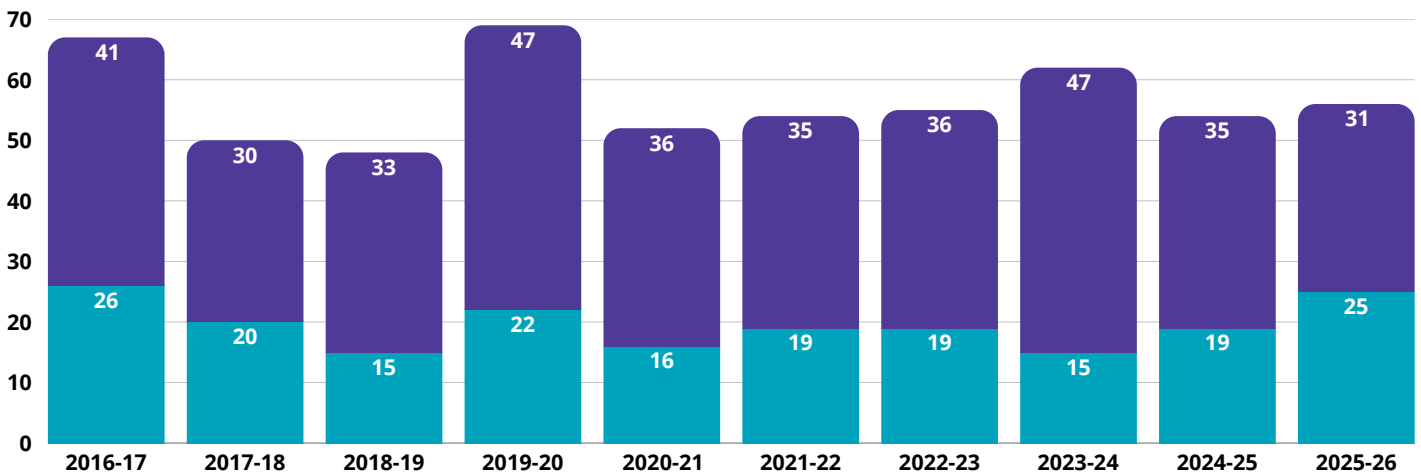
**Female 25 Male 31**



## AGE AT ONSET



● Tetraplegia (25) ● Paraplegia (31)



# 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, SCI Canada, and Coloplast Canada. We were also grateful for the generous support of our donors, who contributed \$29,234 during the year.

Overall operating revenue and expenses at yearend resulted in a modest surplus of \$37,518. Total revenues were higher by \$26,505 this past year (\$1,143,374 in FY26 vs \$1,116,869 in FY25), while expenses were down by \$31,289

(\$1,105,856 in FY26 vs \$1,137,145 in FY25).

We received additional income this year with the launch of our Peer Support Program, and donations from fundraising increased over the prior year (+14%). On the expense side, salary and benefits were slightly reduced compared with the prior year due a number of temporary vacancies associated with personnel changes, while the costs for office and information services increased by 38%.

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, 2026

	2026	2025
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash – operating	34,215	409,008
Cash – restricted for computer reserve	26,857	26,356
Accounts receivable	73,344	22,042
Advances to Manitoba Paraplegia Foundation Inc.	43,401	46,717
Investments	350,000	-
Prepaid expenses	2,341	8,293
	<b>530,158</b>	<b>512,416</b>
<b>Capital assets</b>	<b>26,586</b>	<b>36,388</b>
	<b>556,744</b>	<b>548,804</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	88,660	150,805
Deferred revenue	105,712	73,145
	<b>194,372</b>	<b>223,950</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	149,119	188,051
Investment in capital assets	53,443	62,744
Internally restricted	159,810	74,059
	<b>362,372</b>	<b>324,854</b>
	<b>556,744</b>	<b>548,804</b>

### Summary Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets As at March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
<b>Revenue</b>		
Amortization of deferred revenue	18,620	15,197
Donations	29,234	25,605
Fees for service	22,500	20,000
Grants and contracted revenue	894,224	1,008,455
Miscellaneous	12,671	7,433
Peer Support Program	25,153	-
Realized gain on investments	-	704
United Way funding	140,972	141,704
Vocational training	-	39,475
	<b>1,143,374</b>	<b>1,116,869</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Amortization	11,875	14,803
Bad debts	10,474	-
Member support	9,487	-
Office and information services	56,669	41,183
Professional fees	107,052	134,662
Rent	77,338	75,300
Salaries and benefits	795,267	800,248
Telephone and internet	10,340	8,698
Travel	27,354	27,456
Vocational training	-	34,795
	<b>1,105,856</b>	<b>1,137,145</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>37,518</b>	<b>(20,276)</b>
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>324,854</b>	<b>345,130</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>362,372</b>	<b>324,854</b>

*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	465	4.21%
EDUCATION	867	7.86%
EMPLOYMENT	545	4.94%
EQUIPMENT	703	6.37%
FAMILY/RELATIONSHIPS	28	0.25%
FINANCIAL	199	1.80%
HEALTH & WELLNESS	4,934	44.71%
LEGAL	20	0.18%
RECREATION/LEISURE	12	0.11%
SEX AND FERTILITY	6	0.05%
TRANSPORTATION	44	0.40%
<b>DIRECT SERVICES</b>	<b>7,823</b>	<b>70.89%</b>
<b>INDIRECT SERVICES</b>	<b>3,212</b>	<b>29.11%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,035</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 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

Kadija Ibrahim | Rehabilitation Counsellor - Health Promotion Services

Coleen Junio | Rehabilitation Counsellor - Transitional 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*

# 2026 E. Arthur Braid SCI Manitoba Merit Award

This year's recipient of the E. Arthur Braid SCI Manitoba Merit Award is SCI Manitoba member George Loewen.

George sustained a spinal cord injury in a cycling accident during the summer of 2019 and after spending several months in hospital recovering and learning to live with incomplete tetraplegia, he returned home but soon was yearning to get outdoors again - something he thoroughly enjoyed prior to the accident.

George's desire to resume an active lifestyle as a wheelchair user lead him to begin visiting leisure and recreation facilities in his community. But what began as a personal effort to overcome the barriers in his own life eventually evolved into a much larger project. He gathered information and kept detailed records of each place he visited so that he could create a central repository of resources for other wheelchair users, and this was the genesis of the Wheelchair Adventures Manitoba website ([www.wheelchairmanitoba.ca](http://www.wheelchairmanitoba.ca)).

The E. Arthur Braid Merit Award is given out annually to an individual or group who has



SCI Manitoba member, George Loewen, founder of Wheelchair Adventures Manitoba

demonstrated a longstanding commitment to improving the welfare of Manitobans living with SCI, and George is precisely the kind of individual this award is meant to recognize. Congratulations!

## *Thank you to our donors and supporters in 2025-26*

Patricia Bayn  
Bernice Becker  
Janice Becking  
Stephen Bilan  
Bradley Boisselle  
Yvette and Alain Cenerini  
Alonza Chase  
Dennis Dart  
Corrine Deegan  
Bishop Noël Delaquis  
David Duncan  
Marjorie Dyck  
Dr. Karen Ethans  
Brian Everton  
Steven Fletcher

Cherise Griffin  
Walter Gross  
Lloyd Huys  
Lyll Hallick  
Douglas Kerr  
Kat Kupca  
Armand Langan  
Norman Magnusson  
Larry Maguire  
Mildred Mann  
Ron May  
Audrey McIlraith  
Aaron Moseley-Williams  
William (Bill) Neill

Dr. Lindsay Nicolle  
Werner Pauls  
Minerva Perez  
Robert Pruden  
Judy Redmond  
Guy Reeve  
James Richardson  
Orpha Schryvers  
George Silar  
Kay Stewart  
Adam Terwin  
June Thomson  
Janine Turnbull  
Debra Warkentin  
Arthur Williams

# ParaTracks in your inbox



Starting in fall 2026, SCI Manitoba will begin the process of transitioning to a digital version of our news magazine and we want to hear from you how you want to receive ParaTracks in the future.

If you want to continue receiving ParaTracks in print form, you do not need to take any action.

If you prefer to make the transition to digital, you must opt in by scanning the QR code on this page with the camera on your smartphone or use the web link below and complete the online form so we can send you an email containing the link to view the digital version of ParaTracks on our website each time a new issue is available.

We understand many of our readers will continue to want to receive ParaTracks in print, and we will continue to make the print version available until further notice.

This transition to digital reflects our commitment to delivering relevant and newsworthy information to our readers and supporters in ways that are most convenient and accessible. The transition will also help reduce the rising costs for printing and mailing ParaTracks.

If you have any questions or feedback about the transition to digital ParaTracks, please contact Dan Joannis, Executive Director, by phone at 204-202-8326 or by email at [dan@scimanitoba.ca](mailto:dan@scimanitoba.ca).



*... or type this link into the address bar of your web browser (Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari, etc):*

<https://go.scimanitoba.ca/digital-PT>