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Then, Now, Next.

Annual Report 2025 - 2026

MARCH OF DIMES CANADA
LA MARCHE DES DIX SOUS DU CANADA
75 YEARS ANS

March of Dimes Canada: At a glance

Who we are

March of Dimes Canada is an ally and national service leader working alongside people with disabilities in Canada. We deliver services, advocate for change, and help create the conditions for genuine independence and community participation. Our staff, volunteers, donors, and partners share this conviction. Together, we're building a more equitable and inclusive Canada.



What we do

Community Support Services
We're a leading provider of community-based support for people with disabilities across Canada. Our services include in-home care, supportive housing, peer support, and home and vehicle modifications, and are built around the idea that all people are entitled to the freedom to live and participate fully in their own communities.

Skills development & employment
We offer evidence-informed skills development and training for people with disabilities across Canada, from early childhood skill-building to courses in areas like generative AI. We also work directly with employers to create meaningful employment opportunities for people with disabilities. An inclusive workforce isn't an aspiration, it's a better way to work.

Advocacy & social impact
We work alongside people with disabilities and community partners to advance the issues that matter most — disability inclusion, employment equity, income support, accessible housing, and more. We develop self-advocacy tools and push for the systemic changes that make a more inclusive Canada possible.

30,000+
service users across Canada

$178 million
invested in our mission

2,541
dedicated employees

550
essential volunteers

A message from our Board Chair and President & CEO

On behalf of the Board of Directors and leadership team at March of Dimes Canada, we're proud to mark 75 years of service alongside people with disabilities and to present this year's annual report — **Then, Now, Next.**

We made significant investments in service delivery this year. We expanded our home modification services into Manitoba, increased support for stroke survivors in Ontario and Atlantic Canada, grew the number of people served through our skills development, employment, and early learning programs, and delivered more than six million hours of care across the country.

Every day, without fail, our dedicated teams of frontline staff and local leaders provided the highest standard of service to thousands of people through our attendant care, assisted living, and brain injury programs with professionalism and dedication second to none.

We also grew our influence with governments at all levels, deepening our position as a trusted partner and strengthening our relationships with businesses, communities, and donors whose support has sustained our mission since the very beginning.

A deep understanding of disability belongs at the centre of our culture and decision-making. It's vital to our future and to the success of our work.

This year, we established the position of Chief Accessibility Officer within our executive leadership team and we've committed to making disability inclusion our top strategic objective.

Together, we're building a more equitable and inclusive Canada.

To our partners, funders, and supporters: thank you for enabling our work. To our staff and volunteers: thank you for your commitment. To the people with disabilities, families, and caregivers who trust us to work alongside you: thank you.



Lee Bennett
Board Chair



Len Baker
President and CEO

Board of Directors: 2025 — 2026

Officers: Lee Bennett, Chair; Graham Todd, Vice-Chair and Secretary; Jay Hira, Immediate Past Chair; Alvin Sharma, Treasurer.

Directors: Wilfred Au; Lauri Brunner; Victoria Brydon; David Dame; Anne Fithern; Michael Foulds; Wendy Kauffman; Alan Lipszyc; Wendy Murphy; Pankaj Puri; Jennifer Schmidt; Jeff Sparks; Justin Wang.

Celebrating 75 years of service alongside people with disabilities in Canada

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March of Dimes Canada was born out of the race to find a cure for polio in the late 1940s and early 1950s. A time when families across the globe were searching for support and hope.

Women — determined to put their skills, energy, and leadership into public life — played a vital role in shaping our identity.

The Marching Mothers heard the call of their day and responded with relentlessness, raising enormous sums of money to fund vaccine research, provide rehabilitation services, and to care for those affected by polio.

As our understanding of disability changed so did our work. We moved away from the idea of disability as a problem in search of a solution toward a model that treats barriers —not people — as the issue that needs resolved across society and our economy.

Today, we're a trusted national service provider operating across Canada with a clear goal: to eliminate obstacles that for far too long have kept people with disabilities out of public life and away from positions of power and influence.

More than 2,500 staff and 550 volunteers. More than $175 million invested annually in our mission. More than 30,000 people supported every year.

Our history matters — but our mission matters more.

As we celebrate 75 years of service alongside people with disabilities in Canada, let's remember that we got our start amidst two epic movements that demanded better. We're changemakers at our core.

We thank everyone who's supported our work and we're grateful for the trust and confidence bestowed upon us by people with disabilities, families, and caregivers.



Employability: Building pathways to success

Young people with disabilities have a right to meaningful work. Our innovative and immersive programs help make that right a reality.

Project SEARCH

Scan or click

Project SEARCH is a school-to-work program built upon the simple idea that the best way to prepare someone for work is to get them working.

We connected 50 students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their final year of high school to 10 employers across Ontario, including two new employers.

- The **YMCA** in Markham in partnership with York Region District School Board
- **Ashley Oaks Retirement Residence** in Brampton in partnership with Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

Students earn up to 700 hours of work experience through internships with top public sector employers. Program graduates are employed at twice the national average for people with developmental disabilities, earning an average of $4 an hour above minimum wage.

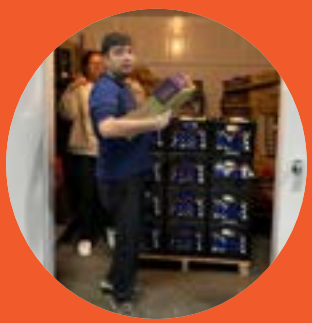
Paving the Path to Work

The six-week employability program brings participants together three days a week for immersive learning about what to expect in the workplace. It teaches confidence building, communication skills, time management, and how to identify opportunities and potential barriers.

A total of 346 people took part in Paving the Path to Work this year through in-person sessions in Hamilton, London, Niagara Region, Peel Region, Toronto, and virtually across Canada.

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“My favourite thing that we’re learning is how to treat people with respect. This program has really helped me and I’m starting to learn the meaning of a workplace experience.”



Iyaneh Hirjikaka,
Paving the Path to Work participant

SkillingUp: An all-in-one digital skills solution

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SkillingUp is our digital skills training and workforce development program. Built in collaboration with Microsoft and TELUS, it offers people with disabilities in Canada the resources they need to succeed in today's technology and AI-driven economy.

"Life is about continuous learning," said SkillingUp participant George Bannerman Jr.

George graduated from Fanshawe College in Computer Systems and Technology in 2021 and knew he'd need more training.

He completed an AI-focused certificate through SkillingUp last year and says it's kept him up to date with the latest advancements and made day-to-day work easier.

Over the past twelve months, we brought all our digital skills programs under the SkillingUp umbrella and more than 5,000 people accessed our services.

Nine out of 10 participants who completed a certificate said their confidence grew.

"The world is changing," George said, "And AI is very helpful to give you a better understanding of how the world operates."

SkillingUp offers everything from virtual workshops on digital fundamentals to one-on-one coaching and mentorship to customized training that helps people optimize the accessibility features on their devices.

No matter what you're looking for, SkillingUp has a solution.



> "AI can remove barriers and open new pathways, but only when people have access to these in-demand skills. Our collaboration with March of Dimes Canada, SkillingUp, is focused on expanding opportunity by providing the AI skills training and tools to help ensure people with disabilities can fully participate and thrive in an AI-powered economy."
>
> **Lisa Everett, AI Skills Director, Microsoft Elevate Canada**

Microsoft

By the Numbers

5,175 people served

3,399 people from underserved populations

319 people completed Digital Skills & Job Readiness pathways

187 moved into employment or mentorship

28% of participants reported being hired or changing jobs after completing the program

Children & youth programs: Where kids come to move, learn, and grow

Scan or click

Every child is entitled to a place to play, connect, and discover their abilities.

Our children and youth programs create that space by offering inclusive, play-based programming for young people with disabilities from infancy through early adulthood.

Move Learn Grow (MLG) is our flagship program. Led by occupational therapists and grounded in evidence, it serves children with disabilities aged 0–16 in a free, welcoming environment where play is the point. Growth follows naturally.

Classes are organized by age and developmental stage so children learn and play alongside peers. We had 218 children, 57 parents and caregivers, and 71 volunteers take part this year.

The results?

- 88% of families say MLG encourages kids to play with peers.
- 75% of families say MLG helped them access an occupational therapist and other services.
- 75% of families say MLG helped them better understand and support their child's needs.

We also offer programming featuring art, music, and movement for children and youth in partnership with Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, a trusted partner and leader in pediatric rehabilitation.

Together, we're helping kids develop the skills to move within our world, learn about their abilities, and grow opportunities.



"Our partnership with March of Dimes Canada reflects a shared commitment to a more inclusive future. Thanks to the generosity of The Slaight Family Foundation and our National Disability Initiative, we're making sure children and youth with disabilities can access innovative recreation, life skills, and social programming within their communities, while daring to think differently about equity and accessibility."

Bruce Squires, President & CEO, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Disability Advocacy Network: Where advocacy becomes action

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The Disability Advocacy Network is a national community of people with disabilities building skills, connections, and confidence to advocate for themselves and each other.

Members access virtual training sessions featuring expert advice, self-guided advocacy resources, monthly newsletters, and workshops designed to equip people with the tools they need to seize the moments that matter most.

The network grew by more than 100 people this year — reaching a total of 377 members from across Canada.

Members used their skills when pushing for workplace accommodations, calling for more access, and demanding better healthcare.

The network doesn't just build advocates — it puts them into action.



"The network has been a big asset for me. It's allowed me to find my voice and gain the confidence to help others find their own voices."

Nicole Neeson,
Disability Advocacy Network member

By the Numbers

377 members

106 new members this year

29 workshops and training sessions



Advocacy Interviews

After Stroke & aphasia: Peers delivering real-world support

Scan or click

Rebuilding confidence after a stroke takes time and understanding. No one knows this better than the people living this reality.

That's why peer support is at the heart of everything we do at After Stroke.

Our National Peer Support Network now hosts 72 support groups across Canada. We also operate stroke support programs in partnership with healthcare providers across BC, Ontario, PEI, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

This year, we launched our Life After Stroke: Education and Self-Management Program in partnership with Toronto Stroke Networks, secured a new partnership with Ontario Health for peer support in Hamilton, signed funding agreements with the governments of PEI and Newfoundland and Labrador, and ran a successful pilot project in Nova Scotia.

Our Aphasia and Communication Disability Program served nearly 500 people last year, delivering community support to people navigating life with aphasia and other communications disabilities after serious illness or injury.

We're building more resilient communities one relationship at a time.



"Community has been central to my progress. I'm grateful for the opportunity to help create that same sense of belonging and hope for others."

Emily Williams,
Stroke survivor and After Stroke volunteer

By the Numbers

5,544 people served
- 5,057 – After Stroke
- 487 – Aphasia and Communication Disability Program

42,649 service interactions

33 healthcare centre and hospital partnerships

Home and vehicle modifications: Not just a renovation

Where we live shapes how we interact with friends and family, access healthcare, and so much more.

People with disabilities and older adults have a right to live safely in their own homes. Our job is to remove barriers that threaten this reality.

The Home and Vehicle Modification Program (HVMP) provided grants of up to $15,000 to more than 2,300 people in Ontario this year.

From stair lifts and ramps to bathroom modifications and vehicle adaptations, we worked alongside people with disabilities, families, and local companies to provide nearly 5,500 devices, adaptations, and modifications this year.

In Manitoba, our Safe and Healthy Home for Seniors program delivered the same outcomes for older adults with up to $6,500 in funding for adaptations that support autonomy and prolong independence at home.

And Manitoba's government recognized the value of this work by including permanent SHHS funding in its most recent provincial budget.

Together, these programs deliver independence, give caregivers peace of mind, allow family members to keep working knowing the people they care for are safe, and ease pressure on public healthcare systems.

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Homes and Vehicle Modification Program (HVMP)

Scan or click

Safe and Healthy Homes for Seniors (SHHS)



By the Numbers

HVMP

- **2,427** grants issued
- **5,456** modifications, adaptations, and devices provided
- **89%** reported a significant safety risk removed

SHHS

- **226** grants issued
- **569** adaptations and devices provided
- **98%** reported a significant safety risk removed

Community Support Services: Care built around real life

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Independence isn't just a program goal — it's a fundamental human right.

We provide Community Support Services in partnership with people with disabilities, seniors, caregivers, and families across Canada.

This year, we delivered more than six million hours of at-home care and community-based services through our attendant care, supportive housing, peer support, and brain injury programs, reaching about 11,000 people.

Our dedicated teams of frontline staff and local leaders show up every day, delivering individual and relational care built around our service users' lives and expectations.

Every support plan we create is developed in partnership with our service users, reflecting their needs, preferences, and circumstances. That's what partnership and self-directed care mean in the real world and that's what we're committed to delivering.

The results of this approach are greater independence and autonomy with higher rates of community participation.

Together, we're creating inclusive and responsive care rooted in dignity and autonomy.



By the Numbers

2,811 assisted living, housekeeping & low acuity clients

1,767 attendant services clients

1,177 brain injury clients

5,057 After Stroke clients

6.1 million hours of care delivered

Turning advocacy into action

Scan or click



People with disabilities in Canada have the right to a barrier-free world and everyone shares responsibility for creating it.

We work in solidarity with people with disabilities to advance the goals that matter most, grounded in living experience and guided by the principle that nothing about us should ever be decided without us.

This year, working alongside our partners in the disability community, we advocated for improvements to the Disability Tax Credit. Ottawa responded with a historic first set of changes that will make it easier to access this vital benefit.

We pushed for a national adaptable housing standard and for more funding for supportive housing. Governments agreed and acted to make this a reality.

And we're fulfilling our commitment to act as a connector: strengthening our relationship with the federal and provincial governments and bringing together people with disabilities, service leaders, and people who might not think there's a place for them within the disability community.

This work matters. The changes we're creating together are making life better for all of us.

"People with disabilities and caregivers are in urgent need of financial support. We're proud to support March of Dimes Canada's work to reach out to families, learn about their needs, and provide hands-on help to support them gain access to critical benefits. We know this will have important impact."

Liv Mendelsohn, Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence, a program of the Azrieli Foundation

Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence
A program of the Azrieli Foundation

Skills development & employment: Inclusion at work

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Connecting people with disabilities to skills training, coaching, and employment opportunities is essential to creating a more inclusive and equitable Canada. We take this responsibility seriously.

This year, we served nearly 18,000 people across nine provinces and one territory, helping more than 5,500 people find work, go back to school, or enter a training program.

We also launched comprehensive virtual workshops as part of our Ontario Employment Services work, bringing the same high-quality learning opportunities that make up our in-person services to people across the province no matter where they live.

Meanwhile, our specialized staff completed nearly 900 clinical assessments with the aim of helping people who experience injuries and illnesses get back to work in ways that work for them.

All of this is possible because of the trust placed in us by the people we serve, employer partners, and governments.

By the Numbers

17,672 people served

5,618 positive outcomes

1,366 people supported outside Ontario

880 clinical assessments completed



Brennan's story

Brennan DeJong joined our Skills for Work program last year. He learned resume writing, interviewing skills, and how to effectively advocate for himself, while earning first aid and accessibility certificates. In December 2025, he started a new and rewarding job where he puts these skills into practice.

“The Skills for Work program helped grow my confidence and taught me things I use at work every day. I feel more confident than before,” Brennan said.

Support our programs today

Our programs and services provide people with disabilities, families, and caregivers the support they need to break down barriers and create real opportunities.

From early childhood education to employment services to self-advocacy, we deliver meaningful support to thousands of people each year in partnership with our donors, sponsors, and funders.

Donate to March of Dimes Canada today and turn your commitment to equity and inclusion into action.



> “Move Learn Grow makes me feel like George and I can do anything,”
>
> **Maria Panayiotou,**
> parent

Join us today by supporting our incredible programs

Scan or click

Volunteer with us

Our volunteers show up in hospitals, training sessions, community spaces, and everywhere else they’re needed.

They offer peer support and living experience to stroke survivors, teach digital skills, help children and youth, and so much more.

A team of over 550 volunteers gave more than 27,000 hours of expert service last year. With their help, we delivered more programs and services to more people than ever before.



Join us and support our mission by becoming a volunteer

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2025-2026 financial performance

We delivered another strong financial performance this year. Our total revenue for 2025-2026 was $182.8 million and our total expenses were $178.5 million. Our surplus was re-invested into reserve funds for future needs.

Approximately 90% of our total expenses were invested directly in programs and services that support the needs and interests of people with disabilities, families, and caregivers across Canada.

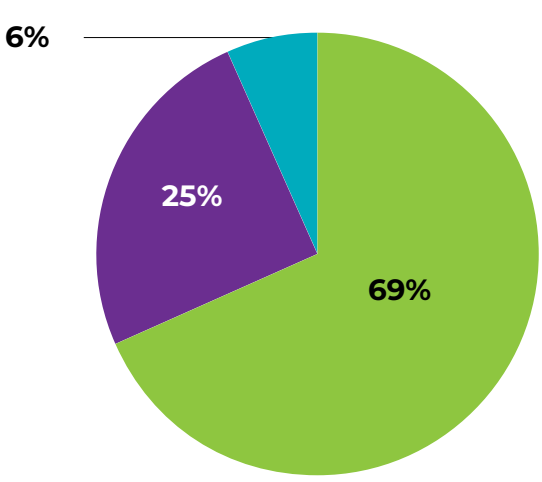
We demonstrated our commitment to responsible spending by limiting administration costs to just 8% of total expenses.

We're also a proud member of Imagine Canada's Standards Program, which accredits non-profits for excellence in financial accountability and transparency.

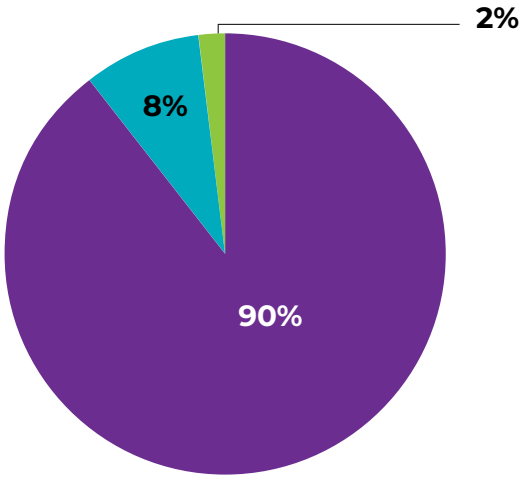
Scan or click the QR code to view our 2025-2026 audited financial statements

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Revenue



Expenses



- Philanthropy and non-government grants
- Government grants
- Fees for service

- Mission program expenses
- Philanthropy
- Administration

Thank you to our donors

Our donors have always been essential partners in building a more equitable and inclusive Canada. We're grateful for the support of so many people, families, and organizations across Canada. To everyone who invested in our work this year: **thank you.**

$250,000 - $499,999

The Barrett Family Foundation

$100,000 - $249,999

CIBC Foundation
David Chale
Estate of Verna Rose Massam
LCBO (Liquor Control Board of Ontario)
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$50,000 - $99,999

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Estate of Frederick William Strang
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RBC Foundation

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Doane Grant Thornton
Doug Harvey-Smith Fund at the Ottawa Community Foundation
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