



2024-25



kids brain | santé du cerveau  
health+ | des enfants +

# KIDS BRAIN HEALTH IMPACT REPORT



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## ADVANCING A HEALTHIER, MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE

In the 2024–2025 fiscal year, with seven months of Strategic Science Fund (SSF) support, Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN) implemented high-impact initiatives for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities (NDDs) in Canada.

KBHN strategically deployed \$2 million in SSF Funding for the Implementation and Innovation projects to mobilize a total of \$6.71 million investment, leveraging support from 68 partners representing academia, healthcare, government, community organizations, and the private sector.

KBHN's inaugural national call for proposals attracted 28 submissions under innovation and implementation funding streams. Following a rigorous, merit-based evaluation process—which included reviewers with lived experience—11 projects were selected for funding. These initiatives were launched by the end of March 2025 and span nine provinces and territories: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Yukon.

KBHN's rapid deployment of funds and support enabled remarkable early impacts. Within a month of the agreements being signed, Ultimate Recipients (URs) demonstrated significant activity and productivity:

## SNAPSHOT 2024-25





The year also marked significant progress in embedding end-user voices in KBHN's operations. The National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC), funded and supported by KBHN, contributed directly to shaping the Network's engagement strategy, knowledge translation activities, and digital communications. NYAC members, who represent a range of neurodevelopmental experiences and come from across Canada, brought valuable insights into the accessibility and relevance of KBHN initiatives. Further reinforcing this commitment, KBHN continued its partnership with CanChild to deliver the Family Engagement in Research (FER) program. FER provides co-training for family members and researchers, equipping both with skills for reciprocal, collaborative work. A dedicated family partnership broker ensured equitable onboarding and participation for family representatives within KBHN-funded initiatives.

Together, these early results reflect a high-performing, impact-oriented approach to advancing pediatric NDD research and implementation. KBHN not only met but exceeded the commitments outlined in its first-year corporate plan, rapidly accelerating the implementation of research innovations identified as federal and multi-ministerial priorities. This progress was achieved through an unwavering focus on end-user engagement, ensuring that individuals with lived and living experience remained central to every stage of design, decision-making, and delivery. By building infrastructure, fostering inclusion, and enabling immediate uptake, KBHN has exceeded expectations outlined in its Year 1 corporate plan and has laid a strong foundation for expanded delivery in the years ahead.

Kids Brain Health Foundation (KBHF) continues to drive impact through innovative programs that directly support children with NDDs and their families. In 2025, donor support made it possible to expand initiatives such as Sound Sensitivity, which equips families with strategies to navigate overwhelming environments, and Social ABCs, an evidence-based program empowering parents and educators to help toddlers communicate and connect. Other

projects included Dino Island, a game-based tool strengthening executive function skills, and ACT for Black & Indigenous Caregivers, which addresses the unique stressors caregivers face through culturally adapted resilience training. Each initiative not only reduces barriers but also restores hope, confidence, and connection for families.

Alongside program growth, KBHF achieved several organizational milestones to strengthen its foundation and broaden its reach. A refreshed identity and the launch of the Brighter Futures Fund created new opportunities for donors to maximize their impact, while expanded social media platforms amplified awareness and engagement, reaching thousands of new families and supporters. Donor engagement was revitalized with improved communications and giving pathways, and a new Chief Fund Development Officer joined the team to lead partnership growth.

Looking ahead, KBHF is focused on building momentum and scaling its national influence. Priorities for 2025/26 include expanding awareness and reputation, exploring new models of philanthropy such as venture philanthropy, and leading the return of the KBH+ National Conference in 2026, a landmark event uniting researchers, families, practitioners, and policymakers. With charitable programming investment rising from \$43,048 in 2023 to \$243,448 in 2025, the Foundation is poised to further its mission: transforming brain health research into practical solutions that change children's lives and strengthen communities across Canada.

The Kids Brain Health Innovation Fund (KBH-IF), the newest growth strategy of the Kids Brain Health Network, accelerates the transformation of research into practical solutions for children with NDDs. Its mission is to improve access to services that help families thrive, guided by four principles: impact first, evidence-based approaches, sustainability and scalability, and lived experience. With 1 in 10 Canadian children living with an NDD and families facing long waits for care, KBH-IF ensures promising discoveries in diagnosis, interventions, and technology become accessible, effective supports. Backed by over \$50M in government investment and matched funding, the Fund leverages proven expertise in de-risking opportunities to scale Canadian and global solutions across communities.

Officially launched at the Inventures Conference in May 2025, KBH-IF quickly established itself as a catalyst for collaboration and innovation. The Brain Health Challenge that KBH-IF co-sponsored showcased bold, market-ready solutions, while a new Board of Directors brought expertise in finance, health, and commercialization to guide its growth. Looking ahead, KBH-IF is poised to scale its reach from hundreds to hundreds of thousands of children, driving measurable improvements in child development, reducing strain on families, and generating lasting social and economic value across Canada.







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Kids Brain Health Network is supported by the Government of Canada's Strategic Science Fund (SSF). The following sections highlight the objectives advanced and progress towards achieving expected results.

Canada 

# OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## Objective 1 : Catalyze implementation ready innovations and advance a pipeline of research innovations

### Develop three project funding streams

KBHN is actively catalyzing the implementation of ready-to-scale innovations while simultaneously advancing a national pipeline of promising research through the successful funding of 13 projects across its Implementation, Innovation, and Strategic Opportunities streams. This milestone surpasses initial targets, made possible by a strategic co-funding partnership with Brain Canada that significantly extended the reach of federal SSF dollars.

The Network's inaugural call attracted a record 28 project proposals, demonstrating strong demand and alignment with KBHN's mission. Funded projects were selected through a rigorous, merit-based review process that incorporated the expertise of scientific and community stakeholders, including individuals with lived and living experience of neurodevelopmental disabilities.

We built an expert Programs Advisory Committee made up of 50% persons with lived and living experience (PWLE) to inform the adjudication, selection, and evaluation of our SSF funded programs. KBHN also required all funded projects to have a PWLE on the team and engaged throughout the lifecycle of the project.

## PROGRAMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



**John C. Sheehan**



**Logan Wong**



**Genevieve Currie**



**Kristina McGuire**



**Stephanie Montesanti**



**Kathryn Graham**



**James Reynolds**



**Shauna Kingsnorth**



**Brent Wennekes**



**Angie Goldsmith**



**Sharon McCarry**



**Grant Bruno**

Further, KBHN works to action the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to action and includes Indigenous partners throughout our activities wherever possible. KBHN has contracted a leading Canadian researcher on Indigenous youth and NDD, Dr. Grant Bruno, as our Scientific Advisor, Indigenous Initiatives. As part of our Programs Advisory Committee deliberations during our adjudication process, an important gap and opportunity to better serve Indigenous children and youth with NDD was identified. Working with Dr. Bruno, in our second fiscal year we will have a dedicated Indigenous funding stream, adjudicated and designed by an Indigenous Advisory Circle.

## INDIGENOUS CIRCLE MEMBERS



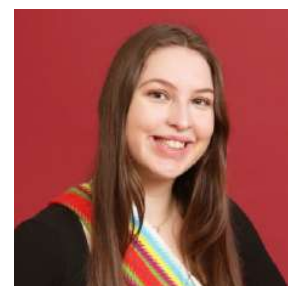
**Grant Bruno**



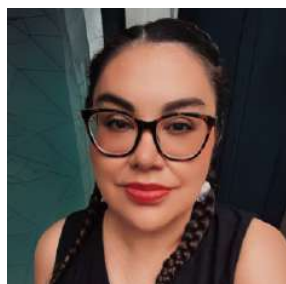
**Will Landon**



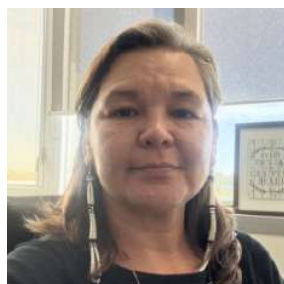
**Elder Leona Makokis**



**Katie Timms**



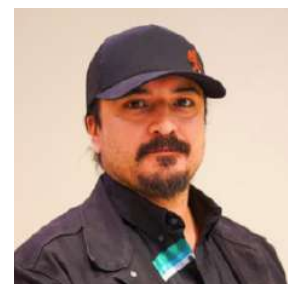
**Sara Spence**



**Jolene R. Morin**



**Laranna Scott**



**Louis Busch**



**Sabrina Eliason**



**Tanya Northcott**



**Daniele Wolf**



**Melanie Sheldon**

## Objective 2: Accelerate equitable and sustainable uptake of solutions by innovating and adopting processes that support the scale and spread of research innovations

### Coaching, technical assistance, mentorship and workshops in implementation and business

KBHN has offered wrap-around services to promote implementation and business knowledge for our teams. We are especially proud of our innovative Implementation Community of Practice which is becoming a highly sought-after resource in the child-health implementation space.



Launched in September 2024, and facilitated by KBHN member, Dr. Vanessa Tomas, [KBHN's Implementation Community](#) aims to advance implementation science efforts in NDD. The Implementation Community emerged initially as a safe, collaborative environment for KBHN project teams to learn together, work through implementation-related challenges collaboratively, and discuss their implementation activities. It has since evolved to comprise two initiatives: webinar sessions and community group sessions. Now, KBHN's Implementation Community is building implementation capacity and creating connections nationally as well as exploring and clarifying the practices, processes, and impacts of using implementation science in the NDD field.

Webinar sessions are offered bimonthly online and are open to everyone in the KBHN network. Sessions have had >150 registrants total and >45 attendees (at each session) from across Canada, with an average satisfaction rating of 3.8/4.



*Fantastic session with passionate, knowledgeable and engaging presenters. Motivated to dive more into this work and can't wait for future sessions"*

**ATTENDEE**

Our Implementation Community Group includes KBHN-affiliated individuals who are taking or have completed [The Center for Implementation Courses](#) (Level 1 or 2 Implementation Support Specialist Certification) or individuals with implementation experience. They meet bimonthly to ask questions, share resources, reflect, and problem-solve related to varying implementation topics (e.g., assessing barriers and facilitators, implementation support programs, scaling innovations) in relation to members' activities and KBHN projects.



*It's been rewarding to engage with others who are passionate about moving evidence into action and implementation science, especially in ways that are meaningful to children and families. I've enjoyed the open, thoughtful conversations and the chance to reflect on both the science and the real-world impact of our work. This community has helped bridge my academic background with my current role in public health and service delivery.”*

**NETWORK MEMBER**

## Objective 3: Strengthen capacity in Canada's Research System through education, training and outreach programs

### 1. Entrepreneurship and commercialization certification training and support

KBHN is committed to being a strong partner with our funded projects to help them realize their success. By pursuing a fund and foster mentality, we provide funding not only for implementation but also commercialization and translational research to further advance Canada's economic goals while also advancing health and social outcomes for equity-deserving groups especially children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.

KBHN has invested in highly qualified personnel (HQP) by providing project teams with access to certification through [The Center for Implementation](#) (TCI) and by providing teams with further implementation expertise through TCI review and consultation services.

KBHN provided projects with business development, intellectual property, and commercialization education and support through Venture Labs at Simon Fraser University. This process also helped to establish an entrepreneurship framework for KBHN moving forward in selection of ventures stemming from academia. KBHN Advisor, Business and Commercialization further provided training and advice to project teams.

Through these partnerships KBHN was able to advance commercialization readiness for six projects in the NDD space and to plan and host a Project Showcase for funding, networking, and growth opportunities. The event was well attended with a total of 48 attendees from across Canada, representing stakeholders from research and business ecosystems, including members of the investment community.

### 2. Policy development

The [Disability Policy in Canada: Provincial and Territorial Report](#) was commissioned by KBHN and developed in collaboration with researchers from the Disability Policy Research Program (DiPo) at the University of Calgary and McGill University. This report offers a comprehensive overview of the current state of disability policy across Canadian provinces and territories and serves as a critical baseline for assessing and understanding future policy progress. This report received national media coverage:

1. Politiques en matière de handicap au Canada : Rapport provincial et territorial [Politiques en matière de handicap au Canada : Rapport provincial et territorial | Réseau pour la santé du cerveau des enfants](#)
2. Opinion: Disability policies failing Canadians with disabilities, [Saskatoon Today](#), February 3
3. Provinces and territories must work together to eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities: report, [The Hill Times](#), February 12
4. New report signals provinces and territories must work together to eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities, [Prince Albert Daily Herald](#), February 19
5. Les provinces et territoires doivent collaborer pour éliminer les obstacles pour les personnes vivant avec des handicaps, [Conseiller](#), 14 mars
6. New Report Signals Provinces and Territories Must Work Together to Eliminate Barriers for Persons with Disabilities, [The Good Men Project](#), March 15
7. Pour combler les lacunes des services aux personnes handicapées, la C.-B. doit mettre leurs droits au cœur de ses politiques, [La Source](#), 8 avril
8. Opinion: B.C. must put rights of kids at the centre of its disability policies, [The Province](#), April 5
9. Disability support reform needed, [Winnipeg Free Press](#), April 19
10. Rights Based Policy Key to Breaking Barriers for Persons with Disabilities, [University of Calgary School of Public Policy](#), May 1

In response to the policy work, the Alliance for Disability Voices, Advocacy, and National Community Empowerment (ADVANCE) Network was established. This national initiative brings together researchers, community partners, and PWLLE, united by a commitment to improve access to provincial and territorial disability programs for Canadian neurodiverse youth and their families. To build on the findings of the initial report, four ADVANCE Network Fellows will conduct region-specific analysis and compile information on current disability-related policies and programs:

- Western: British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories
- Prairies: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba
- Central: Ontario, Quebec, Nunavut
- Atlantic: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador

## ADVANCE Network Fellows



**Kelsey Seguin**



**Dr. Laura Mudde**



**Meaghan Reitzel**



**Dr. Sarah Raza**

ADVANCE Network aims to collaborate with provincial governments in developing and advancing cross-ministry disability strategies. This includes addressing persistent challenges such as lengthy waitlists for services, gaps in the training and support of the developmental services workforce, and fragmented service delivery systems.

By working in partnership, we can co-design integrated and responsive childhood disability supports that ensure more equitable and timely access for families.

### **3. Attract, train, mentor & support family partners and researchers in Patient-Oriented Research**

KBHN actively advanced patient-oriented research by fostering meaningful partnerships between families, youth, and researchers. Central to this effort was the requirement for PWLLE to be represented on all successfully funded projects and embedded throughout the research lifecycle.

Additionally, CHILD-BRIGHT (a SPOR initiative) and KBHN's National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC) played a critical role in shaping research priorities and advancing inclusive, youth-led approaches to patient-oriented research. With representation across provinces, disability types, and lived experiences, NYAC members provided ongoing guidance to research teams, co-developed engagement frameworks, and contributed to the design and dissemination of multiple KBHN-funded projects. This group was fully engaged in the KBHN website redesign to ensure the language and design is assessable to all audiences.

KBHN also funded the Family Engagement in Research (FER) project in partnership with CanChild, which trains family members and researchers together in best practices for collaboration. This project equips participants with tools to foster reciprocal partnerships, enhance communication, and integrate family priorities into research planning and implementation. KBHN-funded family partnership broker connected and supported these family partners so they could participate as equal members in the research and implementation activities.

Ultimately, KBHN is committed to ensuring the Canadian Government can deliver on its priorities while also bringing the unique lens of pediatric NDD.



# KBHN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO ADVANCING GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES



## Building one Canadian economy

- Bridges gaps in health, education, and social systems
- Standardizes data, improves service delivery, and boosts training across Canada
- Strengthens national unity by supporting children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and families coast to coast



## Bringing down costs for Canadians

- Tackles high out-of-pocket costs for families (up to \$60,000/year)
- Supports early diagnosis, timely care, and family support systems
- Enables 500,000 caregivers to rejoin the workforce
- Lowers long-term costs for families and governments



## Protecting Canadian sovereignty & safety

- Recognizes the unique needs of military families with neurodiverse children
- Explores partnerships to strengthen family supports, resilience, and retention



## Attracting global talent & sustaining immigration

- Positions Canada as a global leader in pediatric brain health innovation
- Attracts top international researchers and clinicians
- Expands training to address health workforce shortages in neurodevelopmental care
- Builds a resilient care economy to support long-term growth



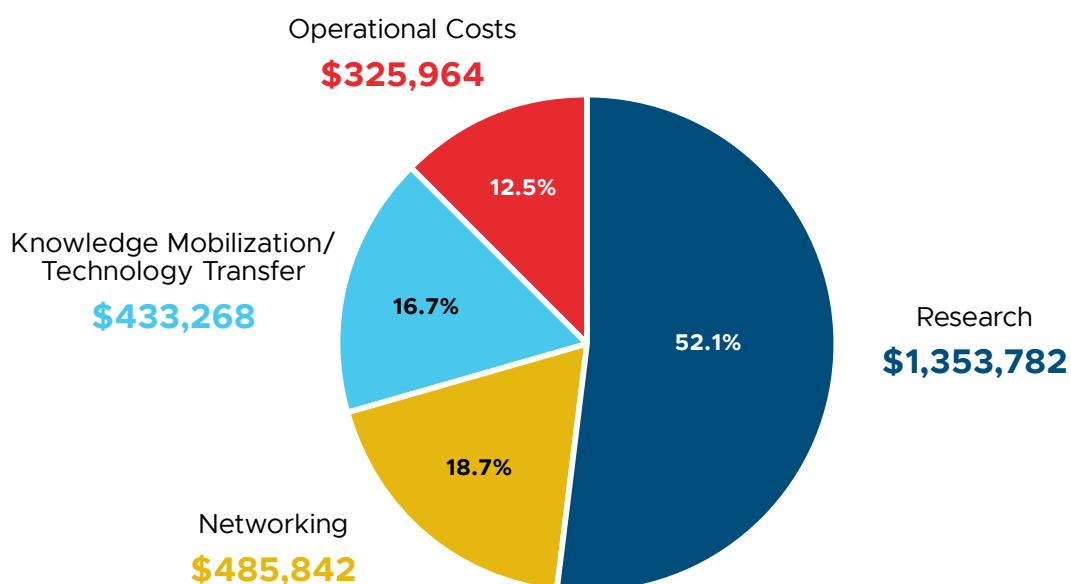
## Spending less on government operations

- Reduces long-term public costs through early, evidence-based interventions
- Improves outcomes by acting during critical brain development periods
- Supports smarter service delivery and scalable innovation
- Helps governments achieve more with less



# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The spending in 2024-25 aligned closely with the year's corporate plan. The total research budget represented more funds being allocated to research projects and significantly funding more projects than anticipated.



# For every \$1 of KBHN SSF funding spent on research, approximately \$2.24 was matched or leveraged.

**Total matched funds (new, incremental contributions towards Eligible SSF costs which would not exist in the absence of an SSF award).**

- Projects attracted **\$3,941,371.70** to match the **\$2,071,729.63** KBHN committed to the Innovation and Implementation Programs. This funding (breakdown by sector below) has already further grown since the award has been announced and will be reflected in our next reporting cycle.

Government (Non-Federal)	\$655,890
Indigenous Communities	\$219,180
Post-Secondary Institutions	\$441,232
Not-for-Profits	\$210,353
Business	\$622,363
Other Partners	\$1,333,472
Fundraising & Other Sources	\$458,883

**Total leveraged funds (existing investments in the ST&I ecosystem being leveraged to further the objectives of the SSF Recipient).**

- **\$699,936.00** have been leveraged through partnership with Brain Canada Foundation (an innovative partnership with Health Canada).






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## GROWTH OF KIDS BRAIN HEALTH FOUNDATION

This year has been a true turning point for the Kids Brain Health Foundation (KBHF).

For many years, the KBHF was recognized for securing competitive grants to support groundbreaking research. That strong foundation is what has brought this exciting new stage of growth. Now, KBHF is evolving into a well-rounded, forward-looking organization that reflects the changing mandate of the entire Kids Brain Health (KBH+) enterprise. The Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that groundbreaking research reaches the children, families, and communities who need it most.

KBHF focuses on implementation, scale, and spread: taking proven solutions out of academic journals and into homes, classrooms, and clinics across the country. Thanks to the generosity of donors and the tireless work of partners, KBHF has been able to support projects that make a tangible difference in children's lives — from helping a child with sound sensitivity feel safe in everyday environments, to empowering caregivers, to expanding innovative therapies across provinces.

Moving forward, KBHF continues to build its reputation, expanding into new areas including venture philanthropy and taking the lead on bringing back KBH+'s national conference in 2026. KBHF's mission is clear: to transform scientific breakthroughs into real-world solutions for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.

The Foundation is grateful to its donors, partners, families, and allies for helping change the future.

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Every milestone we have reached this year has been made possible through the generosity of our donors and partners. Your belief in our mission allows us to support projects that are transforming care for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities (NDDs) and their families across Canada. Without you, none of this would be possible. Because of you, more children are receiving the vital supports they need and more families are finding hope for the future.



*When we found the right support at the right time, it changed everything for our family. We finally felt seen and heard.”*

**PARENT**

## KBHF PROGRAMS



### SOUND SENSITIVITY

**Funded by: TD Ready Commitment**

Sound sensitivity is one of the most difficult challenges children with autism and other NDDs face in daily life. This project equips families and clinicians with tools to help children manage overwhelming sound environments, improving their comfort, confidence, and ability to participate fully in their communities.



*Before, a trip to the grocery store was impossible. Now, my child can go with me and feel safe. That’s a gift I never thought we’d have.”*

**PARENT**



## SOCIAL ABCs MANITOBA

**Funded by: The David & Tracey Kuik Family (in honour of Paige Kuik) and Inclusion Winnipeg**

Social ABCs is an evidence-based early intervention program that empowers parents and early childhood educators to help toddlers with autism communicate and connect. With support from our generous donors, the program is expanding into Winnipeg through a partnership with the Rehabilitation Centre for Children.



*Being able to use Social ABCs with my child gave me hope and helped us find joy in everyday interactions again.”*

**PARENT PARTICIPANT**



## DINO ISLAND

**Funded by: The Molson Foundation and the Schwab Charitable Fund, made possible by the generosity of Elizabeth Donovan**

This award-winning “serious game” uses play to build executive function skills in children with NDDs. Thanks to donor support, Dino Island is being expanded to reach older children and more diverse communities, opening doors for new learning and growth through engaging, interactive tools.



*When my son plays Dino Island, he’s not just having fun — he’s learning to focus, to plan, to work through challenges. It’s incredible to see.”*

**CAREGIVER**



## ACT FOR BLACK & INDIGENOUS CAREGIVERS

**Funded by: Petro-Canada CareMakers Foundation**

Caregivers of children with NDDs often experience high levels of stress and isolation. This project adapts Acceptance and Commitment Training (ACT) to specifically support Black and Indigenous caregivers, recognizing the unique cultural contexts and challenges they face. The program helps caregivers build resilience, find community, and sustain their vital caregiving roles.



*This group made me realize I wasn't alone. I feel stronger, and I know I can keep going for my child."*

**PROGRAM PARTICIPANT**



# ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

The past year has been one of renewal, growth, and deeper connection. From refreshing our identity to expanding the ways donors and families engage with us, each step has been guided by our mission to create brighter futures for children and communities. The following highlights showcase how we strengthened our foundation, broadened our reach, and set the stage for even greater impact in the years ahead.

## Rebranding the Foundation

A refreshed identity that better reflects our mission and growing role within KBH+.

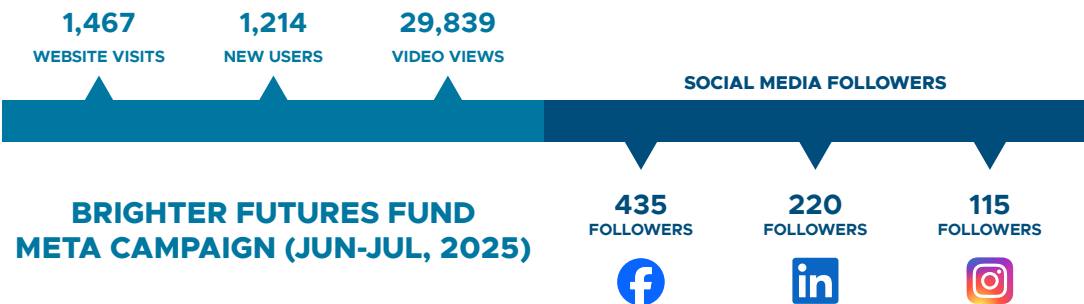
## Launching the Brighter Futures Fund

A new way for individuals to make a bigger impact. By pooling donations together, the Brighter Futures Fund gives us the flexibility to respond quickly when opportunities arise, scaling up programs that work and seeding new ones with potential to change children's lives.



## Expanding our Social Media Presence

Revived and expanded platforms have grown our reach and brought new families, donors, and champions into our community. Our channels now include Facebook (435 followers), LinkedIn (220 followers), and a newly launched Instagram account (115 followers since August 2025). To further amplify our reach, we launched the Brighter Futures Fund Meta Campaign, which ran from June to July 2025. The campaign successfully drove 1,467 visits to the KBHF website, 1,214 of them from new users, and generated strong visibility, with the introductory video to KBHF achieving 29,839 views, the highest of any campaign element.



## Strengthening Our Team

Welcomed a new Chief Fund Development Officer (CFDO) to lead donor engagement, partnerships, and growth.



**SHANNON GILL**  
KBHF CFDO

## Revitalizing Donor Engagement

From new giving opportunities to improved communications, we are building stronger connections with those who fuel our work.

# LOOKING AHEAD: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2025/26

The year ahead will be about building momentum and expanding impact. Our strategic priorities include:

## Expanding Awareness and Reputation

Elevating the Foundation’s profile so that KBHF becomes widely recognized as the national leader in moving brain health research into practice.

## Exploring New Models of Philanthropy

Growing into areas such as venture philanthropy, where donors act as partners in scaling evidence-based solutions.

## Bringing Back the KBH+ National Conference in 2026

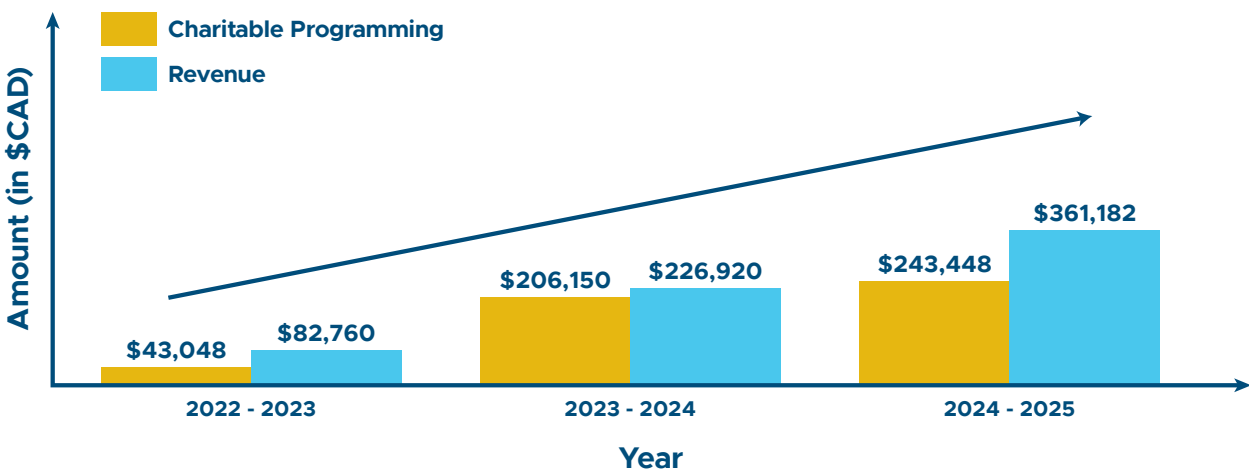
Leading the planning to restore this landmark gathering that unites researchers, families, practitioners, and policymakers — and puts children’s brain health back at the centre of national attention.



*Our research has the power to change lives — but only if it reaches the children and families who need it. That’s where the Foundation comes in.”*

KBHN INVESTIGATOR

# KBHF IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS





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## ABOUT KBH-IF

As the latest growth strategy added to the Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN), Kids Brain Health Innovation Fund (KBH-IF) is committed to improving access to services and solutions families need to thrive. KBH-IF empowers investors, researchers, and partners to transform promising research into lasting impact, giving every child the opportunity to live a full and productive life.

## MISSION

KBH-IF accelerates the transformation of science into life-changing solutions for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.

## VISION

A future where every child with neurodevelopmental disabilities have access to solutions, made possible by a dynamic ecosystem of research, investment and innovation.



*Photo courtesy of Alberta Innovates and Rose and Range Photography*

# THE NEED FOR INNOVATION



## PROBLEM

1 in 10 children in Canada has a neurodevelopmental disability, making up 75% of all childhood disability cases. However, most children wait over 2 years for diagnosis and support, missing the critical window when early intervention works best. Families are left to navigate a broken system alone, facing emotional strain and high out-of-pocket costs.



## SOLUTION

KBH-IF takes the latest discoveries and turns them into tools, interventions, and programs that reach families. By funding early-stage innovations, such as better ways to diagnose conditions, new therapies, and technologies that support kids, KBH-IF ensures that scientific breakthroughs become real-world solutions.

KBH-IF seeks partners whose values align with its mission to ensure that all children with neurodevelopmental disabilities have the opportunity to thrive.

## KBH-IF DRIVES INNOVATION AND IMPACT FOR CHILDREN'S FUTURES

- KBH+ has a track record of success, with over **\$55M** in government investment, doubled annually through matched funding for 16 years
- Unique and proven expertise in evaluating de-risked opportunities from KBHN and other portfolios
- Canadian solutions or global solutions with a clear plan for implementation in Canada

## KBH-IF INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY IS GUIDED BY FOUR PRINCIPLES

### IMPACT FIRST

Funds solutions that deliver tangible improvements in the lives of children and families living with neurodevelopmental disabilities, while requiring a financial floor that speaks to sustainability and revenue growth potential.

### EVIDENCE - BASED

Supports programs and innovations grounded in strong research, clinical relevance, and real-world validation.

### SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALABILITY

Invests in models that can scale across communities and systems, delivering long-term value.

### LIVED EXPERIENCE

Prioritizes investments that have founders with lived experience, or where lived experience has directly informed the development of their product.



## KBH-IF LAUNCH

KBH-IF was officially launched on May 22, 2025, at the Inventures Conference in Calgary, Alberta. As the official sponsor of the Brain Health Challenge Live Pitch Competition, CEO Geoff Pradella introduced this new growth strategy to an audience of innovators, investors, and industry leaders.

The Brain Health Challenge attracted more than 375 combined interactions across the live pitch competition and the interactive installation. Featuring eight companies from Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario), the Isle of Man, and South Korea, the competition showcased bold, market-ready brain health solutions. As a high-profile platform for collaboration and innovation, the Inventures provided the ideal stage to launch KBH-IF and position it at the forefront of advancing brain health investment.

## KBH-IF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As part of its launch, KBH-IF recruited a Board of Directors to bring diverse expertise and leadership to guide the organization's strategy and growth. The Board includes leaders across consulting, finance, health innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship.

David Kuik, CEO and Co-Founder of Norima Consulting Inc., and Jim Reid, Founder of Caribbean LED Lighting Inc. (CLL), contribute deep experience in building and scaling businesses. Liz Choi, an award-winning executive leader and keynote speaker, and Peter Fenwick, a seasoned leader in health innovation and venture-scale transformation, provide strategic insight into organizational development and innovation. Sarah Jane Lee, Director of the Technology Development Office at the Provincial Health Services Authority, strengthens connections to health research and commercialization. Saul Katz, Co-Founder of Fringe Field Technologies (FFT) and Advanced Nutri-Tech Systems, brings a track record in advancing science-based solutions to market. William Kovalchuk, Chartered Financial Analyst and President at Claret Asset Management Corp., adds extensive financial acumen to support investment strategy.

Together, the Board of Directors positions KBH-IF with the governance and expertise needed to drive sustainable impact and growth.

## EXECUTIVE TEAM AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Geoff Pradella**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Kim van der Hoek**  
Chief Operating Officer



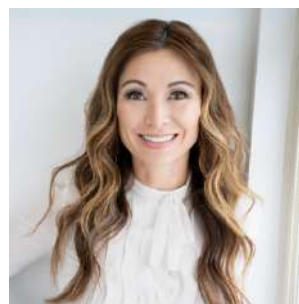
**David Kuik**  
CEO & Co-Founder of Norima Consulting Inc.



**Jim Reid**  
Founder of Caribbean LED Lighting Inc.



**Liz Choi**  
Award-winning Executive Leader and Speaker



**Sarah Jane Lee**  
Director, Tech Development Office, Provincial Health Services Authority



**Saul Katz**  
Co-Founder of Fringe Field Technologies and Advanced Nutri-Tech Systems



**William Kovalchuk**  
Chartered Financial Analyst & President, Claret Asset Management Corp.



**Peter Fenwick**  
Experienced Leader in Health Innovation and Venture-scale Transformation

## ANTICIPATED IMPACT

Timely access to the right supports enables children to achieve their full potential. KBH-IF investments drive measurable improvements in child development outcomes, reduce pressures on families, and contribute to long-term economic and social value. With continued capital, KBH-IF is positioned to scale its impact from reaching hundreds of children to reaching hundreds of thousands across Canada.



**kids brain** | **santé du cerveau**  
**health +** | **des enfants +**

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# INTRODUCING KBH+

Since 2009, Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN) has led transformative projects and real-world solutions that improve outcomes for children and families. In 2016, the Kids Brain Health Foundation (KBHF) was established to mobilize philanthropy, partnerships, and public support, amplifying the reach and impact of our work. Kids Brain Health Innovation Fund (KBH-IF) further strengthens our ability to accelerate the growth, scale, and spread of tested and effective innovations emerging from the KBHN and KBHF portfolios.

Together, KBHN, KBHF, and KBH-IF form KBH+, a national platform delivering impact for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Through coordinated efforts in government funding, philanthropy, and impact investing, KBH+ advances early identification, effective interventions, and access to family supports.

## GET IN TOUCH



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# HELPING ALL KIDS LIVE THEIR BEST LIVES