

# BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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2020 was an epic year of legacy building initiatives, health promotion, and advocacy for the epilepsy community in BC.

Early on, in March 2020, we endeavoured to dedicate ourselves to rethinking not only the way we work, but also how to pivot, and re-focus our limited resources to mitigate the impact and devastation that COVID-19 has had on the lives of people living with epilepsy in BC. We swiftly moved all of the in-person support groups to an online format and increased the frequency of groups; from March 2020 to June 2020, we delivered weekly online support groups. As the province opened up, your need for weekly groups (drop in attendance) was no longer necessary, and from June 2020 onwards, we have continued to run monthly online support groups.

In September 2020, we created the Your Voice Matters: Adult Epilepsy System Report Card survey to give people living with and affected by epilepsy in BC the chance to share their experiences with the adult epilepsy system and assign a report card grade. Through your participation, you graded the adult epilepsy system in BC with an overwhelming F.

2020 was also the year that we increased our provincial reach to the public through our social media accounts and media projects. In 2020, BCES created and produced four new brands within our revolutionary media production framework. We are proud to highlight our compelling media works that educate, inform, and inspire, including the Epilepsy Expert Webinar Series, the What If ... Documentary Series, the Voice Epilepsy™ Podcast Series and E-News Broadcasts.

You have – and always will have – our continued commitment to use every avenue available to raise awareness, educate, and advocate for more provincial and federal funding to address the deficiencies in British Columbia for therapeutics, medications, in-province brain surgeries, medical staffing, system navigators, equitable disability benefits, and much more.

From every one of us at BC Epilepsy Society, the support workers on the front line, the operations staff working diligently behind the scenes, the Board, the Professional Advisory Committee, and most importantly, from our clients, thank you for your unwavering support in helping us provide life-changing, essential services to those living with epilepsy.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US BUILD LEGACIES AND SAVE LIVES!**

**KIM DAVIDSON**

CEO & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY

**TREVOR YOUNG**

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY

## MISSION

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To empower, educate and support British Columbians living with epilepsy and their families, and support research to make their lives easier.

## VISION

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IMPROVING LIVES. INSPIRING COURAGE.

## HISTORY

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The BC Epilepsy Society was incorporated as a registered charity on August 17, 1959, under the leadership of pediatric neurologist Dr. Norman Auckland who believed that the more people living with epilepsy understood their epilepsy, the more they could help themselves. BC Epilepsy Society programs and services today remain true to Dr. Auckland's original vision of support and education.

## WHAT IS EPILEPSY?

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Epilepsy is a medical condition that causes recurring seizures.

A seizure is the sudden, brief and temporary disturbance of electrical activity in the brain.

It has been found that 1 in 10 people will experience a seizure during their lifetime and that 1 in 100 people will develop epilepsy during their lifetime.

Epilepsy affects approximately 1% of the population, with over 65 million people living with epilepsy worldwide; over 3.2 million people living with epilepsy in the United States; over 380,000 people living with epilepsy in Canada; and over 50,000 people living with epilepsy in British Columbia.



2020



# BOARD

- Trevor Young, MBA - Chair
- Dan O'Brien, CPA, CA - Treasurer
- Shaun Rodgers - Secretary
- Dr. Linda Huh, MD, FRCPC - PAC Chair
- Steven Fruitman, LLB - Director
- Katy Fairley - Director
- Kasi Lubin - Director
- Jacci Sandler - Director
- Kim Davidson - CEO & Executive Director

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- Dr. Linda Huh, MD, FRCPC - PAC Chair
- Dr. Mary Connolly MB, BCh, BAO, FRCP(C), FRCP(I), FRCP(Edin)
- Dr. Chantelle Hrazdil, MD, FRCPC
- Dr. Anita Datta, MD, FRCPC
- Dr. Jing Ee Tan, PhD, ABPP-CN
- Dr. Sherrill Purves, MD, PhD, FRCPC, FAAN
- Dr. Harinder Dhaliwal, MBBS, FRCPC
- Dr. Jennifer Percy, MD, FRCPC
- Dr. Cyrus Boelman, MD, FRCPC

# STAFF

- Kim Davidson, CEO & Executive Director
- Sonia Ali, Provincial Manager of Programs and Services
- Paul Naswell, Film and Media Specialist
- Jas Lachar, Support Services Coordinator
- Christine Jamieson, Impact Speaker
- Deirdre Syms, Epilepsy Education & Outreach Worker
- Chris Winwood, Epilepsy Education & Outreach Worker
- Ronda Foden, Bookkeeper
- Daniel Little, Multimedia Editor
- Rachel Taverner, Executive & Administrative Assistant
- Londyn Skinner, Executive & Administrative Assistant
- Chris Lal, Epilepsy Peer Support Lead



# PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## CLINIC SUPPORT SERVICES:

Through our Clinic Support Services program, BC Epilepsy Society staff assist people living with epilepsy and their families at BC Children's Hospital, Vancouver General Hospital and Surrey Memorial Hospital by connecting them with our services and/or finding the appropriate community resources to meet their individual needs.

## PARTNERS IN TEACHING:

Through our provincial Partners in Teaching program, BC Epilepsy Society staff deliver educational workshops on epilepsy and seizure awareness and seizure first aid and safety to schools, workplaces, and other organizations across BC. In 2020, we conducted 38 workshops to more than 1,600 participants.

## SUPPORT GROUPS:

BC Epilepsy Society Support Groups allow people living with epilepsy and their families, friends, and loved ones to get better connected and strengthen their support networks while providing them with the opportunity to meet with and get advice from others with whom they share similar experiences. In 2020, we offered the following support groups:

- In-Person Peer Support Group
- Online Peer Support Group
- BCES Men's Circle
- BCES Women's Circle
- BCES Young Adults Circle
- Epilepsy Friends Forever (EFF)
- BC Epilepsy Parents Network (BCEPN)
- Family Peer Group
- Young Adult Peer Group



**THIS SUPPORT GROUP  
LITERALLY CHANGED MY LIFE.**

*Support Group Participant*

## PROJECT UPLIFT \*NEW PROGRAM\*:

In November 2020, the BC Epilepsy Society launched the first session of **Project UPLIFT** (Using Practice and Learning to Increase Favourable Thoughts), which teaches mental health coping skills to people living with epilepsy. **Project UPLIFT** sessions are facilitated by a trained facilitator and a mental health professional, one of whom must live with epilepsy. The BC Epilepsy Society is proud to have the only trained **Project UPLIFT** facilitator in the entire province on its staff.

**Project UPLIFT** uses cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and mindfulness to help people living with epilepsy better manage mental health and teaches many valuable skills that have been proven to improve depression, stress, anxiety, psychological well-being, and quality of life in people living with epilepsy.

# PROGRAMS & SERVICES

## **BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY BURSARY PROGRAM:**

Bursaries for post-secondary education are awarded annually to youth with lived epilepsy experience to use towards an array of post-secondary educational and trade school opportunities. We have awarded a total of 75 bursaries since 2007.

## **BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY CAMP SUBSIDIES PROGRAM:**

Camp subsidies awarded annually give children and youth living with epilepsy the opportunity to go to summer camp programs. This allows children to learn and grow as individuals and gain meaningful connections with others.

## **RESOURCES - INFORMATION SHEETS:**

The BC Epilepsy Society website is home to over 75 Information Sheets on a wide range of topics related to epilepsy, available in English and translated into five additional languages.

## **RESOURCES - BLOG AND SOCIAL MEDIA:**

In 2020, we uploaded over 55 blog posts to the BC Epilepsy Society website on a variety of epilepsy-related topics. Social media posts are uploaded daily on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNER - KIDS UP FRONT:**

This partnership of 9 years builds community by allowing us to offer people living with epilepsy and their families the opportunity to access recreational, educational, entertainment, and sports events at no charge.



**YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA IS THE  
BEST!**

*BC Doctor*

# \*NEW\* MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

In 2020, BCES created and produced four new brands within our revolutionary media production framework. The following new media productions work to educate, inform, and inspire:

- **Epilepsy Expert Webinar Series**

- Professionals in various fields provide presentations via Zoom Webinars on a variety of topics that impact the daily lives of people living with epilepsy

- **What If ... Documentary Series**

- The goal of the What If ... Documentary Series is to bring about public awareness to the epilepsy crisis and mortality rates of epilepsy in BC, which is an orphaned disease in the province of BC. The What If ... Documentary Series was born out of necessity to highlight the lack of action from the Provincial Government of British Columbia and includes the unsuccessful efforts of the BC Epilepsy Society to meet with government over a period of 26 months. Documentary episodes expose the failings of the current infrastructure of the adult epilepsy system in BC through telling stories of people living with; dying from; and affected by epilepsy in BC and sounds the alarm on the disparity between BC and all other provinces in Canada; adult epilepsy in BC is the black mark on Canadian healthcare.

- **Voice Epilepsy™ Podcast Series**

- Podcast episodes that present information on a variety of topics related to epilepsy, advocacy, therapeutics, law, employment, surgery, mental health, stress and stigma, among many others.

- **E-News Broadcasts**

- Video broadcasts of epilepsy news updates, covering epilepsy-related international news stories from Google Alerts.



# \*NEW\* MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

## EPILEPSY EXPERT WEBINAR SERIES:

Through the BC Epilepsy Society's **Epilepsy Expert Webinar Series**, professionals in various fields provide presentations via Zoom Webinars on a variety of topics that impact the daily lives of people living with epilepsy (ex. health, law, employment, etc.). This allows you to get up-to-date and accurate information.

The following webinars in the **Epilepsy Expert Webinar Series** were presented in 2020:

- **The Ketogenic Diet & Epilepsy** presented by **Dr. Linda Huh, MD FRCPC** and **Lawren Fischer, RD**
- **VNS Neuromodulation Therapy** presented by **Cameron Finlay**
- **A New Diagnosis. The New Normal.** presented by **Christine Jamieson** and **Sonia Ali**
- **Cognition and Epilepsy** presented by **Dr. Jing Ee Tan, PhD, ABPP-CN**
- **CBD and Epilepsy** presented by **Dr. Chantelle Hrazdil, MD, FRCPC**
- **Women and Epilepsy** presented by **Dr. Anita Datta, MD, FRCPC**

## VOICE EPILEPSY™ PODCAST SERIES:

The **Voice Epilepsy™** podcast series introduces a variety of topics related to epilepsy, including medications, treatment, law, employment, surgery, mental health, stress, and stigma, among many others. Whether you are a person living with epilepsy or you have a personal or professional interest in epilepsy, the **Voice Epilepsy™** podcast series is for you! You can find the **Voice Epilepsy™** podcast series on Podbean, iTunes, Google Play, Spotify, etc.

The following podcast episodes of the **Voice Epilepsy™** podcast series were released in 2020:

- **Men and Epilepsy**
- **Seizure First Aid and Seizure Definitions**
- **Epilepsy Friends Forever (EFF)**
- **You Don't Want to Know the Truth - An Adult Epilepsy Crisis in BC 2020**
- **March 26th International Purple Day™ and COVID-19 2020**
- **A New Diagnosis. The New Normal.**
- **The Ketogenic Diet and Epilepsy**
- **Cognition and Epilepsy**
- **CBD and Epilepsy**







WHAT IF ... DOCUMENTARY SERIES:

# PRISONER OF PURGATORY: THE JARED RICKS STORY

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Episode Two of the **What If ... Documentary Series**, entitled **PRISONER OF PURGATORY: The Jared Ricks Story**, was released on October 13th, 2020. This documentary episode tells the story of Jared Ricks, a young man and musician from Victoria, BC, who tragically passed away on December 29th, 2018 at the age of 23 from Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP). **This documentary episode has over 43,000 views on YouTube.** Click [here](#) to watch it on YouTube.

# JESUS LOVES ME: THE MACKENZIE MACWILLIAMS STORY

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Episode Four of the **What If ... Documentary Series**, entitled **JESUS LOVES ME: The Mackenzie MacWilliams Story**, was released on November 24th, 2020. This documentary episode tells the journey of Mackenzie MacWilliams, an accomplished young man from a tight-knit family and a faith-based community in Delta, BC, who tragically passed away on April 25th, 2019 at the age of 27 from Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP). **This documentary episode has over 24,000 views on YouTube.** Click [here](#) to watch it on YouTube.



WHAT IF ... DOCUMENTARY SERIES:

## FAILURE:

# THE BLACK MARK ON CANADIAN HEALTH CARE

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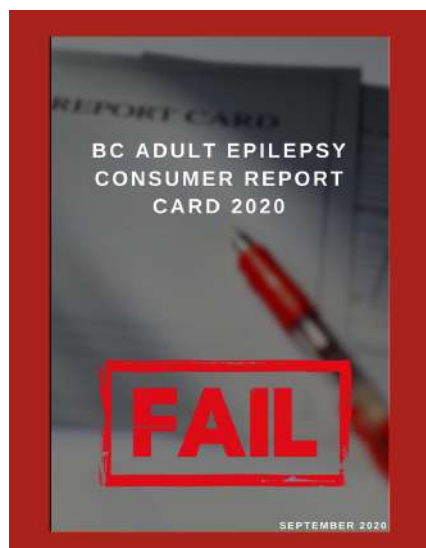
Episode One of the **What If ... Documentary Series**, entitled ***FAILURE: The Black Mark on Canadian Health Care***, was released on October 6th, 2020. This documentary episode discusses how and why the adult epilepsy program in British Columbia is second-class and subpar and is the worst resourced adult epilepsy program in Canada. **This documentary episode has over 58,000 views on YouTube.** Click [here](#) to watch it on YouTube.

## UNASHAMED AND UNAFRAID: THE ALLISON HEGEDUS STORY

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Episode Three of the **What If ... Documentary Series**, entitled ***UNASHAMED AND UNAFRAID: The Allison Hegedus Story***, was released on October 21st, 2020. This documentary episode tells the inspiring story of Allison Hegedus, the President of Vida Spas. It includes details on her successful career journey at Vida Spas, working with Bruce Croxon, formerly of Dragons' Den. She recounts her epilepsy diagnosis at the age of 18 and her experience of having to go out-of-province from British Columbia to Ontario for both diagnostic testing and epilepsy brain surgery, reflecting on the shortcomings of the adult epilepsy program in British Columbia. **This documentary episode has over 15,000 views on YouTube.** Click [here](#) to watch it on YouTube.

# BC ADULT EPILEPSY CONSUMER REPORT CARD 2020



We know that the epilepsy population in BC is underserved but we needed to gather data on what people living with epilepsy in BC are experiencing so that we would be better able to present the facts to the BC Provincial Government. In August 2020, the BC Epilepsy Society released the **Your Voice Matters: Adult Epilepsy System Report Card** survey to learn more about the systemic impacts of shortcomings of BC's adult epilepsy system and to give adults living with and affected by epilepsy the chance to have a voice, share their experiences, and assign a report card grade to BC's adult epilepsy system. Survey results were compiled into a report, which was released in September 2020. Please see below for some results from the survey and click [here](#) to read the full survey report.

**83%**

of respondents reported that their doctor had never discussed epilepsy treatment options other than medication with them

**82%**

of respondents reported having to travel outside of their community to visit the adult epilepsy clinic in Vancouver

**81%**

of respondents reported that their doctor had never discussed Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) or their risk of SUDEP with them

**81%**

of respondents were not aware that there is no neuropsychologist attached to an adult epilepsy clinic in BC

**39%**

of respondents reported waiting 6 months to 1 year for an appointment at the seizure investigation unit

**31%**

of respondents reported waiting over 18 months for an appointment at the seizure investigation unit

**61%**

of respondents reported experiencing financial hardships and/or living in poverty

**42%**

of respondents reported being hospitalized due to their epilepsy and/or seizures in the last two years

**71%**

*of respondents reported experiencing homelessness at some point in the last five years*

**100%**

*of these respondents reported feeling unsafe at homeless shelters due to shelter staff not knowing proper seizure first aid*

**"BC DOCTORS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN THE ADULT EPILEPSY SYSTEM SHOULD HAVE A RIGHT TO THE SAME TREATMENT OPTIONS AND THERAPIES TO PROVIDE AN OPTIMUM STANDARD OF CARE FOR THEIR PATIENTS LIVING WITH EPILEPSY AS SEEN IN THE REST OF CANADA."**

*-Kim Davidson*



**100%**

of respondents believe it is important for all people living with epilepsy in Canada to have equal access to timely, quality adult epilepsy health care, regardless of the province or territory in which they live

**"BC DOES NOT HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE EPILEPSY CENTRE AS IS AVAILABLE IN OTHER PROVINCES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE STRUGGLE IN BC IS REAL."**

"I USED TO HAVE EVERY SEIZURE TYPE UNTIL SURGERY."

"I AM 6 MONTHS SEIZURE FREE AFTER MY SURGERY."

"I MAY EXPERIENCE UP TO 9 SEIZURES A DAY."

"DUE TO SEIZURES OR POSTICTAL STATE,

**"PEOPLE MISUNDERSTAND EPILEPSY."**

I AM SCARED OF THE HARM I MAY CAUSE TO MYSELF AND OTHERS."

"I HAVE HAD ALL EPILEPSY

HEALTH CARE SERVICES DONE IN

**"I HAVE ABOUT 75 SEIZURES A YEAR."**

CALGARY SINCE I WAS 18."

"I AM THE CAREGIVER TO MY 33 YEAR OLD SON WHO IS UNEMPLOYED DUE TO EPILEPSY."

**"I AM UNEMPLOYED DUE TO STRESS-TRIGGERED SEIZURES."**

**"I CAN'T LIVE A NORMAL LIFE."**

"DIFFICULTY MAINTAINING EMPLOYMENT.

"I GRIEVE THE LIFE I COULD HAVE

HAD TO DO A MIDLIFE CAREER CHANGE."

HAD. I WAS DIAGNOSED AT 6 AND AM NOW 43 AND STILL FEEL THIS!"

**"I HAVE TRIED DIFFERENT COMBINATIONS AND**

**DELIVERY METHODS OF MEDICATIONS OVER TIME AND**

**STILL HAVE UNCONTROLLED SEIZURES."**

"I HAVE EXPERIENCED STIGMA AND BULLYING."

"IT TOOK TOO LONG TO GET A

"MEDICAL CARE IS SO LIMITED. I WAS PUT ON A LONG WAIT LIST TO SEE A NEUROLOGIST IN PRINCE GEORGE."

DIAGNOSIS AS DOCTORS WERE

"IT'S HARD BEING A BURDEN AND MAKING OTHERS FEEL GUILTY FOR MAKING YOU FEEL LIKE A BURDEN."

DISMISSIVE OF MY SYMPTOMS."

"I USE A WHEELCHAIR DUE TO FALLS FROM SEIZURES BUT CAN WALK FINE."

"I WAITED SIX YEARS TO GET INTO THE SEIZURE INVESTIGATION UNIT."

**"LOSS OF INDEPENDENCE."**

**"WHEN I LIVED IN ONTARIO, I SAW A NEUROLOGIST WITHIN A WEEK."**

**"IN BC, THERE IS A LACK OF RESOURCES, SUPPORT AND TREATMENT OPTIONS."**

"I WAS BOUNCED AROUND FROM SPECIALIST TO SPECIALIST. IT WAS A GONG SHOW."

"I HAVE EXPERIENCED STIGMA, BULLYING, DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT."

**"PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT EPILEPSY STILL AFFECTS YOU EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF CURRENT SEIZURING."**

**"NO ONE TALKS ABOUT EPILEPSY-RELATED DEATHS."**



# EPILEPSY AND COVID-19 SURVEY

We wanted to understand the impact COVID-19 was having on our population so we conducted a survey to collect the data. In August 2020, the BC Epilepsy Society released the **Epilepsy and the COVID-19 Pandemic in British Columbia** survey to determine the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on people living with epilepsy in BC. Survey results were compiled into a report, which was released in September 2020. Please see below for some results from the survey and click [here](#) to read the full survey report.

48%

of respondents reported experiencing financial hardships to pay for medication, bills, housing, groceries, etc.

65%

of respondents feared their epilepsy put them at higher risk of contracting COVID-19

38%

of respondents experienced difficulty in filling their prescriptions

82%

of respondents were not aware that in 2019, the BC Provincial Government awarded the BC Epilepsy Society **only \$1.10 per person (a total of \$55,000 for the over 50,000 people living with epilepsy in BC) living with epilepsy per year for our programs and services**

## END THE EPILEPSY CRISIS IN BC PETITION

BC is a have-not province when it comes to the care and support provided to the epilepsy population in BC and the struggle for people living and affected by epilepsy in BC still continues. This is why, in February 2020, the BC Epilepsy Society started the **End The Epilepsy Crisis in BC** petition on change.org advocating for the BC Provincial Government to take much-needed action and put an end to the epilepsy crisis in BC. To date, this petition has been signed by over 3,330 people who are all advocating for significant changes to the adult epilepsy system in BC. To view and sign this petition, please click [here](#).

### BC is a Have-Not Province



# BCES IN THE MEDIA

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At media appearances made by the BC Epilepsy Society in 2020, Kim Davidson was joined by families who had lost loved ones to Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) and who had been featured in our What If ... Documentary Series.



*In February 2020, Kim Davidson appeared on Global News to discuss the adult epilepsy crisis in BC. She was joined by Ian MacWilliams who was part of our What If ... Documentary Series to speak about his son, Mackenzie MacWilliams, who tragically passed away as a result of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) in April 2019 at the age of 27.*

*In March 2020, Kim appeared on Shaw TV's Citizen's Forum to discuss the adult epilepsy crisis in BC. She was joined by Amanda Ricks who was part of our What If ... Documentary Series to speak about her son, Jared Ricks, tragically passed away as a result of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) in December 2018, at the age of 23.*

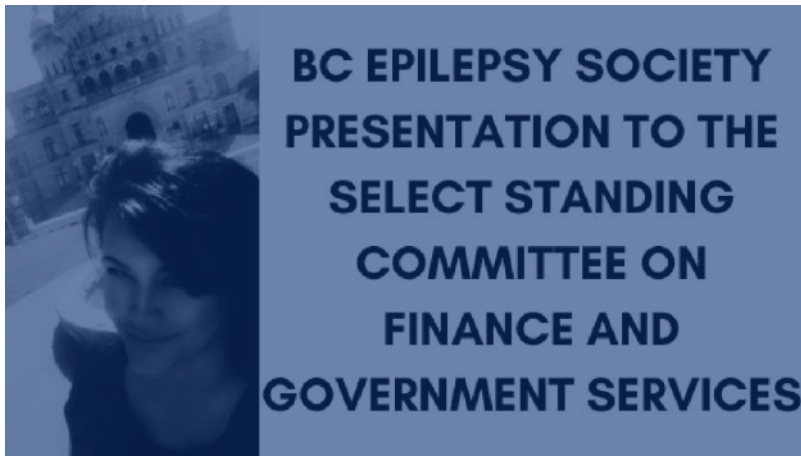


**In September 2020, Kim appeared on CTV News to discuss the importance of families not losing community support funding. She also discussed the failing grade the adult epilepsy system in BC received in our 2020 BC Adult Epilepsy Consumer Report Card survey report.**

# 2021 ANNUAL BUDGET CONSULTATION

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In June 2020, the BC Epilepsy Society was invited to present to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services for the 2021 Annual Budget Consultation for the first time in the BC Epilepsy Society's 61 year history.



*Kim Davidson presented on behalf of the BC Epilepsy Society, speaking about the epilepsy crisis in BC and the story of epilepsy, the orphaned disease in BC, providing information on the prevalence of epilepsy, shocking facts and statistics about epilepsy and told the story of Jared Ricks that will be featured in the What If ... Documentary Series. In addition, she put forth recommendations that the BC Epilepsy Society hopes to see in the 2021 Budget.*

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*In August 2020, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services released the "Report on the Budget 2021 Consultation". This report was created based on the recommendations that they received during the 2021 Budget Consultation Process. Within the report, the need for increased epilepsy funding is outlined.*



**The need for increased funding for epilepsy outlined by the BC Legislative Assembly and the BC Government is a first for epilepsy in BC!**



# ROLL CALL CAMPAIGN

In October 2020, during the BC Provincial Election, the BC Epilepsy Society began a **Roll Call Campaign**, where we requested meetings with all candidates running in the BC Provincial Election to discuss the adult epilepsy crisis.

We wanted people living with and affected by epilepsy in BC to be aware of which candidates were informed about the epic failures in adult epilepsy programs in our province by providing their names, parties and ridings. The candidates who took the time to meet with us to hear the issues were published weekly on our website leading up to the BC Provincial Election.

Of the candidates that met with us during the **Roll Call Campaign** to discuss the issues:

- 51% of candidates were from the BC Green Party
- 27% of candidates were from the BC Liberal Party
- 22% of candidates were from the Libertarian Party
- **0% ... NO CANDIDATES FROM THE BC NDP PARTY MET WITH US**



## #ISHARE2CARE CAMPAIGN:

With the COVID-19 Pandemic beginning in March 2020, many were left wondering what **International PURPLE DAY® for Epilepsy Awareness** would look like. In response, the BC Epilepsy Society created our **#ishare2care** campaign in an effort to use social media to bring people together as they were unable to get together in person on **PURPLE DAY®**. To participate in our **#ishare2care** campaign, participants took a photo of how they were raising awareness of epilepsy and uploaded it to their social media account using the hashtag **#ishare2care**. Many amazing photos were posted using the **#ishare2care** hashtag to celebrate **PURPLE DAY®** in 2020!





# BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY 2021 AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

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## 2021 CHAMPION FOR CHANGE AWARD

The BC Epilepsy Society is pleased to announce that Amanda Ricks is the recipient of our 2021 Champion for Change Award.

Amanda's story was featured in our *What If ... Documentary Series*. Her son, Jared Ricks, was a young musician from Victoria, BC, who passed away on December 29th, 2018 at the age of 23. Jared's premature death was the result of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP). At the time of his passing, Jared had been on waitlists for epilepsy brain surgery for upwards of three years in four provinces, including his home province of British Columbia. He passed away two months before his surgery was set to take place. After the sudden passing of her son, Amanda has become an advocate to end the epilepsy crisis in BC and create better infrastructure and programs for adults living with epilepsy in BC. **THANK YOU AMANDA FOR BEING A CHAMPION FOR CHANGE!**



# BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY 2021 AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

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## 2021 CORPORATE CHAMPION AWARD

The BC Epilepsy Society is pleased to announce that Magellan Law Corporation is the recipient of our first annual 2021 Corporate Champion Award.

Steven Fruitman, LLB, is a staff lawyer at Magellan Law Corporation and is also the longest-serving Director on the BC Epilepsy Society Board of Directors.

Through Steven's leadership, staff members at Magellan Law Corporation dress up in purple on March 26th of every year for *International Purple Day® for Epilepsy Awareness* in an effort to raise awareness for epilepsy in their community.

**THANK YOU MAGELLAN LAW CORPORATION FOR  
BEING A CORPORATE CHAMPION!**



# BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY 2021 AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

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## 2021 PURPLE HEART AWARD

The BC Epilepsy Society is pleased to announce that Juliette and Karl are the recipients of our first annual 2021 Purple Heart Award for exemplary youth in the community.

Juliette volunteered with the BC Epilepsy Society full-time for an entire summer and on a semi-regular basis during the school year, aiding in the creation of some of our resources and materials and helping out at some of our events. She also hosted an event in February 2020 at SoulCycle where she raised funds for BC Epilepsy Society.

Karl volunteered regularly with the BC Epilepsy Society. He was a tremendous help at some of our various events in the community. He also spoke about his positive experiences through our Epilepsy Friends Forever (EFF) program in a video testimonial and in a podcast episode of our Voice Epilepsy™ Podcast Series.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO JULIETTE AND KARL!**



**THE FUTURE OF EPILEPSY IS IN GOOD HANDS WITH YOUTH LIKE YOU.**

*Kim Davidson*



# Donors, Funders & Sponsors

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Telus Cares Foundation

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BC Gaming Grant



# YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS A LIFELINE TO MORE THAN 50,000 PEOPLE THAT NEED BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY

Without the financial support of donors, we simply would not be able to develop and deliver the many programs and services on which our members rely. There are many ways that you can make a donation to the BC Epilepsy Society. Please click the links below for more information:

- [Donate to the BC Epilepsy Society](#)
- [Donate in Memory, Honour, or Celebration](#)
- [Leave a Gift in Your Will](#)
- [Matching Gift Programs](#)
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- [Donate-a-Car Canada Program](#)
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Thank you to our donors!

## STOP BY AND SHOP AT OUR ONLINE STORE

Help us raise awareness for epilepsy by wearing our apparel! You can choose from a variety of options, including t-shirts, baseball tees, jackets, and hats. [\*\*Click here to visit the store and make your purchase today!\*\*](#)





**"LOOK AT THE SUCCESS THAT WE MANAGED TO HAVE IN 2020 DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC.**

**WE ARE BUILDING ON THAT MOMENTUM AND THOSE SUCCESSES IN UNITY AND STRENGTH.**

**WE ARE FEARLESS, WE ARE ONE VOICE, AND WE WILL GET THERE!"**

**-Kim Davidson**



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