

Support Health System Innovations

“I moved from a beautiful country house to a small, one level duplex. I require assistance from the Community Care Access Centre via Red Cross home care three times per week. Also, I had visits and assistance from occupational therapists, physiotherapists, nurses and numerous other agencies.” Ryan T.



According to [Mapping Connections: an understanding of neurological conditions in Canada](#), the report of the National Population Health Study of Neurological Conditions, Canadians living with a brain condition typically use more health care services than those without a brain condition, or those with other chronic conditions. Canadians living with brain

conditions also had more hospital stays, physician visits, days in residential care and higher prescription medication utilization.

“Our daughter needs daily physical, occupational and communication therapies. She also received hydro therapy weekly. She has had up to 80 grand mal seizures a day. She has a gastrostomy tube, is unable to use her hands purposely or walk, and needs constant care.” Terry B.



Terry Boyd's daughter Kayleigh, diagnosed with Rett syndrome.

People living with a brain condition can have a wide range of functional challenges, often requiring the use of extensive health and social services, as well as care and support from family and friends. *The National Population Health Study of Neurological Conditions* identified that health care costs for individuals with a brain condition are higher compared to individuals without a diagnosis of a brain condition. *Mapping Connections* also states that utilization and cost of drugs, including co-payments by individuals, represents a significant proportion of the health care costs related to brain conditions, both for individuals and the health care system.

“In some cases, Parkinson’s is hereditary and with the strong incidence of the disease in both families, I am concerned that my two children may be at higher risk to be diagnosed with this disease.” Joan G.



As Canada's population grows and ages, more people are expected to be living with brain conditions and experiencing severe levels of disability. Additional work is required to provide information on brain conditions and access to appropriate services for affected individuals, families and caregivers. By 2031, depending on the condition, health care costs could be up to \$13.3 billion greater for individuals with a brain condition than costs for Canadians without a brain condition. Taking collective action now to support innovations in the prevention, care and treatment of brain conditions could improve the outcomes and quality of life for a substantial number of Canadians and families, and reduce the impact of brain conditions on our communities and health care systems.