

## THE ALBERTA BRAIN INJURY NETWORK

The Alberta Brain Injury Network (ABIN) gives brain injury survivors, caregivers/families, and professional's access to coordinated services under a network of linked regional organizations. These agencies are located in six regions (based on Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) boundaries) throughout Alberta. Service coordinators in each region assist survivors and their families in accessing supports from various programs and community resources.

ABIN contracted agencies:

### SOUTH REGION

REDI Enterprises Society  
HIP – Brain Injury Relearning Services

### CALGARY REGION

South Alberta Brain Injury Society (SABIS)

### CENTRAL REGION

Canadian Medical Health Association, Alberta Centra Region (CMHA) Catholic Social Services (CSS) and Central Alberta Brain Injury Society (CABIS) CMHA Office

### EDMONTON REGION

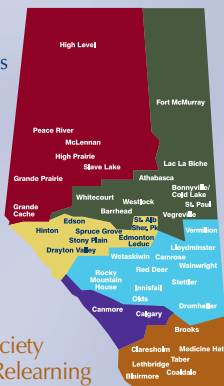
Northern Alberta Brain Injury Society (NABIS)

### NORTHWEST REGION

Northern Alberta Brian Injury Society (NABIS)

### NORTHEAST REGION

Blue Herron Support Services Association  
St. Paul Abilities Network



## Community Based Activities

Some of the agencies supported by ABIN in their efforts to provide community-based inclusion activities for brain injury survivors include: Cosmos in Red Deer; Networks Activity Centre in Edmonton; Friends of the Head Injured (FOTHI); the Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured (ARBI) in Calgary; the Edmonton Brain Injury Relearning Society (EBIRS); Caregiver Club in Medicine Hat; Community Enrichment Program (CEP) at Grant MacEwen Community College in Edmonton; the Norm Jackson Retreat Centre in Calgary; the Alberta Artists with Brain Injury (AABI); the Brain Injury Association of Alberta (BIAA), Parkland Head Injury Association (PHIA) in Stony Plain; and EmployAbilities.

## Community Networking Process

The Community Networking Process (CNP), previously referred to as the Community Action Coalition Process (CACPC), gives Albertans impacted by acquired brain injury an opportunity to influence the future direction and priorities of the ABIN. Community meetings help identify the priorities of stakeholders, such as survivors, family/caregivers, and professionals. Over 25 community meetings have been held throughout the province.

### CAUSES OF ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

Many things can damage the brain. Not all brain injuries are acquired brain injuries.

**Acquired brain injuries can be caused by:**

- Trauma  
*(like a blow to the head or hitting one's head)*
- Brain tumor
- Brain infection  
*(like meningitis and encephalitis)*
- Lack of oxygen  
*(known as anoxia, like when someone nearly drowns)*
- Stroke or aneurysm
- Whiplash

### PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR

**Provincial Coordination helps to:**

- Provide a coordinated system to assist adults with acquired brain injury to receive services
- Maximize and build on existing services, resources, and service delivery systems

A Provincial Coordinator and a Community Support Coordinator provide overall coordination of regional operations and ongoing community support.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Alberta Seniors & Community Support  
Community Support Systems Division  
Box 476, Edmonton, AB T5J 2K1  
Tel: 780.415.2747 (message line)  
Fax: 780.427.9145 • Toll-Free 310-000  
[www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/CSS/bii/index.asp](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/CSS/bii/index.asp)  
Email: [braininjury@gov.ab.ca](mailto:braininjury@gov.ab.ca)

# Alberta Brain Injury INITIATIVE

MAKING CONNECTIONS

# Alberta Brain Injury Initiative

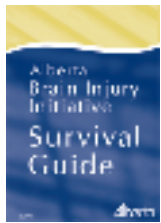
The **Alberta Brain Injury Initiative (ABII)** was implemented in 2001 to respond to the needs of adults with an acquired brain injury across the province. The ABII strives to assist individuals with acquired brain injury to live in the community of their choice, while respecting their autonomy and dignity.

**The ABII is the outcome of comprehensive consultation with community stakeholders. ABII principles include:**

- Community inclusion
- Multi-entry points to services and on-going support
- A focus on individuals and families
- Province wide, community based supports
- Choice

Services and activities supported by the Alberta Brain Injury Initiative include:

## The Survival Guide



The Brain Injury Survival Guide is a useful resource for survivors, caregivers/families, and helping professionals. The guide also contains additional sections that address stroke injuries, anger management, and children with acquired brain injury. Copies of the Survival Guide are available through the ABIN service coordinators, or by visiting the Alberta Seniors and Community Supports Website at: [www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/CSS/bii/index.asp](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/CSS/bii/index.asp)

## Supports for Community Living Services

A key activity of the ABII is the provision of Supports for Community Living Services (SCLS). SCLS workers assist survivors who require a minimal amount of support while making the transition back into their community. This survivor-directed support aims to improve daily living skills while fostering independence.

## The Bulletin

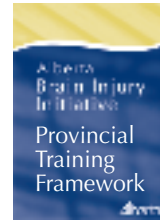
A regularly published newsletter (distributed twice a year) designed to inform and educate Albertans across the province about acquired brain injury and the ABII.

### Brain Injury Resource Website

Your reference resource for brain injury information in Alberta [www.brainresource.ca/](http://www.brainresource.ca/)



## The Provincial Training Framework



The Provincial Training Framework was launched as a result of community stakeholders joining together to establish a coordinated network of training opportunities for both paid and non-paid caregivers. The framework creates an identifiable structure for creating partnerships around educational opportunities.

### Caregiver College

Caregiver College was developed at Edmonton's Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital in recognition of the needs of **non-paid caregivers** wishing to gain access to introductory information and specialized training in regards to brain injury. A partnership with ABII helped launch **Caregiver College Telehealth** as a successful pilot project in seven different communities.



The Provincial Training Framework also focuses on **education for professionals** under a Provincial Advisory Committee.

## Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) Benefits Administration Program



This unique voluntary program assists brain injury survivors who are on AISH and have challenges budgeting their money to meet monthly expenses. For more information, contact your local service coordinator or Community Support Services (780) 415-2747. [www.justice.gov.ab.ca/aish/default.aspx](http://www.justice.gov.ab.ca/aish/default.aspx)

## Brain Injury Awareness Week (BIAW)



Brain Injury Awareness Week (BIAW) occurs during the first week in June. It is an opportunity to increase education, awareness, and prevention. BIAW activities occur at the local and regional levels.

## Proposal Writing Workshops

Not-for-profit organizations face a daunting task in responding to requests for proposals from a wide variety of funders. This free, interactive one-day workshop helps develop the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in proposal writing. Workshops are offered throughout the province. Libraries, Community, and Voluntary Sector Services (Alberta Community Development) is a co-sponsor.



## THE ALBERTA BRAIN INJURY NETWORK ABIN contracted agencies:

### SOUTH REGION

**REDI Enterprises Society**  
**HIP – Brain Injury Relearning Services**  
770 – 7 Street SE  
Medicine Hat, AB T1A 1K6  
Telephone: (403) 528-2661

**REDI Enterprises Society**  
**HIP – Brain Injury Relearning Services**  
**Lethbridge Office**  
Mailing address:  
416 – 13 Street N  
Lethbridge, AB T1H 2S2  
Telephone: (403) 320-7402

### CALGARY REGION

**South Alberta Brain Injury Society (SABIS)**  
137, 2723 – 37 Avenue NE  
Calgary, AB T1Y 5R8  
Telephone: (403) 521-5212

### CENTRAL REGION

**Canadian Medical Health Association,**  
**Alberta Centra Region (CMHA)**  
**Catholic Social Services (CSS) and Central**  
**Alberta Brain Injury Society (CABIS)**  
**CMHA Office**  
#4, 5015 – 48 Street  
Red Deer, AB T4N 1S9  
Telephone: (403) 342-2266

**Catholic Social Services**  
**(CSS) Office**  
5104 – 48 Avenue  
Red Deer, AB T4N 3T8  
Telephone: (403) 347-8844

### EDMONTON REGION

**Northern Alberta Brain Injury Society (NABIS)**  
#301 Royal Alexandra Place  
10106 – 111 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5G 0B4  
Telephone: (780) 479-1757

**Edson Office – NABIS**  
Box 20027  
Edson, AB T7E 1S8  
Telephone: (780) 712-7560

### NORTHWEST REGION

**Northern Alberta Brain Injury Society (NABIS)**  
**Grande Prairie Office**  
#406, 9728 Montrose Avenue  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 5B6  
Telephone: (780) 532-0477

### NORTHEAST REGION

**Blue Heron Support Services Association**  
4925 – 51 Avenue (PO Box 4238)  
Barrhead, AB T7N 1A2  
Telephone: (780) 674-4944

**St. Paul Abilities Network**  
4915 – 51 Avenue (PO Box 457)  
St. Paul, AB T0A 3A0  
Telephone: (780) 645-3441  
Toll Free: 1-866-645-3900