

Aphasia Institute Members

APHASIA INSTITUTE

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025/2026

Evolving for Greater Impact







APHASIA
INSTITUTE

What is Aphasia

Aphasia (UH-FAY-ZEE-UH) is a communication disorder, resulting from stroke, brain injury, or brain illness. Although people with aphasia remain competent, aphasia can affect speaking, understanding spoken language, reading, writing, and/or participation in daily conversations. Without the ability to participate in conversation, every relationship, life role and almost every life activity is at risk.

Our History and Impact

At the Aphasia Institute, we believe Life's a Conversation. Founded in 1979 by Pat Arato (1938–2020), the Aphasia Institute is an internationally recognised, community-based teaching Institute. Through direct services, research, education and training we have pioneered programs, tools and practices, such as SCA™ that help people with aphasia learn how to communicate in new ways and to navigate their lives again.













Life’s a conversation



Executive Message

Dear Aphasia Institute Community,

This year, we took important steps to position the Aphasia Institute for the future while staying grounded in our vision and mission.

We developed our 2026–2029 Strategic Plan through conversations with people with aphasia, families, staff, volunteers, board members, donors, and health system partners. Their insights shaped a roadmap that reflects our community's evolving needs and builds on our leadership in direct services, education, research, and advocacy.

This spirit of renewal also guided initiatives including a refreshed brand identity, strengthened capacity for our volunteer program, and enhanced quality improvement and health and safety initiatives to prepare for our next accreditation cycle in May 2027.

Through a record number of conference presentations, our clinical staff shared their expertise and strengthened knowledge exchange among health professionals in Canada and around the world. We also collaborated with Dr. Esther Kim and Shannan Love at the University of Alberta to convene the Canadian aphasia research community to explore how collaboration would strengthen impact. This led to the creation of the first *Canadian Aphasia Research Alliance* (CARA).

Looking ahead, we will continue turning our vision into action, which includes our initiative to reduce wait time and improve the intake and assessment experience for new members. We will also develop an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility and Reconciliation Action Plan with engagement from our community. As part of this work, we will establish an international training scholarship to expand access to aphasia expertise in regions where professional training and services are limited. Finally, a new, more accessible website will be launched this winter, making it easier to learn about aphasia and connect with our programs and services.

This progress is made possible by the people who bring our mission to life every day: our members and families, staff, volunteers, board of directors, donors, funders, and health system partners.

We are especially grateful to our funders and donors, whose generosity makes our work possible.

Together, we are evolving for greater impact.

Thank you,



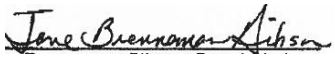
Natalie Gierman



Jane Brenneman Gibson



Natalie Gierman,
Executive Director



Jane Brenneman Gibson,
Board Chair

APHASIA INSTITUTE



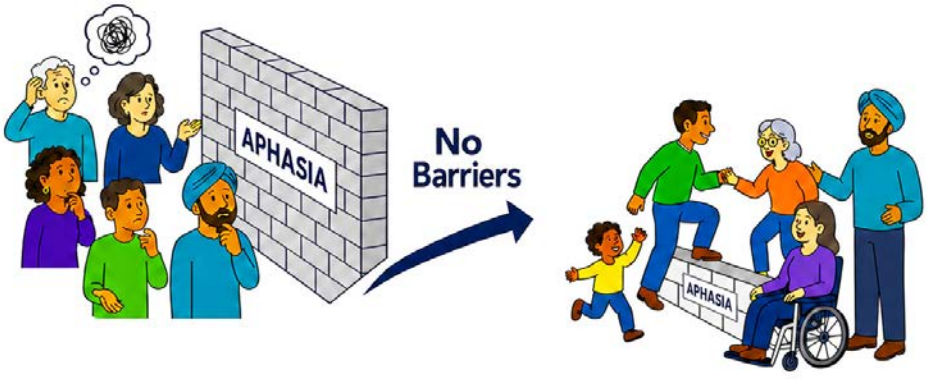
Mission

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.





Community Aphasia Program (CAP) Highlights

Our programs and services are led by professional staff and highly trained volunteers. Our team uses *Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™)*, a set of tools and techniques designed to support conversation and communication with people with aphasia.

Our in person and online programs and services are designed to help members, families, and care partners understand aphasia, develop new communication strategies, and build meaningful connections. To maximize accessibility, programs are offered in person and online.

This year participation in programs increased for both in person (**26%**) and online (**7%**) programs, indicating a demand for both modalities.

+26% IN PERSON

+7% ONLINE



Weekly Conversation Table

Technology Access Program



Technology Program in Action

Since launching online programs in 2021, members have become increasingly confident using technology to connect, communicate, and participate. Our new weekly Technology Access Program helps members build practical digital skills through hands-on exploration of tools such as Zoom, YouTube, Google, text-to-speech, cameras, and accessibility features. Members learn from one another, share useful apps, and explore topics together in a supportive environment. Through our iPad Lending Library, members can borrow a device, helping to ensure that everyone has access to the technology they need to participate and learn. Our devices are heavily used, and many were near the end of their lifespan, so we were very grateful to receive a one-time funding grant from Ontario Health to support the purchase of new iPads.



SingWell Aphasia Choir

The Aphasia Institute partnered with Toronto Metropolitan University on the **SingWell** research project, exploring whether a singing program could be successfully delivered online for people with aphasia. Over 10 weeks, eight members participated virtually using specialized technology.

Members enjoyed the experience and said they would “absolutely” recommend the program. The insights gained are now helping us explore new ways to integrate singing and music into our programs.

Family and Care Partner Support Groups

Our social work team offers a safe space to connect with a community of people who understand the challenges of living with aphasia. These groups foster meaningful relationships that reduce isolation and strengthen emotional wellbeing. Family Member participation **increased by 26%** with growth in both in-person and online support groups.



Staff with Family Members

Quotes from Family Members

This group is a lifeline.

This is important ‘me’ time.

Only members in this group understand what I’m going through.

You have no idea how you’ve changed [my family member’s] life.

I’m so fortunate that we heard about your program from the SLP.

You’ve given us purpose to wake up in the morning.

Reducing Wait Times for New members



Intake Process

We continue to reduce wait times for new members by streamlining our referral, intake, assessment, introductory programs, and Community Aphasia Program processes. The Living Your Best Life and New Beginnings introductory programs were redesigned to run more frequently over shorter periods while maintaining program quality. Hybrid options to join programs also increased accessibility, allowing more members to participate and transition into CAP sooner.

New referral forms and processes were also developed and shared with referring agencies to ensure that they better understand inclusion/exclusion criteria, and how to securely refer via email instead of fax. The new forms and processes have been instrumental in reducing inappropriate referrals and improving and expediting our intake process.

75 ASSESSMENTS LAST YEAR

111 THIS YEAR

Engaging Members and Families in Quality Improvement

Our annual surveys and focus groups showed that members and families feel safe, respected, well-informed, and comfortable approaching staff with questions or concerns. For example, a CAP member commented: *"I'm happy with Aphasia [Institute's] performance*" and "*The Aphasia program is invaluable*". Other feedback identified opportunities to improve, including involving members more meaningfully in program decisions and ensuring everyone knows how to share a concern or make a complaint. We are actively addressing these areas to improve the quality of member and family experiences.



Staff Supporting Members

Community Integration

Community Integration programs welcomed **73 members** this year, a **28% increase** in member participation over last year. Members enjoyed a variety of sporting and cultural events, including Blue Jays games, the National Ballet, Camp Sunshine, Adaptive Climbing and an Indigenous Pow Wow-style dance competition. A new partnership with the Gardiner Museum gave members the chance to explore clay making and creative expression, with adaptive tools and support for those affected by stroke.

Members also continue to volunteer their time at the Daily Bread Food Bank and the Young Street Mission. Supporting members to volunteer helps build confidence, learn new skills, have fun, and give back. It also builds capacity and awareness about aphasia in other community agencies. The Toronto Waterfront Marathon provided us with a new member volunteer opportunity in an inclusive environment. Members unpacked, counted, and organized 30,000 medals for race day while supporting one another by taking on tasks that matched their abilities. The experience fostered teamwork, community connection, and a shared sense of accomplishment.



Members Volunteering at Toronto Waterfront Marathon

Students: Supporting the next generation of Speech Language Pathologists



Staff with Placement Students

Each year, our Speech-Language Pathologists supervise several students in their clinical placements demonstrating a commitment to learning and mentorship for the next generation of clinicians. This year we hosted four SLP graduate students from the University of Toronto, and an SLP Graduate Student, and a former Aphasia Institute volunteer from the University of Western Kentucky.

Each year, McMaster University SLP students observe AI conversation groups, both online and in person. AI staff also provided a lecture about SCA™ and group facilitation to 32 of the students.

Our Volunteers in Action



Volunteer Debrief

Over the past year, **165 volunteers contributed 9,909 hours representing an INCREASE of 1,000 hours, over last year.**

Our dynamic volunteer team ranges in age from **18 to 90**. Many are students preparing for careers in Speech-Language Pathology, while others are transitioning careers or enjoying retirement. This year, we recruited **68 new volunteers – a 17% increase over the previous year.**

Volunteer Education & Training

Our volunteers are curious, enjoy conversation and are open to ongoing learning opportunities. This year **1,400 hours** of continuing education and ongoing learning and support were offered to our volunteers including formal training in Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™).

Volunteers are also motivated by ongoing learning, education, and post-session debriefing. Each month, we offer online evening seminars on aphasia-related topics, including listening to stroke stories and navigating complex conversations, to deepen volunteers' awareness of the group experience. Volunteers are also invited to share their own expertise at these events.

The volunteers at the Aphasia Institute are undoubtedly the most skilled volunteers I've ever worked with. Their depth of empathy and willingness to help are unparalleled. It is a highlight of my day whenever I have the opportunity to work with these volunteers.

– Aphasia Institute SLP, Edward Luong

Had a great learning experience and I feel I'm a better communicator.

– Aphasia Institute Volunteer

My favourite part of training is being able to work with the members and learn from them during the training session!

– Aphasia Institute Volunteer



Aphasia Institute Volunteers



Wednesday Conversation Group Volunteers

Up to 4 years

Alena Mobashir
Alyson Hassall
Amisha Jagpal
Ava Harkin
Archaky Parameswaran
Bharati Bapat
Bianca Moauro
Christiana Rumi
Clara Choi
Dorothy Lok
Effie Balodemas
Ela Andre Lising
Ericka Lam
Erika Di Matteo
Guilherme Aragao
Hayley Poon
Holly Bingham
Indya Babber
Jada Jean-Pierre
Janice Greenberg
Jessica Eng
Jillian Yemen
Jingyi Niu
John Nussbaum
Judy Meshmesh
Juhaina Yazdani
Julia Belmonte
Julia Bilsborough
Kate Gregory
Khubaib Wariach
Kristen Turner
Lauren Weintraub
Lorena Buttazzoni
Liya Geller
Madeline Glover
Mahveen Khalil
Manahil Khalil
Meklit Tegegne
Michelle Prilik
Miren Kananathan
Mithushaa Sabesan
Myra Adomako
Myriam Shechter
Nicole Arias
Pouria Hadidi
Preethy Karunainathan
Wuynh "Quincy" Dang
Reed Szabo
Renee "Ren" Shrestha
Rimsha Alam
Rose Winters
Saba Mirabolghasemi
Samaana Jaffer
Sarah Nikzadfar Goli
Shane de Dios
Sofia Castellanos
Sydnie Waxman
Tara Kaur
Tsz Yan "Audrey" Chung
Taylor Sample
Tensin Shontsang
Vanessa Marques
Viktoria Stradomska
Zahra Sajjad
Zohra Baksha

5 – 9 Years

Patricia "Tricia" Broughton
Bonnie Boltman
Gloria Good Draper
Joan Hamilton
Gillian Robinson
Susan Roza

10 – 14 Years

Don McKellar
Moira Minoughan
Gayle Wilmot

15 – 19 Years

Cynthia Blackman
Valerie Chavossy
Lynne Czutrin
Rose Kamnitzer
George Kopulos
Carol Pratap

20+ Years

Mary Botterell
Urvashi Tanna



Ontario Volunteer Service Award Recipients

Cynthia Blackman, (15 years)

Gayle Wilmot, (10 years)

Joan Hamilton, (5 years)

Kate Gregory, Youth Recipient (2 years)

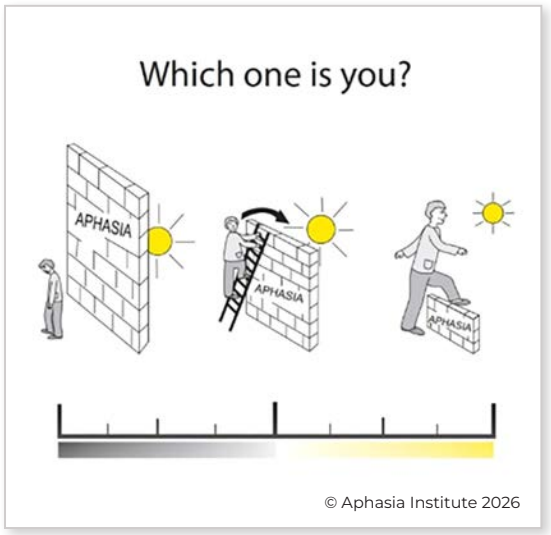
Clara Choi, Youth Recipient (2 years)

Ela Andre Lising, Youth Recipient (2 years)

Education, Training, and Resources

Our Mission and Vision focus on developing and sharing innovative solutions that help people with aphasia participate fully in life. We create evidence-informed clinical tools and aphasia-friendly resources, while providing training to healthcare professionals and students to build more accessible, inclusive, and effective communication practices.

New Clinical Resource



The "Wall Question"

The Wall Question: A single-item quality of life measure for aphasia is a simple yet powerful self-report measure of quality of life (QoL) for people living with aphasia. As it focuses on lived experience, it is intended for individuals who have had some time to adjust to life with aphasia, typically beyond the acute care phase. Recent research involving 103 people with aphasia provides evidence that the Wall Question is both reliable and valid as a measure of quality of life (Kim, Azios et al., 2025). Additional publications are forthcoming.

The Wall Question has always been available in the Assessment for Living with Aphasia (ALA) (Kagan et al., 2011, 2013; Simmons-Mackie et al., 2014) and the Basic Outcome Measure Protocol for Aphasia (BOMPA) (Kagan et al., 2021), but it is now available as a free standalone tool on our website.

Professional Training and Education

The Aphasia Institute provides training in our signature Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™) method in a variety of formats, geared to the individual learner's needs and goals.

Introduction to SCA™ eLearning V2

Participants gain a basic understanding of aphasia and learn techniques to reduce communication barriers in healthcare settings. The module was completed by **6,354 learners worldwide** – a **19% increase** over last year.

6,354 LEARNERS	**837** IN ONTARIO
1,844 IN CANADA	**4,510** INTERNATIONAL



Introduction to SCA™ eLearning



Professional Training Courses

Led by Speech-Language Pathologists and Social Workers, these online courses provide healthcare professionals with practical, evidence-based strategies for communicating with people with aphasia. Sessions include guided practice with highly trained members – true experts in living with aphasia.

110 TRAINEES

+90% RATED THE COURSE AS EXCELLENT

McMaster University / Malawi and Nigeria Community Access Project

Staff partnered with McMaster University, Canada to deliver our SCA™ Core Training virtually to healthcare providers in Malawi and Nigeria, supporting aphasia care in low-resource settings. The training was highly valued by staff and received positive participant feedback.

In October 2025, the project team presented a poster illustrating the above training at the World Stroke Congress in Barcelona, Spain. It highlighted our SCA™ training and showed how partners used their knowledge and resources to provide culturally safe aphasia support in their communities.

Insights from this international project inspired a new annual scholarship, enabling one eligible Speech-Language Pathologist from a low-resource setting to access SCA™ Core training when cost would otherwise be a barrier.

Trainee Testimonials:

As an SLP who has used SCA for years, but never had formal training, it was valuable to learn about the framework in detail, have focused opportunities to practice the tools, and time to reflect on my implementation and how to improve.

– Feb 2026 SCA™ Core Trainee

SCA Train the Trainer provides wonderful resources for holding your own trainings, along with practical advice for how to pitch your training and how to use the provided resources. Experts with many years of experience teach this valuable course! I now feel prepared to train groups in my community!

– March 2026 SCA™ Train the Trainer Participant

Really appreciated accessing this training. The virtual delivery was perfect for me, since I'll be using these strategies online and was struggling with how to do so prior. So, the practice we had will really help. Getting to meet with your members to practice using SCA strategies was invaluable.

– Feb 2026 SCA™ Core Trainee



2025-2026

Master Class: Knowledge Exchange Speaker Series 2025-2026

We held our 22nd and 23rd seasons of our Master Class webinar series, spotlighting 12 outstanding experts, presenting 8 topics below, focused on cutting edge approaches that enable people with aphasia to communicate more effectively in daily life. Our clinical research webinar series participation remains high at over 300 registrants at every session.

- Assessment and Intervention for Primary Progressive Aphasia: A Life Participation Lens, *Dr. Anna Volkmer*
- EVA Park: Update on Virtual Reality in Aphasia Therapy, *Dr. Jane Marshall and Dr. Niamh Devane*
- The Role of Gesture in Conversation: Aphasia Treatment Applications, *Dr. Suma Devanga*
- Confidence, Self-esteem, and Self-efficacy in Aphasia Therapy, *Dr. Jackie Hinckley*
- The Role of Inner Speech in Predicting Naming: Clinical implications, *Dr. Mackenzie Fama*
- Integrating Counselling into Aphasia Rehabilitation: Empowering SLPs, *Dr. Jas Sekhon*
- Building Mind-Body Connection: Yoga as an Adjunct to Aphasia Recovery, *Dr. Lauren Bislick, Dr. Aimee Dietz and Dr. E. Susan Duncan*
- A One-item Quality of Life Measure for Aphasia: the 'Wall Question', *Dr. Jamie Azios and Dr. Esther Kim*

Research & Development

Launching Canada's First National Aphasia Research Network



In collaboration with *Aphasia Institute Research Associates* Dr. Esther Kim and Shannan Love of the University of Alberta, the Aphasia Institute helped launch the Canadian Aphasia Research Alliance (CARA), the first network of its kind in Canada.

CARA brings together more than 20 aphasia researchers from universities nationwide, alongside Aphasia Institute staff, to strengthen collaboration and establish shared priorities for aphasia research in Canada.

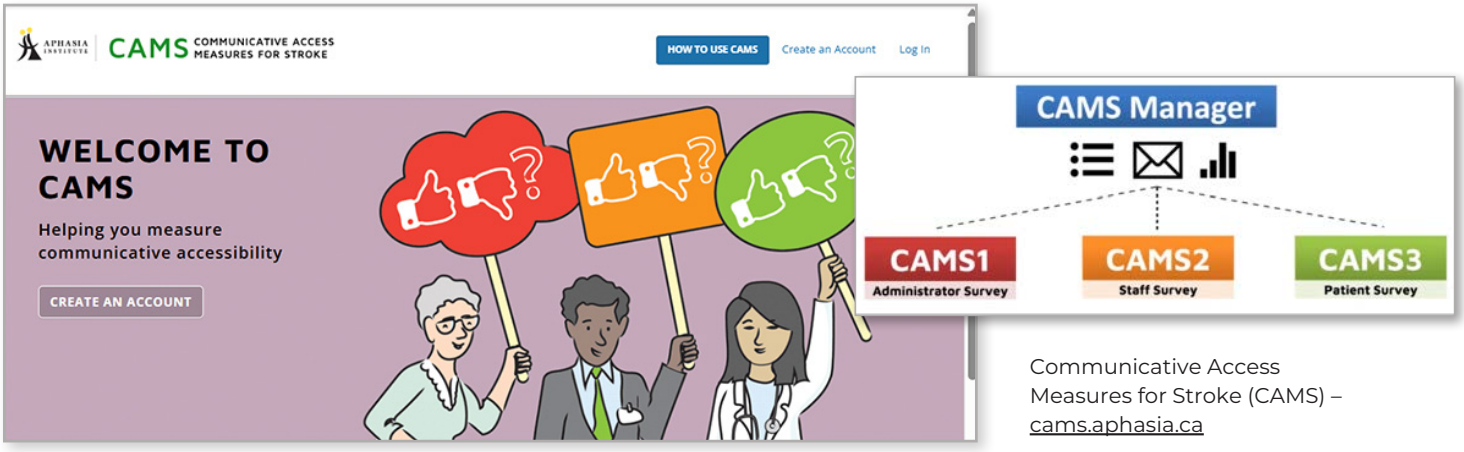
Early activities have included forming a steering committee, surveying members to inform research priorities, and mapping current academic projects, areas of focus, challenges and gaps. These efforts are helping identify opportunities for growth and collaboration across the field. Next steps include pursuing grant opportunities and building the infrastructure needed to sustain and expand this national network.

Advancing Communicative Access in Health Care

The Aphasia Institute continues to help healthcare organizations and stroke networks improve and measure communicative access for people with aphasia.

Organizations use our Communicative Access Measures for Stroke (CAMS) tools to assess key areas – including policies and procedures, staff attitudes and behaviours, and patient satisfaction – and identify opportunities for meaningful quality improvement.

We also partner with healthcare organizations and networks to integrate our Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™) eLearning module into their learning management systems. This training equips more healthcare professionals with practical strategies to communicate effectively with people with aphasia – supporting more accessible, inclusive and person-centred care.



Communicative Access Measures for Stroke (CAMS) – cams.aphasia.ca

Presentations and Conferences

Throughout 2025/2026, Aphasia Institute staff and research partners shared emerging knowledge, practical approaches and lived-experience-informed insights at leading national and international conferences (see below). These forums strengthened connections in the aphasia community, sparked important conversations, and contributed to more accessible, responsive and person-centred practices.

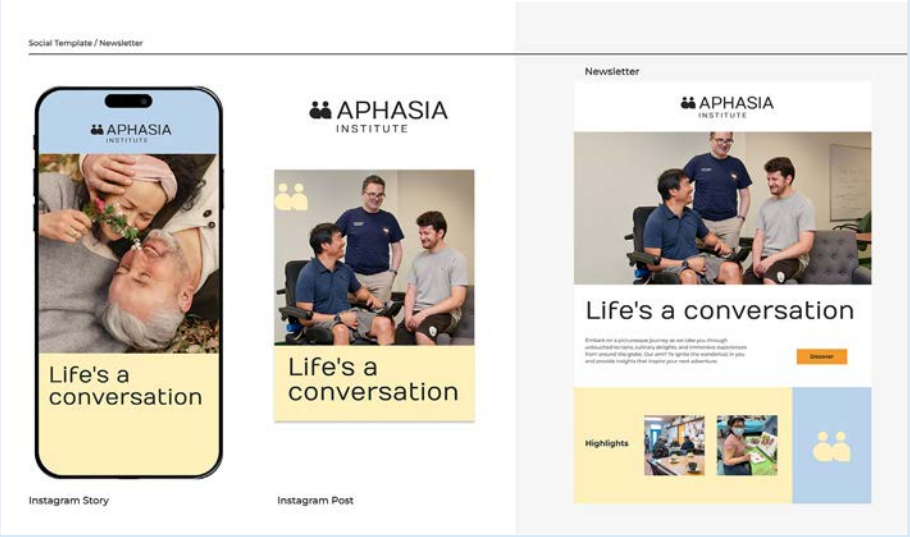


Elyse Shumway, Director, Clinical Services and Education

1. Kant, L., Cabral, F., & Shumway, E., Gierman, N. (2025, April). *No friendship is an accident: Bridging friendship in younger people with aphasia from formal programs to informal meetups. Poster presentation at the Aphasia Access Leadership Summit,* Pittsburgh, PA.
2. Kim, E. S., Azios, J. H., Love, S., Chan, M. T., Strong, K., Shumway, E., Simmons-Mackie, N., & Kagan, A. (2025, May). *Examining Reliability, Concurrent and Face Validity of "The Wall Question" as a Standalone Measure of Quality of Life. Platform session presented at the Clinical Aphasiology Conference,* Albuquerque, NM. Designated as an 'Audrey Holland Memorial Platform Presentation'.
3. Mengis, M., Nelson, P., Love, S., Chan, M. T., Shumway, E., Kim, E. S., Strong, K., Azios, J. H., Simmons-Mackie, N., & Kagan, A. (2025, August). '*The recognition of the new values...that's the first step you take on the ladder': Exploring quality of life after aphasia.* Seminar presented at the *World Congress of the International Association of Communication Sciences & Disorders (IALP),* St. Julian's, Malta.
4. Shumway, E. (2025, April 4). *A Hybrid Toastmasters Program for People with Aphasia: Navigating Challenges in Creating the Meeting Space and Managing Group Dynamics.* Roundtable presentation at the *Aphasia Access Leadership Summit*, Pittsburgh, PA.
5. Shumway, E. & Kagan, A. (2025, November 11). *A Communicatively Accessible HybridPublic Speaking Program: Navigating Challenges in Technology and Group Dynamics.* Virtual clinical session presented at the *American Speech, Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention*, Washington, D.C.

Sneak peek at our new brand colours and logo

Launching Winter 2027



Aphasia Institute Awards

Gerry Cormier Communicative Access Award



Launched in 2010, the Gerry Cormier Communicative Access Award was renamed in 2014 to honour 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" remain 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:

Jaclyn Gilpin, OT Reg. (Ont.), Regional Education Coordinator
Toronto West Stroke Network, Toronto Western Hospital



Jaclyn (Jackie) is an Occupational Therapist and a long-standing champion for people with aphasia, supporting the interdisciplinary use of Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™) across the Toronto Stroke Network. Jackie developed a network of SCA™ champions comprised of passionate speech language pathologists and other professionals who have contributed extensively to establishing a culture of communicative accessibility. In collaboration with her stroke network colleagues and SCA™ champions, well over 300 stroke care providers have been trained in SCA™ to improve communication and better patient outcomes. Her dedication to advancing communicative access and fostering collaboration has made a meaningful difference for people living with aphasia, and we look forward to continuing our partnership to improve equitable, person-centered care.

Marla Fogelman, Speech-Language Pathologist, M.H.Sc., SLP C, Reg. CASLPO
Stroke Day Hospital, Toronto Rehab, University Health Network



Marla is a long-standing and dedicated supporter of the Aphasia Institute whose passion for improving life participation for people with aphasia is evident in every aspect of her work. At UHN – Toronto Rehab, she champions the use of Supported Conversation for Adults with Aphasia (SCA™), empowering patients, families, and colleagues through this evidence-based approach. She has also been instrumental in promoting the organization-wide adoption of the Institute's SCA™ eLearning module, helping interprofessional team members build the knowledge and skills to better support people with aphasia. In addition, Marla is one of the Institute's top referring partners and has served for over 3 years on the *Aphasia Institute Research and Ethics Committee*, providing valuable guidance to strengthen research within the Institute and with external collaborators.

Aphasia Institute Awards

Pat Arato Community Partner Award



Named after our founder, the Pat Arato Community Partner Award has, since 2017, recognized our community partners and their leaders whose funding, subsidies, and expert advice reflect a deep belief in the work we do on behalf of people living with aphasia and their families.

This year's recipients are:

Sunshine Centre for Seniors

For the past 10 years, Sunshine Centres for Seniors has hosted Aphasia Institute members, family, and friends for a variety of events and programs, including the Strawberry Festival alongside other community groups and "Camp Sunshine" at Ward's Island. Sunshine Centres makes these programs affordable, reducing financial barriers and maximizing member participation. Sunshine staff have also welcomed the opportunity to learn more about SCA™ to better support conversations with our members. Members enjoy these programs so much that they begin asking about the summer event as early as January each year.

Staff of Munro Partners Canada



The staff of our valued corporate partner, Munro Canada Operations Inc. have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the Institute. Each year, they enthusiastically volunteer their time and energy at our annual fundraiser, *Talk, Walk 'n Roll,* playing an essential role in ensuring the event's success. Their willingness to give back has helped create a welcoming and memorable experience for attendees and illustrates the meaningful impact their volunteerism has on our community.

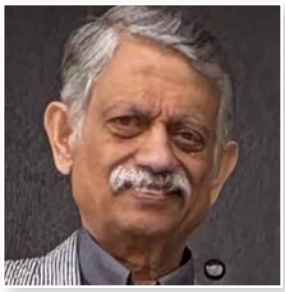
Aphasia Institute Awards

Ambassador Award

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

This year's recipients are:

Alban Mendonca – Family Member



Alban Mendonca faithfully brings his wife, Odette, to the Aphasia Institute so she can participate in programs. While he waits, he connects with other family members, offering encouragement, practical advice, and reassurance that there is "light at the end of the tunnel". Drawing on his background in consumer psychology and his positive outlook, Alban provides hope and support to others navigating the aphasia journey. Alban, through the generosity of his family and friends, has also raised funds to support the Aphasia Institute's member programs.

Dennis Brans – Member



Dennis has been a member at the Aphasia Institute since 2002! He is an active member in virtual conversation groups and attends the Toastmasters™ Gavel Club program, where he gladly participates in multiple roles. Dennis helps promote the Aphasia Institute by sharing his story in promotional videos that raise aphasia awareness and that support the annual *Talk, Walk 'n Roll* event. Besides the Aphasia Institute, Dennis has been a volunteer at UHN – Toronto Rehab, providing peer support for people who have had strokes and have aphasia.

Shane de Dios – Volunteer



Shane has been volunteering at the Aphasia Institute since January 2025. For the past year and a half, she has supported a variety of member programs including our New Beginnings introductory program and Book Group. As president of the Linguistics Association, University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus, Shane shared her volunteer experience and subsequently recruited several very skilled, dedicated student volunteers. Shane is fondly referred to by our staff as "student marketing manager". Shane has an incredible energy and commitment to our volunteer program. We are excited to see her begin her Masters in Audiology program.

Fundraising

Talk, Walk 'n Roll

MUNRO



Talk, Walk 'n Roll 2025

Talk, Walk 'n Roll once again brought together members, families, friends, volunteers, and supporters for a day of connection and community at the Aphasia Institute. Participants walked, rolled, and raised awareness of aphasia in a fun-filled celebration of community strength.

Thanks to the generosity of our community and the continued support of Munro Canada Operations Inc., our matching corporate sponsor for the fourth consecutive year, the campaign **surpassed our fundraising goal by 15%, raising $115,273**.

$115,273 RAISED THIS YEAR

Every dollar raised helps ensure that no one is turned away from Aphasia Institute programs and services because of financial circumstances. With more than 60% of current members receiving financial support, funds raised through this community event remain critical.

Artwork Auction

We are grateful to our art instructor Allan Brown for his generous donation of **20 of his original paintings** in support of the Aphasia Institute. The artwork was auctioned with **100% of the proceeds** benefiting ***Talk, Walk 'n Roll***. This sale not only celebrated creativity but also helped raise vital funds to support programs and services for people living with aphasia. Allan's exemplary commitment to our work is a wonderful example of how our staff, volunteers and community members can make a meaningful impact through their talents and passion.





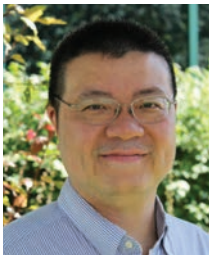
Annual Appeal 2025

Our 2025 Annual Appeal, *From Isolation to Community*, shared Kevin's inspiring journey from a sudden stroke and aphasia at age 32 to rebuilding connection through the life-changing support of Aphasia Institute programs. Today, Kevin gives back as a member trainer, sharing his lived experience and practical strategies with healthcare professionals in our Professional Training Programs. Thanks to the generosity of **160 donors**, including one significant donor gift, the campaign **surpassed our fundraising goal by 81%, raising $72,591** to support synergy of services which includes programs, research, education and training, and system change initiatives.

2025/2026 Donor Recognition

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2025/2026 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, 2026, 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 22, 2026. 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

Copies of the complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

Financial Key Highlights

For the year ended March 31, 2026, the Aphasia Institute had a net deficit of expenses over revenues of -$18,283.

Revenues	25/26 $	24/25 $	Variance
Government and other grants	1,653,157	1,696,048	- 42,891
Donations and fundraising	319,601	281,811	37,790
Resource Material	26,419	36,311	- 9,892
Client service fees	39,847	36,677	3,170
Professional training and education	113,676	92,897	20,779
Investment Income	132,197	129,121	3,076
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	1,163	1,113	50
Other income	–	–	–
Total revenues	**2,286,060**	**2,273,978**	**12,082**

Expenditures	25/26 $	24/25 $	Variance
Salaries and employee benefits	1,446,552	1,435,232	11,320
Occupancy costs	366,852	341,382	25,470
Office expenses	74,847	91,690	- 16,843
Provincial education and training	132,206	105,457	26,749
Client services	23,630	8,563	15,067
Amortization of capital assets	19,091	11,563	7,528
Fundraising	9,596	18,154	- 8,558
Staff development and travel	6,682	16,730	- 10,048
Professional fees	120,667	146,148	- 25,481
Professional training and resource materials	13,495	13,511	- 16
Bank charges and commission	15,752	15,815	- 63
Equipment and software maintenance	74,973	61,262	13,711
Total expenditures	**2,304,343**	**2,265,507**	**38,836**

Net Surplus: (Deficit)	2025/26:	2024/25:	Variance
	-$18,283	**$8,471**	**-$26,754**

For a complete review of the Audited Statements as of March 31, 2026, please see the Annual Reports page of our website: www.aphasia.ca



Silvia Gomes, Treasurer

For the year ended March 31, 2026, the Aphasia Institute reported an operating deficit of $18,283. Total revenues remained stable at $2.29 million, with increases in donations and fundraising, professional training and education, and client service fees largely offset by lower government funding and resource material sales. Total expenditures increased, reflecting continued investment in staff, as well as higher occupancy costs, provincial education and training, client services, and equipment and software maintenance, partially offset by lower professional fees, fundraising costs, office expenses, and staff development and travel expenses.

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Shannon Hill
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Art Instructor

Aura Kagan, Ph.D.
Executive Advisor, Research, Education & Strategy

Clare Thompson
Team Assistant, Client Services

Edward Luong
Speech Language Pathologist

Fatima Cabral
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Ipshita Siddiquee
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Social Worker, Intake Family & Outreach

Lee-Ann Kant
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Nadya Shamji
Speech Language Pathologist

Nowel Ahmed
Communicative Disorders Assistant

Robbyn Draimin
Speech Language Pathologist and Trainer

Wimmy Lam
Executive Assistant

APHASIA INSTITUTE

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

Everyone Welcome. Everyone Valued.

The Aphasia Institute is strengthened by the diverse identities, backgrounds, experiences and perspectives of our members, families, board, staff and volunteers.

We are committed to fostering a positive, respectful environment that is free from harassment and discrimination, and where everyone feels safe, welcomed, and valued.

Together we are deepening our understanding of equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility and reconciliation (EDI-AR) by prioritizing learning opportunities for our Board, staff and volunteers. This work is guided by our *Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility and Reconciliation Framework* and our *Indigenous, Inuit, Métis and Urban Indigenous Framework*, both developed as part of our Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement (MSAA).

In 2026–2027, we will launch our first **EDI-AR Action Plan**, shaped by input from our community, to turn our ideas into concrete actions and measurable outcomes.

APHASIA INSTITUTE

Aphasia Institute

73 Scarsdale Road, Toronto, ON Canada M3B 2R2 (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

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The views expressed in this Annual Report are the views of the Aphasia Institute.
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FUNDERS: Ontario Toronto

Our Thanks: Gravity Design Inc. (Graphics & Layout) and Garry Porter (Photography)