



B.I.A.P.R.
Brain Injury Association
Peterborough Region

Date: November 9, 2020

Dear Members, Clients and Care Partners,

The variable weather that we have been experiencing seems to be consistent with the way the year has gone. I am not complaining about the warmer weather though. We will take it!

I hope that each of you are doing as well as can be expected during these challenging times. If you are struggling and just need to have a connection with your BIAPR community, please reach out to us. The staff have been doing a fantastic job reaching out to those who we know need supports but if anything has changed recently and you have not heard from your BIAPR support staff please call us at 705-741-1172 and let us know how we can help you.

You can ask to speak to the supervisors - Karen Beaney, Client Service Coordinator/Supervisor, Nicole McLeod, Case Manager in CC Café or Sarah Johnston, ABI Day Service Coordinator. All staff – the supervisors, the staff that report to each of them, along with administration staff – Colleen and I are here to assist you. Please reach out to 705-741-1172 or you can email us at biapr@nexicom.net.

In staffing news since our last update in October we have had 2 new staff join the BIAPR team. We are thrilled to welcome Jake Leduc to the Outreach team as the Client Service Coordinator. Jake brings with him work experiences that will assist him in his new position working with our ABI clients. In addition, we have also onboarded Corey Herlick as the Transitional Support Coordinator. He has joined us for a short-term contract as we finish up the Ontario Trillium Foundation grow grant (that has been extended due to COVID-19 until December 31st). Corey may be new to our clients but not to the experiences that some of you are facing. He also will be able to use his previous work experiences in his new role. We are grateful to still have Shelly Tsui in a consulting role as the client support continues. Karen Beaney will be supervising Jake and Corey and ensuring that they are onboarded to the BIAPR Team as seamlessly as possible. Thanks, Karen, for all your incredible work and dedication to building a strong staff team over the last 3 years and especially in the last 3 months as we have been interviewing.

Finally, I would like to share another staff change in the ABI Day Service staff. Sharon Ayotte – ABI Day Service Facilitator is retiring. Sharon has been a quiet, gentle energy in the Peterborough ABI Day Service over the last 5 years. She has worked with small groups and 1:1, assisting our clients to craft and create wonderful projects that are meaningful to each client. We have many pictures of this support in the ABI Day Service over the years. Thanks, Sharon, for all this incredible support of our members. As is the case nowadays with COVID-19, we had a “virtual” Zoom Send Off party on November 5th. Staff and some clients who were onsite attended and were able to share memories. Please see the picture on the next page to see some of those that attended Sharon’s party. Sharon has promised to stay in touch and pop in virtually over the next couple of months. Who knows - maybe “Crafting with Sharon” will become a virtual ABI Day Service event on the calendar? We will keep you posted.

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The picture above is of the Zoom Farewell Party for Sharon. She is in the top right-hand corner. Apologises to the other staff not in the picture who attended party but who had already left the Zoom party when the screen capture was taken. A big thank you to members Jeff, Jack and John for agreeing to share this picture so that we give others a glimpse into our new reality. It is different but still a lot of fun. The activity for the day was painting and eating cupcakes!

As we are continuing with our hybrid ABI Day Service delivery we are looking for volunteers who are interested in participating in the virtual programming that we are providing for our ABI clients. As a volunteer you will be a virtual participant in this new virtual programming. You will need to have access to a device that has a microphone and camera built in (i.e. a laptop, a tablet, a cell phone), as well as internet access. Please see information sheet attached in this mailing if you are interested in speaking to us about this volunteer opportunity.

In other news for this month, we would like to share that the OBIA Ontario Advisory Committee met on November 4th and the idea of hosting a provincial Holiday Party for all ABI Associations across the province was introduced. There is interest in collaborating on an event like the Collaboration Coffee House (a multi-organizational Zoom Extravaganza – see October update). The event will be approximately 2-3 hours of Zoom programming ranging from trivia, music, art, poetry, and storytelling. This virtual event will highlight the strengths and abilities of those living with brain injury and bring us all together for a time of celebration. The date for this event will likely be the second week of December. If you are interested in joining a Holiday celebration with other individuals from across the province, please reach out to the BIAPR ABI Day Service staff and we will add your name to the Zoom Invite.



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Finally, I would like to remind everyone of the OBIA Brain Injury Speaks Network. The Brain Injury Speaks Network is a community of survivors and their caregivers or family members. The goal of the Network is to empower those who are living with brain injury to share their experiences, engage in dialogue, and advise on the future direction of brain injury care in Ontario. The network will promote fluid communication among policy makers, allied healthcare providers, organizations representing persons with lived experience and the ABI community. The goal is to reach 2,000 people and currently there are 500+ people enrolled in the Network. Your voice is needed!

The link to the OBIA website is <http://obia.ca/about-brain-injury-speaks/> . Or you can Contact Gazal Kukreja at gakukreja@obia.ca or by phone 905-641-8877 ext. 250, to learn more about how you can be involved in the network . If you would like a paper survey, please let Gazal know and she can mail out paper copies of the surveys that are being conducted. Thanks, in advance for joining and adding your voice to this important work. You will also find a copy of the Brain Injury Speaks October 2020 Newsletter for review.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for doing your part in keeping us all safe. Continue to stay home if you are sick – join us virtually if you feel up to it. Wear a mask, practice hand hygiene, and remember to be physically distancing.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable fall.

Teryl Hoefel
Executive Director

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