

CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE WITH BRAIN INJURY

The purpose of this charter is to clearly outline, for people with brain injury, their families, caregivers, and care providers their inherent and unique rights to care and services.

This charter can be used by individuals and families to empower themselves when seeking care, by providers as principles for care, by others to educate the public and by policy makers to advocate for needed, respectful and accessible care and services.

This charter expresses my right to:



Care by professionals who know about and understand brain injury

- Informed professionals who recognize that brain injuries are often hidden, vary from person to person, and evolve over a lifetime.
- A compassionate multidisciplinary team that provides individualized care where people with brain injury feel understood, believed and supported.



Safe, high-quality care

- I receive prompt access to brain injury specialists across acute, recovery, and community care.
- My culture, beliefs, values, race, gender, ethnicity and age are respected.
- My care is based on evidence-based brain injury practice.
- Privacy and confidentiality of my information is upheld.



Dignity, no matter the cause of my injury

- Care providers listen and believe me without judgment. They offer support, empathy, and respect, recognizing my abilities.
- Kindness and patience allow me time to process and express my thoughts.
- Generic or dismissive approaches do not help me.



Inclusion in decisions that affect me

- Give me information I can understand about my injury and care options.
- Include me and my chosen support person in all decisions, allowing time for me to formulate my thoughts.
- Work with me, without judgment, to find answers to my concerns.



A system navigator

- Someone to help me and my support person navigate and access services, assist with forms, advocate for me, and help find housing, meaningful activities, and community connections.
- Support groups and peer connections are essential for my independence and recovery.

This charter was created from information provided by more than 150 people with brain injury and their family members from across Canada. It is intended to be a 'living document' that will evolve as needed.

Your feedback is welcome on ways to use this charter, and any additions or modifications that would be useful to you as a survivor of brain injury or family member.

Contact: info@nationalstrategyonbraininjury.ca

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