

Dear Participant,

Thank you for your interest in this very important project! Before you begin, please take the time to learn more about this project, and your participation.

Depending on who you are (a survivor, family member/caregiver or professional), you will be asked questions about life before and after brain injury, services utilized, and unmet service needs. Your input will assist us in developing and delivering brain injury related services in Nova Scotia.

The survey has a special focus on issues related to housing, education, and employability. We encourage you to express any concerns not covered in the survey.

The survey should take you no longer than 30 minutes to finish. All information is confidential, and there is no way for us to link your name to your answers. Your participation is completely voluntary. You are not required to answer all the questions and you may stop at anytime.

If you begin the survey and have difficulty answering some of the questions, please ask someone to help you, or maybe they can answer the questions on your behalf. You can also save your place in the survey and return to it at a later time.

We would like to thank you by offering you a chance to enter your name for a prize draw to be held after the survey ends. Prizes have been donated by a number of businesses serving Nova Scotia.

If you have more questions about the survey and your participation, or if you are interested in participating in a focus group in your community, please contact Nancy Green at (902) 473-5199 or send an email to [bianssurvey@gmail.com](mailto:bianssurvey@gmail.com). Focus groups will be held in Halifax, Truro, New Glasgow, Bridgewater, Kentville, Sydney, and Yarmouth during late June and early July.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



Nancy Green BSc, BSChP  
Service Development Coordinator  
Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia  
PO Box 8804  
Halifax, NS B3K 4M5  
(902)473-5199 (Tel)  
(902)473-7302 (Fax)  
[ngreen@dal.ca](mailto:ngreen@dal.ca)

## Professional Questionnaire

As a professional who works with survivors, and their families/caregivers, we recognize the unique perspective you can provide with respect to their service needs. We thank you for taking the time to assist us in our efforts to improve services for the brain injury community.

### 1.To which profession do you belong?

- a)Social Work
- b)Nursing (RN/LPN)
- c)Physical Therapy
- d)Speech Language Pathology
- e)Education
- f)Occupational Therapy
- g)Vocational/Career Counseling
- h)Medicine
- i)Psychology/Neuropsychology
- j)Other (Please Specify):\_\_\_\_\_

### 2.In what type of setting do you deliver care/services?

- a)Inpatient (Hospital)
- b)Outpatient (Public Practice)
- c)Outpatient (Private Practice)
- d)Community/Outreach
- e)Educational Institution
- f)Government
- g)Other (Please Specify):\_\_\_\_\_

### 3.For how many years have you been working with survivors and their families?

- a)0-5
- b)6-10
- c)11-15
- d)16-20
- e)21+

**4. In which community do you practice? (If you practice in a rural area, please select the county. If you practice in a community listed, please select the community.)**

- a) Annapolis County  
☐ Bridgetown      ☐ Middleton
- b) Antigonish County  
☐ Antigonish
- c) Cape Breton County  
☐ Glace Bay      ☐ New Waterford      ☐ Sydney
- d) Colchester County  
☐ Truro
- e) Cumberland County  
☐ Amherst
- f) Digby County  
☐ Clare      ☐ Digby
- g) Guysborough County  
☐ Guysborough      ☐ Canso
- h) Halifax County  
☐ Bedford      ☐ Dartmouth      ☐ Halifax      ☐ Sackville
- i) Hants County  
☐ Windsor
- j) Inverness County  
☐ Inverness      ☐ Port Hawkesbury      ☐ Port Hood
- k) Kings County  
☐ Berwick      ☐ Kentville      ☐ Wolfville
- l) Lunenburg County  
☐ Bridgewater      ☐ Chester      ☐ Lunenburg      ☐ Mahone Bay
- m) Pictou County  
☐ New Glasgow      ☐ Pictou
- n) Queens County  
☐ Liverpool
- o) Richmond County  
☐ Arichat
- p) Shelburne County  
☐ Shelburne
- q) Victoria County  
☐ Baddeck
- r) Yarmouth County  
☐ Yarmouth

**5. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the challenges/barriers you face as a professional in delivering care/services to survivors of brain injury and their families/caregivers. (Place the number that corresponds to your answer in the space provided.)**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Slightly Disagree</b>	<b>Neither Agree or Disagree</b>	<b>Slightly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>I Don't Know</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>

- \_\_\_\_\_ The time, financial, and human resource constraints faced by myself and my colleagues make it difficult to provide the level and intensity of care/service most needed by survivors and their families/caregivers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There is a lack of communication among professionals working with survivors and their families along the continuum of care.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There is a lack of integration of services for survivors and their families along the continuum of care.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am confident in my ability to refer my clients and their families to services in the community that are available to them.

6. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (Place the number that corresponds to your answer in the space provided.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know	Not Applicable

#### Public/Patient/Family Education

- \_\_\_\_\_ The families/caregivers of survivors that I work with receive appropriate education about the survivor's injury.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The families/caregivers of survivors that I work with receive appropriate education and support so they can help the survivor regain his/her independence (as much as possible).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Comprehensive information about services /programs (education, employment, housing, support) that are available to survivors and their families/caregivers is easily accessible.

#### Service Delivery

- \_\_\_\_\_ Transitional programs where survivors work with professionals to regain independent living skills in a community environment are lacking in Nova Scotia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My brain injury clients often encounter problems accessing services because they do not meet program eligibility criteria.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Accessing services/programs can be a frustrating experience for survivors and their families.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There is a need for more outreach/community-based services to assist brain injury survivors and their families living in rural communities throughout the province.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am confident that my clients will receive the support and care they need to succeed when I am no longer in contact with them (when they return to community, once they are referred, etc).
- \_\_\_\_\_ There is a need for a coordinated, comprehensive brain injury program in Nova Scotia.

**7. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree that each of the following are important issues for survivors of brain injury and their families/caregivers: (Place the number that corresponds to your answer in the space provided.)**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know	Not Applicable

- \_\_\_\_\_ Mental Health Issues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Medical/Medication Issues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Memory/Cognitive Issues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attention/Focusing Skills
- \_\_\_\_\_ Anger Management Issues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Isolation/Disconnected from friends, family, community
- \_\_\_\_\_ Financial Issues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Housing Issues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Transportation Issues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Employment Issues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Education/Training Opportunities/Issues
- \_\_\_\_\_ Public Awareness & Understanding
- \_\_\_\_\_ Continued support from health care professionals after return to community

**Are there other issues you believe to be important not listed here? (Please list.)**

8. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree that each of the following are common barriers or obstacles faced by survivors and their families in accessing services. (Place the number that corresponds to your answer in the space provided.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	I Don't Know	Not Applicable

- \_\_\_\_\_ Living in a rural area.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cost of services (Services not covered by insurance, lack of financial resources, etc.).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Poor communication among service providers (with survivor and his/her family members/caregivers).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Available services do not meet the unique needs of brain injury survivors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Difficult process to access services.

9. Overall, as a professional, how would you rate your satisfaction with the care, programs, and services available for persons with brain injury in this province?

- a) I am very satisfied
- b) I am satisfied
- c) I am somewhat satisfied
- d) I am neither satisfied or dissatisfied
- e) I am somewhat dissatisfied
- f) I am dissatisfied
- g) I am very dissatisfied

10. Other questions, comments, concerns?

If you are interested in learning more about this project or would like to take part in a focus group with other professionals, please fill out the attached form and submit separately from your survey answers, or contact Nancy Green, Service Development Coordinator at (902) 473-5199 or [bianssurvey@gmail.com](mailto:bianssurvey@gmail.com). Results of the survey will be available online at <http://bianssurvey.50webs.com>.

**THANK YOU!**

**If you would like to enter your name into the prize draw, fill out the form below, detach and submit separately from your responses.**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in participating in a focus group about these issues in late June or early July [\_\_\_\_]