

# 2020 Annual Report To Community



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Board of Directors

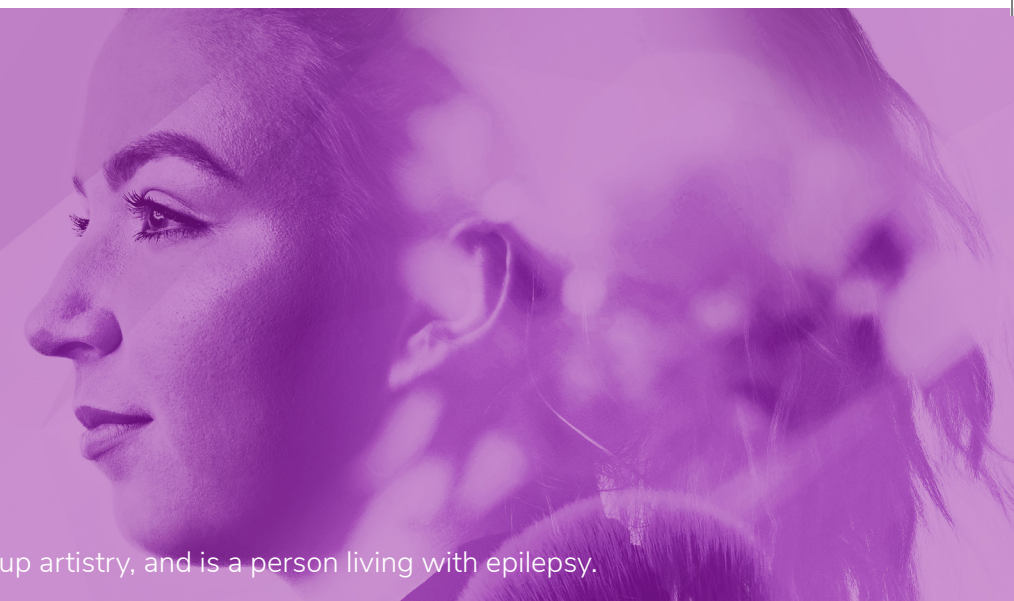
Martin Bell, Director  
Cameron Browning, Treasurer  
Jessica Chawrun, Director  
Brad Cooper, Director  
Geoff Hughes, Vice Chair  
Marion Jerome, Secretary  
Evan Legate, Chair  
Mitch McLeod, Past Chair  
David Sereda, Director  
Wendy Tynan, Director

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**Lilian Villaneuva** is an avid reader, and is a person living with epilepsy.



**Jamie Bannerman** is interested in make-up artistry, and is a person living with epilepsy.

## A MESSAGE FROM EVAN LEGATE



Over the last year, the Board of Directors invested heavily, both financially and timewise, into building for the future of the Epilepsy Association of Calgary.

This financial investment included engaging an executive search firm in order to find the best candidate possible to lead our association forward and implement the necessary changes that we owe both to our membership and to the wider epilepsy community.

After an extensive search, we were thrilled to welcome Laura Dickson as our new Executive Director in December 2019. Laura brought over a decade of experience in leadership roles in the non-profit sector and a stellar track record of building the

capacity of other non-profits. Since joining the association, Laura has already begun to deliver, and she continues to provide strong leadership for our association as we navigate through the COVID-19 crisis.

In February 2020, the Board of Directors held a retreat to define our strategic priorities in order to provide a strong foundation for the association to build upon in the years ahead. At this retreat, the Board of Directors identified and created goals for the following five priorities: redefining a strategic direction, building a strong network of partners, creating meaningful programming, strengthening our finances, and raising awareness.

We are already seeing early results on our efforts to advance these five priorities, and as we head in 2020-21, I am confident that the initial investments made over this last year will pay significant dividends for both our membership and the wider epilepsy community as we look to become a leading epilepsy association within Canada.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Evan Legate  
Chair of the Board of Directors

## GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is hard to believe that a year has now passed since I first began to explore the role of Executive Director with Epilepsy Association of Calgary. Reflecting on these past months, I am inspired by the kindness, generosity and commitment of the Association's network here in Calgary and across Southern Alberta.

I've met those whose lives are affected by epilepsy and listened to the incredible ways in which people have adapted and to their heart-felt desire to help others by sharing their stories or by simply providing a listening ear tuned in just the right way to another person's fears and worries.

I have connected with medical professionals working in clinics and in community who want to see more opportunities for patients to receive support, information and access to a network of peers in the community as a path to better health outcomes. And, I am looking forward to building upon relationships with Associations just like ourselves across Canada to see how we can work together to better raise awareness, and begin to change the conversation around epilepsy.

Of course, balancing operations through a global pandemic accompanied by an economic downturn are challenges shared across the non-profit community - and beyond. I am grateful to our donors, grantors and supporters for their belief in, and ongoing commitment to Epilepsy Association of Calgary. As we embark on a journey in 2020-21 of determining how our programs and services can (and should) adapt to better meet the needs of those we serve, I look forward to welcoming new members of the community to the conversation.

Regards,

Laura Dickson  
Executive Director



YEAR IN PHOTOS



SCOTIABANK CHARITY CHALLENGE – CALGARY MARATHON 2019



PURPLE DAY PAINT NIGHT IN CALGARY



JAMIE BANNERMAN - SHELDON CHUMIR CENTRE



2019 HOLIDAY PARTY GUESTS



CHOCOLATE ALMONDS SALE FOR CAMP FUNDRAISING



BARE NAKED NOGGINS





**Kyle Baigent** is a baseball enthusiast and is a person living with epilepsy.



**Valerie Gibbons** is passionate about cycling and is a person living with epilepsy.

## JACK LEARNS OF HIS DIAGNOSIS

Jack's epilepsy diagnosis in his late 40s brought a huge adjustment to his life; his driver's license was suspended, and he was unable to work for several months. His neurologists tried various medications to control his tonic-clonic, absence, and focal impaired awareness seizures. The medications had varying effects, all of which made his life even more difficult.

After Jack and his wife found Epilepsy Calgary's website, they began attending an adult support group where he found much-needed support in dealing with his condition and discovered that others had gone through much the same experiences. He learned how to communicate with his doctors so that his questions and concerns were heard and addressed. EAC's Support Coordinator also assisted Jack by writing a letter to CPP in support of his application for disability benefits.

Now, years later, Jack's seizures are under control and Jack still attends the support groups occasionally to offer support to others who are going through what he did when first diagnosed. Jack offers insight in terms of medications and advocating for yourself with your health care team, as well as navigating the confusing systems of medical and disability benefits. Looking back, Jack describes these groups as his lifeline during a difficult period in his life, and now sees them as a way for him to help others.

## JOAN MAKES A DIFFICULT DECISION

Joan, a 67-year old woman who had lived with epilepsy all her life, managing with the help of friends and family, had remained fairly independent despite her seizures.

Recently she recognized that her declining memory was becoming an issue. While enroute to her destination she would forget where she was headed and become lost. Other times she would forget there was food cooking on the stove, or fall asleep in the bath, causing safety concerns.

Joan made the difficult decision to move into an assisted living facility, where she found she was still experiencing challenges in dealing with her monthly finances. Forgetting to pay bills on time, sending the wrong cheque to the wrong company, or putting the wrong amounts on her cheques caused issues like her phone being disconnected and her rent to the care centre being bounced more than once.

With the help of a social worker at the care centre, Joan contacted EAC for support and ideas on how to cope with memory loss. EAC's Support Coordinator visited Joan and with Joan's social worker, came up with some strategies that made it easier for Joan to organize and track her financial records. This has alleviated some of Joan's worries and stress.

Joan now has time to connect with other residents and get back to things she enjoys doing, like puzzles and taking walks with others. Joan says, "I appreciate being able to speak to someone who understands epilepsy and the daily struggles that people with epilepsy live through each day."



# 2019 IN THE COMMUNITY

## Engagement & Education



**808**  
Participants  
attended



**24**  
Community  
education sessions



**107**  
Requests for  
educational materials

## Community Support



**160**  
Participants  
Attended



**27**  
Peer support  
groups & workshops



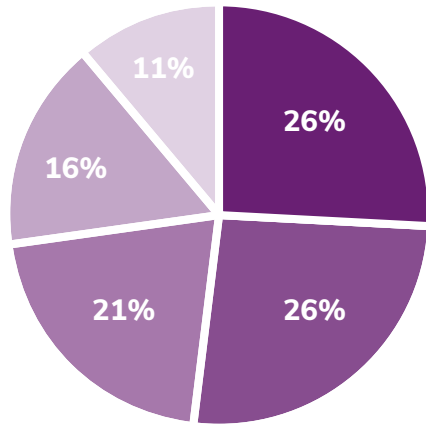
**255**  
Total support  
hours provided

Changing the conversation

# 2019 FINANCIALS

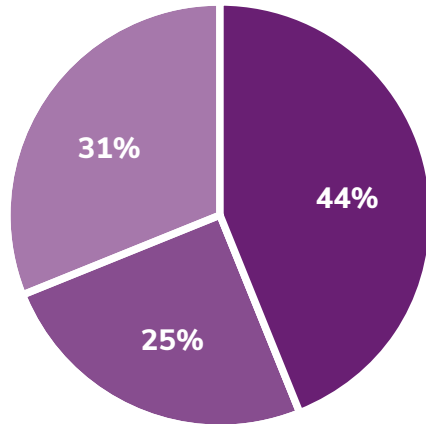
Epilepsy Association of Calgary is reliant upon the generosity of our donors, one-time funding from grant makers and Alberta Lottery and Gaming to fund our operations. Our goal is to engage with our membership base and establish new connections with those whose lives are affected by epilepsy to continue to strengthen our revenue streams into the future. We are grateful for the support of those taking part in the annual Scotiabank Charity Marathon and the Bare Naked Noggins head-shave. These events not only provided a source of revenue to our operations during 2019, but also offered our network ways to engage with the Association as fundraisers and participants. Thank you!

## 2019 REVENUE



- 26% Grants
- 26% Casino
- 21% Donations
- 16% Fundraising & Events
- 11% Interest & Other

## 2019 EXPENSES



- 44% Programs
- 25% Administrative & Other
- 31% Fundraising

During 2019, Epilepsy Association of Calgary embarked upon a thoughtful re-visioning of strategy, leadership and purpose. We know that investments in these efforts today will pay dividends in the long-run in terms of the quality of programs and services provided to those who rely upon us for information and support. In 2019 we completed our website and re-branding projects and employed a full-time fundraiser. A team of three full time staff was responsible for program delivery, communications, event planning and management, revenue generation and administrative duties while a search for a new Executive Director was completed.



THANK YOU FOR CARING!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported the Epilepsy Association with a donation. Every gift helps make a difference in the life of someone affected by epilepsy. We also acknowledge and thank those donors who prefer that we not share their names.

\$1000 AND ABOVE

INDIVIDUALS

Cheryl Cohen  
Kathy & Derek Fyfe  
Kelly Hewson & Gordon Salahor  
Cheryl Menegoz  
Dale Poloway  
Jessica Weatherhead

ORGANIZATIONS

Estate of Eleanor Ganes

AECOM

Harry & Martha  
Cohen  
Foundation



BENEFACTION



Blakes



\$500 - \$999 LEVEL

INDIVIDUALS

Maria & Brad Cooper  
Kim & Stefan Hrach  
Terry Poole  
David Tod  
John Zutter

ORGANIZATIONS



\$100 - \$499 LEVEL

INDIVIDUALS

Thomas Albert  
William Appleby  
Sherry Austin  
Deborah Baigent  
Kevin Beavis  
Gary Ballantyne  
Kevin Bamford  
Gord Bandy  
Adela Bannerman  
Paula Bannerman  
Jamie Bannerman-Flaterud  
Janice Bateson  
Ross Beasley  
Garry B. Beres  
Gerry Bowland  
Scott Budau  
Hanh Dung (Lee) Bui  
Wayne & Shannon Burwash  
David Butler  
Brian Callow  
Rob Campbell  
Lorna Carpenter  
Ross Collett  
Ron Conley  
Mansil & Marilyn Davis  
Brian Dowse  
Kevin Dradon  
Linda Eirikson  
Richard Fleurant  
Simon Forman  
Jodi Forzani  
Allan Fowler  
Adelein Frey  
Louise Gallagher  
Richard Galloway  
David Gammie  
Michael Gaschnitz  
Dale Getty  
Theo Goethals  
Tom Guebert  
Don Hadley  
Ken & Christine Hale  
Carol Haley  
Patti Harrison  
Marlene Hein  
Blair Hicken  
Bob Holmes  
Greg Horton  
Donna Mae Howes

Shawn Irwin  
Hasneen Jalil  
Margaret Johnson  
Cori Johnston  
Edward Johnston  
Paul Kelly  
Craig Kemery  
Amanda & David Kemery  
Dana Kemery Valguardson  
Patty Kilgallon  
Zora Ljubojevic  
Ron Mackenzie  
Howard MacKichan  
Lana Macneil  
Janelle Marietta-Vasquez  
Allison Martin  
Linda McClure  
John McDonald  
Susan McLean  
Mitch McLeod  
Retta McLeod  
Cheryl McNab  
Francesco Mele  
Mary Merriman  
Rebecca Mesa  
Laurie Middlehurst  
Marc Murdoch  
Brendan Murray  
Elena Nechushkina  
Gary Nissen  
Shelly Norris  
Karen O'Connor  
Mary & Ross Phillips  
Art Piercy  
David Pyke  
Fred Pynn  
Lori Ramcharan  
Charles Ramcharan  
Rick Riffel  
Linda & Rowland Rochow  
Stephen Rodrigues  
Mary Rooney  
Hans & Mary Lou Saeby  
Adam Sanvido  
Shelby Schultz  
Zach Schultz  
Kristin Shandro  
Kerry Smith  
Roger Smith

John Spronk  
Christopher Stanley  
Paula Steele  
John Thomson  
Helen Tod  
William G. Turnbull  
Karla Turner  
Tim Tycholis  
Adam Walsh  
Frank Walsh  
Deborah Warren  
Helen Warren  
Chris Wolfenberg

ORGANIZATIONS







Chloe & Lainey Hillier are persons with epilepsy and enthusiasts of fine arts.





## **LIST OF MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUPS & WORKSHOPS**

[bit.ly/eac-support](https://bit.ly/eac-support)

## **GET INVOLVED AS A VOLUNTEER WITH EAC**

[bit.ly/eac-volunteer](https://bit.ly/eac-volunteer)

## **BOOK A COMMUNITY EDUCATION SESSION**

[bit.ly/eac-education](https://bit.ly/eac-education)



**@EpilepsyCalgary**

