

The BC Heads Together Think Tanks brought together brain injury survivors, family members, service providers, decision-makers and other stakeholders for a series of four virtual sessions in 2021 focusing on:

- **Behind the Bruises: Intimate Partner Violence and Brain Injury**
- **Surviving an Overdose: Understanding the Need for Brain Injury Support**
- **Thinking Outside the Box: Addressing the Chasms in Care**
- **Before You Mark the Ballot: Government Responsibility at all Levels**

FOR DECISION MAKERS...

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)



Approximately, 230 000 Canadian women suffer from a brain injury as a result of IPV **every year**

Soar/ CATT Online (2020)



It is difficult to access brain injury informed services, adding an undiagnosed IPV/BI injury makes it more complex

Increase funding for advocacy, education and training, and research on the intersections of brain injury, mental health, addiction and IPV/BI



Eliminate the risk of discrimination when an individual discloses their brain injury

OPIOID CRISIS

People living with hypoxic or anoxic brain injury need appropriate long-term housing with wraparound supports



60% of traumatic brain injury survivors engage in dangerous levels of substance use

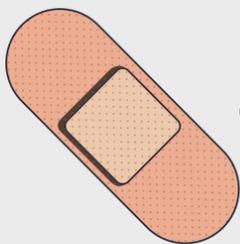
CGB Video (Ponsford, 2017)

Coordination across multiple government departments/ ministries is necessary to address the overlaps of opioid and brain injury



CARE INTEGRATION

Brain injury is often the root cause of mental health and substance use issues which can lead to homelessness and criminality if unaddressed



Siloed funding creates massive chasms in care for people with concurrent brain injury, mental health and substance use issues

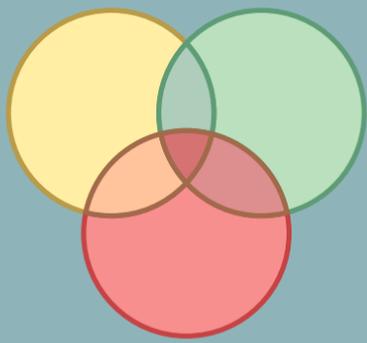
Integrated care provides better support for people with complex needs and costs less than fragmented, siloed care



People living with brain injury, mental health and substance use issues often require affordable, accessible housing, life skills training, counselling, vocational support and family respite

TAKE ACTION NOW!

The number of people with a brain injury has been rising for decades. **30 years** of recommendations have not been implemented



Promote **research** to develop a consensus statement of best practices for the intersections of brain injury, mental health and substance use care

Promote **education** for healthcare providers on the incidence and best practices for integrating brain injury, mental health and substance use care



Develop provincial and national **strategies** to improve awareness, prevention, rehabilitation, and services in mental health, substance use and brain injury