

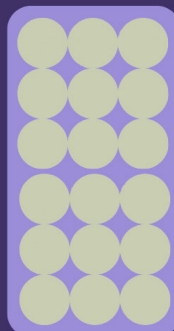


**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY**

Providing families with a reason to hope and the means to cope.

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24



Providing families  
with a reason to  
hope and the means  
to cope since 1982



# A LETTER FROM THE BCSS Board President & BCSS Foundation Chair

Another year has passed, and it has been our pleasure to serve as President of the board for the B.C. Schizophrenia Society and Chair of the B.C. Schizophrenia Society Foundation. We are deeply thankful to the staff, volunteers, and members who give our organization life and support families in every part of our province.

The visibility of mental illness is a growing issue in the public life of many British Columbians. While we can't do anything about the events that draw attention to untreated mental illness, BCSS has worked hard to advocate for the government, political parties, and the media to educate and put forward policy ideas and actions.

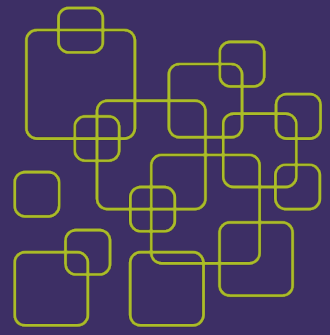
This includes our efforts in the October 19th election, which saw the NDP form a majority government. Our organization's objective was to insert three key points into the election through a platform statement with Pathways and the BC Psychiatric Association. These positions were developed through the policy committee, led by Dr. John Gray. We called for parties to support:

- Treatment that includes medication and the judicious use of involuntary treatment.
- Care that is available, accessible, and affordable everywhere in BC.
- Collaborative engagement with patients and their families.

These positions were [published in the DailyHive](#) and other publications as an op-ed where we sought answers from parties. Thanks to our early efforts, we have seen political parties as well as other mental health organizations adopt our messaging. As government support is not guaranteed, the Society has also been focusing on strengthening our networking, communication, and fundraising abilities over the last year.

An important initiative of our organization has also been the completion of the BCSS Strategic Plan, which was developed by staff after an intensive 2-day session that included board members and front-line educators and managers. The strategic plan includes four pillars that guide our organization, including:

- Strengthening Our Voice
- Increasing and Diversifying Revenue Sources
- Organizational Excellence
- Advocacy and Public Policy



BCSS has a continued focus on rural and underserved areas and is working to enhance and expand partnerships with Indigenous communities. Through our efforts, we work to support Truth and Reconciliation and ensure that Indigenous communities across BC have access to culturally appropriate support for severe and persistent mental illnesses.

With the Foundation, we turned our attention to enhancing support for research, both in terms of attracting donations and in granting research funds for specific projects. In the last year, the Foundation began the work of bolstering its ability to support a wider range of research projects in the future. Grants are currently managed through our partnership with Michael Smith Health Research BC, which runs competitions, peer-reviews applications, and matches funding for schizophrenia-related approved studies.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of the provincial government and BCSS donors. Without this support, families and individuals living with mental illness would not have access to critical supports provided by our educators.

There is still much to do, and our fight for better services and an accessible mental illness system continues. Thank you to everyone who has helped us in our efforts.

Sincerely,



**Jack Middleton**  
BCSS Board President



**Renato Zane**  
BCSS Foundation Chair

# Our Impact

2023-2024



**33,150**

Website Visitors



**1,256**  
Family Support Group Participants



**119,727**

Episode Downloads

**1,128**

Podcast Followers

**82**

Average Podcast Consumption Rate

**4,450**  
Total Families Served



More than

**9,600**

followers on BCSS and BCSS Youth Social Media accounts

**1,150**

New Families Served



**4,473**

People Reached by Outreach Events

**45** Strengthening Families Together Program Participants

**86** Youth Participants (Kids In Control, Tweens In Control, and Teens In Control)



**269** PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED\*

\*Strengthening Families Together (SFT), Family Support Groups (FSG), and BCSS Youth programs and drop-ins

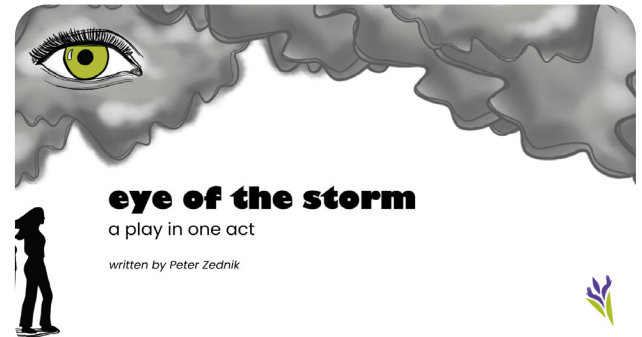
# Key Highlights

## National Schizophrenia and Psychosis Day

May 24, 2023, was National Schizophrenia and Psychosis Awareness Day (NSPAD), and BCSS held several events and campaigns to honour the occasion.

### EYE OF THE STORM

On May 25th, 2023, the BC Schizophrenia Society hosted a professionally staged reading of *Eye of the Storm* – a play in one act at Vancouver General Hospital's Paetzold Auditorium. *Eye of the Storm* is a timeless and powerful script written by Peter Zednik, and a story about a family impacted by schizophrenia which still resonates with audiences two decades later.

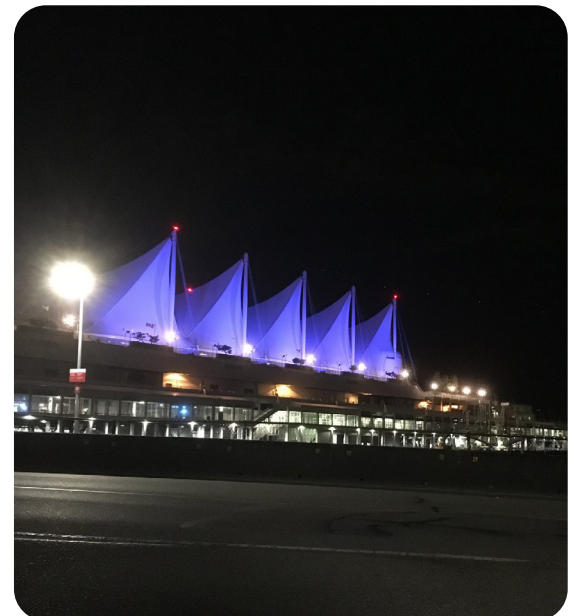


Following the reading, BCSS Foundation Board Member Margareta Dovgal moderated an informative panel discussion with the event's panellists: Peter Zednik (playwright), Oliver O'Dea (living with schizophrenia), Hardeep Thind (Vancouver Coastal Regional Manager), and Dr. Mahesh Menon (PhD, R. Psych. Clinical Associate Professor). They engaged in an insightful conversation by discussing the play and its relevance to the real-world experiences of those affected by schizophrenia.

### PURPLE LIGHTS

For NSPAD, we also ran a campaign with prominent local landmarks to light them up purple for the occasion. In doing this, we aim to ignite conversations, foster empathy, and increase awareness of serious mental illnesses. Furthermore, by engaging in this meaningful gesture, British Columbia demonstrates its commitment to promoting mental well-being and advocating for a society that embraces and supports individuals living with schizophrenia and other related disorders.

- BC Place (Vancouver)
- Bloedel Conservatory (Vancouver)
- New West City Hall (New Westminster)
- Vancouver Convention Centre (Vancouver)
- BC Legislature (Victoria)
- Vancouver City Hall & Burrard Street Bridge (Vancouver)
- Surrey Civic Plaza (Surrey)
- Canada Place Sails (Vancouver)
- Lafarge Lake (Coquitlam)
- Port Coquitlam City Hall, Lafarge Lake fountain (Coquitlam)
- Victoria Street Bridge (Trail)
- White Rock Pier (White Rock)
- World's Largest Hockey Stick & Puck (Duncan)
- Fitzsimmons Creek Bridge (Whistler)



## June Members Education Event ft. Dr. Richard O'Reilly

On June 20, 2023, BCSS hosted its second Members Education Event featuring Dr. Richard O'Reilly, Professor of Psychiatry at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and Professor Emeritus at Western University.

In his presentation, titled "The Mental Health System: How Can We Fix It?", Dr. O'Reilly discussed his view of the services and treatments available for people living with severe and persistent mental illness in Canada. He also discussed the many challenges faced by family members and his vision of how things can be improved in the future.

BCSS members participated in a robust Q&A session after the presentation, which was later made available online.

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## September Members Education Event ft. Dr. Harish Neelakant

On Tuesday, September 26th, 2023, the BC Schizophrenia Society hosted our third Members Education Event of the year with Dr. Harish Neelakant, a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UBC and a psychiatrist working at Vancouver General Hospital.

In his presentation, titled "Clozapine: The Importance of Early Intervention", Dr. Neelakant delved into the fascinating world of clozapine—a medication with transformative potential for individuals living with schizophrenia. Through this event, attendees gained insight into how clozapine can help manage symptoms, improve quality of life, and potentially offer hope for individuals who have not responded to other schizophrenia treatments.

This event was recorded and made available online at a later date.

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## Annual General Meeting and Education Session (October 2023)

The BC Schizophrenia Society hosted its 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Education Session on Saturday, October 21st. It was a thought-provoking and inspiring event that brought together our community from across the province and celebrated the remarkable individuals who have made an impact in the field.

This year's AGM was held in a hybrid format, allowing guests to attend in-person or virtually. Dr. Mahavir Agarwal, an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto and a Clinician-Scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto, delivered an enlightening presentation. His talk embarked on a historical journey through the evolving perception of schizophrenia, highlighting the changes and challenges faced over the years.

Dr. Agarwal emphasized the pharmacological aspects of the disorder and how future research can profoundly impact the lives of those affected by schizophrenia.



## CHAMPION AWARD (GERRIT VAN DER LEER)



The BCSS Champion Award was also presented to Gerrit van der Leer during the AGM. Gerrit has been supporting families directly and indirectly for over thirty years, contributing to numerous initiatives, including the development of the Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI) program, Assertive Community Treatment Teams (ACT), and the Cognitive Remediation initiative. His unwavering dedication to improving the lives of those affected by severe mental illness is reflected in his professionalism, commitment, and advocacy.

## BOARD MEMBERS

The 2023-2024 BC Schizophrenia Society Board of Directors:

- David Halikowski
- Dr. John Gray
- Joanne Leung
- Donna Motzer
- Don Monsour
- Lena Bortnick
- Susan Inman
- Jack Middleton
- Dr. Fidel Vila-Rodriguez
- Paul Bhushan
- Colleen Crossley
- Brenda Sawatzky-Girling

The 2023-2024 BC Schizophrenia Society Foundation Board of Directors:

- Renato Zane
- Guelda Redman
- Joanne Leung
- Sylvia LeRoy
- Margareta Dovgal

The success of the AGM would not have been possible without our esteemed speaker, Dr. Mahavir Agarwal, who shared his valuable insights with us. We also want to extend our appreciation to the BC Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Jennifer Whiteside, for attending and speaking at the event.



## Holiday Appeal – Jane Duval’s Story

In November, BCSS launched its annual holiday appeal to raise funds for programs and services for families and individuals affected by schizophrenia and other severe mental illnesses. This fundraising appeal enables us to continue our essential work on the frontlines by allowing us to:

- Provide crucial services to families in need
- Deliver vital programs and services to support families and youth
- Drive education initiatives to reduce stigma and ensure families receive the best care
- Fund schizophrenia research awards through partners like Michael Smith Health Research BC for investigations that lead to better care, better treatments, and discoveries that may one day lead to a cure

For the eighth consecutive year, Chris Sandy, a former BCSSF board director and a steadfast donor, graciously offered to match donations received before January 31 to a maximum of \$10,000. This underscores the spirit of generosity that drives BCSS’s mission forward. His dedication ensures that every contribution makes an even greater impact, doubling the support for individuals and families in need.

Jane Duval courageously shared her story this season, honouring her son Curtis and encouraging others to join her in backing the BC Schizophrenia Society. Her poignant narrative highlights the profound impact that BCSS has had on families like hers, providing education and practical information crucial for navigating the complexities of schizophrenia.



The 2023 Holiday Appeal was able to raise **\$102,043**, far surpassing all expectations and shattering previous fundraising efforts.

## Donor Appreciation Event



The BC Schizophrenia Society celebrated its annual Donor Appreciation Event on Wednesday, November 22nd by gathering with donors whose unwavering support has been our backbone throughout the years.

This year’s event embraced a hybrid format, offering the option for attendees to join either in person or virtually. Renato Zane, Volunteer Chair of BCSS Foundation, and Marsha MacMurchy, Director of Development of BCSS, shared updates on BCSS’ significant achievements over the past year. Rosemary Sojka, Community Presentations Coordinator of BCSS, also provided insights into the latest collaborative effort for the Partnership Education Presentations and showcased our new PEP video.

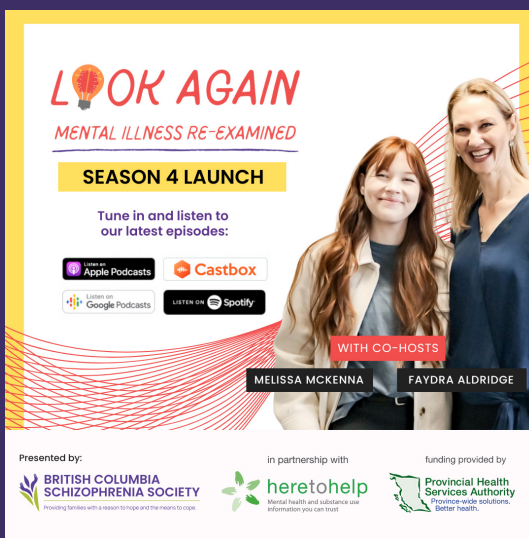
The event was honoured by the presence of Ron and Melanie, devoted parents of a loved one with a schizophrenia-spectrum disorder. The emotional highlight of the evening was their impactful story, which detailed their initial struggles and how BCSS regional staff supported them every step of the way. Their firsthand account underscored the profound impact BCSS has on families, emphasizing the pivotal role ongoing donor support plays in making a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by schizophrenia and other severe and persistent mental illnesses.



## Season 4 of Look Again: Mental Illness Re-Examined

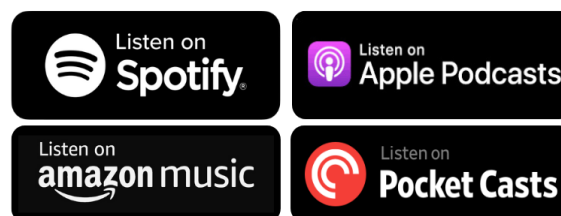
The British Columbia Schizophrenia Society (BCSS) launched the fourth season of "Look Again: Mental Illness Re-Examined" on January 3rd, 2024.

This new season continues BCSS's commitment to deepening public awareness and understanding of serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. Season four featured seven episodes that mixed expert interviews and personal stories from individuals who live or care for someone with a serious mental illness to challenge the stigma associated with mental illnesses like schizophrenia.



Through short and easily digestible episodes, "Look Again" aims to present a more nuanced and empathetic understanding of serious mental illness to counter prevalent misconceptions and stereotypes and fill the gap in mental health discussions.

Podcast guests included former NHL goalie Corey Hirsch, Mental Health Advocate; Dr. William Honer, Jack Bell Chair in Schizophrenia Research; Dr. Daniel Weinberger, the director and CEO of the Lieber Institute for Brain Development; and Kody Green, also known online as @SchizophrenicHippie.



To tune in and listen to our latest episodes, scan the code or visit [www.bcss.org/lookagain](http://www.bcss.org/lookagain)



## BCSS Prevalence Paper

In June 2023, BCSS released a paper outlining new figures on the prevalence of schizophrenia in Canada. Based on recent Canadian and international studies, including the 2023 Mental and Substance Use Disorders Prevalence Study (MDPS), BCSS recommended adopting 1.8% as the schizophrenia prevalence rate for service planning with the understanding that it could be higher.

The prevalence rates, service needs, and social impacts of an illness are often key factors in determining how much funding is allocated for the treatment and services of that illness. Knowing these numbers and having more accurate statistics allows us to better advocate for funding and services for our community.

We emphasized that lower estimates of schizophrenia prevalence rates need to be considered with caution because underreporting is common due to wide stigma, narrow definitions of severe and persistent mental illness, and the exclusion of certain populations.

The increase in our estimated lifetime prevalence for schizophrenia further emphasizes that current service levels are insufficient.

You can find the full paper outlining BCSS' position on the prevalence of schizophrenia here:



[www.bcss.org/prevalence-paper](http://www.bcss.org/prevalence-paper)

## BCSS All-Staff Business Planning Session



The BC Schizophrenia Society held an All-Staff Meeting and Planning Session on March 13-14th, 2024, to help shape our organizational plans and goals for the coming year. Staff from all across the province got together to share information and connect with one another.

Alongside presentations from the communications and development teams, as well as words from our Board of Directors President, Jack Middleton, and our CEO, Faydra Aldridge, we discussed ways to grow and strengthen our programs, and services and new ways to implement technology.

The session ended with a cultural competency workshop led by regional educators Barbara and Reasha, who shared their valuable experiences working within their communities as well as tools for fostering inclusivity and understanding.

# Events Across The Province

BCSS Regional Educators and Managers also held and participated in several events throughout the year, including:

## ***“AN EVENING OF HOPE & LAUGHTER”***

On May 16th, 2023, BCSS's Coastal team hosted “An Evening of Hope & Laughter” at the Guildford Rec Centre in Surrey. This was a self-care session for family members in honour of Mental Health Awareness Week, and included laughter, chair yoga, and a discussion on the impact mental illness has on one's family. Perspectives from fathers, mothers, daughters, and siblings were heard and shared with the 33 attendees.

## ***INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY***

On August 31, 2023, the Northern Interior Team took part in an event for International Overdose Awareness Day at Lhtako Dene Park in Quesnel, BC. Approximately 150-200 people attended.

## ***“TRACKS: COME WALK WITH ME IN MY SHOES” ART SHOW***

From October 3rd to 6th, 2023, an art show was held at the Garage Community Space in Terrace, BC to showcase the work of artists around the community with lived experience. The event was organized by local health unit staff and members of the Mental Health and Addictions Committee, and BCSS regional staff, Dolly and Stephanie, set up a table at the art show to provide information. The BCSS team counted a total of 85 attendees.

## Exciting BCSS membership changes!

One of the biggest changes to the membership program is that BCSS will no longer charge a fee to become a member. This decision was made to make the membership program accessible to everyone, regardless of their financial situation or any other challenges they may face.

By providing free membership, BCSS is looking to build a larger membership to support its efforts across the province and make the process of becoming a BCSS member easier for all.

The BCSS Membership year now runs from January 1st - December 31st.  
Become a member at [www.bcss.org/membership](http://www.bcss.org/membership) or scan here



## WILLS AND TRUSTS SEMINAR

On March 9th, 2024, the Coastal team held a packed in-person Wills & Trusts workshop at the TB Vets Society for 28 attendees. The meeting room was graciously donated by the TB Vets Society. Many attendees were very grateful for the information, with one mother saying that Bill's lived experience as a family member brought a unique perspective to the workshop.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GATHERING WITH AUTONOMOUS SINIXT

Our West Kootenay Regional Educator hosted a relationship-building event with the Autonomous Sinixt in Nakusp on March 16, 2024, in the spirit of reconciliation and community capacity building. Participants included Sinixt Elder Al Richardson and Matriarch and Elder Marilyn James along with other Sinixt members of all ages and some of their long-supporting allies.

Conversations centred around the generational impacts of surviving residential schools, the mental health impacts of being legally "extinct", and serious mental illness within the Sinixt communities, as well as community care, reducing stigma, building and reinforcing community connections, and possible partnership opportunities. Feedback from this event was very positive.

## YOUTH TEAM EVENTS

From April 2023 to the end of March 2024, BCSSYouth represented the BC Schizophrenia Society at several different conferences, school fairs, and workshops, including:

- *The first summer-camp-style KIC workshop series* at Hulitan Family and Community Services Society in Langford on August 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2023.
- The online presentation of *HM/HC Talks: A Whole New World, From High School to Post-Secondary* on December 5, 2023.
- *Burnaby School District Resource Fair for Counsellors* at the Canada Way Learning Centre Gym in Burnaby on November 29, 2023.



**Don't miss out on  
future BCSS events!**



Scan here to sign up for the Friends  
of BCSS email newsletter or visit  
[www.bcss.org/events-programs](http://www.bcss.org/events-programs)

# Third-Party Community Fundraising Events

BCSS also participated in and supported several community fundraising events held by external parties and partners throughout the year.

## **BUD'S BIG FISHING DERBY**

Big Bud's Fishing Derby took place in July this year at the Harbourside Lodge in Bamfield. Each year, Bud's Big Fishing Derby helps raise money for mental illness education. Family, friends, and passionate fishermen join the Eysers family in celebrating Bud Eysers' life by participating in the derby.

Over the years, Bud's family and friends have raised more than \$20,000 for this cause close to their hearts. Thank you for your continued support!



## **MAD HATTERS**

Dozens came out to Memorial Peace Park in Maple Ridge on May 20, 2023 to participate in the annual Mad Hatters Parade and Tea Party. This event, which is organized by Catherine Larnon-Trout and volunteers at the Mad Hatters Foundation, was the first return of the in-person parade and tea party since being forced to take a couple of years off due to the pandemic.

The event focused on education, reducing stigma and helped raise \$2000 for BCSS.



## **SARAH PARKER'S MEMORIAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT**

The 2nd Annual Sarah's Memorial Softball Tournament took place on August 13, 2023, at Hjorth Road Park in Surrey, BC. This event was organized by Cathy Parker in honour of her late daughter, Sarah, who loved softball and grew up playing it at Hjorth Road Park.

All proceeds from the event went to BCSS.



# New BCSS & BCSS Youth Website

In 2024, BCSS was finally able to launch an updated BCSS website and a new, dedicated BCSS Youth site after months of hard work and dedication.

The new look reflects our deep commitment to accessibility, intuitiveness, and ease of navigation. From the get-go, our priority was ensuring our website was accessible to everyone. Whether browsing on a desktop, tablet, or mobile device, we want it to be easy to navigate and interact with our content. We wanted to create an online space that feels welcoming and easy for longtime supporters and newcomers alike to use.

New features on the main site also include:

- Updated information on team members and program offerings
- A new look for our blog and easier article navigation
- Easier navigation for our education and support pages

With our new BCSS Youth website in particular, we hope to be able to expand our resources for the Kids In Control, Tweens In Control, and Teens In Control programs and better support those in need.



Visit the new BCSS website by going to [www.bcss.org](http://www.bcss.org) and explore the new BCSS Youth website at [www.bcssyouth.org](http://www.bcssyouth.org).

# BCSS Program and Services

## Family Support Groups

BCSS provides family support groups throughout the province for individuals who have a loved one living with schizophrenia, psychosis, or another severe and persistent mental illness. BCSS Family Support Groups offer a safe and supportive environment for family and friends to share, ask questions, and connect with others who are also supporting a loved one with a mental illness.

Family Support Groups are led by trained facilitators, and they provide support and resources to family members and caregivers of individuals with severe and persistent mental illnesses.



*"We are so thankful for the BCSS support groups. I can't tell you enough how important this is for me to be able to feel connected with everyone. It makes me realize I am definitely not alone in this."*

## Strengthening Families Together

Strengthening Families Together is a six-session educational course providing information, support, and coping tools to individuals and families who have a loved one living with a severe and persistent mental illness.

Strengthening Families Together programs cover information about schizophrenia, psychosis, mood disorders, and other mental illnesses, as well as treatments, the BC mental health system, and advocacy. Participants gain communication skills, self-care and stress-management tools, and a better understanding of how to support their loved one with a mental illness.

### **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES TOGETHER – INDIGENOUS (SFT-I)**

BCSS is currently in the process of revamping the Strengthening Families Together – Indigenous (SFT-I) program in collaboration with the First Nations Health Authority to provide culturally appropriate support to Indigenous peoples.



## Partnership Education Presentations (PEP)

The Partnership Education Presentation (PEP) program uses a personal storytelling model to shed light on the reality and scope of severe and persistent mental illness.

A panel of three guest speakers—usually a person with a mental illness, a family member, and a BCSS staff member or mental health professional—share their insights and personal journeys with mental illness.

BCSS Partnership Education Presentations foster understanding and help reduce the stigma of mental illness.



## One-on-One Support

Regional Educators provide vital information and support to families. They provide support and education, helping empower families to become mental health advocates for their loved ones. Support is available both virtually and in person.

## BCSS Youth

BCSS Youth offers programs, workshops and drop-in groups for children and youth between the ages of 8–18 who have a loved one living with a mental illness or substance use disorder.

Programs include Kids in Control for ages 8–12, Tweens in Control for ages 11–13, and Teens in Control for ages 13–18, as well as drop-in support group sessions with age-appropriate materials.

Program participants learn healthy coping strategies and self-care practices while gaining information about mental illness so they can better understand the behaviour of their family member or friend.

As the Kids, Tweens, and Teens in Control programs continue to expand and grow, BCSS has transitioned to using the name “BCSS Youth” to encompass the programs for children and teens. As part of this rebranding project, BCSS Youth now has a new logo, colours, and imagery to reflect the vibrant young people who participate in the programs.



***“This program was very valuable. My daughter came out of her shell and talked about things. This was a unique program like no other. She said she was in a safe place and could be herself.”***

**kids &  
teens**  
in control

# A LETTER FROM THE BCSS Chief Executive Officer



As we reflect on the past 42 years of serving families affected by schizophrenia and other serious mental illnesses, we are proud of our strong history of family support and education. As we look ahead to 2025, we recognize the importance of evolving to build an even better future for those with lived experience and their families.

BCSS Board and staff devoted much time and effort to develop a strategic plan to guide us forward in 2024-2025. This plan focuses on several strategic priorities, which speak to our commitment to ongoing improvement and the delivery of evidence-based programs and services that meet the varied needs of the families we support.

Over the last year, our team has analyzed current metrics to better identify trends in our engagement and, in turn, better understand the impact of our programming and services. We have used this information to ensure the support and resources we share are widely available, clearly communicated, and accessible to families living in British Columbia, including those in rural and underserved areas. BCSS has placed continued emphasis on increasing mental illness literacy through many different channels, including in-person and hybrid events, newsletters, and our podcast Look Again: Mental Illness Re-examined.

Over the past year, we have expanded our BCSS Youth programs, including Kids in Control, Teens in Control and Tweens in Control programs. We also launched the BCSS Youth website and increased messaging on BCSS Youth socials. We updated materials for the Strengthening Families Together program based on feedback from participants and current research. We are also rebuilding the Strengthening Families Together - Indigenous program and have partnered with the First Nations Health Authority in preparation for SFT-I pilot sessions.

BCSS continues to strengthen and expand our other core programs and services, including Family Support Groups, one-on-one support for families, and Partnership Education Presentations. We continue to identify unmet needs and explore new service delivery opportunities that align with our mission and core values.

As 2024 comes to a close, we remain committed to building and strengthening existing community partnerships and will continue putting an increased emphasis on caring for BCSS staff. The BCSS staff team across the province is extremely dedicated to BCSS' mission and vision, and they are the key to providing effective and timely support to families.

I am very grateful for the staff team, and members of the BCSS board, BCSS Foundation board, and policy committee. I am also thankful for the support of our medical advisory committee, and truly appreciate BCSS' continued partnership with the BC Government.

There is a lot of work to be done in the next year, but I am confident that we are up to the challenge. I am excited to work alongside our team and partners in pursuit of a better future for families affected by schizophrenia and other severe and persistent mental illnesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Faydra Aldridge'.

**Faydra Aldridge**

BCSS Chief Executive Officer

# Donor Thanks

## Our Partners & Supporters

*Thank you! Without you,  
this wouldn't be possible.*

We are incredibly grateful to all of the funders, donors, supporters and partners committed to supporting families affected by schizophrenia and other serious mental illnesses in British Columbia through education, advocacy, and research. Your generosity has made it possible for BCSS to provide thousands of families across the province with “a reason to hope and a means to cope”.

## A Special Thank You to Chris Sandy



Chris Sandy feels strongly about supporting the BC Schizophrenia Society Foundation. Chris has shared his story about how he and his family have been touched by schizophrenia through his dear brother, Dave. This heartbreaking journey inspired Chris to commit to a matching donation pledge of up to \$10,000 for our annual holiday appeal.

For the eighth year in a row, Chris offered this pledge, and we cannot thank him enough for his contributions over the years. We are so incredibly appreciative of Chris's support. Chris, you are a true ambassador!

## Major Project Partners and Funders



# Financial Snapshot

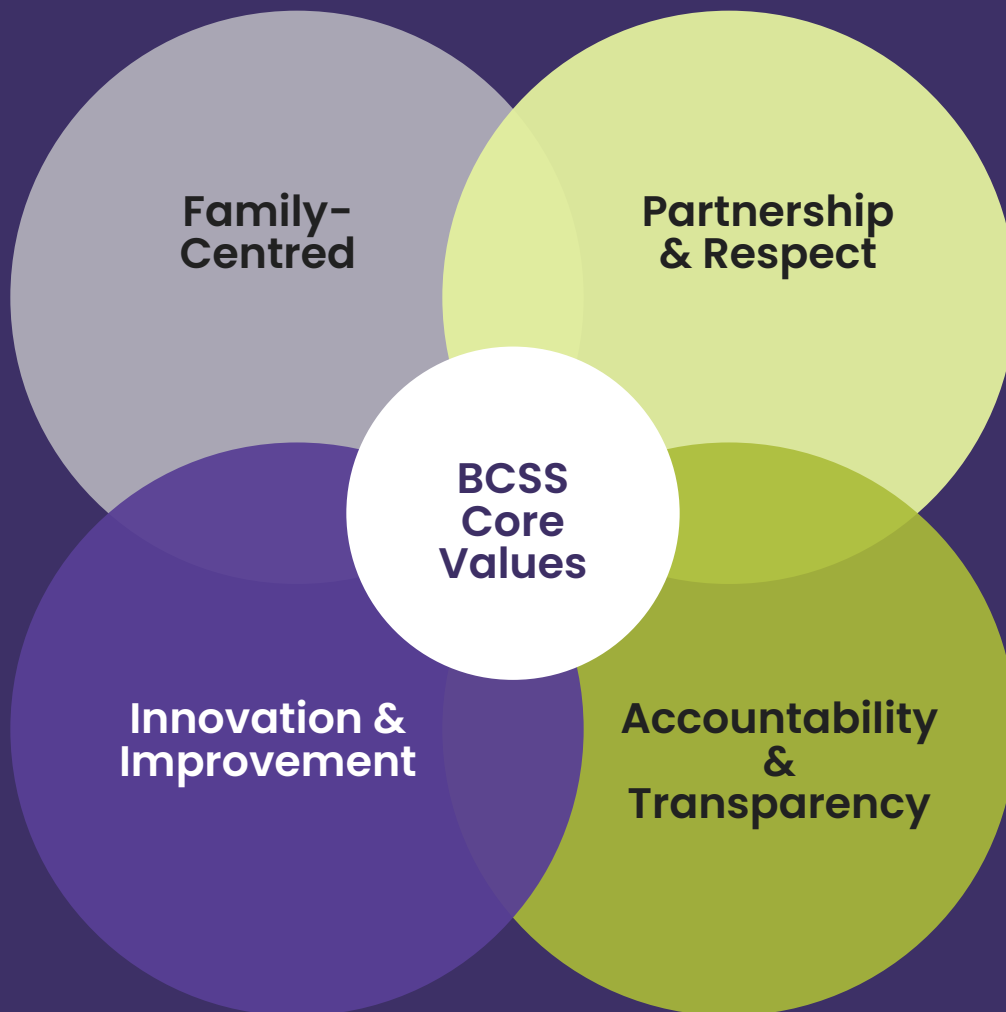
| Revenue                  | 2024        | 2023        |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Program Funding          | \$2,317,232 | \$2,149,010 |
| Donations                | \$134,533   | \$126,900   |
| Sponsorship              | \$61,290    | \$60,054    |
| Investment Income (Loss) | \$246,284   | \$144,930   |
| BCSS Foundation          | \$20,000    | \$20,000    |
| Other                    | \$0         | (\$179)     |
| Total                    | \$2,779,339 | \$2,500,715 |

| Expenses                          | 2024        | 2023        |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Wages, Contractors, and Benefits  | \$1,960,924 | \$1,748,619 |
| Travel, Conferences, and Meetings | \$135,474   | \$72,475    |
| Office and Other                  | \$120,712   | \$93,403    |
| Program Expenses                  | \$127,646   | \$150,999   |
| Rent and Utilities                | \$58,250    | \$55,913    |
| Telecommunications                | \$60,677    | \$50,709    |
| Fundraising and Promotion         | \$37,162    | \$77,078    |
| Professional Fees                 | \$67,279    | \$44,263    |
| Scholarships                      | \$24,000    | \$14,600    |
| Amortization of Capital Assets    | \$15,212    | \$14,329    |
| Total                             | \$2,607,336 | \$2,322,388 |
| Excess of Revenue                 | \$172,003   | \$178,327   |

Statement of Operations for the year ending March 31, 2024.

Approximately **80%** of all 2023/24 expenditures went directly to programs and services.





## Contact Us

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☎ 604 270-7841 | TOLL-FREE 1-888-888-0029

🌐 [www.bcss.org](http://www.bcss.org)

📍 1100-1200 West 73rd Avenue, Vancouver BC V6P 6G5

