

SUPPORT CARE KNOWLEDGE

Victoria Epilepsy and Parkinson's Centre

ANNUAL REPORT

2014 - 2015



OUR MISSION

We are a vibrant and welcoming non-profit society whose purpose is to strengthen clients', families' and communities' ability to manage the physical, psychological and social effects of Parkinson's and epilepsy.



“At one of the support groups we discussed and researched ways of increasing resiliency, and touch was one of the top contributors. At session’s end, the room was ablaze with handshakes and shoulder pats. I was moved by the number of people who reached out to quieter members of the group.”

- Lindsay Beal, Parkinson’s Outreach Coordinator

“My favourite part about my job at HeadWay? The people. I get to meet new people every day. It’s a real privilege to share the stories of people with epilepsy and their loved ones. It’s also a privilege to meet with others, such as neurologists and those from other non-profit organizations who are passionate about providing services in our community.”

- Jennifer Morgan, Epilepsy Program Coordinator

“There is great value associated with the in-service presentations we do at this organization. The education piece plays a tremendous role in empowering our society to fully support those living with epilepsy and Parkinson’s.

- Amanda Ng, Community Education & Awareness Coordinator

EPILEPSY FACTS

1 in 100 people have epilepsy.



The word 'epilepsy' is a general term for more than 20 different types of seizure disorders. Seizures occur as a result of brief changes in the normal activity of brain cells. The extent of these changes, and their effect on the individual, can vary greatly. Epilepsy affects approximately 1 in every 100 Canadians, and begins most often in childhood or the senior years.

PARKINSON'S FACTS

Nearly 100,000 Canadians have Parkinson's.

Parkinson's is a progressive neurological disorder resulting from the loss of dopamine production in a part of the brain called the substantia nigra. Dopamine acts as a chemical messenger, allowing nerve impulses to travel smoothly from one nerve cell to another. This enables the transmission of messages to muscles of the body to begin voluntary movement. As dopamine production decreases, muscle movements become slower and more rigid, tremors can develop and reflexes become more impaired, contributing to a loss of balance. Although most commonly diagnosed in seniors, Parkinson's can occur in early to mid- adulthood as well and is known as early onset Parkinson's.



"It is such an honor to serve people with Parkinson's and their families through HeadWay. I continue to be amazed by the countless inspiring stories of courage, compassion and the determination of the human spirit. They are my teachers."

- Maureen Matthew, Parkinson's Program Coordinator

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the executive team, we wish to extend a sincere thank you for a great year to all members, volunteers, donors, supporters and staff. 2014-15 has been a successful and promising year!

Leadership, governance and financial management for the Parkinson's program, epilepsy program, and the Centre/Society itself are separate areas of focus.

Within the Parkinson's program, Maureen Matthew and Lindsay Beal provided direct support, education, and exercise programs to nearly 700 members including caregivers. It was a busy year including the Victoria series of 5 planned workshop/speaker events, and MotionWays a dance/movement program initiated with a CRD Idea Grant. These new programs were developed in response to Parkinson's members' suggestions and requests.

The Parkinson's program hosted a dinner meeting for staff and local neurologists in October; featuring Dr Martin McKeown and generously sponsored by TEVA Canada. This offered an opportunity to update each other about services, referrals, and current work at the Pacific Parkinson's Research Centre.

Island Health and donations from many Parkinson's clients and members continued to financially support the Parkinson's services. Specific fundraisers from individual members, Alf Todd, Kate & Brian Woods and Leslie Hodgkinson were tremendous contributions! In 2014 Pacific Blue Cross Health Foundation provided the first of a three-year grant to the program focusing on chronic disease and mental health wellness.

A key effort in 2014 and 2015 has been to enhance the Centre's communication amongst community and partnering organizations with a goal to provide many services and support to Parkinson's members. As a result, we have a closer relationship with ParkinGo here in Victoria as it now formally functions as a charitable program assisting with Parkinson's wellness and several exercise activities. We also initiated a formal Memorandum of Understanding agreement with Parkinson Society BC to increase their presence in the Victoria region and provide services that augment the Centre's services.

The Epilepsy program, members and clients welcomed Jennifer Morgan's maternity leave replacement, Sonya Dhudwal. She fit in quickly to meet with clients and facilitate program services; primarily to assist with support groups and facilitate Tools for Success, a partnership with University of Victoria providing individual tutoring for children with epilepsy; and new Parent –focused workshops regularly held winter, spring and fall here at the Centre.

Amanda Ng was hired in September as our new community awareness and education coordinator; Sandra Graham left in August to complete her Masters degree in Health Policy. There were over 30 community education in-services last year which is the focus of the role, with social media, website and newsletter coordination easily consuming the remainder of her 20 hour week.

The grant from the Victoria Foundation for the development of the community partner program for school age education and awareness began in 2014. Shannon Oatway was hired as the coordinator and their facebook pages Get It? Got It? Community awareness puppet project has kept the community up-to-date with their school activities. Vital People (a partnership with CHEK and Victoria Foundation) televised the welcoming of

the troupe in June 2014 which assisted with volunteer recruitment and program publicity. The troupe has gained in popularity within local schools and we are currently looking for funding to continue through 2015-16.

The epilepsy program welcomed and appreciated the dozens of volunteers for Epilepsy awareness month activities in March and as the Charity of Choice at the International Kite Festival in May. These activities not only raised funds for the program, but significantly promoted awareness for seizures, epilepsy and the Centre's services. We distributed almost 1200 seizure first aid cards at the Kite Festival.

The Centre and specifically the overall budget is in its second year of very limited expenditures because of low revenues in the past few years. Forty percent of revenues in 2014-15 has come from individual donations which is welcome and thoughtful support. Three long-standing funders have continued to financially support the Centre and its services which we are extremely appreciative: the Vandekerkhove Family Foundation; Peninsula Co-op; and United Way of Greater Victoria

Our local business community, new streams of fund development and continued invitations for personal giving and bequests, donations, and support of our fundraising events has been important funding pathways. A new part-time fund development coordinator, Lynn Fanelli was hired at the beginning of the year to assist the fund development committee and board with this new and added interest in our local businesses and potential new fundraising options.

The Society's Board of Directors and Committee meetings held throughout 2014-15 received new attention. Barb and the Parkinson's Advisory Committee and the Epilepsy Advisory Committee were able to meet throughout the year to discuss keeping programs relevant. Ross Young, as a new President, was determined to enhance communication amongst the volunteer Board of Directors; knowing from experience that conversation lets everyone know what each other is thinking, starts discussion and can solve many problems due to miscommunication. Over the course of the year, the face-to-face board and committee meetings were well attended, vocal, and included staff members at specific meetings to discuss their role and possibly improve their program delivery to meet the needs of members. Matt Peulen, John Pereira and Katy Fairley (joining in January 2015) were welcomed in their first year to an active board.

Again, as the executive team, we wish to extend a sincere thank you for a great year to all members, volunteers, donors, supporters and staff. The Society and Centre could not run without ongoing committed volunteers and the financial donors and supporters listed in this annual report. Everyone is so essential to our existence, growth and success.

We hope that this coming year will be as good as this last year, and even better.



Ross M Young
President

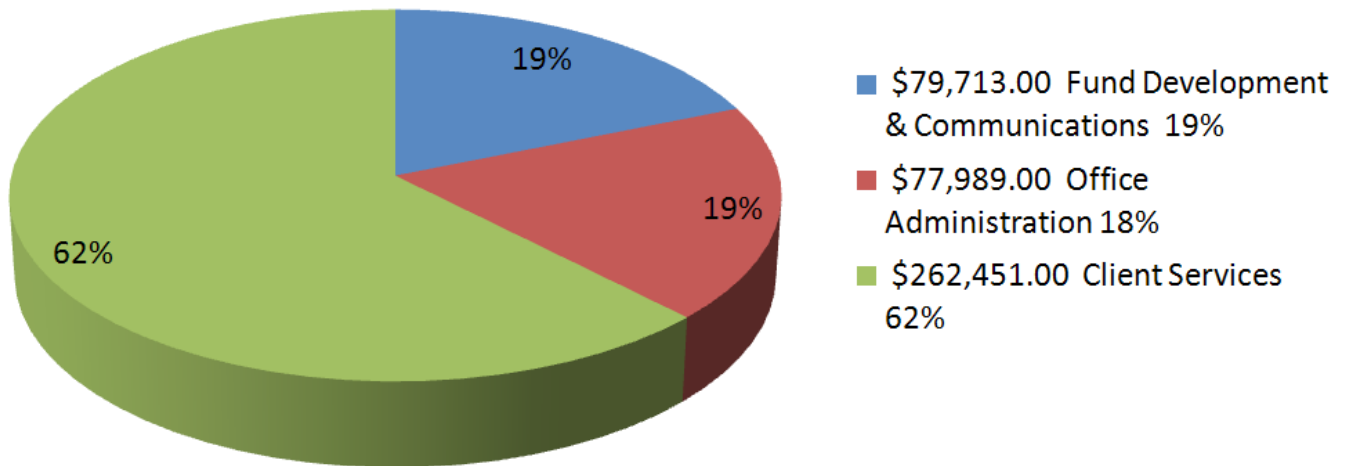


Barb Gilmore
Executive Director

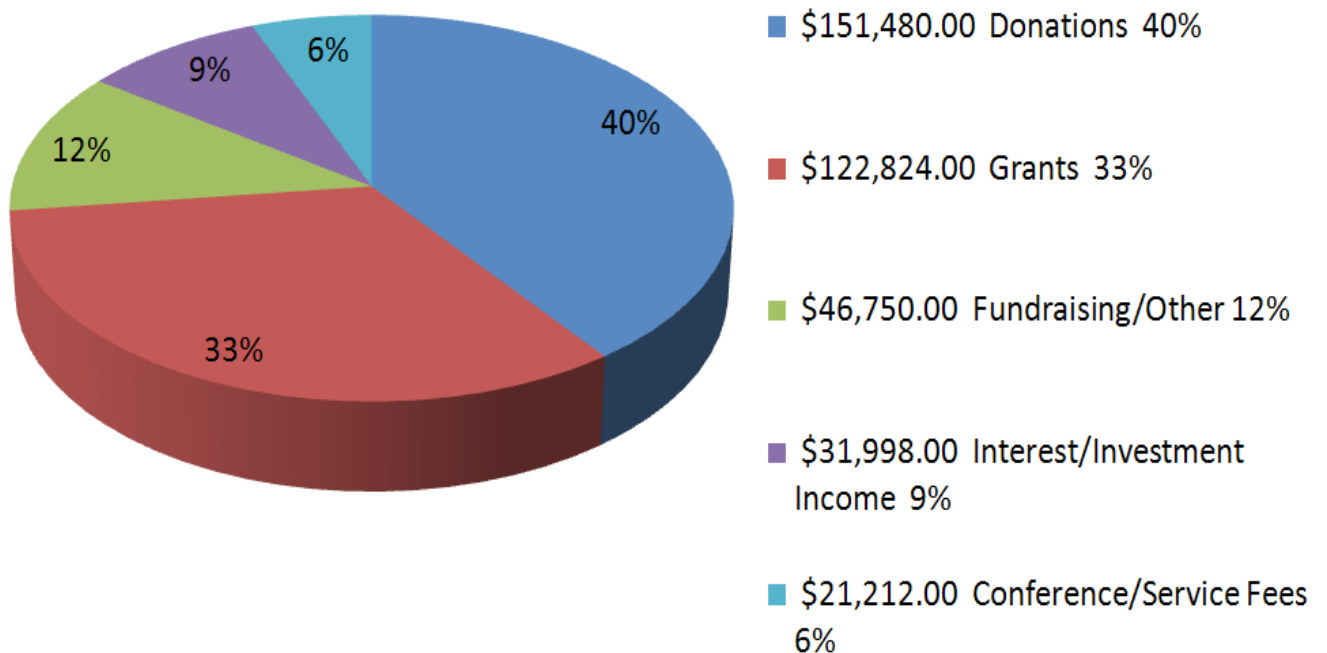
2014-2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2014-15 Audited Financial Statements attached separately.

2014-15 Expenses \$426,143



2014-15 Revenue \$374,264



REVENUE

Victoria Epilepsy and Parkinson's Centre Society shares a special thank you to our financial supporters.

As a non-profit society, financial contribution through individual donations, testamentary gifts, foundation & community grants, and event fundraising, have allowed us to continue since 1986. Thank you.

Donations 40% - membership campaign donations; personal and family/friend donations; testamentary gifts and bequests; Provincial Employees Community Services Fund

Grants 33% - United Way of Greater Victoria; Island Health- Seniors Outreach; Vandekerkhove Family Foundation; Pacific Blue Cross Health Foundation; Victoria Foundation; CRD IDEA grant; TEVA Neuroscience; Sara Spencer foundation; Harry & Dorothy Gray Foundation; Victoria Marathon Society

Fundraising 12% - Charity Golf Classic with Peninsula Co-op and corporate sponsors; Victoria Charity Marathon (3rd party); Purple Day events (3rd party)

I called a donor to thank them and they said "I am happy to donate. I am so impressed with what you offer. You have helped me so much and it's nice to get your call, thank you!"

- Barb Gilmore,
Executive Director

DOUG CROWE

Doug Crowe, a very long time member and volunteer/contributor finally resigned from active volunteer service to the Centre. He has been contributing in one or another way since the early 1980's.

*Thank you very much
Doug!*



From L-R: Doug Crowe, Maureen Matthew, Anne Algard

DONORS

Thank you to our financial donors as listed here for their generous and thoughtful contributions. Most donors continue to support us year after year. As well, thank you to the many anonymous donors that prefer not to have their name listed.

Patrons (\$10,000+)

Headway Charity Golf Classic
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Pardo, Alexandrina Estate - Robert
Carlyle Pardo Trust

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Hallett, Bonnie

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Shelley Burkett Family Fund
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Amos, Wendy
Andersen, Lilian & Donald
Anderson, Alan & June
Anderson, Evelyn & Bill
Anderson, Michael & Rosemary
Andrews, Patricia & Ken
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Argue, Sandy & Margaret
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Aronson, Susan & Christopher
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Campbell, Sandra
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Canadian Online Giving Foundation
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Mills, Ted & Pat
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Mitchell, Ron & Anita
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Moore, Carmen
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Peng, Victor & Penny
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Steele, Gerald
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Thank You!



STAFF

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Office/Financial Manager

Della Cronkrite

Parkinson's Program Coordinator

Maureen Matthew

Parkinson's Outreach Coordinator

Lindsay Beal

Epilepsy Program Coordinator

Jennifer Morgan / Sonya Dhudwal (2014-15)

Community and Education Awareness Coordinator

Amanda Ng / Sandra Graham (2014)

2014-2015 HEADWAY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Andrew Trinder – Vice President

Fiona Bayliss – Treasurer

Sherie Welsford – Secretary

Barb Gilmore – Executive Director

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Liaison

Fiona Bayliss / Sherie Welsford

Parkinson's Advisory Committee

Liaison

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Nominating Committee

Ross Young / Nathan Lampard (2014)

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Ross Young

Finance Committee

John Pereira

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Dr. Alex Henri-Bhargava

Strategic Planning Committee

Ross Young

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Matt Peulen

Golf Committee

Barb Gilmore



BOARD MEMBERS

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Vice President Andrew Trinder
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Secretary Sherie Welsford

Alanna Holroyd
Dr. Alex Henri-Bhargava
Matt Peulen
John Pereira
Katy Fairley (2015)
Nathan Lampard (2014)
Charles Meadow (2014)

“I hope that this coming year is as good as this last year and I feel it may be better.”

- Ross Young, President 2014-2015

