

It has been a year of transformation at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. This report celebrates the faces of change behind the high quality, compassionate, client-and-family centred care we provide, and our commitment to excellence in research and teaching. Through our review of the past year, we also reflect upon our 125-year history. From the opening of our doors in 1899 to today, 2024, we celebrate Holland Bloorview's role in championing a world of possibility.

Land acknowledgement

As we reflect on 2023-2024 and our milestone 125th anniversary, we are reminded of our commitment to truth and reconciliation, which is based on partnership and respect for the many ways of learning, knowing, and being.

We acknowledge Tkaronto (Toronto), a Mohawk word meaning, "the place in the water where the trees are standing." We live and work on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee-speaking nations, including the Huron-Wendat, Seneca and Mohawk. The legacy of this meeting place, where people have gathered for 15,000 years, informs our work to decolonize the health-care system and value all ways of knowing and healing.

We are grateful, honoured and humbled to have the opportunity to, in partnership with clients and families, provide care and services for children, youth and families with disabilities and developmental differences in this city and on the territory known as Turtle Island (North America).

Chi Miigwetch, Nia:weh, Merci—Thank you.

Letter from CEOs & Board Chairs

We kicked off 2024 with a year-long celebration of Holland Bloorview's 125th anniversary. That's 125 years of caring for and making history alongside children and youth with disabilities and developmental differences. As we celebrate this milestone, we're reflecting on the people who have made it possible: our dedicated staff, the children, youth and families we serve, our donors, volunteer community and our funding partners. Because of you, health care, inclusion and meaningful futures are led by compassion, transformed by research and education, and powered by innovation.

During this historic year, we took significant steps towards right-sizing pediatric health care, prioritizing the inclusion of marginalized communities and driving life-changing research. The Make Kids Count Action Plan, made possible by funding from the Ministry of Health, allowed us to expand our team of specialists, and reduce wait times and better meet our clients' complex and evolving needs. We also began tracking client socio-demographic data (such as ethnicity, income and gender identity) to better understand how these factors affect the overall health and well-being of the clients and families we serve.

In the spring of 2023, the Bloorview Research Institute (BRI) opened the doors of the new Jason Smith Research Tower. With this expanded space, funded entirely by donors, the BRI now has the highest concentration of pediatric disability research in the world – fueling groundbreaking discoveries and innovative care interventions.

Through it all, your generosity, enthusiasm and trust powered our work and is opening a world of possibility for countless children and families. As we commemorate 125 years of care and service, we recognize that this is just the beginning. We are filled with hope and optimism for the journey ahead.



Julia Hanigsberg

Julia Hanigsberg
President and CEO,
Holland Bloorview Kids
Rehabilitation Hospital



Sandra Hawken

Sandra Hawken
President and CEO,
Holland Bloorview Kids
Rehabilitation Hospital
Foundation



Poonam Puri

Poonam Puri
Chair, Board of Directors,
Holland Bloorview Kids
Rehabilitation Hospital



Jason Smith

Jason Smith
Chair, Board of Directors,
Holland Bloorview Kids
Rehabilitation Hospital
Foundation

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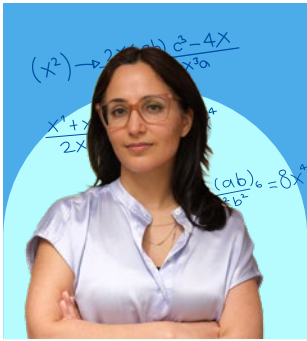
Unlocking research and teaching excellence

In June 2023, we opened our expanded, state-of-the-art Bloorview Research Institute (BRI) after a successful \$32 million fundraising campaign. Funded entirely by donors, the BRI is now home to the highest concentration of disability research in the world. The expansion features the Jason Smith Research Tower, eight discovery hubs and a child-friendly, accessible research MRI. In this multidisciplinary space, the first of its kind worldwide, our research teams are collaborating and exchanging knowledge with experts from around the world. From cutting-edge technology to groundbreaking studies on brain development, the BRI is a global leader in research and education on childhood disability and developmental differences.

CELEBRATING
125



Dr. Morris Milner is a renowned rehabilitation scholar. Under his leadership (1978-2004), we cemented ourselves as a world leader in assistive technologies for children and youth with disabilities and developmental differences.



Fueling precision health

Holland Bloorview is transforming care for children with disabilities and developmental differences and their families through precision health. Newly appointed BRI associate chief of data science, [Dr. Azadeh Kushki](#), is leveraging data science and artificial intelligence to understand the variability within and across individuals, including biology, behaviour, environment and experiences. This new role, coupled with the hospital's data collection strategy, is transforming care through research.



Teaching the next generation

Holland Bloorview is dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to the specialized care they need, when and where they need it. Our Teaching and Learning Institute is enabling the training of next generation of health-care professionals in Canada and around the world, providing hands-on experience and the skills necessary to advance the fields of childhood development, disability and developmental differences. Undergraduate student [Simran Jenoga](#) and Ethiopian physician [Dr. Selamenesh Tsige](#) are just two of the 450+ learners who trained at Holland Bloorview this year.



Revolutionizing orthotics and prosthetics

Co-led by a partnership between researchers and clinicians, we are transforming the future of [orthotics and prosthetics](#). With new digital workflows that use optical scanners to capture the shape of limbs, models can now be modified with design software, saved for future use and manufactured at a lower cost using faster 3D printing. This innovative workflow ultimately provides clients with a more comfortable, customized device that can be easily adjusted as they grow.



Supporting the team

The need to mentor and support health-care workers in childhood disability is now more critical than ever. In response, Holland Bloorview has launched the clinical scholars program, enabling experienced health-care professionals to mentor new graduates and equip them with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to care for children and youth within our health-care system. As a clinical scholar, [Laura Ewing](#) dedicates her time to training new nurses as they hone this specialized skillset.

By the numbers



37
Scientists/
Investigators



179
Research trainees

2 Canada
Research Chairs

6 Hospital university
endowed chairs

99 Peer-reviewed
papers published

11 Research labs/
centres

47 Invited international
talks, keynotes
or lectures

BRI ranked
2nd 
in research intensity
across the top 40
small-tier Canadian
research hospitals

 **469**
Students

Over
90% of learners
engaged with and
learned from different
inter-professional
teams during their
clinical placement

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Responding to evolving and complex needs

Our vision for the most meaningful and healthy futures for all children, youth and families informs everything we do. Guided by our new strategic plan, [Transformative Care, Inclusive World: Holland Bloorview 2030 \(HB2030\)](#), fueled by new funding from the provincial government and donors, and co-created with expert clinicians, clients and families, Holland Bloorview continues to meet evolving and complex needs through compassionate, high-quality care and services. This year we expanded our inpatient and outpatient services across the hospital and launched new and innovative programs focused on delivering the best health outcomes.



CELEBRATING

125



In our 125 years, Holland Bloorview has transformed from a place where kids spent their entire childhood, to a place where the average inpatient stay is less than 45 days. As a result of medical, scientific and social advancements and our dedicated staff team, we're helping kids and families get back to doing what they love most.



By the numbers

Who we serve

9,567
unique clients

453 Inpatient admissions

58,214 Outpatient visits

We serve clients with multiple and complex diagnoses including autism spectrum disorder, neuromotor and neuromuscular conditions, acquired brain injury, orthopedic conditions and other developmental differences.

More than **50%** 
of the clients we serve have three or more diagnoses

Ages of clients

0 – 5 years	41%
6 - 9 years	19%
10 - 14 years	18%
15+ years	21%

 **40 days**

Average length of inpatient stay, excluding long-stay clients, respite care and sleep studies

Making kids count



In the summer of 2023, thanks to the advocacy efforts of the Children's Health Coalition, of which Holland Bloorview is a founding member, the Ontario government made an historic [\\$330 million investment](#) in pediatric health care. This unprecedented 20 per cent increase in our annual funding will advance our HB2030 strategic plan goals to ensure a healthy team, while providing care that is agile, socially accountable and transformed by research and education.

Meeting complex needs



Our clinical teams are dedicated to [meeting the increasingly complex needs](#) of the children and youth we serve, over half of whom have multiple diagnoses. This includes the development of needs-based care pathways and the use of innovative, evidence-based technologies. We support the unique and evolving needs of each client through programs like the extensive needs service, our complex continuing care unit and our spinal muscular atrophy intensive therapy program. In all that we do, we co-create care plans with families that take the whole child into account.

Empowering kids to get up and go



[Get up and go](#) is the only inpatient program for kids with persistent pain in Canada. Committed to improving teens' overall wellbeing, our skilled team of interdisciplinary health-care professionals lead with compassion in their comprehensive approach to helping clients better understand and address chronic pain. Over four weeks, clients learn to manage pain with a fulsome toolkit of physical and mental health strategies, empowering them to resume their favorite activities.

Forging new career pathways



Holland Bloorview is dedicated to our clients' long-term success. Our employment pathways program helps fill the early work experience gap that youth with disabilities face all too often. Thanks to our team of specialists and the generous support of our friends at RBC Foundation, [over 50 youth](#) completed skill training, work experience placements and job coaching last summer, building their confidence and a foundation for future career success.

Demanding more for children, youth and families

In the global movement toward equity and inclusion, children and youth with disabilities and developmental differences are often left out. They continue to face troubling systemic barriers to high-quality, timely health care. From financial support to developing new models of equity-driven care and identifying barriers for underserved communities, we are advocating to end disability stigma in health care. As we confront these multi-faceted challenges, we are taking bold actions to advance a culture of inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility and anti-racism (IDEAA) within our walls and beyond.



CELEBRATING
125

In 1899, 22 determined women known as “The Ladies Committee” recognized the need to provide health care for children with disabilities, and our hospital was founded as a result. Ever since, we have remained committed to empowering children and their families to live their best lives.



Read more



By the numbers

Serving diverse communities

9 out of the top 10 communities



we serve are among the fastest growing in terms of first-generation immigrant population

4 out of the top 10 communities



we serve are among the highest in terms of immigrant families with children under 14

18% of the clients

we serve live in areas where household income is below the poverty line of \$53,678



Top languages spoken by families (excluding English)

Mandarin, Spanish, Arabic and Tamil.

5% of clients required interpreter services

Supporting social health



800+ families completed social needs screening

410 clients and families

participated in workshops and events offered by the Family Navigation Hub

We processed 1,141 applications through the Family Support Fund, serving

751 unique families

Challenging health inequities through data

Social determinants of health can have a profound impact on health-care access, quality, safety and outcomes. That's why we started collecting clients' socio-demographic data upon registration. [We ask because we care](#) aims to gather the information we need to better understand the communities we serve, challenge existing health inequities and deliver equity-oriented care to ensure the best health outcomes for clients and families.



Championing inclusion

In the fall, as kids went back to school, we harnessed the power of community to advocate for more inclusivity in the classroom. Hundreds of people signed our Inclusion Resolution campaign, and shared resources like Holland Bloorview's [Project Inclusion](#) educator training modules with their local schools. [For kids like Avery](#), having teachers understand how to accommodate her needs made a world of difference when she returned to school.



Creating an IDEAA culture

At Holland Bloorview, [the IDEAA office](#) and taskforce provide valuable insight, and oversee our commitment to an inclusive, diverse, equitable, accessible and anti-racist environment that treats all individuals with respect and fairness. The IDEAA team is leading our action plan to dismantle anti-Black racism, developing new policies and procedures to advance truth and reconciliation and using data to inform representative recruitment and retention practices.



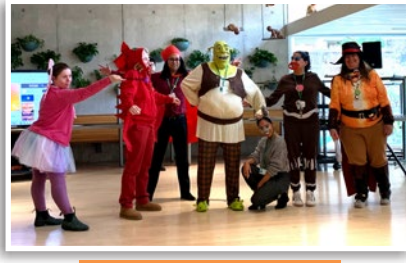
Lowering financial barriers

We know that factors like income can affect how individuals access care, impacting their long-term health outcomes. And when disability is also present, that impact is disproportionate. Our [Family Support Fund](#) provides much-needed financial assistance with everything from new medical equipment to power ramps for their cars. Thanks to our generous community, this 100 per cent donor-supported program provides hundreds of families with up to \$1,500 in financial assistance per year.

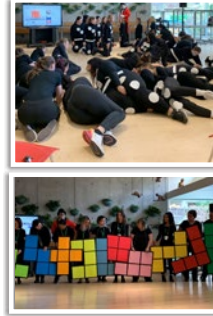


Highlights

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Staff Halloween party



Dance-a-thon community fundraiser



BRI Research Rounds attracts over 1,000 attendees globally



Holland Bloorview launches new strategic plan



Toronto's favourite sports teams visit Holland Bloorview



Humour Me raises \$2.7 million for Holland Bloorview

Celebrating Love at Mid-Autumn with Holland Bloorview

Genuine Lam has a strong connection to the Holland Bloorview through his son Miles. Miles has arthrogryposis multiplex congenita and is a client of the hospital and an alumni of the Bloorview School Authority. "We quickly realized what a wonderful place [Holland Bloorview] is," shared Genuine. "We know that we are well taken care of both physically and emotionally."

Over the years, Miles has been a Capes for Kids ambassador and rallied his family and friends to be champions for kids with disabilities. This year, Genuine was invited to be the co-chair of Fête Chinoise's initiative, "Love at Mid-Autumn" and was absolutely thrilled that Deborah Lau-Yu, founder of Fête Chinoise, agreed to designate Holland Bloorview as the beneficiary of the annual fundraiser.

"What we do for Fête Chinoise and Holland Bloorview comes from a sincere place of gratitude," expressed Genuine. "We hope that we can continue to break certain stigmas around disability."





Capes for Kids launches at a Marlies Game



Pascal Sikam (left) and Joseph Woll (right) visit Holland Bloorview



Capes for Kids 2024 broke records!

Data highlights

1,258

Staff

675

Volunteers

39,747

volunteer hours of service

36,225

foundation donors and supporters

Did you know Holland Bloorview has two employee resource groups, one each for the Jewish and LGBTQ2S+ staff member communities?

45

requests for consultation from Family as Faculty

Family support specialists conducted information consults with

660

unique families

Did you know Holland Bloorview has the largest developmental pediatrics program in Canada?

BLOOM blog is read in

150

countries

Did you know that Holland Bloorview has over 14 types of adaptive sporting equipment, including bikes, hockey sledges and more?

103

Family Leaders

Newsmakers

From finding full circle connections to leveraging the latest technology, these are the changemakers making the news!



A world first

Dr. Tom Chau and Susannah Van Damme speak to the Toronto Star about the transformational impact of the hospital's donor-funded clinical brain computer interface (BCI) program – a global-first – enabling children, like Giselle to interact independently with the world around them, often for the first time in their lives.



Full circle

Emily Chan spent the first six years of her life as a client at Holland Bloorview where she was cared for by her nurse, Jorge Santos. Now, as a social worker, Emily works alongside Jorge to nurture and support kids with the same care and attention she received as a young child.

Robotics research

Research trainee Stefanie Bradley speaks to CBC News about her Canada-first study with Trexo, a robotic walker, and how it can be used in clinic and school settings to help young children with cerebral palsy like Xiomara, move independently.



Rapping for good

By day, Dr. Rageen Rajendram is a developmental pediatrician who treats children with neurodevelopmental differences.



By night he's a hip hop artist, using his music to connect with the children and youth he treats. In March, he rapped to raise funds for the hospital's annual Capes for Kids fundraiser.

Rethinking diagnostic labels

PhD candidate Marlee Vandewouw tells CTV News Toronto about a new study that suggests examining brain differences rather than diagnostic labels can provide more targeted treatments for neurodiverse kids and youth.



Holland Bloorview in the news!



970+
Total media hits

360 million+
Total media reach



Read more



Awards

Celebrating excellence and recognizing leadership!



Dr. Evdokia Anagnostou

Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences



Dr. Danielle Baribeau

Glenda M. MacQueen Career Developmental Award for Women in Psychiatry



Heather Burns

Helen Henderson Literary Award



Dr. Tom Chau

Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada



Darlene Hubley

Ivy Oandasan Leadership Award



Louise Kinross

EKO Tribute Award for Advocacy



Iveta Lewis

Joan Leishman Award



Molly McKeown

Association for Healthcare Philanthropy's 40 under 40



[Changemaker of the Year award](#)

[Green Hospital Scorecard Award](#)

[Greater Toronto's Top Employers 2024](#)

[Canada's Top 40 Research Hospital 2023](#)

[Canada's Top Employers for Young People 2024](#)

[Canada's Best Diversity Employer 2024](#)

[Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society \(HIMSS\) Level 6 validations](#)

[2023 Daisy Awards](#)



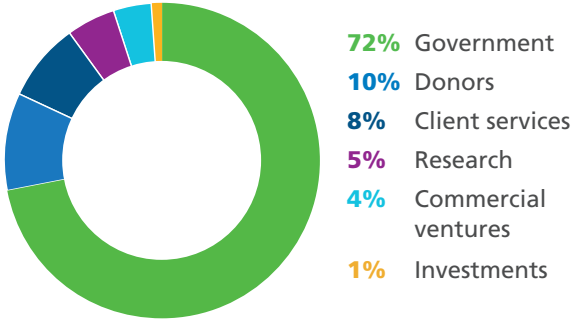
[Read more](#)



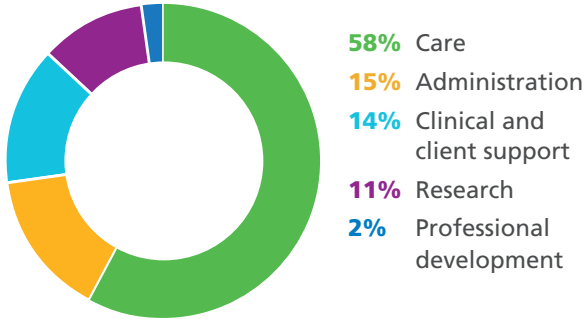
Financials

Holland Bloorview Hospital

Where do hospital funds come from?



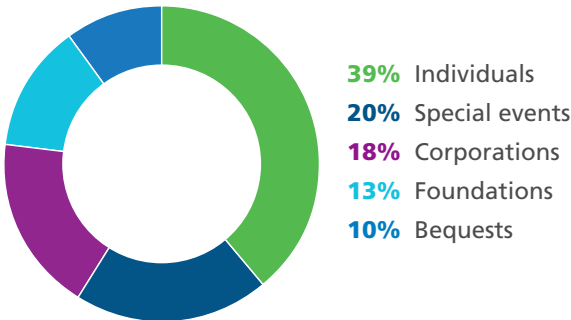
How do we spend hospital funds?



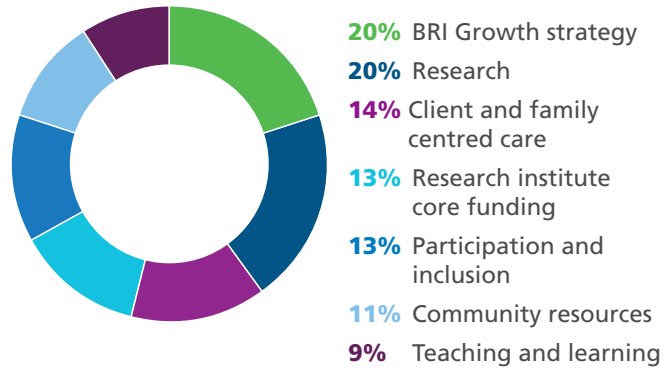
View our full 2023-2024 financial statements on [our website](#).

Holland Bloorview Foundation

Where do foundation funds come from?



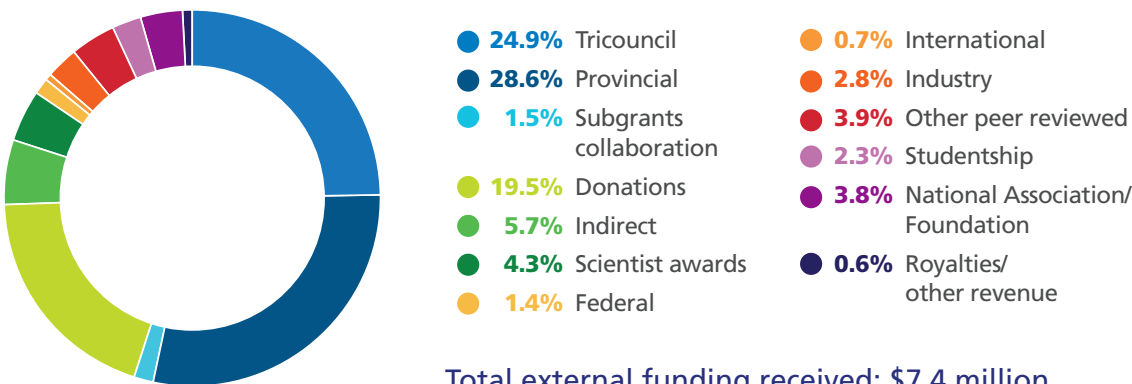
How do we grant foundation funds?



View our full 2023-2024 financial statements on [our website](#).

Bloorview Research Institute

Where do research funds come from?



Total external funding received: \$7.4 million





Thank you for supporting kids and youth with disabilities and developmental differences.

To read more about how you're making an impact visit
ImpactReport.HollandBloorview.ca



The web and PDF versions of the impact report are accessible for screen readers and other accessible technologies.



Holland Bloorview

Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

A TEACHING HOSPITAL
FULLY AFFILIATED WITH



Holland Bloorview

Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation

Charitable Business # 88932-6278-RR0001

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