

# Forever Homes for Brain Injury Survivors

# Brain Injury Definitions

## World Health Organization

Damage to the brain, which occurs after birth and is not related to a congenital or a degenerative disease.

# Brain Injury Definitions

## Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)

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### Non-Traumatic

- stroke
- aneurysm
- tumours
- near-death drowning
- overdose survival

### Traumatic

- concussion
- falls
- assault
- motor vehicle crash

# Meet the Survivors



Michael



Jessica

# Meet Michael...



- Car crash victim
- Diffused Axonal Brain Injury
- Coma for 6.5 months
- 5 years using a power chair
- 2 years in a manual chair
- Now walking independently

# Meet Michael...



- After hospital, he moved into Larkin House with 24/7 support
  - As he became more independent, he moved to South House, operated by CONNECT Communities in Langley, BC
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# Meet Michael...



- Michael wrote a book called “The Courage to Come Back”
- He raises money to support various organizations
  - Terry Fox Foundation
  - Rick Hansen Foundation
  - BC Lung Association
  - The Michael Coss Brain Injury Foundation

# Meet Michael...



- Michael is well cared for by WorkSafe BC because his accident was work related
- Others are not so lucky

4-minute video about Michael:

- [The Journey Ahead: Friends and Family](#)

Click here 



# Meet Jessica...



- Diagnosed with brain vessel deformation and suffered two hemorrhages and a stroke
- Graduated high school with honours; attended college

# Meet Jessica...



- Endured years of rehabilitation
- Is a published author and public speaker
- Wrote a novel “My Spring Fling” about young love

# Meet Jessica...



- Uses manual wheelchair
- Requires 24/7 support
- Currently lives with parents
- Insufficient funding
- No future home in place

# Meet Jessica...



## [Jessica's video – “In Her Own Words”](#)

Click here 

- I have been disabled for 20 years
- I am supported by CSIL program
- I have been living with my parents
- My parents are getting older
- What will happen to me when they can't support me?

# The Impact on Families

- Brain Injury happens to the entire family
- Families are responsible for sourcing suitable housing
- Family members providing primary care are often not able to work
- Families are not provided funding for supports such as counselling

# Housing Transitional Vs. Forever Homes

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Transitional housing is  
generally for 3 years or less.

# Housing Transitional Vs. Forever Homes

Forever Homes are permanent, warm, inviting, comfortable, and allow for independence and growth.



# An example



## Victoria

### Independent Living Housing Society

- Provides safe and comfortable homes where people with diverse abilities can achieve more independent lifestyles
- But it is temporary

# The Problem

## Brain injury survivors:

- 1.5 million Canadians
- Estimated 180,000 in B.C.
- Very few are well cared for
- 1000's may be left homeless
- 28% of homeless people in BC have an acquired brain injury

# The orphan

The incidence and prevalence of brain injury surpasses that of breast cancer, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis & HIV/Aids combined and it is the least funded -  
it is the orphan of our healthcare system!

# Forever Homes

- Safe, affordable, and accessible housing with appropriate supports for the LIFESPAN of brain injury survivors.

