



The Future of Brain Research is Coming Together

We are united behind a brain and mental health research strategy for all Canadians.



We also acknowledge the following organizations for their expertise and engagement: Alberta Health Services | Amii | Azrieli Foundation | Boehringer Ingelheim Canada | Brain Canada | Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence | CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health | CIHR Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction | Council of Canadian Academies | GBS/CIDP Foundation of Canada | Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia | Mitacs | March of Dimes Canada | Martin Family Initiative | Multiple Sclerosis Canada | National ME/FM Action Network | National Research Council Canada | Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council | Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy | Ontario Rett Syndrome Association | Polytechnique Montréal | St. Joseph's Health Centre Toronto | Université de Sherbrooke | Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières | University of Regina | Vector Institute |

NOW IS THE TIME FOR A **CANADIAN BRAIN RESEARCH INITIATIVE**

THE PROBLEM

Brain conditions – including mental health disorders, neurological disorders, neurodegenerative diseases, brain injuries, and substance use disorders – are the **leading cause of disability in Canada**. They **affect millions, disrupt lives, strain our healthcare system and impede our economic productivity**. As our population ages and grows, this challenge will only intensify.

THE SOLUTION: A CANADIAN BRAIN RESEARCH INITIATIVE (CBRI)

Canada is a global leader in neuroscience, mental health research, and artificial intelligence. Yet, our research efforts remain fragmented. **We have the talent, expertise, and infrastructure—what we need is the CBRI to unify these strengths, drive innovation, and deliver real-world benefits.**

WE HAVE ALL THE PIECES, BUT THEY NEED A COHESIVE DRIVER TO WORK TOGETHER EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

WHY NOW

- **Excellence needs coordination:** Our world-class brain health research ecosystem is fragmented. A coordinated national initiative drives faster discoveries, maximizes funding impact, and boosts the infrastructure, workforce, and momentum needed to deliver real-world benefits for Canadians.
- **Breakthroughs are within reach:** Advances in prevention, treatments and cures are on the horizon. A national initiative with sustained funding will keep Canada at the forefront of brain research, ensuring that innovations are developed here and tailored to our population and healthcare realities.
- **Global competitors are advancing:** Others – notably the United States, the European Union and Asia – are making major strategic efforts in brain research. Without similar coordination, Canada risks missing opportunities to shape and benefit from global breakthroughs.

Brain conditions are among the most complex health challenges, affecting every aspect of human life across the lifespan. Advancing brain health requires sustained commitment and a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to research and innovation.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- **Investing in the Future:** Built on the vision of early-career researchers, the CBRI will sustain long-term progress and ensure that the breakthroughs of tomorrow remain within our reach.
- **Improved brain health:** Better prevention, treatment, care, and optimization of brain health will lead to a healthier population, reduced healthcare costs, and a more efficient healthcare system.
- **Economic growth:** By optimizing brain health, the CBRI will enhance productivity, foster a highly skilled workforce, and boost innovation to create long-term economic benefits across sectors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jennie Z. Young, Ph.D. | Executive Director | Canadian Brain Research Strategy
jennie.young@canadianbrain.ca

WHAT WE'RE ASKING FOR

To drive real progress in brain health, we need a stable, long-term national commitment that provides the resources and support necessary for discovery and innovation:

1. Launch a National Transdisciplinary Training Platform

- Empower researchers and research partners with the applied skills that make research findings transferable and actionable across different sectors—whether for clinical application, policy development, or community impact.
- Ensure equitable access to these training opportunities, providing resources to all regions and communities across Canada.

2. Enhance and Coordinate Research Platforms

- Invest in personnel and infrastructure to harness the synergy and power of coordination, ensuring skilled professionals are in place to connect and integrate existing resources, data, and technologies, amplifying research impact.
- Leverage resources across institutions, making shared infrastructure accessible to all researchers, regardless of location or institutional size, giving equal opportunity for innovation.

TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES, WE ARE ASKING FOR \$150 MILLION OVER 3 YEARS TO HELP LAUNCH THE CANADIAN BRAIN RESEARCH INITIATIVE.

This funding was one of the recommendations of the Standing House of Commons Committee on Finance (FINA) for the 2025 federal budget.

CALL TO ACTION

Support the goals and funding for the Canadian Brain Research Initiative.

Investing in talent and equitable access is investing in Canada's future. By supporting brain health research, we can transform lives, drive innovation and ensure benefits reach all Canadians.

WHO WE ARE

The Canadian Brain Research Strategy (CBRS) is a pan-Canadian movement to advance a national research strategy for brain and mental health, representing 40+ brain and mental health research centres and programs and a diverse coalition of stakeholder organizations nationwide.

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