

*... a new day for ABI services...*

## ***The Quarter Century Celebration of Peel Halton Dufferin Acquired Brain Injury Services***

**“ABI (traumatic and non-traumatic) is the leading cause of death and disability in Canada” ...**

**“ABI is more common than breast cancer, HIV and AIDS, Spinal Cord Injury, and Multiple Sclerosis... combined” [Ontario ABI Dataset]... “A study of women in domestic violence shelters found that up to 83% reported being both hit in the head and severely shaken.” [Concussion Hits Home]**

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) is one of the most pressing of all the incredible challenges facing the future of healthcare in Ontario, and North America.

Twenty-five years ago, small community-based ABI service providers were borne of two simultaneous pressures, brought to bear over a few short years. First, the Ontario Government desperately trying to return brain injury survivors being served in the United States to their Home... and their homes. Second, networks of incredibly dedicated families and caregivers working with volunteers to make available for their loved ones lifelong ABI supports and programs - in their communities! Once discharge from hospital had occurred, the real work started, and yet there were no resources identified for this critical need in the province.

In the massive regions of GTA West, a modest couple of beds and case management resources came to be in South Peel, after incredible efforts by the ‘Head Injury Association of Peel and Halton’ [HIAPH]. The service born of this was *PHCAS (Peel Halton Community Access Services)*, thence *PHABIS (Peel Halton Acquired Brain Injury Services)*, to 2010, when the addition of programs in the Dufferin Caledon Region resulted in **PHD ABI (Peel Halton Dufferin ABI) Services**.

Today, PHD ABIS has evolved into one of the Province’s largest – and most respected- community based ABI providers. Hundreds of clients and family members/ caregivers are served annually. Five staffed rehabilitation and treatment residences provide services to meet the needs of individuals with neurocognitive and behavioural challenges. Hundreds of individuals are served in outreach capacities, three Day Services programs operate in Dufferin, Peel, and Halton, providing a staggering range of social recreational, functional learning, and psychosocial adjustments groups. Dozens of Long Term Care Facilities are augmented by ABI specialized staff to support the management and quality of life of those in LTC, touched by ABI. Supported independent living units served by ABI specialized staff allow for genuine independence in the community for individuals. Neuropsychiatric and Neuropsychological counselling and consultation is provided, as is behaviour therapy and social work supports.

PHD ABIS is now at the forefront on Telemedicine Modalities for service of those touched by ABI, is a Champion for (and contributor to) the imminent launch of new Provincial Standards for ABI services, has created a revolutionary online curriculum for neurocognitive and behavioural training, which will be provided via the Mississauga Halton LHIN’s Regional Learning Centre. And in a matter of weeks, the Agency is rolling out Concussion Services – first phase –critically needed education.

Winner of the 2010  
OBIA Corporate  
Fellowship Award



PHD ABIS is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, and the Central West and Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs).



The Quarter Century Celebrations both looks back to the history and legacy of ABI services in our regions (and implicitly, Ontario), but forward, to the incredible possibilities and opportunities that the challenges in healthcare present. As acquired and traumatic injury continue to touch thousands of lives, as the aging population and the ‘stroke tsunami’ (strokes are an acquired brain injury) begin to have seismic impact in Ontario, and as the desperate need for better understanding of concussion – for all Ontarians- explodes – the role of Agencies such as PHD ABIS have never been more critical.

On **September 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 10-12:00, at the Novotel Hotel in Mississauga (3670 Hurontario St)**, that “new day in ABI services” is being launched. A ceremony of pivotal figures and Provincial speakers, awards for staff excellence in serving our clients and families, announcements of new service frontiers, dedication of one of the Agency’s flagship facilities, and much, much more. It is a ceremony that will touch hearts and minds.

The event will be captured in two short films being produced for the Agency (and the efforts/ costs donated by) one of the most cutting-edge film production companies in Toronto, Skin and Bones. One film will document the event itself, the other is an incredibly powerful series of testimonials, captured on camera, by our clients and their family members/ caregivers.

Scheduled event speakers include:

- **Ruth Wilcock** Executive Director, Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA)
- **Corinne Kagan** Executive Director, Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF)
- **Maria Britto** Chair, Board of Directors, Central West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)
- **Mary Davies** Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Mississauga Halton LHIN
- **Honourable Kevin Flynn, MPP, Oakville, Minister of Labour**, and long-time advocate for and supporter of neurorehabilitation, brain injury services, and the efforts of the Ontario Brain Institute
- An ABI Client – *“The Heart-breaking Challenges of the Truly Invisible Disability”*
- An ABI Family/ Caregiver – *“How SIL Services Saved My Family’s Life...”*

For those who wish, and following the Novotel Ceremonies, our Head Office (a two minute drive) will be hosting an open house, where teams of ABI clients and staff will be showing off program space, client fine art and craft/ woodworking creations (a number of which pieces have been entrepreneurially marketed), gardening programs and projects, music (performances by the PHD ABIS Chorale Group, and talented individual performers), and much, much more. It will be an environment transformed to a living gallery. And our clients will be very happy to serve as your guides! [The **Open House is informal format, and runs from 12:30 -2:00**]

We would be honoured to welcome friends in media to attend, and provide information, and links to both awareness campaigns and academic research work.

What we can do is guarantee that the Celebration of a Quarter Century on Sept. 22nd, and the look forward to the next Century, will transform you.