



ADDRESSING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE RELATED BRAIN INJURIES

Stop the Violence – Support the Survivor



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PURPLE THURSDAY OCT 17, 2024

An important afternoon of education, sharing and planning with leaders, volunteers and researchers in Canada and Alberta understanding the impact of intimate partner violence and resulting brain injuries.



Tentative Schedule:

12:00 to 1:00 – Box Lunch Luncheon Speakers – Dr. Lin Haag, Sandi Lougheed
1:00 to 2:15 – 5 outstanding education speakers’ sessions (TBA)
2:30 to 3:30 – group tables exploring a vision/blueprint community plan
3:30 to 4:00 – report back **4:00 to 4:30 - wrap**

Dr. Halina (Lin) Haag is a **Canadian Institute of Health Research Fellow and Contract Faculty member with the Faculty of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University**. She is exploring the barriers and supports encountered by women survivors who experience brain injury because of intimate partner violence. Lin is committed to improving outcomes through direct practice, innovative research, and professional education, believing that increased knowledge and understanding in the community is key. In 2021 she was honoured to receive the Neurological Health Charities of Canada’s Changemaker Award for her work in IPV-related brain injury. As someone with lived experience of brain injury, she has been a guest speaker addressing issues of disability, brain injury, and marginalization for a variety of international academic, professional, and community-based organizations.

Sandi Lougheed, BA, Bed is a past National President of the Canadian Royal Purple with 55 years of community, volunteer and facilitator experience with community and government agencies. She has a grass roots understanding of the “Role of the Volunteer” as a change agent. The Canadian Royal Purple’s cause of brain injury awareness and prevention and Purple Thursday are a product of the belief that change will be most effective when the worlds of research, victim care and community response merge resulting in fundamental change – a trend, a movement, a determination - to “Stop the Violence and Support the Survivor”. The Canadian Royal Purple will be developing a Community Led Awareness and Prevention (CLAP) Blueprint – a template which every community can implement to bring about awareness and prevention of further brain injuries due to interpersonal violence.

Janelle Breese Biagioni, CEO/Founder Constable Gerald Breese Centre for Traumatic Life Losses and Executive Director BC Brain Injury Association. Janelle is a Registered Professional Counsellor and Master Practitioner in Clinical Counselling. She has dedicated the past 35 years serving in the brain injury community. Janelle and her family created the CGB Centre for Traumatic Life Losses to commemorate the 25th year of her first husband’s passing. The Centre’s mission is to provide individualized and relevant solutions to everyday people and has brought to fruition important initiatives such as the Heads Together Think Tank, and the BC Consensus on Brain Injury, Mental Health, and Addictions. Janelle has been working since 2017 with her MP, Alistair MacGregor to put forward his Private Member’s Bill C-277 calling upon the federal government to establish a National Strategy on Brain Injury.

Dr. Miranda Pilipchuk, Research and Evaluation Coordinator, Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters will present on the state of domestic abuse in Alberta and how shelters are supporting survivors.



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Michelle McDonald CEO of Brain Injury Canada - Beyond a Single Event: Recognizing traumatic brain injury as a lifelong condition

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is an escalating health crisis affecting millions of Canadians, with profound impacts on their physical, cognitive, emotional, and socioeconomic well-being, as well as that of their families and communities. This presentation will explore the multifaceted nature of brain injury, argue for the classification of TBI as a chronic condition within Canada's healthcare system, and discuss global initiatives aimed at aligning Canadian health policy with international standards for chronic conditions. It will also emphasize how this designation can pave the way for a future where the needs of individuals and families are recognized, supported, and integrated into holistic care approaches.

Michelle McDonald has over 25 years of experience in the non-profit sector and currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Brain Injury Canada. In this role, she has guided the organization in a new strategic direction, establishing it as a reputable source of information, a knowledge mobilizer, and an ally for individuals with lived experiences, their families, healthcare and service providers, and the medical and research communities. Michelle is the Co-Chair of the Governing Council for Neurological Health Charities Canada and a member of the Executive Committees of both the Canadian Traumatic Brain Injury Research Consortium and the Canadian Concussion Network. Additionally, she serves on the Canadian

