

SUMMER UPDATE

August, 2017

Summer greetings on behalf of the Staff and Board of Directors at the BIANs Camp. We hope you are having a wonderful summer. We got to see many of you at our Annual Ice Cream Social at Public Gardens back in July and we look forward to seeing you again when our fall season kicks off. We typically have a picnic-style gathering in September to kick off the year and we will send you details as soon as we have the venue and date confirmed. This update contains a few time-sensitive items that we want to pass along to you.

From the desk of Leona Burkey
Executive Director, BIANs

Advocacy Update:

Though meetings and programs tend to break over summer (except for Head-On Support Group who meet year-round...you guys are troopers), we kept up steady effort on the advocacy end. As you know, we delivered the final report of the Acquired Brain Injury Strategy Project as Co-Chairs to then Minister of Health and Wellness, Leo Glavine in January 2017. We were disappointed in delays with the report circling around the Dept. of Health and Wellness as the work is under the “umbrella” of Continuing Care. We were able to meet with the Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness, Denise Perret and senior officials with the Dept of Health to discuss these concerns. We also have a new Minister of Health, Randy Delorey and we met with him and his senior advisors mid-August to discuss the “brain injury situation” and ways to move the work forward. A quote from the great Julie Andrews certainly fits in right here: **“Perseverance is failing 19 times and succeeding the 20th.”**

Thank you to everyone who wrote letters and contacted their politicians to raise awareness. It is important to find a way to build **motivation** within the brain injury community to affect change – the thousands of people affected by brain injury in Nova Scotia deserve appropriate, publicly funded services and to be supported in their communities. We will continue to push and champion this and we will need your voices along the way – we will keep you updated on all developments.

Golf Tournament Rain Date:

Our annual major fundraiser was postponed due to heavy rains and lightning (yikes) back in June. The rain date is **Thursday afternoon September 28, 2017 at Glen Arbour**. We are still actively selling the tournament – do you golf? Do you have friends/family who golf? Please send them along to us – registration will remain open until September 20. Information on the tournament can be found on the front page of BIANs' website.



BIANS BOWLATHON OCTOBER 28, 2017!

WOODSIDE BOWLARAMA, SAVE THE DATE

Get your costume ready – we will be taking over the Woodside Bowlarama once again for a Halloween-themed family-friendly bowlathon. All welcome! Get your team together and save the date to come “bowl for brains”.



BRIGADOON BRAIN INJURY CAMP WELLNESS RETREAT POSTPONED...

We have been working more closely with March of Dimes Canada over the last couple of years to collaborate on programs – acquired brain injury is one of the disabilities supported by March of Dimes. A planned two-day retreat for September 25-27 has been postponed to 2018. We would still very much like to offer this to our members, but the camper rate of \$200 was unaffordable to many who were interested and we also had to contend with a conflict with our golf tournament “rain date” – we had to take what was available for a rain date and our volunteers are also tied up with that event. Apologies to those who were interested in attending – we will update you on Brigadoon 2018 as soon as we can.

MARCH OF DIMES CANADA - two opportunities

March of Dimes Canada is a non for profit organization that provides a wide range of services to people with physical disabilities throughout the country. Conductive Education (CE) is one program within March of Dimes Canada. CE is an educational approach to rehabilitation that works with individuals with motor disorders, (cerebral palsy, stroke, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, spina bifida and acquired brain injury) teaching them tasks and techniques to improve independence and daily living.

They are also launching a new program “Together in Movement and Exercise” (TIME). The TIME program is designed for those who experience balance and

mobility challenges and are looking for a safe exercise program that suits their needs. Their staff are specifically trained on neurological conditions such as stroke, brain injury and multiple sclerosis. Throughout both of these programs our staff are trained to see the whole person and can help individuals improve physically but also emotionally, socially and personally. There will be a pilot for acquired brain injury participants to “try out” 6 free sessions...if you are interested please let Patrick know and we will put you “on the list”. More details to come in our next update.

March of Dimes Canada is giving away customized tablets to help people with disabilities who live in Halifax.

To help Halifax residents with physical disabilities improve their community access and participation, March of Dimes Canada, through the **Assistive Mobile Technology Initiative**, will provide customized tablet packages (tablet, a stylus, a cover/case and a pre-paid credit card to purchase/install appropriate apps) for a **total value of \$1,875 for up to 8 winning applicants.**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 7th!

Tell us your story and win a customized accessible tablet package with apps for communication, increased independence, and daily living! The goal is to share how technology assists people to increase their independence and quality of life.

The initiative will help the successful applicant achieve one or more of the following:

- Increase access to services
- Explore or control their environment
- Contribute to their ability to take on new leisure pursuits
- Contribute to improving their education
- Assist in their employment objectives
- Assist in communication, verbal and written

Applications must be received by September 7, 2017.

Here is the link for information on how to apply:

www.marchofdimes.ca/AMTI

If you need assistance with your application or have questions contact the office 902-473-7301 or email Patrick our Office Manager at info@braininjuryns.com