BRITISH COLUMBIA SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY

Annual Report

2025 - 2026

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

Our Strategic Framework

Who We Are

BRITISH COLUMBIA SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY

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

The British Columbia Schizophrenia Society (BCSS) is a non-profit organization founded in 1982 by families and friends of people living with schizophrenia. BCSS supports families and advocates for people with schizophrenia and other severe and persistent mental illness province-wide.

BCSS has established a strong partnership with the provincial government to provide families throughout the province with programs, services, and support systems to help them understand and cope with their family member's serious mental illness challenges.

BCSS is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and supported by a medical advisory committee and the BC Schizophrenia Society Foundation (BCSSF). BCSS frontline staff (Regional Managers and Educators) are located throughout the province, supporting families in their local communities.

Our provincial office is in Vancouver, British Columbia, on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

We are honoured and privileged to live and work on this land we all share. We are committed to reconciliation, decolonization, learning from and with Indigenous peoples, and building relationships within our communities.

Learn more about our programs, services, governance structure, board of directors, staff, foundation, and more at **www.bcss.org**.

Our Vision

A province where those affected by schizophrenia and other serious mental illnesses receive effective treatment and support, and family members are essential partners within the mental health system.

Our Mission

To support families affected by schizophrenia and other serious mental illnesses in British Columbia through education, advocacy, and research.

Our Values

FAMILY-CENTERED

We provide education and caring support for family and friends of people living with schizophrenia. The family unit is our first responsibility and primary focus; the person with the illness is always included in the definition of family.

INNOVATION & IMPROVEMENT

We are committed to innovation and helping to meet the challenging needs of BC families affected by schizophrenia and other severe and persistent mental illness through ongoing learning, communication, and advocacy.

PARTNERSHIP & RESPECT

We do not work in isolation. We seek to build a broad range of dynamic partnerships through open and timely communications based on respect and appreciation for all those we serve and work with.

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

We measure our performance and follow a process of continuous improvement. We are wholly accountable for our actions to our supporters for our use of financial and human resources available to us.

A LETTER FROM THE
BCSS Board President

The past few years have been challenging for British Columbians. Mental illness has been at the forefront of many public conversations and tragedies, while government budgets continue to face increasing pressures. That is why the work of BCSS has never been more important.

BCSS's dedicated and supportive staff make a real difference every day. Their work supports families, caregivers, individuals, and communities across the province who are affected by severe and persistent mental illness.

One of our organization's biggest strengths is our ability to advocate and bring people together. This year we hosted a session on how to engage elected officials and highlight the importance of maintaining funding for BCSS. Thanks to the efforts of our members, supporters, and advocates, as well as the strong partnership BCSS has created with the provincial government, we saw that funding renewed in 2025.

With municipal elections happening across the province this year, we are asking you once again to take action and make your voice heard. Talk to your local candidates and council members to discuss mental illness and why strong local supports matter.

What we're asking municipal leaders to do:

- Recognize severe mental illness as a municipal concern that affects community wellbeing
- Include severe mental illness considerations in municipal plans, policies, and election platforms
- Support community partnerships that improve treatment, recovery, and supported housing
- Promote safe, inclusive, and healthy communities for everyone

BCSS is an organization that brings people together to create real change. It's an honour to serve on the board and to be part of something that matters so deeply to so many families across BC.

Please remember to get involved, donate, and continue your support—it's what makes this work possible.

Jack Middleton
BCSS Board President

A LETTER FROM THE
Chief Executive Officer

When I look back on this year, what stands out most is the courage of the people who shared their stories with us.

Every day, families across British Columbia face challenges that most people never see. Parents, siblings, spouses, children, and friends are navigating schizophrenia, psychosis, and other severe and persistent mental illnesses while trying to find answers, support, and hope. BCSS exists to make sure they don't have to do it alone.

This year, our regional educators continued delivering support groups, education programs, and one-on-one support across the province. Whether online or in person, they helped families connect with people who understood what they were going through and reminded them that support is always within reach.

In May, we marked Schizophrenia and Psychosis Awareness Day with *Beyond Impossible: Navigating Stigma Through Stories of Strength* at the Cultch Historic Theatre. The honesty and vulnerability of those who shared their stories was a powerful reminder that stigma is challenged not through statistics, but through human connection and awareness.

Throughout the year, we continued bringing these conversations into communities across BC, creating opportunities for greater understanding and awareness.

We also remained committed to advocating for families affected by severe and persistent mental illness, including the compassionate use of involuntary treatment, the need for additional psychiatric beds in Northern BC as well as other BC communities, and the importance of including families in the 'circle of care.'

Our commitment to reconciliation continued as staff participated in Indigenous Cultural Safety training and we strengthened relationships with Indigenous communities across the province. This work is ongoing, and we remain committed to learning and growing.

Meanwhile, our BCSS Youth team continued creating spaces where children and teens could find connection and support, while the *Look Again: Mental Illness Re-Examined* podcast brought conversations about schizophrenia, psychosis, recovery, and caregiving to audiences across British Columbia and beyond.

None of this work happens without the people who make it possible. To the entire BCSS staff team, BCSS and BCSSF board members, volunteers, donors, partners, and members: thank you! Your generosity, dedication, and belief in our mission allow us to continue showing up for families when they need us most.

Thank you for standing with us.

Faydra Aldridge
Chief Executive Officer

Measuring Our Impact in 2025–26

1,613
New families reached this fiscal year

521*
Family members received support each month

Programs and Services Offered

ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT
298*
Family members receive support each month

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS
1,545
Participants

274 Family Support Groups held

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES TOGETHER
134
Participants

11 Programs held

BCSS YOUTH PROGRAMS
139
Participants

19 Programs held

Outreach and Education

PARTNERSHIP EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS
1,751
Participants

57
Presentations held

EDUCATIONAL/COMMUNITY TABLING
142
Tabling events held

Digital Reach

61,404
Website visitors

13,222
Online followers across all channels

2,883
Email newsletter subscribers

*Average based on total reports for the fiscal year

A LETTER FROM THE
BCSS Foundation Chair

The British Columbia Schizophrenia Society Foundation (BCSSF) supports scientific research to advance the understanding of schizophrenia, its causes, effects, treatments, and eventual cure. It also supports public policy research related to the health care journey of affected individuals and families in the province of British Columbia.

The Foundation and the Society are interconnected through joint board representation and share the same goals to support families in BC affected by schizophrenia and other severe and persistent mental illnesses.

The BCSS Foundation focuses on scientific efforts to provide hope for a better future by coordinating the distribution of donor-directed research funds through partnerships. Our current research partners are Michael Smith Health Research BC and the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Medicine.

Financials

This past 2025-2026 fiscal year, BCSSF disbursed $73,125 in funding for three research projects, and laid the groundwork for an exciting new partnership with the University of British Columbia.

BCSSF's total income for this past fiscal period was $83,786. This consisted of individual donations, an annual gift from the Diana Hsu Endowment Fund, and investment income. Every effort is made to manage expenses carefully. As it does every year, the Foundation transferred $20,000 to BCSS, which helps to support shared operating costs.

The Foundation ended the fiscal year with a net deficit of $18,369 and a fund balance of $429,557.

Objectives

At our planning meeting in February, the Foundation set three goals for the next three years. Research allocation remains our constant focus, but here's what else we're building towards:

- ***Capacity***: Raise more research funding and recruit new volunteers to the Foundation board
- ***Awareness***: Improve messaging about BCSSF activities to the public
- ***Relationships***: Find new strategic partnership opportunities and introduce potential donors to our Development Office

Communications & Collaborations

The Foundation recognizes the need to communicate its research disbursements and related activities to donors and the public. Thank you to the BCSS Development and Communications teams for helping us and for sharing Foundation updates in BCSS newsletters, on social media, and on www.bcss.org/education/research.

Likewise, we greatly appreciate the relationship with the entire management team in the BCSS provincial office.

I wish to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the fellow volunteers who served on the Foundation board this year: *Joanne Leung, Sylvia LeRoy, Matthew Langlois,* and *Fidel Vila-Rodriguez*.

And thank you for reading and for your continued support!

Renato Zane
BCSS Foundation Chair

Research Update

MD/PhD program at the University of British Columbia

In response to feedback from leading researchers and advisors, including Dr. Bill Honer, holder of the Jack Bell Chair in Schizophrenia Research at UBC, the Foundation launched a new partnership with UBC's Faculty of Medicine this year to help attract more researchers to the field of schizophrenia.

UBC's highly competitive MD/PhD program trains future physician-scientists, accepting only a small number of students annually from across Canada. Through a three-year commitment, the BCSSF has established a dedicated scholar fund to support an exceptional trainee focused on schizophrenia and related disorders. Eligible applicants must qualify for the dual-degree program and demonstrate a commitment to schizophrenia research; then a university committee selects the recipient.

The agreement was signed in February, and the first student supported through this initiative will begin training in September. This investment was made possible through the generosity of BCSSF donors, whose support is helping shape the next generation of mental health researchers and advance our shared goal of improving the lives of individuals and families affected by schizophrenia.

Specific research projects

Through our partnership with Michael Smith Health Research BC, we recently awarded funding to Dr. Reza Rafizadeh, who works at the Red Fish Healing Centre for Mental Health and Addiction and the BC Psychosis Program. His five-year study examines the relationship between substance use and psychosis, with a focus on how antipsychotic medications are prescribed and how their effectiveness and side effects differ among patients with co-occurring substance use disorders.

Over the past year, BCSSF also supported the research of Dr. Ivan Torres, Clinical Professor at UBC, who is studying neurophysiological functioning in individuals with treatment-resistant schizophrenia. Dr. Torres shared insights from his work at our donor appreciation event in Vancouver.

Dr. Ben Azu at the University of Victoria continues his five-year research project exploring how dietary interventions affect the gut microbiome and its connection to brain health.

OUR COMMITMENT TO
Truth & Reconciliation

BCSS operates and provides support to families across the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of First Nations Peoples throughout what is now known as British Columbia.

We are honoured to live and work on these lands and are grateful for the opportunity to build relationships with Indigenous communities across the province.

We acknowledge the lasting impacts of colonization, residential schools, and intergenerational trauma on Indigenous individuals, families, and communities, and we are committed to providing mental health programs and services that are equitable, culturally safe, and responsive to community needs.

Over the past year:

- More than 90% of BCSS staff completed San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training, strengthening our understanding of Indigenous histories, perspectives, and approaches to wellness.
- We continued to build relationships with communities across BC, working together to adapt and deliver Strengthening Families Together-Indigenous (SFT-I) in ways that reflect each community's unique cultures, priorities, and needs.
- BCSS staff collaborated with Indigenous communities and organizations throughout the province, including First Nations Health Authority, local Friendship Centres, band offices, and Indigenous-led service providers.
- BCSS Youth strengthened partnerships with Indigenous communities through programs at Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island Band), Hulitan Family & Community Services Society and Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:lt Elementary / Middle School, integrating Indigenous teachings and culturally grounded approaches to wellness including cultural practices such as drumming, smudging, medicine wheel teachings, and talking circles.

Mental illness affects every community in British Columbia, yet Indigenous individuals and families continue to face disproportionate barriers when seeking support.

BCSS believes that addressing these inequities requires both advocacy and action. By investing in Indigenous-informed programming, supporting community-led approaches, and continuing to examine our own practices, we aim to help create a mental health system where Indigenous families can access support that reflects their experiences, values, and strengths.

Our Advocacy and Policy

BCSS's Costal Regional Manager, Hardeep Thind, spoke in support of the Province's proposed changes to the Mental Health Act, alongside Dr. Daniel Vigo, Health Minister Josie Osborne, Premier David Eby, and Attorney General Niki Sharma. Victoria, BC, November 24, 2025.

This year, BCSS continued to champion compassionate, evidence-based, and effective mental health care policies in British Columbia.

We played an active role in ongoing public and professional dialogues around serious mental illness to address complex issues affecting care for individuals and families.

This past year, BCSS has:

- Supported the appropriate and compassionate use of involuntary treatment under the BC Mental Health Act.
- Advocated for and supported a petition for the development of a psychiatric hospital in Northern BC, addressing critical gaps in care for more rural and remote communities.
- Supported the Attorney General's defence of the BC Mental Health Act treatment provisions in response to the Charter challenge, emphasizing the importance of preserving necessary care for people with serious mental illness.
- Reaffirmed our stance on violence and severe mental illness given the tragic loss of life at the Lapu-Lapu event in Vancouver.
- Partnered with the Family Alliance on Severe Mental Illness (FASMI) to host a Town Hall on Privacy and Information Sharing with Families, creating a space for open dialogue about the challenges families facewhen navigating confidentiality and care for loved ones living with serious mental illness.

Policy Committee Priorities

The Policy Committee's role is to identify and advance policy priorities that guide BCSS's efforts toward achieving our mission and vision. The Policy Committee focuses on specific, manageable policy and system issues where BCSS can make a meaningful impact over the next 12 to 18 months.

Over the past year, the BCSS Policy Committee has made important progress in three key areas:

1. Information Sharing

Information sharing is essential to supporting people living with severe and persistent mental illness. Families often play a key role in care by assisting with medication management, recognizing relapse signs, coordinating housing, arranging appointments, and more.

BCSS is working to increase appropriate family involvement throughout the care continuum while respecting BC privacy legislation and patient confidentiality.

2. Discharge Planning

Discharge planning is an integral part of psychiatric care. It helps ensure that individuals being discharged, along with their family or support person, understand follow-up care, medication requirements, and available community supports. Effective discharge planning should be developed collaboratively with the individual, their family/support person, and healthcare professionals.

BCSS is working to ensure caring family members are informed and appropriately involved in the discharge planning process as their loved one transitions from psychiatric care back into the community.

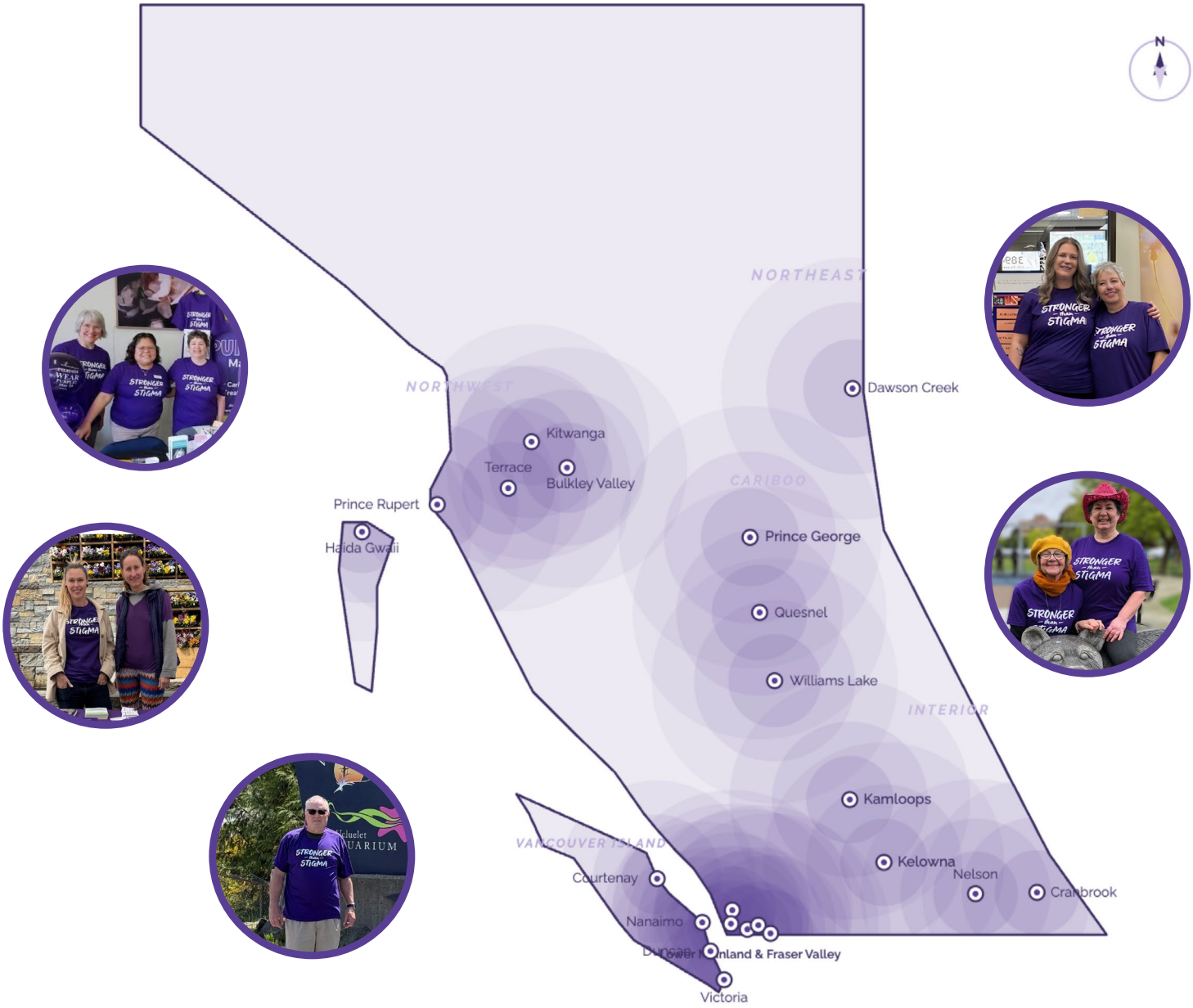
3. BC Mental Health Act and the Judicious Use of Involuntary Treatment

The effectiveness of the BC Mental Health Act depends on access to timely, high-quality mental health services. Any reforms to the Act must be accompanied by investments in community care, infrastructure, and workforce capacity. People in BC should be able to access the right level of support, at the right time, and in their own community.

BCSS supports the appropriate and compassionate use of involuntary admission treatment and that families be consulted in decisions about involuntary care.

BCSS Across the Province

BCSS has dedicated teams throughout British Columbia.
Our frontline staff (Regional Managers and Educators) are informed on what resources and services are available in their local communities.



Events and Engagement

This past year, BCSS connected with families, supporters, professionals, and communities across the province through events and initiatives. From conferences and community presentations to awareness campaigns and public discussions, these opportunities helped us share knowledge, challenge stigma, and build connections. Here are some of the many events we participated in throughout the year.

Schizophrenia and Psychosis Awareness Day

Every year on May 24, BCSS recognizes Schizophrenia and Psychosis Awareness Day, a time to raise awareness, challenge stigma, and honour the experiences of individuals and families affected by schizophrenia and serious mental illness.

This year, communities across BC came together under the theme *"Stronger Than Stigma,"* with events, campaigns, awareness displays, and storytelling initiatives taking place across the province throughout May.

Beyond Impossible: Navigating Stigma Through Stories of Strength

Our signature event, *Beyond Impossible*, was held on May 24, 2025, at The Cultch Historic Theatre in Vancouver to mark Schizophrenia and Psychosis Awareness Day.

Held in-person and streamed online via Zoom, the event brought together over 150 attendees

for an afternoon dedicated to storytelling, music, and honest conversations about living with, and caring for someone with, severe and persistent mental illness.

The program featured a moving monologue by actress and playwright Jill Daum, written from the perspective of a mother searching for care for her son as he is overtaken by the symptoms of psychosis, alongside a special recorded performance of "*Impossible*" by musician Jim Cuddy.

Former Health Minister Josie Osborne at the Beyond Impossible event held May 24, 2025.

We were honoured to welcome Josie Osborne, former Minister of Health, whose presence spoke to how important it is to keep advocating for improved mental health care across BC.

The event was made possible through the generous support of the Otsuka-Lundbeck Alliance.

Stronger than Stigma Campaign

Alongside the events marking Schizophrenia and Psychosis Awareness Day, the *Stronger Than Stigma* campaign was launched to challenge misconceptions about schizophrenia and serious mental illness.

Through limited-edition campaign shirts worn at community events, public awareness activities, social media storytelling, and the re-promotion of select *Look Again* podcast episodes, the campaign encouraged meaningful conversations and celebrated resilience, helping extend the day's message of hope.

Purple Lights Campaign

Many monuments and landmarks across the province, including those below, lit up purple to show support and awareness for schizophrenia, psychosis, and serious mental illness on May 24, 2025:

- BC Place
- New West City Hall
- BC Legislature
- Vancouver City Hall and Burrard St Bridge
- Surrey Civic Plaza
- Lafarge Lake Subway Station Pillars
- Science World
- Victoria St Bridge – Trail
- Fitzsimmons Creek Bridge
- Bastion - Nanaimo
- and more

Community Engagement

Together from Stigma to Support – 360CommunityBC (Richmond)

On May 9, 2025, BCSS participated in *Together: From Stigma to Support* in Richmond, BC, joining organizations, advocates, and community members to promote awareness, share resources, and foster conversations around mental health, substance use, and homelessness.

The event provided an opportunity to connect with the public and highlight the support available to individuals and families in the area.

2025 BC Association of Clinical Counsellors Conference (Vancouver)

On May 22–24, 2025, BCSS participated in the *BC Association of Clinical Counsellors' 2025 Conference,* connecting with mental health professionals from across the province under the theme of *Cultivating Connections*.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships, increase awareness of BCSS programs and services, and explore new referral pathways to better support families affected by mental illness.

Mental Health and Islam Community Forum (Victoria)

On September 20, 2025, BCSS and BCSS Youth partnered with Masjid Al-Iman in Victoria to host a community forum on mental health and Islam.

Attended by more than 35 community members, the event featured BCSS staff, faith leaders, and speakers with lived experience who discussed schizophrenia, stigma, early intervention, resilience, and pathways to support. The forum fostered open dialogue and increased awareness of mental health resources within the Muslim community.

BCSS Board of Directors

David Halikowski

Dr. John Gray

Joanne Leung

Jack Middleton

Paul Bhushan

Colleen Crossley

Brenda Sawatzky-Girling

Jasdeep Dhaliwal

Gerrit van der Leer

Jane Gladman

Rebecca Joncas

Peter Andreasen

Kevin Black

Cynthia Petrie

BCSSF Board of Directors

Renato Zane

Matthew Langlois

Sylvia LeRoy

Joanne Leung

Dr. Fidel Vila-Rodriguez

Annual General Meeting & Education Session (Vancouver)

On September 27, 2025, BCSS welcomed members, supporters, and community partners to its Annual General Meeting and Education Session, reflecting on the organization's achievements and progress over the past year.

The event featured a keynote presentation by psychiatrist and mental health systems expert Dr. Daniel Vigo, who shared insights on improving care and strengthening mental health services for people living with severe and persistent mental illnesses across British Columbia.

BCSS Champion Award: Donna Motzer

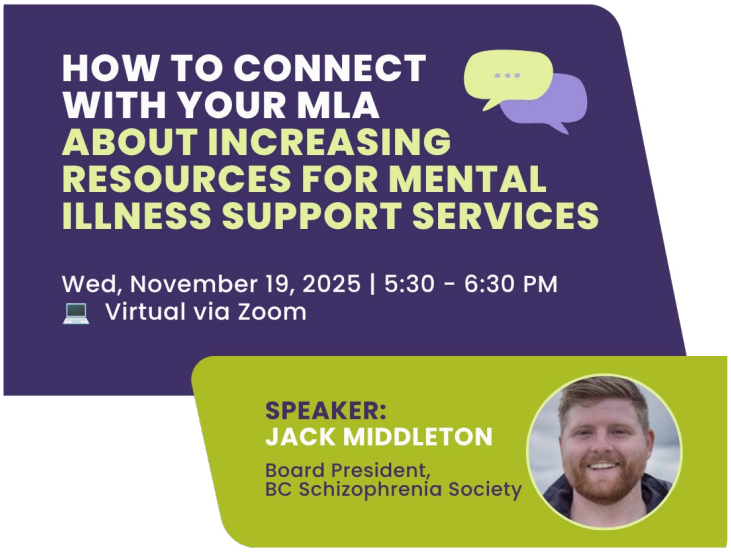
BCSS also recognized Donna Motzer with the BCSS Champion Award. Donna is a tireless advocate whose leadership and compassion have left a lasting impact on families and communities across BC.

Understanding Schizophrenia & Mental Health (Victoria)

On October 23, 2025, BCSS hosted a *Schizophrenia Awareness & Learning Workshop* in Victoria, led by mental health advocate Abdul Kareem Shabazz.

Through lived experience storytelling, education, and discussion, the workshop helped increase understanding of schizophrenia, reduce workplace stigma, and highlight the importance of creating inclusive and supportive environments for individuals living with mental illness.

How to Connect with Your MLA Webinar



On November 19, 2025, BCSS hosted a virtual advocacy webinar led by Board President Jack Middleton, empowering participants with practical tools and strategies to engage their MLAs and advocate for increased attention, funding, and support for mental health services across British Columbia.

Frames of Mind Film Showing (Vancouver)

On March 18, 2026, BCSS was honoured to participate in the *Frames of Mind* mental health film series at The Cinematheque for a screening of "*In My Parents' House*."

The event highlighted the challenges and resilience of families affected by serious mental illness and sparked a thoughtful community conversation about caregiving and understanding.

BCSS Youth

bcssYOUTH

BCSS Youth provides free programs and services for youth ages 8-18 in British Columbia who have a family member, friend, or loved one with a mental illness or a substance use issue.

One of our goals at BCSS Youth is to give children the tools to help themselves and others in the early recognition and intervention of mental illness and/or addiction.

With essential funding from the Ministry of Health, BCSS Youth continued to offer its three core programs for youth affected by a loved one's mental illness: Kids in Control (KIC), Tweens in Control (TwIC), and Teens in Control (TIC).

With funding from the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), we hosted KIC at Seabird Island, while our partners at CYMH Agassiz facilitated a mirrored Parents in Control (PIC) program. Families were able to work on specific skills in class and then practice them together at home during the week. The impact of KIC, TwIC, and TIC programming is evident when our participants report a better understanding of the nuance between mental health and mental illness and how they can use specific strategies to increase their own mental health.

These programs build resilience and increase understanding of mental illness and addiction by providing support and education to youth who have a loved one experiencing mental illness and/or substance use challenges.

Partnerships and Collaborations

- Foundry
- Hulitan Family & Community Services Society
- CMHA
- Healthy Minds | Healthy Campuses
- University of Victoria/ Canadian Institute of Substance Use Research
- South Okanagan Similkameen Mental Wellness Society
- Langley Community Services Society
- MCFD/CYMH
- Chilliwack Youth Health Centre
- School Districts (Cowichan Valley, Greater Victoria, Fraser Cascade, and Vernon)
- Island Health
- Castlegar Youth Action Network
- Youth Service Provider's Network
- Inner Balance Solutions – counselling centre
- Intersect Youth & Family Services Society
- Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island Band)
- YMCA-YWCA of Vancouver Island
- FamilySmart

Our team facilitated and/or partnered with community organizations to deliver eight KIC, four TwIC, and seven TIC sessions, in addition to monthly online drop-ins for all three programs. We recorded 133 participants in regular programming and 15 participants in monthly drop-ins.

BCSS Youth continued to expand its programming across BC through partnerships with youth-serving organizations. In 2025, we co-facilitated three KIC programs and delivered a TIC program with the Castlegar Youth Action Network, supporting 20 youth. TIC programming also expanded to reach older youth through new community partnerships across the province.

BCSS Youth attended student mental wellness fairs at Victoria High School, Agassiz Secondary School, Hope Secondary School, and the first Surrey School District Community Connections Fair.

BCSS Youth also continued collaborating with the BC Partners for Mental Health and Substance Use by contributing to FamilySmart's "*In the Know*" video series and incorporating materials from the Canadian Institute of Substance Use Research at University of Victoria in our cannabis harm reduction content.

"I really enjoyed being able to talk with others who had emotional intelligence, so that everyone could come out of it knowing a little more about themselves and their emotions. It was nice to be part of a team where I was both a contributor and a listener."

KIC Program Participant

Primary areas of focus for BCSS Youth in the 2026-2027 fiscal year will include:

- Expanding our outreach to northern and rural areas
- Cannabis harm reduction education
- More reconciliation efforts walking alongside Indigenous-serving organizations

Your Generosity

Every year, our supporters show profound acts of generosity during our giving campaigns and 2025/2026 was no different. Your enduring support enables us to continue our essential work on the front lines. Thanks to you, families do not have to face their journeys alone.

Holiday Appeal

BCSS's 2025 Holiday Appeal was a tremendous success, raising over $125,000 to support families and individuals affected by schizophrenia and other serious mental illnesses. Thanks to the generosity of donors across British Columbia, this surpassed our goal and became one of our most successful fundraisers to date.

The appeal featured the story of BCSS board member Rebecca Joncas and her son, Nolan, illustrating how unexpectedly mental illness can impact a family.

Their journey underscored the vital need for early intervention support, while emphasizing the role BCSS plays in helping families and connecting them to support and resources.

BCSS Giving Day

BCSS launched its inaugural Giving Day on June 6, 2025, raising over $5,000 to support families affected by schizophrenia and other severe and persistent mental illnesses. Giving Day marked an exciting addition to BCSS's annual fundraising efforts.

Donor Appreciation Event

BCSS celebrated its annual Donor Appreciation Event on November 28, 2025, by gathering with donors whose unwavering support has been our backbone throughout the years.

Guests who attended in person enjoyed a continental breakfast before diving into an inspiring program led by Faydra Aldridge, BCSS CEO, who opened with words of gratitude.

Key moments included:

- Renato Zane, Chair of the BCSS Foundation, highlighted and provided updates on recent donor-driven research initiatives.
- Marc Saunders, Manager, Partnerships, Health Research BC, shared updates on partnerships advancing mental illness research.

- Hardeep Thind, BCSS Coastal Regional Manager, offered a glimpse into "*A Day in the Life of a BCSS Educator.*"
- Dr. Ivan Torres, BCSS Foundation and Health Research BC co-funded researcher, gave cutting-edge insights into schizophrenia research, treatment, and understanding.

Community Support

The dedication of our community through third-party fundraising is truly remarkable. It's inspiring to witness individuals unite with creativity and passion, advancing our shared mission to improve the lives of those affected by severe and persistent mental illness.

Kootenay Savings Golf Tournament

Back in July, Laura Katchen, manager of the Nakusp and New Denver Kootenay Savings Credit Union, presented BCSS educator Reasha Wolfe with a cheque from their 2nd annual golf fundraiser. Kootenay Savings, we really appreciate your support!

Changing Our Soch: Fundraiser for BCSS

Changing Our Soch: Tara's Story by Justin Bhandal is a children's book that explores schizophrenia with empathy and openness when a loved one is experiencing mental illness. Part of the proceeds from Justin's book were donated to BCSS to support families. Thank you, Justin!

Donor Thanks

Our sincere thanks go to the many funders, donors, partners, volunteers, and supporters who continue to stand alongside families affected by schizophrenia and other serious mental illnesses across British Columbia.

Your generosity and commitment enable BCSS to provide education, advocacy, research, and compassionate support to thousands of families throughout the province. Together, we are helping ensure that families have access to the knowledge, resources, and support they need—offering hope, strengthening resilience, and reminding them they are never alone.

BC Partner Member Agencies

FamilySmart
Together-Centred™

Canadian Mental Health Association
British Columbia
Mental health for all

Embody
Kindness for every body

University of Victoria | Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research

MDA
MOOD DISORDERS ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

A Branch of Lookout
Housing + Health Society

Special Thanks: *Chris Sandy*

This past year marks an extraordinary milestone—10 years of unwavering generosity and support from Chris Sandy.

For a decade, Chris has been matching donations to our annual holiday fundraising campaign, encouraging others to give and amplify the impact of every contribution. Chris has shared his story about his brother Dave, who lived with schizophrenia, to raise awareness, challenge stigma, and inspire compassion throughout British Columbia.

A decade of giving is about far more than financial support—it's a decade of believing in BCSS and helping create a future for our families.

On behalf of our Board, staff, volunteers, and thousands of families whose lives have been touched by your kindness, thank you.

Financial Snapshot

Funders & Sponsors

AL ROADBURG FOUNDATION

Approximtely 81% of all 2025/26 expenditures went directly towards programs and services.

Revenue	2026	2025
Program Funding	$2,633,549	$2,695,521
Donations	221,798	241,443
Sponsorships	56,576	60,788
Investment Income (Loss)	199,227	181,557
BCSS Foundation	20,000	45,000
Other	1,050	650
Total	**$3,132,200**	**$3,224,959**

Loss	2026	2025
Wages, Contractors, and Benefits	$2,411,446	$2,325,711
Travel, Conferences, and Meetings	110,772	124,943
Office and Other	85,888	120,277
Program Services	190,001	171,358
Rent and Utilities	50,910	54,028
Telecommunications	69,615	55,784
Fundraising and Promotion	30,416	34,652
Professional Fees	44,924	93,589
Scholarships	24,000	22,200
Amortization of Capital Assets	10,702	11,627
Total	**$3,028,674**	**$3,014,169**
Excess of Revenue	**$103,526**	**$210,790**

BRITISH COLUMBIA
SCHIZOPHRENIA SOCIETY

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