



Jorge Villalobos,  
Person with Parkinson's

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Counsellor

Corrina Masson

Social Worker

\*All staff who were employed  
at PSBC during 2025

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## Our Mission

Empower people with Parkinson's in British Columbia by providing resources and services to enable self-management, self-reliance, and self-advocacy.

## What is Parkinson's Disease?

Parkinson's disease is caused by a loss of dopamine in the brain and is the second most common chronic neurodegenerative disorder after Alzheimer's disease. Both motor and non-motor symptoms may be experienced, such as tremor, rigidity, slowness of movement, difficulty with speech, sleep disturbance, and mood disorders. There is currently no known cure.

It is estimated that there are approximately 17,500 individuals living with Parkinson's in British Columbia. While most people with Parkinson's are over 60, 20% are diagnosed before the age of 50 and many are in their 30s and 40s.

# Executive Message

## Dear Friends of Parkinson Society BC,

We are pleased to be presenting another Annual Report to our community! Although we wish we were greeting you in less unsettling and uncertain times globally. Perhaps this provides an opportune time to reflect on the importance of mission-driven non-profit organizations – just like Parkinson Society British Columbia (PSBC) – which offer continuity, hope, a sense of belonging, and practical support to their communities. We are proud to highlight some of the ways that we did this last year:

### ADVANCING RESEARCH

PSBC partnered with the Alzheimer Society B.C. and Yukon, Michael Smith Health Research BC, Brain Canada, Branch Out Neurological Foundation, CLEAR Foundation and the Patrick & Dulcie Lenox Endowment to launch a new research funding program focused entirely on Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, and their shared features. We did this because we know that research into Parkinson's disease is more important than ever before, given that it is predicted to grow by more than 30% over the next decade. The program will help to build specialized research networks across BC that can deliver innovative and cutting-edge research.

### SUPPORTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

We have continued to provide financial support to four Movement Disorders Clinics across the province to enable greater access to allied health professionals including speech and language pathologists, physiotherapists, and occupational therapists. This investment helps solidify critical multi-disciplinary care for those living with Parkinson's. We are delighted that Interior and Island Health have continued to find positions beyond the life of their financial partnership with PSBC.

### DELIVERING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

So many of you have used our free exercise programs, virtual physiotherapy, information and referral service, counselling, and healthcare navigation services. You have read our publications, attended our educational webinars, and joined our activity groups. Our provincial network of more than 50 support groups, facilitated by the most compassionate and steadfast volunteers, means that those living with Parkinson's in B.C. can connect with those who share their experience in their own community.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND LOOKING AHEAD

We are grateful for the ongoing dedication and support of our volunteers, Board Directors, donors, staff, and the wider community. Quite simply, we would not exist and could not do what we do without you – and that has been the case since the Society's inception in 1969! There remains so much to do – particularly in the area of advocating for better access to movement disorders specialists in rural and remote areas of the province, and timely access to Deep Brain Stimulation surgery. Thank you for helping us continue to support and uplift the Parkinson's community in British Columbia. Our goal is that every person touched by this complex disease has the information and services they need to live life to the fullest.

With gratitude,

**Joanne Baker**  
CEO



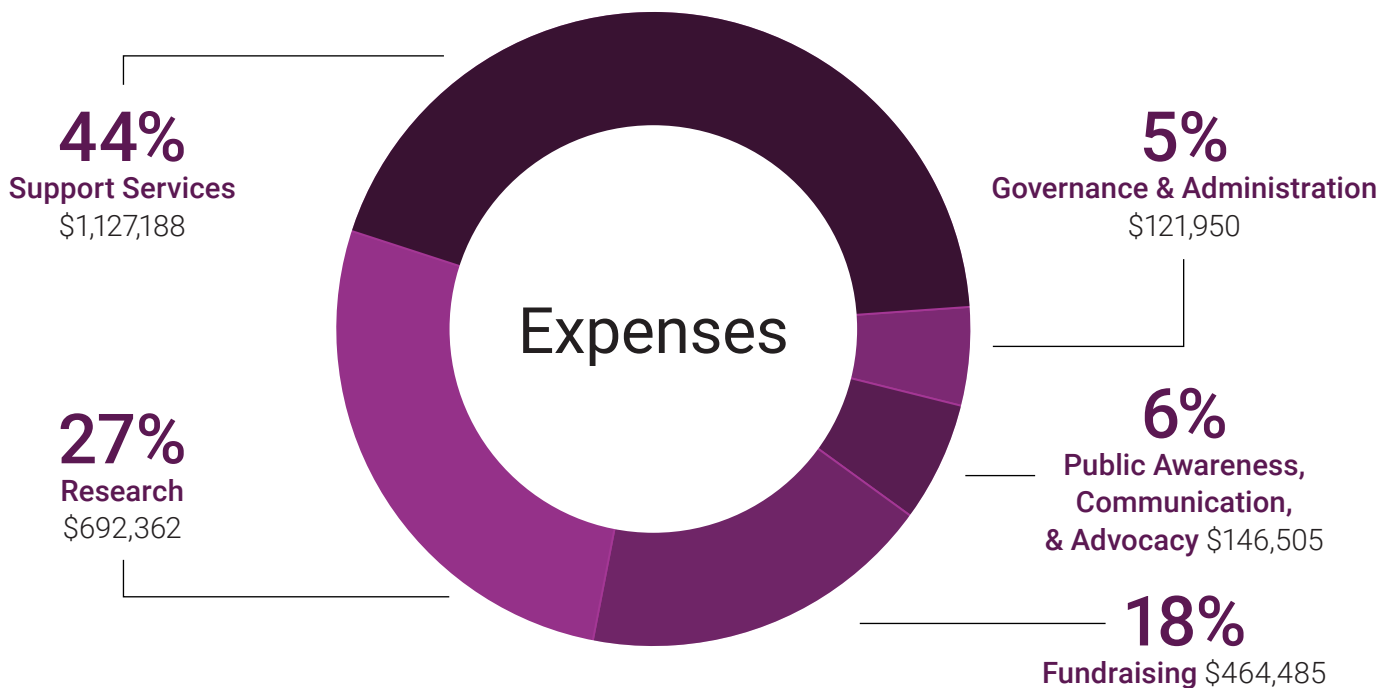
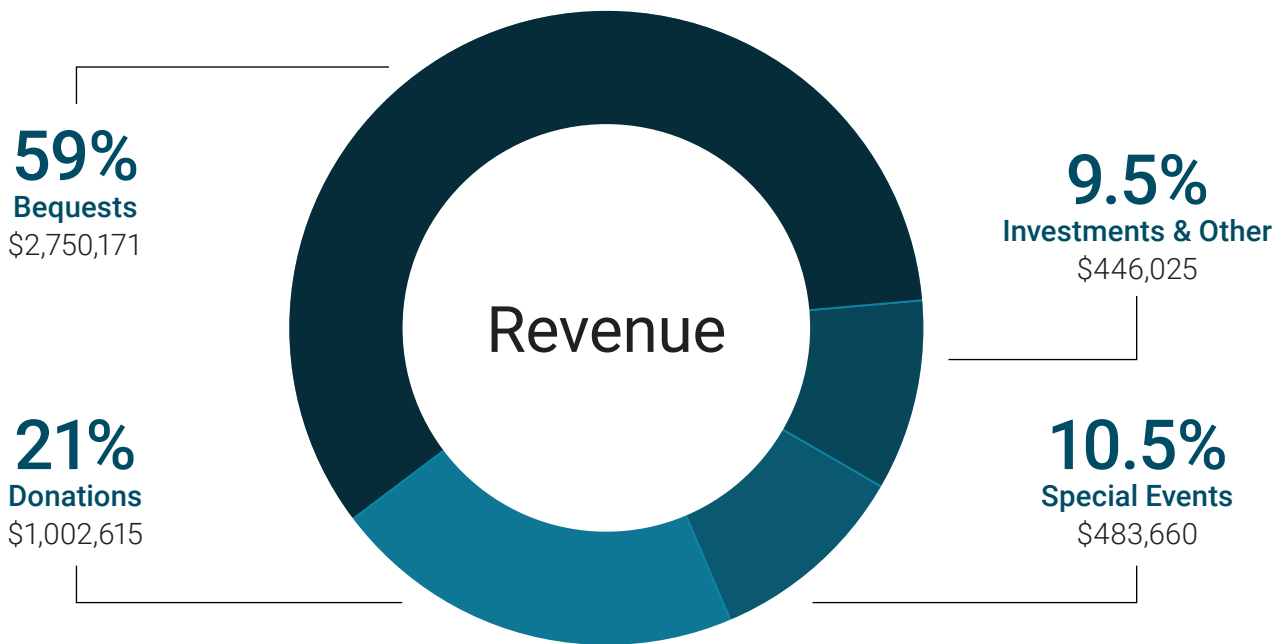
**Andrew Davenport**  
Board Chair



# Message from our Finance Committee

The Society enters 2026 with reserves equal to nearly 3 years of its historical expenses, which provides the Board with further opportunity to increase the Society’s impact and reach throughout BC.

To view a copy of our audited 2025 Financial Statements, please visit [www.parkinson.bc.ca](http://www.parkinson.bc.ca).



# Special Thanks to Our Supporters

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## DONATION LEVEL \$1,000–\$4,999

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#### **LEGACY GIFTS**

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***Note:** We strive to ensure that each name is captured, appropriately listed, and correctly spelled. Please let us know if we have made an error so we can update our records and recognize you in the future.*

## Parkinson's Ready Program

The "Parkinson's Ready" program aims to reduce stigma and enhance support for individuals living with Parkinson's disease (PD) by training key leaders in the safety, transportation, and service industries.

By improving awareness and understanding of PD, these leaders will be able to provide positive and supportive experiences for residents as well as visitors and families impacted by PD. In 2024 & 2025, PSBC helped deliver 11 trainings to more than 400 individuals. After attending the program, 82% of participants reported having adequate knowledge of PD and 75% reported confidence when interacting with PwP at their workplace and in their personal lives.

# 500+

volunteer hours contributed to help make Parkinson SuperWalk in BC possible

# 1,500+

volunteer hours contributed within Programs & Services highlighting the essential role community members play in expanding our reach across the province



## Save the Date!

Parkinson SuperWalk will return to British Columbia on Saturday, September 12, 2026.

Registration opens June 1st, visit:  
[www.parkinson.bc.ca/superwalk](http://www.parkinson.bc.ca/superwalk)



# Investing in Research

Parkinson Society British Columbia (PSBC) proudly invests in research that advances understanding, improves care, and moves us closer to a cure for Parkinson's disease. Through direct funding and strategic partnerships — including with the Parkinson Canada Research Program and Michael Smith Health Research BC — we support clinical studies, pilot projects, fellowships, and innovative research that address the needs of people living with Parkinson's in BC and beyond.

## FUNDED THROUGH THE PARKINSON CANADA RESEARCH PROGRAM

### Connor Bevington

University of British Columbia

Effects of exercise on brain energetics in Parkinson's disease.

### Daryl Wile

Exercise snacks for people with Parkinson's disease: A pilot randomized controlled trial.

### Miguel Angel Perez Castro

University of Toronto

Creating a model with targeted genetic manipulation of dopaminergic neurons to uncover potential treatment targets through in vivo CRISPR screenings.

### Parichehr Moghaddam

University of British Columbia

Lifestyle interventions in Parkinson's disease as an extension of standard clinical care.

### Pooja Gandhi

University of Alberta

Exploring the efficacy of the effortful swallow maneuver for improving swallowing in people with Parkinson's disease.

### Stefan Lang

University of British Columbia

Network signatures of non-motor symptom outcomes following Deep Brain Stimulation in Parkinson's disease.

## FUNDED THROUGH MICHAEL SMITH HEALTH RESEARCH BC

### Ifeoluwa Awogbindin

University of Victoria

The impact of SARS-CoV-2 infection/COVID-19 and microglial contribution on the development and severity of Parkinson's disease.

### Jason Chan

Fraser Health Authority

Dynamic functional brain imaging of the motor and cognitive effects of dopaminergic medications in patients with Parkinson's disease.

### Lisa Julian

Simon Fraser University

Organelle signaling in stem cell identity specification.

### Nicholas See

Simon Fraser University

A chemical biology approach to uncovering modulators of a Parkinson's disease-linked protein.

### Nika Shakiba

University of British Columbia

Unlocking the competitive potential of pluripotent stem cells: Towards novel stem cell therapeutics.

## LOOKING AHEAD

We remain committed to supporting both clinical and translational research that improves the lives of people affected by Parkinson's disease. As new projects are funded, PSBC will continue to share updates, outcomes, and discoveries that reflect the impact of your support — bringing hope and progress to the Parkinson's community.

# Our Year in Review



## \$150k

raised by community members hosting third-party events to support PSBC



## 18

outreach presentations made for people with Parkinson's and healthcare professionals



## 2

lectures held for Douglas College Health Care Assistants



## \$328k

raised as a part of Parkinson SuperWalk



## 63

3 Communication & Swallow Workshops delivered across BC, with 63 attendees

1,073

15 educational webinars with 1073 registrations



91

new counselling & healthcare navigation clients



78

referrals from healthcare professionals to PSBC through PD Connect



16%

increase in Instagram followers

11%

increase in YouTube subscribers



15

healthcare professionals trained in Parkinson's exercises through PD Warrior

41

support groups across BC, providing ongoing connection and support



53

new physiotherapy clients



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**Toll Free:** 1-800-668-3330

**Fax:** 604-608-3311

[www.parkinson.bc.ca](http://www.parkinson.bc.ca)

**Charitable Registration Number**

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