

Aphasia Institute Member
Varathan Theiventhiran and family



ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Celebrating our Families and Caregivers



About Aphasia

Aphasia is a language condition often as the result of stroke or brain injury, that masks a person's inherent competence, and most dramatically affects conversational interaction (talking and understanding), as well as the ability to read and write. Without the ability to participate in conversation, every relationship, life role and almost every life activity is at risk.

The Aphasia Institute

Founded in 1979 by Pat Arato (1938–2020), we are a Canadian, community-based teaching centre of excellence. We have pioneered programs and practices that help people with aphasia learn how to communicate in new ways in order to navigate their lives again. Through direct service, research, education and training, the Aphasia Institute has built an international reputation as a leader and educator in aphasia.

Executive Letter

“Today was good. Today was fun. Tomorrow is another one.”

– Dr. Seuss

Sometimes, we find ourselves hesitating in the face of change, while at other times, we wholeheartedly embrace it. However, there is one undeniable truth: change is inevitable. In recent years, the Aphasia Institute (AI) has undergone numerous transformations, including those brought about by the pandemic. Despite this, we continue to live our values and be a trusted, knowledgeable, empathetic, and inclusive resource for people with aphasia and their families, just as we have been for over 40 years.

A notable change this year was the transition of Dr. Aura Kagan, our Executive Director since 1987, to the role of Executive Advisor, Strategy, Research, and Education. We are grateful for her visionary leadership and impact on the lives of people with aphasia and their families worldwide. Aura and I prepared for this transition for over a year, and I am excited to take on my new role as Executive Director on April 1, 2023! We also welcome Elyse Shumway as the Director of Clinical Services, along with new staff members—Ipshita Siddiquee, Neetika Dhaddha, and Sajjad Fazel.

Over the past year, our program schedule has been modified to increase accessibility for our members. Virtual programming, a change we initially hesitated to embrace, has become highly valued and part of ongoing services. Additionally, we made the critical decision to revive our onsite programs. Returning to our office two days a week has reignited the familiar and lively office atmosphere that we deeply missed. It has also provided us with opportunities for spontaneous and informal conversations with our members, their families, and our dedicated volunteers.

Life truly is a conversation!

Within the following pages, we invite you to explore stories of transformation and hope that have shaped our year, including the following story from our Social Work Team on how we support families through change. You will also learn about the success of our virtual health care provider training, and our preparations for formal accreditation. We have also been diligently working on the necessary revisions to bylaws in compliance with the new Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. The implementation of new and refined policies and procedures underscores our commitment to ambitious standards and continuously improving our services.

Our successes are attributed to the ongoing and invaluable support we receive from our community, comprised of staff, board members, clients, families, volunteers, vendors, community and health system partners, funders, and donors. For this, we extend a heartfelt thank you!



Natalie Gierman



Silvia Gomes



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Gierman".

Natalie Gierman,
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Gomes".

Silvia Gomes,
Board Chair

Aphasia Institute Strategic Goals 2022 – 2026

The mission of the Aphasia Institute is to give hope to people with aphasia and their families by developing and sharing innovative solutions that reduce language barriers to full life participation.



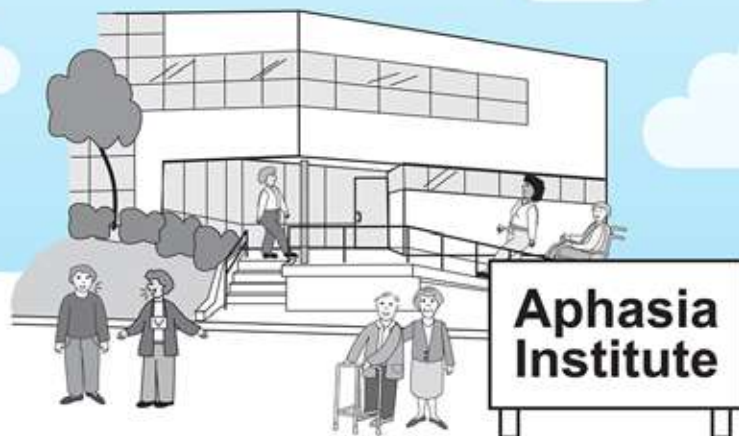
Anticipate changes in the service needs of people with aphasia and their families locally and across Canada.



Share expertise and facilitate professional learning so as to increase communicative access to health care services in Ontario.



Champion communicative access for people affected by stroke and aphasia provincially, nationally, and internationally.



There are no barriers to living successfully with aphasia



APHASIA
INSTITUTE

www.aphasia.ca

Enabling Goals



Strengthen organizational capacity and sustainability



Communicate our work



Leverage technology and information

RESPECT

COMPASSION

COLLABORATION

CREATIVITY

EXCELLENCE

The Caregiver Journey at the Aphasia Institute

When someone has a stroke, their lives are forever altered, and the people closest to them are also significantly impacted. Both the person living with stroke and their closest family members and friends live with a daily struggle to communicate, so we often encourage them to say, “we have aphasia”. Family members of people with aphasia often experience increased responsibilities at home, changes in roles, increased financial stress, loss of freedom, isolation, shattered dreams for one’s life ahead, and caregiving stress which can lead to burnout.

The Aphasia Institute provides a ‘safe space’ for family members to receive services, support and education. These services are offered to families of individuals affected by aphasia, as a result of a stroke or brain injury, and with Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA). PPA is a progressively degenerative neurological condition that may start with changes in language and can eventually lead to cognitive changes and then dementia. For both of these groups, support is essential for the well-being of the caregiver and the person with aphasia. To understand this, think of a situation where an oxygen mask is required – if one does not put on their own oxygen mask first, they will not be able to help anyone else. Similarly, with caregiving, if the caregiver does not take care of themselves, they will be unable to provide care to their family member.

The Aphasia Institute offers an ‘introductory program’ for family members in the stroke/brain injury stream, called New Beginnings, and in the PPA stream, called Living Your Best Life. The New Beginnings program brings family members together, who are at the beginning of their caregiving journey, and offers a place to be heard, as well as understanding, encouragement, and education about aphasia and communication strategies. This program increases caregivers’ coping skills and resilience through discussing the emotional impact of experiencing aphasia “as a family”, and having an opportunity to connect with peers, who validate and relate to each other’s feelings of being overwhelmed, as well as feelings of loss, guilt, shame, loneliness, and sadness. Similarly, in the Living Your Best Life program, family

Aphasia Institute member Nagina (right) is married to Najam (left) and they have two daughters. Nagina was born in Karachi, Pakistan and moved to Toronto in her 20’s. She worked in advertising & graphic design.

members are provided with the opportunity to meet other family caregivers, learn about PPA, and gain support and education related to being a family caregiver of someone with PPA.

The Aphasia Institute focuses on the needs of the person with aphasia and their primary support person, which better equips them to continue having ongoing dialogue at home. Family members often seek and receive assistance with navigating the health care system and subsidies, such as applying for disability-related income support, transportation applications, or subsidized housing to name a few.

From the time of the first phone call with a family member, to the assessment, and throughout the programs, we aim to weave moments of healing into the family member’s journeys in recovering from the trauma of a stroke or brain injury or coping with the degenerative nature of Primary Progressive Aphasia. Our goal is to help the whole family and social unit of a person with aphasia to participate fully in life, and to reduce the communication barriers that they experience, together.

– Aphasia Institute Social Work Team



Aphasia Institute Speech-Language Pathologists Neetika Dhatta (left) and Edward Luong (right)



Direct Services

Living Successfully with Aphasia



“To everybody at the institute, I would like to thank you all for your kindness, attentiveness and the caring you all showed to us. With your help we both discovered new ways to make life more meaningful and brighter. I must say you all were a joy to know and your positive message about aphasia will always be with us.”

– Family member of a person with aphasia

Our Hybrid model of programming was introduced and further developed this year, in consultation with members, family members and volunteers. At our last two Town Hall meetings, we conducted small focus groups with members, family members and volunteers to gain a sense of what programs should be offered in-person, and what to continue offering online. Interestingly, there was a fairly even split between those who wished to remain attending virtual programs, and those who were keen to return to in-person. This equal split is also reflective of our intake process, with approximately half of the new referrals requesting in-person and half looking for virtual programs. A better understanding of this evolving need for a flexible hybrid model has guided our program team in offering creative and innovative programs, events, and activities. We now offer both on-line and in-person options for our initial assessments and also for our introductory programs. The Community Aphasia Program is offered both in-person (two days), with all virtual programs continuing, and our community outings and volunteer opportunities for members have resumed, with great enthusiasm!



New Beginnings

This signature 12-week program for new clients and families was offered three times this year, with our first in-person New Beginnings program since the start of the pandemic being offered in February 2023. This was the first opportunity for many individuals to participate in a face-to-face program, who had been referred during the pandemic, and were unable, or had chosen to wait for an in-person offering. This program provides support and education to individuals with aphasia and their family members who are new to the Aphasia Institute. The staff and volunteers delivering the program expressed that it was very fulfilling to be able to offer this program in-person, once again.

Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA)

The steady increase in PPA referrals has continued over the past year, and we have offered the Living Your Best Life program – a ‘partner program’ for people living with PPA and their families as needed, throughout the year.

Families/Caregivers

Family members of individuals living with aphasia continue to receive a range of services to support them in their ‘caregiving journey’. In addition to our New Beginnings and Living Your Best Life programs, which provide support and education to family members, we have also continued offering our ‘Path to Resilience’ programs for family members living in Ontario that are not members of the Aphasia Institute. Our weekly Family Support Groups continue to grow in our online format, and our support group for family members of those living with aphasia, as a result of stroke/injury, has grown to a point where we are exploring offering this program on an additional day. Our support group for families affected by Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) also continues to provide meaningful support for those whose family members are living with PPA. Our staff also continue to meet with family clients individually, in person, by telephone and via Zoom, as needed, as well as providing support and information via email.


Community Outings and Volunteering Programs

In-person outings and volunteer opportunities for members have returned! We are very excited to be able to resume outings and volunteering in the community for members wishing to ‘give back’! Community Outings spanned a diverse range of venues, including a Mardi Gras Concert and a ballet performance at the National Ballet of Canada. Additionally, our virtual outing options continued strong, with Indigenous concerts and an Art Gallery of Ontario talk on Women in Art, to name a few. Members with aphasia were offered three opportunities to develop their skills and give back by volunteering at the Daily Bread Food Bank.

Art Programming

The Expressive Arts Program is now back on-site, being offered weekly in-person by our Art Therapist and Art Volunteers. The program also continues to be offered on-line. The art program fosters creativity and well-being in a supportive group environment.



A photograph of Elyse Shumway, Director of Clinical Services and Education. She is a woman with short, curly, reddish-brown hair, wearing a red patterned shawl over a black top. She is smiling and holding a large, bright green speech bubble. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a building.

Elyse Shumway, Director,
Clinical Services and Education

Education & Training

Building capacity for communicatively
accessible healthcare systems



*“The best workshop I have
ever taken and the hands-on
experience was amazing –
People with aphasia are still
the same people – they just
communicate differently!”*

– Participant in our SCA™ CORE
Training program in Nov., 2022

Training

Our world-renowned training programs attract healthcare professionals from across the globe. This past year we trained 121 healthcare professionals across 11 programs. Trainees included registered nurses, social workers, speech language pathologists, and personal support workers among others. In addition to the training programs, we held five follow-up booster sessions to provide ongoing support to clinicians striving to make their practice more aphasia friendly. We also conducted our first online SCA™ Training workshop for Finnish and Swedish Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) and other healthcare professionals.

Trainees have provided exceptional feedback related to the training courses with many expressing confidence in their ability to communicate with people with aphasia using the skills learned in the workshops. We take immense pride in our continued efforts to empower healthcare professionals, with our end goal of ensuring that healthcare services become more communicatively accessible.

Some notable responses from trainees include:

- “This workshop provided me with the tools to facilitate carryover of SCA™ techniques into the home environment. I’m looking forward to applying this learning to my next patient with aphasia. Thank you!” – Nov 15, 2022
- “I’ve been comfortable using SCA™ strategies with my patients as a clinician however this course provided me with concrete information and resources to utilize in a group setting and with caregivers.” – Nov 15, 2022
- “I feel much more equipped, not only with skills of SCA™, but a deeper understanding of the role we have in advocating for communicative access! Thank you for helping us grow as professionals who have the honor of building relationships with adults with Aphasia, supporting them to get their story out and heard.” – Mar 10, 2023

Resources

This year our team is excited to share with you a new resource that was created by Speech Language Pathologist, content creator, and illustrator, Graham Henderson. Graham has created a comic book titled, “Aphasia Communication for Caretakers” and was kind enough to allow the Aphasia Institute to share it with our members and broader international audiences via our website.

This comic book highlights the various techniques used in Supported Conversation for Adults (SCA™) developed by the Aphasia Institute. It is a great resource for caregivers/families and friends of people



with aphasia. In addition, Aphasia Institute videos and digital resources were utilized over 4,000 times. We also continue to ship hard copy resources to healthcare facilities across Ontario. The most popular hard copy resources continue to be the “Talking About Stroke and Aphasia” and the “What is Aphasia” booklets.

Webinars

Our sought-after Master Class Knowledge Exchange Speaker Series was very successful this year with over 500 attendees across eight webinars. After revisions were made to marketing materials, processes, and the addition of back-end automation to make registration easier, we noted a 100% increase in attendance at our first Season 18 webinar.



Community Hub

Our learning platform, Community Hub, has been successful in drawing healthcare professionals to our training programs and resources. Over 5,000 new healthcare professionals have registered on the Community Hub, including more than 700 from Ontario. Our Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™) eLearning module continues to be used by healthcare providers across the world with over 2,900 healthcare professionals completing the eLearning course this year. Additionally, 7,000 pictographic images from our database known as *ParticiPics*, were downloaded from our database, demonstrating its value and impact.

Education

Over the past year, our staff continued to engage with the academic, research and clinical community by offering seven presentations at conferences and to graduate and undergraduate programs.

Student Training

Our ongoing commitment towards learning and mentorship was demonstrated through the work of clinical staff with seven placement students from University of Toronto and Mohawk College. They enriched our work by bringing forward fresh ideas and experiences. We deeply value our relationships with post-secondary institutions and continue to collaborate with the mission of enhancing capacity for the healthcare leaders of tomorrow.

Melodie Chan, Research, Development
and Implementation Coordinator



Research & Development

Community impact through Research



“I was honored to join the Aphasia Institute Research Associates team. My conceptualization of our field’s problems and questions and how to go about answering them has changed, likely because of the collaborative atmosphere and openness to new ways of thinking.”

– Jamie Azios, Research Associate

Using BOMPA virtually: Reliable Results

During the pandemic, staff were required to assess new clients online, a process that included use of our recently developed evidence-based tool – the *Basic Outcome Measure Protocol for Aphasia (BOMPA)*. The BOMPA is used in clinical settings to assess participation in conversation, quality of life, and aphasia severity.

Our data along with data from researchers at two universities indicated that virtual administration of BOMPA yielded reliable results and that the tool was sensitive to change. These findings, along with a study demonstrating the impact of including our SCA™ eLearning module in the curriculum for graduate speech-language pathology students, were presented at international conferences.



Aphasia Research Associates

Our dynamic Aphasia Institute Research Associates conduct research projects of their choice on Aphasia Institute resources/tools. They receive mentoring and support and further our work by presenting/publishing their work. This past year our Research Associates presented their research at the *International Aphasia Rehabilitation Conference*, sharing how training 79 graduate students through our Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™) eLearning and related curricula, had led to impactful empowerment. This year, a new member has been invited to join the group, which now includes Esther Kim (University of Alberta), Katie Strong (Central Michigan University), and Jamie Azios (University of Louisiana at Lafayette).

Pushing Frontiers

An in-depth proposal was submitted this year to build on our prior research with the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences. If funded, the new project aims to investigate the impact of COVID-19 on health care usage, costs and outcomes for people with stroke-and-aphasia compared with the general Ontario stroke population. This information may be useful to inform health system planning and implementation.

Supporting efforts to reduce language barriers and increase communicative access for people with aphasia

We continue to work with organizations in Canada as well as other countries who are interested in using our evidence-based tool – *Communicative Access Measures for Stroke (CAMS)*. This tool helps organizations measure how communicatively accessible they are, and includes a range of surveys exploring administrative policies/procedures, staff attitudes/practices, and patient satisfaction.

“Working with the AI team has been instrumental in allowing our program to leverage the CAMS platform and the associated comprehensive data analysis. This is an imperative step as we prepare to develop quality improvement plans related to Communicative Accessibility in multiple programs across continuums of care.”

– Manager of a multi-site
healthcare facility in Ontario

CAMS COMMUNICATIVE ACCESS MEASURES FOR STROKE

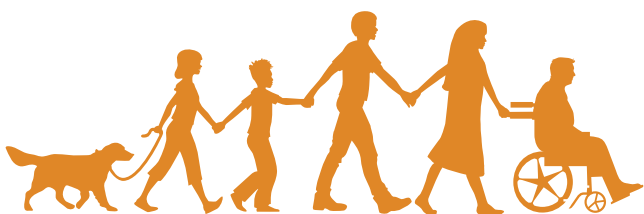




Fundraising

Talk, Walk 'n Roll

In 2022, we celebrated our 25th Talk, Walk 'n Roll. Despite the Toronto Challenge being cancelled for the third year due to the pandemic, we held our yearly Talk, Walk 'n Roll campaign online and raised over \$95,000! Thanks to the overwhelming support from our community who fundraised and donated to our cause, and raised awareness about aphasia. These funds support our client services as well as our research and educational initiatives.



Talk, Walk 'n Roll

Annual Appeal

Our 2022 Annual Appeal highlighted our training programs which educate and train hundreds of health care providers each year in Ontario, Canada, and beyond, using an internationally recognized, research-based method we have developed called Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™). SCA™ provides a set of techniques and tools that enables communication with people with aphasia.

We are thankful to everyone who supported or donated generously to our fundraising endeavours throughout the previous year.



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Schnaithmann](#) [Brian & Analee Schnurr](#) [Gitta Schoppel-Vetter](#) [Laureen Scott](#) [William & Bonita Scott](#) [Vinothan Selvalingam](#) [Tharani Selvanathan](#) [Barbara Shadden](#) [George Shapiro](#) [Maya Shapiro](#) [Saundra Shapiro](#) [Ralph Shedletsky](#) [Harriet Sherman](#) [Cheryl Shour-Adler](#) [Robert Silk](#) [Josefina & Franjo Simcic](#) [Christina Sisson](#) [Ragutharan Sivapalan](#) [Dave Skillen](#) [Heather Smeall](#) [Alan & Adrienne Smith](#) [Carol Lee Smith](#) [Karen Solomon](#) [Indira Somwaru](#) [Julie Sorhaitz](#) [Penny St. Antoine](#) [Leslie Starkman](#) [Sarah Stefanyk](#) [Sonya Stirpe](#) [John Stockwell](#) [Karyn Sullivan](#) [Arunan Suthanathan](#) [Kuhan Suthanathan](#) [Joscelyn Sylvester](#) [Hermia Szeto](#) [Beverley Takaoka](#) [Urvashi Tanna](#) [Allison & John Tedesco](#) [Ivor Teitelbaum](#) [Musarait Kashmiri & Gizaw Tessema](#) [Monica Tessier](#) [Vim Thasan](#) [Tim Thomas](#) [Robin Tinney](#) [Richard \(Ryszard\) & Elzbieta Tobolski](#) [John Tonus & Donna Soubliere](#) [Susan Traill](#) [Dan Trainor](#) [Helen Trainor](#) [Nicole Tryhorn](#) [Vince Tso](#) [Monica Vetter](#) [Stephen Vetter](#) [Patti Vickers](#) [Bond Leslee](#) [Vivian](#) [Linda Walderman](#) [Gary Wilkinson](#) [Linda Wise](#) [Catherine Wong](#) [Liane Wong](#) [Michael Wong](#) [Dianne Woods](#) [Lennard Woods](#) [Cheryl Wright](#) [Nancy Wright](#) [David Wyatt](#) [Caroline Wynne](#) [Carole Yauk](#) [Ashok Yoganathan](#) [Nicolas Zabaneh](#) [Graham Zimmerman](#)

Thank you to our amazing Volunteer Community!

Our vibrant volunteer community is what makes it possible to achieve so much of what we do – not only providing support to our own local clients and families, but also contributing to the work that benefits countless people with aphasia and their families beyond our walls. The Aphasia Institute continues to thrive because of the value we and members of our community place on the spirit of giving and sharing.

Volunteer Roles

Our volunteers are engaged in the following areas:

- Communication Group Facilitators
- Meditation & Relaxation
- Virtual Outings
- Outreach (Tele-Visit) Conversation Partners
- Toastmasters
- Research
- Administration & Program Support

Volunteer Achievements

- A total of **119 volunteers** provided **7,175 hours of support** to direct service, research, administration, and fund development
- **42 new volunteers**
- **9 volunteers were awarded for Volunteer Service by the Ministry of Citizenship & Multiculturalism**
- **1,216 Televisits**



Volunteer Team

Saleha Ansari
Sheri-Anne Asaro
Ramsha Babar
Tamara Beck
Marilyn Berger
Rachel Berk
Kereisha Biggs
Cynthia Blackman
Bonnie Boltman
Mary Botterell
Sara Brassel
Jill Brooks
Patricia "Tricia" Broughton
Allan Brown
Natalie Carmeli
Ariane Caybot
Arielle Cernio
Valerie Chavossy
Clara Choi
Lynne Czutrin
Quynh "Quincy" Dang
Sapphire Davis
Kaela de Carlos
Thalia Demas
Emily Ding
Melanie Ebach
Rachelle Eldar
Fawwaz Elmi
Rhea Fernandes
Justine Fleming
Marie Nyoh Fonbah

Jaime Gaines
Anastasia Giachalis
Gloria Good Draper
Ruth Grant
Kate Gregory
Joan Hamilton
Bronwyn Hodge
Jessie Howard
Beatrice Hugh-Harris
Nicolette Hunter
Wemdah Hussein
Amisha Jagpal
Alayna Jang
Rose Kamnitzer
Tara Kaur
Aiman Khan
George Kopulos
Susan Kopulos
Anastasia "Stacie"
Koudrova-Wilkinson
Janice Kremer
Andre La Rose
Vanessa Laham
Gabrielle Lai
Christine Lee
Clarie Leung
Naomi Lewis
Robyn Lewis
Sarah Lewkowict
Yiannie Lin
Ela Andre Lising

Diane Litchen
Melanie Markle
Olivia Martella
Scott McIntosh
Don McKellar
Sapphire Mendonca
Moiria Minoughan
Courtney Mintz
Cheryl Morris
Ryley Nathaniel
Elise Nemeth
Anh "Emily" Nhu Tran
John Nussbaum
Marina Ogawa
Leonard Pamulaklakin
Shajaky "Sai" Parameswaran
Trisha Patel
Annie Pendlebury
Joelle Peresin
Ysabel Marja Perez
Kate Pigott
Carol Pratap
Claire Reed
Jacob Rice
Mohaddesa "Mo" Rizvi
Gillian Robinson
Geri Rockstein
Kira Rosenbloom
Susan Roza
Christiana Rumi
Parnian Safaraifard

Rahshmy Salandran
Marissa Seymour
Marilyn Shama
Myriam Shechter
Shabnam Shokoufi
Janice Shum
Julianne Silver
Jacki (Jacqueline) Silverman
Katelyn Tadros
Elizabeth "Liz" Talmassons
Urvashi "Ushi" Tanna
Meklit Tegegne
John Tonus
Angela Trinidad
Sharon Tung
Kristen Turner
Laura Tweedley
Naziha Ullah
Vanessa Vaccarella
Aaron Vincent
Gayle Wilmot
Tristan Wolf
Michael Wright
Bianca Sze Ming Yuen

In Memoriam:
Jane Thorson

2022/23 Financials

A word from our auditor to the Directors of the Aphasia Institute:



The accompanying condensed statements of financial position, revenues, expenditures, and net assets are derived from the complete financial statements of the Aphasia Institute as at March 31, 2023 and for the year then ended on which I expressed a qualified audit opinion, which is a common practice with respect to charitable organizations, in my Independent Auditor's Report dated June 5, 2023.

The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of the Institute. My responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of CPA Canada, is to report on the condensed financial statements.

In my opinion, the accompanying condensed financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in

the Guideline referred to above.

Since these are condensed financial statements, readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the Institute's financial position, results of operations and cash flow, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

Peter Tsui
CPA, CA, LPA

Financial Key Highlights

For the year ended March 31, 2023, the Aphasia Institute had a net surplus of revenue over expense of \$30,556

Revenues	22/23 \$	21/22 \$	Variance	Expenditures	22/23 \$	21/22 \$	Variance
Government & other grants	1,499,046	1,385,447	113,599	Salaries and employee benefits	1,242,758	1,134,162	108,596
Donations and fundraising	455,969	221,952	234,017	Occupancy costs	337,575	325,061	12,514
Resource Material	32,989	39,620	- 6,631	Office expenses	256,084	219,403	36,681
Client service fees	31,464	27,009	4,455	Provincial education & training	196,407	116,867	79,540
Professional training and education	94,393	63,655	30,738	Client services	12,785	4,300	8,485
Investment Income	51,484	35,697	15,787	Amortization of capital assets	17,411	19,832	- 2,421
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	1,113	1,112	1	Fundraising	4,497	2,554	1,943
Government COVID-19 subsidies	-	313,272	- 313,272	Staff development and travel	4,330	565	3,765
Other income	441	21,335	- 20,894	Professional fees	52,296	36,959	15,337
Total revenues	2,166,899	2,109,099	57,800	Professional training and resource materials	12,200	9,074	3,126
				Total expenditures	2,136,343	1,868,777	267,566

Net Surplus

2022/23: **\$30,556** 2021/22: **\$240,322** Variance: - **\$209,766**

For a complete review of the Audited Financial Statements as of March 31, 2023, please visit: <https://www.aphasia.ca/about-us/reports-and-publications/annual-reports>



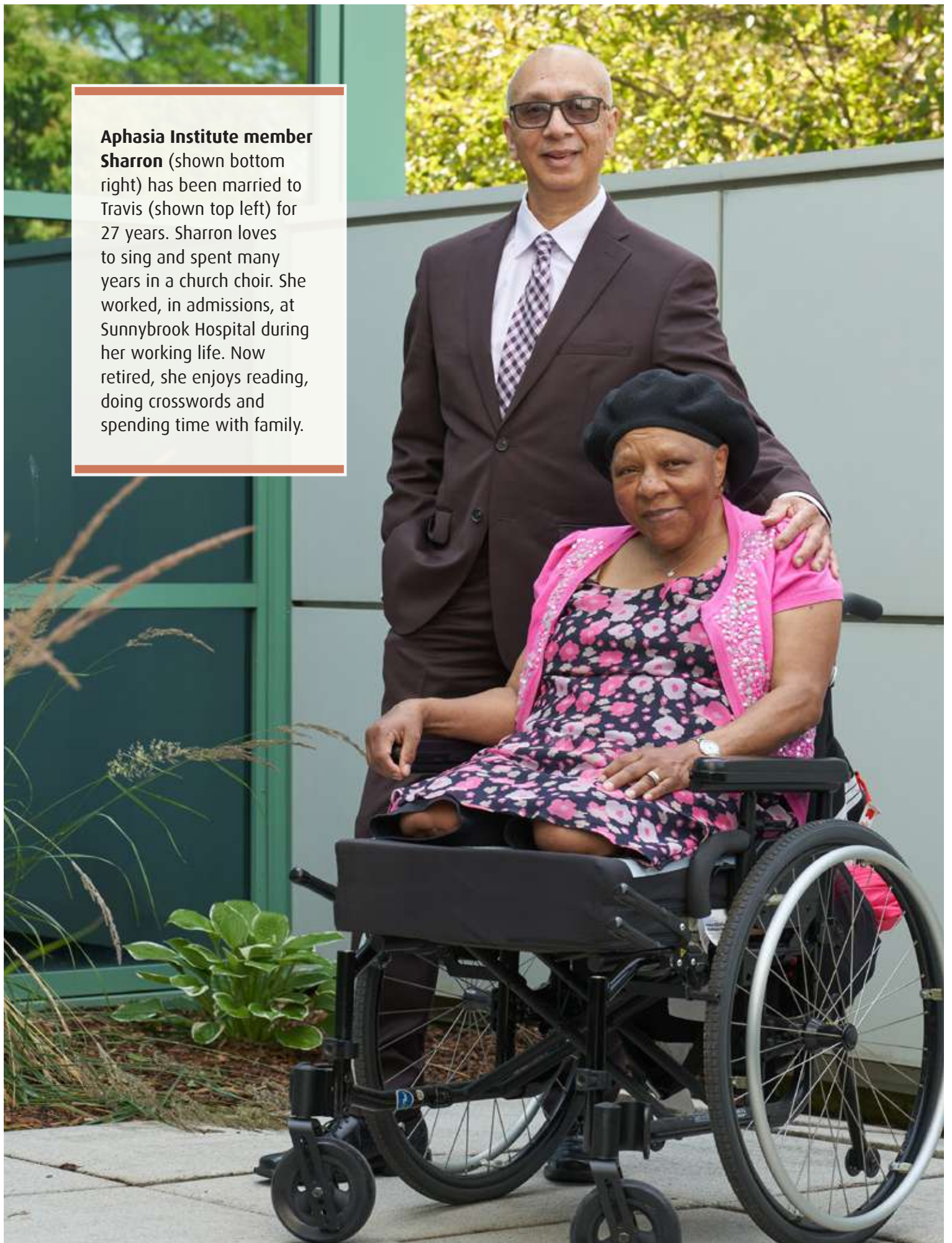
Nida Chaudhary,
Treasurer

In 2022/23, the Aphasia Institute was granted an increase in our base funding of an additional \$500,000 per year. With this additional funding and utilization of donations received, we were able to close the financial year with a surplus of \$30,556 of revenues over expenditure.

Revenues increased slightly year over year, primarily driven by increased base funding, donations, professional training and investment income. With the hybrid program starting up mid-year and the resumption of pre-COVID New Beginnings and Live Your Best Life programs at regular rates, client service fees slightly increased during the year. These increases were lessened due to the decrease in COVID-19-related financial support and lower resource sales compared to the prior year.

Salaries and benefits, occupancy costs, professional fees, office expenses, provincial education and training, and client services increased during the fiscal year.

Aphasia Institute member Sharron (shown bottom right) has been married to Travis (shown top left) for 27 years. Sharron loves to sing and spent many years in a church choir. She worked, in admissions, at Sunnybrook Hospital during her working life. Now retired, she enjoys reading, doing crosswords and spending time with family.



Accreditation Update



ACCREDITATION
CANADA

Home Support Services

Accreditation helps ensure health and social services organizations like the Aphasia Institute improve quality, safety, and efficiency so we can provide you and your family with the best possible care and services. Our two-year long road to Accreditation was completed this past year in preparation for the first accreditation assessment by Accreditation Canada this coming May. Paving our road to accreditation in gold, staff, members, volunteer Board members and other volunteers worked tirelessly to develop and refine policies, plans for human resource development, communications, emergency preparedness, quality improvement and the accreditation evidence binder. Akin to building a home, every Aphasia Institute process was scrutinized and improved upon if necessary. Client, Staff, Volunteer and Family Member surveys were carried out, reviewed and discussed informing the creation of the new operational plan to guide our upcoming priorities. The updating of the Board Portal, staff and volunteer orientations, new client pictographic materials, a complaints process, and expansion of quality metrics (e.g., hand hygiene, complaints, incidents, ethical issues) into a quality report were significant milestones of this work. The engagement of clients and their family members, volunteers and our community partners in preparation for accreditation fueled our passion to strive for gold. We look forward to this experience and sharing our results with you next year!



Aphasia Institute Website – Making it Easier for People with Aphasia and their Caregivers



The redevelopment of the 'I Have Aphasia' section of the Aphasia Institute's website launched internally this past spring to prepare us for a formal launch in the fall of 2023. The goal of this project is to provide **hopeful, simple, and instructive content** where people with mild aphasia can use this site on their own and those with moderate to severe aphasia can use this section with the help of a family member/friend.

The team developed a guide who depicts a person with aphasia, to moderate the three main areas: Explain, Hope and Help. The purpose of the guide is to convey content on learning about aphasia, taking the aphasia journey through the eyes of others with aphasia, and discovering what the Aphasia Institute has to offer. The learning garnered from this work will guide our review and refinement of other website sections this coming year.

Awards

Gerry Cormier Communicative Access Award

Launched in 2010, The Gerry Cormier Communicative Access Award was renamed in 2014 to celebrate the enormous contributions of the late Gerry Cormier, a man with aphasia who agreed to be featured in our educational materials. Created in the early 1990s, the Gerry Videos are still a key component of our aphasia training today. This award recognizes individuals and organizations whose work has significantly reduced barriers to full life participation for people living with aphasia.



This year's recipients are:



**Christine
Holloway-Tomek**



**Angel
Cossette**

Christine Holloway-Tomek & Angel Cossette in North-East region. Chris and Angel have both completed our Train the Trainer program and since then have been great advocates for creating communicatively accessible settings. They have provided training to their colleagues and other staff in North-East Ontario, modified various assessment tools to make them aphasia-friendly, and created a big resource library for clinical staff to access online. We thank them for their continued advocacy and for raising awareness of aphasia in their networks!

Pat Arato Community Partner Award

The Pat Arato Community Partner Award, created in 2017, recognizes our community partners and their leaders whose funding, subsidy, and expert advice show a deep belief in the work we do on behalf of people living with aphasia and their families.



This year's recipients are:



The Daily Bread Food Bank has helped our members living with aphasia give back and participate in something fulfilling and challenging. The group engagement offers our members a unique opportunity to volunteer – many of them would otherwise not be able to do so, due to their aphasia and physical challenges. We also appreciate that their staff are willing and curious to learn more about aphasia and how to create more accessible environments.



The Aphasia Institute is extremely grateful to TransCare Community Support Services for sharing their accreditation expertise and various resources throughout our accreditation preparation. We are so pleased to have such a thoughtful community partner that encourages and supports us to strengthen our services and programs.

Ambassador Award

The Ambassador Award was launched in 2005 to recognize outstanding contributions to the Aphasia Institute community.

This year's recipients are:

Chris Colbert Chris is an enthusiastic and dedicated supporter of the Aphasia Institute. He is always welcoming of new members into our community by sharing his experiences in programs and being an active peer support to others. Chris also makes the time to provide his expertise to support our healthcare provider training and participate in our teaching and awareness videos. He has been an outstanding fundraiser at the 'Talk, Walk n' Roll' and we were so happy to see his whole family come out and join him this year.

Varathan Theiventhiran Varathan has embraced the Aphasia Institute Community, since becoming a member in 2022. We want to recognize Varathan's important contribution to our recent formal accreditation process, by being a participant in the member focus group and sharing his personal experiences. We truly appreciate his outstanding fundraising contribution to the 'Talk, Walk 'n Roll' – our main fundraiser that helps support our programs, and raise awareness about aphasia. Varathan also engaged his large community of family and friends to join him at our first in-person event in many years and this really contributed to the positive energy!



Chris Colbert



Varathan Theiventhiran

2022/23 Board of Directors

Silvia Gomes
Board Chair
Quadinvest

Peter Blakely
Vice Chair
PWB Inc.

Nida Chaudhary
Treasurer/Secretary
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Ananya Tandon-Verma
Board Director
McKinsey & Company

Camilla Todesco
Member Representative
to the Board

Christine Patten
Member Representative
to the Board

George Kopulos
Volunteer Representative
to the Board

Hicham El Chazli
Board Director
Capgemini Canada Inc.

Jane Brennehan Gibson
Board Director

Neelam Jolly
*Chair of Governance and
Nominations*
Payments Canada

Talya Wolff
Board Director
University Health Network

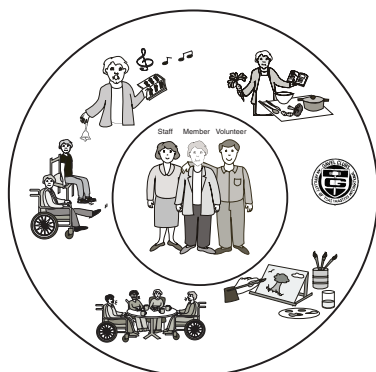
Leadership

Aura Kagan, Ph.D.
Executive Director
*Director of Education and
Applied Research*

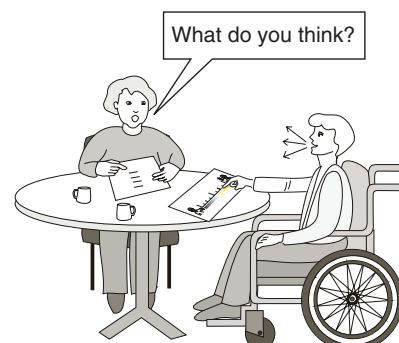
Natalie Gierman
*Director, Clinical Services,
and Provincial/National
Education Lead*

Musarait Kashmiri
Director, Finance and Operations

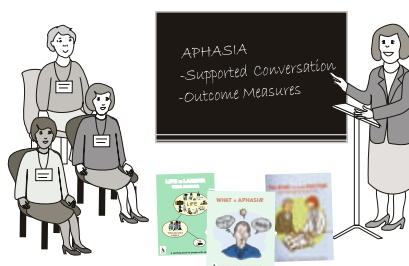
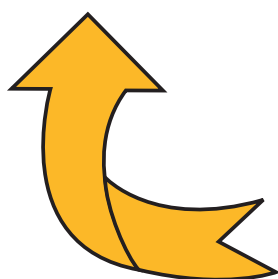
Catherine Brookman, Ed.D.
*Executive Leadership,
Social Enterprise and
Program Innovation*



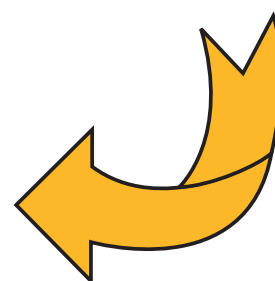
Direct Service



Research



Education and Training



2022/23 Aphasia Institute Staff

Allison Tedesco

*Social Worker
Manager, Regional & Provincial
Client Services*

Caryl Pereira

Administrative Assistant

Clare Thompson

Team Assistant, Client Services

Edward Luong

Speech-Language Pathologist

Elyse Shumway

*Manager, Regional & Provincial
Clinical & Educational Services*

Fatima Cabral

*Coordinator, Recreation and
Community Integration*

Ipshtita Siddiquee

*Communications and Donor
Relations Coordinator*

Leanne Buck

Social Worker

Lee-Ann Kant

Speech-Language Pathologist

Lisa Gignac

Expressive Art Instructor

Melodie Chan

*Research, Development &
Implementation Coordinator*

Michael Chin

Finance & HR Coordinator

Neetika Dhatta

Speech-Language Pathologist

Robbyn Draimin

Speech-Language Pathologist

Rumi Gutter

Social Worker

Sajjad Fazel

*Lead, Knowledge Translation
and Education*

Shannon Hill

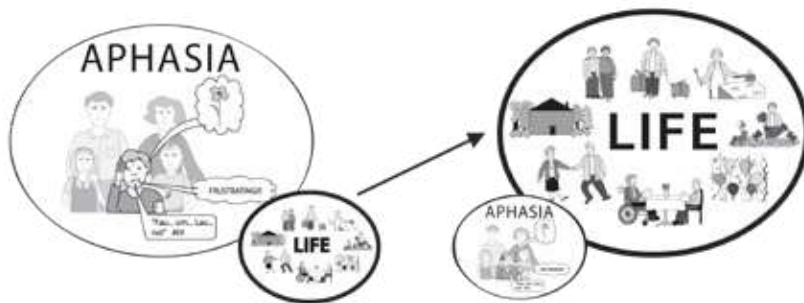
Coordinator, Volunteer Services

Our Mission & Vision



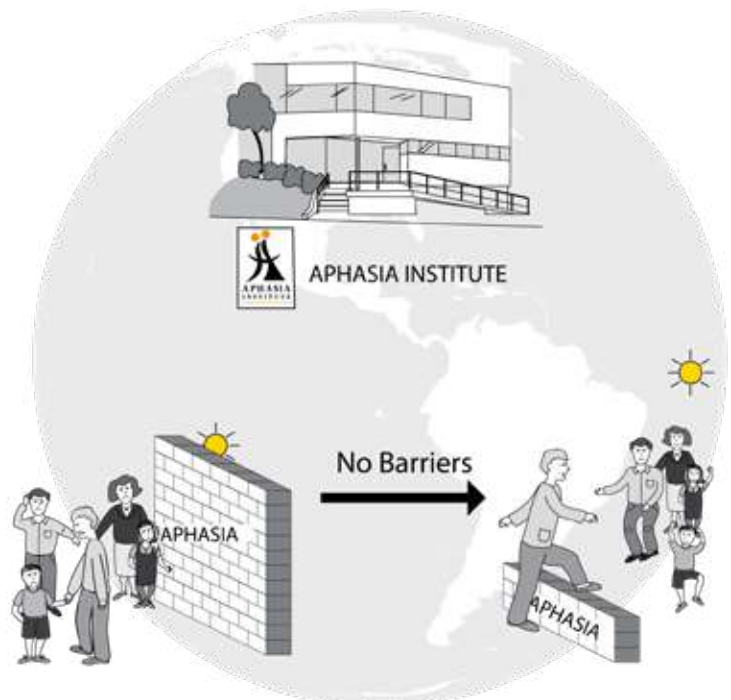
Mission

Give hope to people with aphasia and their families by developing and sharing innovative solutions that reduce language barriers to full life participation.



Vision

There are no barriers to living successfully with aphasia.





Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

The Aphasia Institute is committed to fostering a positive and respectful workplace free from harassment and discrimination, and where everyone feels respected. We are committed to gaining a deeper understanding of where we are at as an organization with respect to EDI, and will be developing a guiding framework in 2023-2024 to enhance our efforts.

Land Acknowledgement

The Aphasia Institute continues on its path to learn about the vast array of Indigenous cultures and their history, as well as the harmful effects of colonization. We are proud to have created an aphasia-friendly Land Acknowledgment shared at our gatherings. This is a living document that continues to develop and reflect our learning journey.



**Aphasia Institute
The Pat Arato Aphasia Centre**

73 Scarsdale Road
Toronto, ON M3B 2R2 Canada
(416) 226-3636

For more information on our initiatives, how you can participate, volunteer, sponsor,
or to make a donation to support the work of the Aphasia Institute, visit:

www.aphasia.ca | cams.aphasia.ca

OUR FUNDERS:

