

Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Management Report to the Board of Directors

September 23, 2026

President and CEO's Persepctive

The "Back to School" energy associated with September is always felt particularly strongly in children's hospitals; and that feeling is even more significant at Holland Bloorview. As such, it makes sense to use a similar framing in these notes.

As we look back on "what we did this summer", there is much of which to be proud. The hospital's unique client and family centred programming – from the one-of-its-kind Spiral Garden inclusive summer day camp, to our 3-week immersive residential life-skills Independence Program for transitional age youth with disabilities, to our first Crate Garden tended by youth leaders – again delivered innovative, inclusive and meaningful experiences that supported the individual in the moment, but also laid foundations for lasting and wider impact.

Summer employment experiences – supporting inclusive employment and nurturing the future childhood disability workforce – are front-and-centre. 2026 saw a record number (29!) of Canada Summer Job positions across the hospital, and the Ward Summer Student program welcomed 24 outstanding aspiring research students (selected from over 1,600 applicants!), culminating in the 20th Annual Anne & David Ward Family Summer Student Research Day in July. We also continued to train clinical staff across so many disciplines to prepare them to care for kids here and beyond. And finally, our inaugural Emerging Leader Program participants – employees with strong leadership potential - graduated with new skills/experiences equipping them for greater leadership roles and impact here.

We also nurtured new and existing "friendships" through the summer. Of note is the new partnership with Toronto Community Housing in support of the revitalization of the 50 Torbolton Drive housing complex to support inclusive housing for families with children with developmental differences. As well, important meetings in support of the further development of our Indigenous health equity efforts were held with Anishinawbe Health Toronto and the Assembly of First Nations. On the clinical side, our Programs and Services teams continued significant outreach activities with acute care and community agency partners to ensure appropriate pathways to access inpatient and outpatient services (also in support of ensuring occupancy). And perhaps the biggest step forward in partnership was the late June signing by all 14 Toronto Academic Health Sciences Network (TAHSN) CEO of the Master Collaboration Agreement. This agreement creates Canada's largest unified research collaboration, and promises simplified pathways to ground-breaking research and innovation.

September "back-to-school" also drives a clear go-forward focus. As we prepare for the annual clinical pressures – particularly in relation to viral season – we are well positioned. Not only are our results strong across our Balanced Scorecard & Quality Improvement Plan measures, but our teams have been actively driving quality improvement in areas like access to our specialized dental services, pressure injury prevention, ambulatory clinic scheduling optimization, and increased discharge planning support. We are also focused on the dynamic fiscal situation – strategically evaluating how to respond to developments set out in the financial report outlined in the board package

Building on a tremendous amount of work over the summer, we are particularly looking forward to welcoming exceptionally talented and diverse new directors and to the refinement and finalization of the refreshed HB 2030 strategy for the next 3 years. These are sure to be great discussions at the board meeting. We look forward – with energy and excitement – to what the Fall brings.

Healthy team

Social Committee's Summer carnival

On July 29, the Holland Bloorview Social Committee turned an ordinary summer day at the hospital into a full-blown carnival. Staff came out to enjoy live music, carnival games, a photo booth, as well as plenty of snacks, including freezies, chips, popcorn and refreshing lemonade. The atmosphere was filled with laughter, friendly competition, and lots of team spirit as colleagues took a break from work to connect and enjoy the festivities.







The dunk tank was the biggest attraction with Bruce Squires, Stewart Wong, Kathryn Decker, Ashleigh Saith, Jennifer Matherson and Lyndsay Tchegus-Veiga bravely taking their seats above the water, becoming willing targets for staff eager to test their throwing skills. With every splash, cheers erupted from the crowd, making the dunk tank the clear crowd favourite and one of the most memorable highlights of the event.

Annual staff Summer BBQ

On June 24 and 25, Holland Bloorview came together to celebrate one of our most anticipated annual traditions. This year's staff BBQ was our biggest and most exciting yet, bringing together over 1,100 colleagues across the hospital. Our offsite and overnight colleagues were included with special delivery meals.

The two-day celebration gave staff an opportunity to pause, connect, and recognize the incredible people who make Holland Bloorview such a special place to work. Some exciting new additions included a live DJ that kept the energy high with music that had people singing along and dancing between bites,

while our interactive robot photographer became an instant crowd favourite. The leadership team also got in on the fun as food servers.

In addition to BBQ favourites like burgers and hotdogs, we served up salad, corn and dessert. Halal, vegetarian, kosher and gluten-free meals were also available.





Care that's agile

Reimagining Pediatric-to-Adult Transitions for Youth with Muscular Dystrophy

Building on the momentum of the Medical Transitions Think Tank convened by Holland Bloorview and University Health Network in March 2026, significant progress has been made toward developing a more coordinated and integrated model of care for youth with muscular dystrophy transitioning to adult services. The Think Tank brought together pediatric, adult, community, government, research, advocacy, and lived-experience partners to identify key gaps in current transition pathways and establish a shared vision for a future-state model that improves continuity, coordination, and client health outcomes.

Over the summer months, Holland Bloorview, University Health Network, Unity Health Toronto, and Defeat Duchenne Canada executed a collaborative Letter of Intent to undertake a client and family centered needs assessment in fall 2026. The needs assessment represents the next phase of this work, engaging youth, families, and caregivers in the co-design of a proof-of-concept multidisciplinary, integrated adult clinic in the Greater Toronto Area, ensuring that lived experience directly informs service design and implementation priorities. The findings will also support the development and submission of a business case for government and philanthropic investment. By addressing an identified gap in transitions care, this initiative has the potential to improve continuity, equitable access, and health outcomes for youth with muscular dystrophy, and offers a scalable template for designing integrated transition pathways for youth with disabilities and complex chronic conditions across Canada.

Care that's socially accountable

Holland Bloorview partners with Toronto Community Housing on accessible housing project

Holland Bloorview recently partnered with Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC), to promote physical and sensory accessibility in a new housing development located at 50 Torbolton Drive in Toronto. Holland Bloorview worked with TCHC on site accessibility and to facilitate conversations with families that have specific physical or sensory needs.

Consultation involved conversations with our inclusion, autism and family navigation hub teams to:

- conduct a site visit and needs assessment of the development,
- provide safety, environmental and sensory recommendations for the homes, and
- support the development of a questionnaire that will help TCHC staff better understand the needs of families who will be living in the homes.

50 Torbolton Drive was built in 1962 and includes 16 three-bedroom townhomes. It has been closed for more than 15 years due to flooding. Using $9.7 million in combined City of Toronto and federal funding from the National Housing Strategy, TCHC has been able to fully redesign and renovate the homes, bringing them back into service with a comprehensive renovation and design modernization. Executives from TCHC also toured Holland Bloorview on August 26 to learn about our approach to accessibility and discuss further potential collaborations.

Holland Bloorview continues to celebrate our Youth Advisory Council (YAC)30th anniversary – Crate Garden Summer update

With the support of our generous foundation as part of Holland Bloorview's food security efforts, and in partnership with our Youth Advisory Council, the crate garden has offered Youth Leaders several unique opportunities for learning and skills development. YAC members have participated in five workshops since the garden opened in May 2026 including making pesto with ingredients directly from the garden, and learning about container gardening and how to grow fresh produce in their own homes. Fresh produce harvested from the garden has been shared with clients participating in Turning Point and The Independence Program and was delivered door-to-door to caregivers of our inpatient clients. To date, 20 kgs of produce has been harvested from the crate garden.

The Youth Engagement Strategy summer student, Karen, was featured in a Health News segment with Pauline Chan and is the star of a HB communications video. Karen is a current Holland Bloorview client who tended the garden as her first summer job and hosted visits for staff, students, and volunteers; she welcomed more than 80 members of the HB community to the garden this summer!

Employment Pathways

Employment Pathways continues to support meaningful work experience opportunities for youth with disabilities. Over the summer, 17 youth participated in early work experiences through the Youth@Work program, contributing approximately 45 volunteer hours each at Holland Bloorview, while eight youth

secured paid summer employment with community employers through the Ready to Work program. In addition, five graduates of the Project SEARCH program successfully transitioned into employment with organizations including Holland Bloorview, Joe Fresh, Sodexo Canada, Torys LLP, and UHN.

To expand access and support more youth in achieving employment goals, the team is piloting new delivery models through VolunteerABLE and Youth@Work programming. These initiatives will inform future service design and explore opportunities to increase program reach while maintaining effectiveness and impact.

Community Life Skills & Transitions

The Community Life Skills and Transitions team advanced care that's socially accountable by expanding accessible, goal-directed opportunities to build independence, confidence, social connection, recreation participation, and transition readiness for children, youth, and their families. Across group-based life skills and independence development, friendships and belonging, adapted recreation equipment loan, adapted sailing, and community Snoezelen services, the team reduced barriers to participation through the delivery of responsive programming that resulted in meaningful individualized outcomes. Summer 2026 programming demonstrated strong reach and impact, providing access to inclusive recreation, independence-building, sensory, and transition programming for clients with diverse developmental, neurological, physical, and complex disabilities.

The breadth and impact of these programs reinforce Holland Bloorview's commitment to socially accountable care, while highlighting opportunities to continue scaling responsive, outcome-informed programming in partnership with families, clinicians, and community organizations.







Advancing Cultural Safety Together

Holland Bloorview is enrolled in Healthcare Excellence Canada's inaugural cohort of *Advancing Cultural Safety Together* which supports organizations to implement the Cultural Safety Pathway. This two-year program runs from September 2026 - August 2028. It is meant to offer practical guidance to address systemic racism and advance culturally safe care through coaching, shared learning and tools, leading to safer experiences, stronger trust and improved outcomes for First Nations, Inuit and Métis patients and communities. Participating members are Anita Nakou, Indigenous health equity and experience specialist, Lorraine Thomas, manager, IDEAA. Executive sponsor is Joanne Maxwell, vp ETSA.

Enhancing our Capacity for Indigenous Health

In May of this year, we welcomed Anita Nakou as our Indigenous Health Equity and Experience Specialist. Anita is a status First Nation member of Six Nations of the Grand River, with both Onondaga and Mohawk ancestry. Anita believes in Indigenous self-determination and is committed to elevating Indigenous voices in ways that respect cultural distinctiveness.

Over the past four months Anita has been actively developing connections both internally and externally. Within Holland Bloorview, she has met in person with dozens of staff to understand our culture. These introductions will aid in formulating a distinctive plan for widespread Indigenous Health Equity training and education. Anita advises the Resource Centre on acquiring books written by First Nations, Inuit and Métis authors. She also advises teams on questions related to land acknowledgements, flag raising and Indigenous ways of knowing. Anita has been invited by Elaine Cook to attend 2 days of education and training with the Mushkegowuk Health Authority in October as part of our Humanistic Health Care and Education program.

Anita is also developing and strengthening relationships with Indigenous health equity teams at Sick Kids Hospital, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and Women's College Hospital, and community partners such as Anishinawbe Health Toronto. Anita has also explored an Inuit publishing house and gallery, participated in continued talks with the Assembly of First Nations, and attended the Native Child and Family Services Vendors Market. Through Health Excellence Canada, Anita has recently started a two-year program, *Advancing Cultural Safety Together*. This program will be instrumental in supporting the development of an Indigenous Health Equity Action Plan for our organization.





Care that's transformed by research and education

Teaching and Learning Institute

A. Centralized Student Services

Centralized Student Services welcomed **104 students** for placement between May and August – with a breakdown of 34 clinical/non-clinical, 31 nursing, 35 Research (including 24 Ward Summer Students) and 4 medical students.

B. Interprofessional Education (IPE), faculty development & student leadership experiences (SLEs)

Interprofessional Education

From May 13th to July 10th, 5 Interprofessional Education (IPE) sessions were delivered as part of an IPE seminar series. Co-facilitated by Darlene Hubley, 2 Family as Faculty partners, and 5 different health professionals, these sessions engaged 16 unique students from Music Therapy (2), Pharmacy (1), Public Health (1), Research (3), Therapeutic Recreation (2), Occupational Therapy (5), Communications (1) and Physiotherapy (1). According to feedback surveys, students valued hearing directly from those with lived experiences and the interactive, discussion-based format.

On July 16th, a Humanist Practice session was offered by Elaine Cook at the request of students to support integration of this approach into their communication with clients and families while on placement. Eight learners from Medicine (3), Music Therapy (3) and Pharmacy (2) took part.

On July 20th, Holland Bloorview hosted a new IPE elective learning activity in partnership with Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre (Sunnybrook): *From one system to another: Navigating transitions in care between hospital systems*. Co-facilitated by Family as Faculty (2) and clinical and education leaders from both organizations, 10 learners from Holland Bloorview and 10 learners from Sunnybrook participated.

Faculty Development

On May 6th, the fifth *Just in Time* faculty development session took place to support staff as they take on the role of supervisor to incoming students. Attendees included 7 staff members, including 4 clinicians from Therapeutic Recreation, Speech-Language Pathology, and Occupational Therapy. Attendees reported an increase in awareness of resources available to supervisors and students, including onboarding checklists and available workspaces for students.

On June 25th, the second *Let's Connect!* faculty development session took place, drawing Pharmacy Technician and Library & Archival Management professionals. Co-facilitated by Darlene Hubley, IPE Lead, and Kim Jones-Galley, centralized student coordinator, the session offered focused faculty development for supervisors.

Student Leadership Experiences (SLE)

At the end of July, 4 music therapy interns completed their internships in OnTrack-Music Therapy. Students were supervised by Andrea Lamont and Eunice Kang, music psychotherapists, with faculty team support from Darlene Hubley, Wilfrid Laurier educators and Family as Faculty. Interns provided innovative programming for parents including: (i) the Harmony music psychotherapy program for parents, (ii) Meditation and Music in collaboration with Ruveyda Durmus, and (iii) spiritual care practitioner and Ukulele group for in-patient parents. Student feedback highlighted the value of the program's practicality:

"*The SLE placement helped me to move theory and what I learned in school into practice. I've really been able to practice what I've learned and learn how to use those theories in sessions*."

"*I was able to implement a specific model I learned in school into practice at Holland Bloorview because I got to create a program from scratch. It was really cool! It complimented one of my research passions and personal interests*."~ *SLE learner focus group, July 2026*

OnTrack-Friendship and Belonging under the support of Rachel Arsenault, life skills coach, has one student in therapeutic recreation for summer 2026 programming, ending August 27th.

C. Evidence to Care (EtC)

In partnership with Dr. Azadeh Kushki and the Neurodiversity and Personalized Health Lab, EtC created infographics highlighting results from a community mixed implementation-effectiveness trial evaluating the impact of a wearable device for supporting awareness of emotional states. Three infographics were created – academic, clinician and family, and were completed on July 10th.

EtC delivered two workshops as part of the Ward Summer Student Lunch n' Learn program. Topics presented were: 1. Creating an Accessible Poster (July 6) and 2. Knowledge Translation and Mobilization (July 13).

EtC contributed as faculty to the BRI Summer Institute in Inclusive Childhood Disability Research for high school students. On August 10th, Ashleigh Townley was a panelist profiling the role of Knowledge Translation Specialist among different careers within the organization. On August 14th, the EtC team delivered an in-house designed knowledge translation game, to educate students and help them apply key concepts to their institute research projects. Student feedback was very positive: "*The knowledge translation (KT) activity in the morning was super fun! It was very hands-on and I loved how we got to act as an actual knowledge translation specialist with a unique scenario and problems that we might face. I learned a lot about the importance of KT and gained insight into the different steps in the KT process*."

Bloorview Research Institute

Please click here for the following

- Select Publications and Achievements
- International Talks

Awards

Dr. Darcy Fehlings, senior clinician scientist and developmental paediatrician at Holland Bloorview, has been elected a **Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences**—one of the country's highest honours in health research and leadership. This recognition reflects her decades of impact advancing early detection, neurorehabilitation, pain and dystonia management, and personalized approaches to care for children with cerebral palsy and childhood-onset disabilities.

As lead of the CP Discovery Lab and scientific lead for the Ontario Brain Institute's CP-NET, Dr. Fehlings has built a nationally influential translational research network integrating genomics, neuroscience, and clinical practice. Her work directly strengthens Holland Bloorview's precision health strategy and our evolution toward a learning health system.

Dr. Fehlings' election highlights the national reach of BRI's research leadership and reinforces our institutional commitment to advancing individualized, evidence-based care for children and youth with disabilities.

Family Engagement in Research
Name of the family member: Mukti Reddy (parent and advisor with POND)
Role: They joined our international collaborative on GenID outcomes
***Study Title**: Developmental outcomes for clinical trials in genetic intellectual disability*
Lab: FiiND lab

Name of Family Partners: Erin Dowds and her son Sam
Role: As part of our knowledge translation efforts from our recent holly work, they participated in filming a brief video we put together highlighting the holly platform/device, how it works, its intended purpose, and also incorporating elements that reflect the family experience.
Study Title: A Community Trial of holly™ for Pediatric Populations in Naturalistic Settings
Lab: Neurodiversity and Personalized Health Lab

Employment Pathways

In 2026/27, the Employment Pathways team is partnering with March of Dimes Canada (MODC) and up to five Ontario school boards to pilot collaborative employment readiness programming. The pilots will combine delivery of two curricular components, including MODC's youth employment skills program "*Paving the Path*" with Holland Bloorview's family program, "*Employment Action Coaching,*" while engaging school boards in the co-design of aligned elements, such as parallel experiential learning opportunities and feeding information into the school board's existing transition planning processes.

The team is also beginning discussions with Grandview Kids' Family Engagement Team to explore options for employment experience programming.

Team members, Anna Oh and Laura Bowman, led a 2023/24 case study with students, families and organizations (Community Living Toronto, University Health Network, and Toronto District School Board) involved in delivering the Project SEARCH program. Our first article* resulting from this project was published in July 2026 in INYI Journal. The paper explores how the Project SEARCH model works through youth and families' perceptions of which elements were meaningful for their learning and employment journeys from a social-relational perspective. * Growing employment skills and expectations for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families: A Project SEARCH Toronto case study.

Caring Safely

CHC Conference presentation

Holland Bloorview, with support from Shiv Kirat Deol, Angela Renkema and Stephanie McFarland, presented its implementation approach to advancing equitable pediatric pain management for children with neuro-disabilities, highlighting lessons learned from a comprehensive gap analysis, stakeholder engagement process, and the establishment of a multidisciplinary health care systems (HSO) Pain

Implementation Working Group. The presentation focused on strengthening interprofessional pain assessment, improving pain data standardization, incorporating patient-reported outcome measures, and embedding pain management within the organization's Learning Health System and strategic priorities. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with the session receiving an average rating of 4.7/5. All participants agreed that patient and caregiver perspectives added value, while 93% reported that the implementation examples, tools, resources, and content improved their understanding of pediatric pain management. Additionally, 87% felt engaged throughout the session and identified practical actions to advance equitable pain care within their own organizations.

IDEAA

Growth *and renewal of IDEAA Taskforce (September 2026 - June 2028)*

The IDEAA Taskforce is made up of diverse group of volunteer staff, family and youth leaders, who act as IDEAA champions and provide insight and recommendations to support the organization's IDEAA-based initiatives including health equity.

For this third iteration of the taskforce, a targeted recruitment and communications strategy was implemented during July and August to refresh membership and revisit the terms of reference, ensuring they better reflect current organizational realities. Highlighted accomplishments emphasized the Taskforce's expanding role as an organization-wide advisory body supporting accessibility and sociodemographic data initiatives; health equity and population analytics work; communications protocols related to significant external incidents; employee Resource Groups; and continued oversight of equity-focused initiatives

Refresh and Expansion of IDEAA's new staff

A major during July and August 2026 was the revision of IDEAA's New Staff Orientation (NSO) specific to onboarding new staff. The refreshed presentation now includes embedded accessibility features for staff participants, such as video captions and screen reader–compatible learning materials. The orientation also strengthens and highlights organizational commitments to:

- Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous cultural safety.
- Inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility, and anti-racism in healthcare.
- Sociodemographic data collection and workforce representation.
- Intersectionality and health equity.
- Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) and IDEAA learning resources.

Reach

Government relations

Holland Bloorview hosted a number of government officials for tours over the summer months:

- June 25: Hosted 14 members of the strategy policy, insights and data division of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
- July 16: Hosted Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, MPP Michelle Cooper (Eglinton-Lawrence) and MPP Mohamed Firin (York South-Weston)

- August 10: Hosted Toronto City Councillor Rachel Chernos Lin (Don Valley West) and Farzana Rajwani, director, stakeholder and community relations and TDSB trustee of Ward 14 – Don Valley East.
- August 10: Hosted MP Leslie Church (Liberal, Toronto-St. Pauls). MP Church is Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretaries of State for Labour, for Seniors, and for Children and Youth, and to the Minister of Jobs and Families (Persons with Disabilities).
- August 13: Hosted MP Rob Oliphant (Liberal, Don Valley West). MP Oliphant is our local representative and holds responsibility for Canada Summer Jobs funding allocations. He was here to meet some of the 29 funded students working at Holland Bloorview this summer.

Media Relations Highlights

- Dr. Shannon Scratch, senior clinician scientist and neuropsychologist, shares her expertise in a new study published by the Canadian Medical Association Journal that examined admittance rates to specialized trauma centres between women and men with traumatic brain injuries in Ontario.
- During World Cup Soccer fever in Toronto, CityNews Toronto visited Holland Bloorview to learn more about how a robotic exoskeleton device called the Trexo is helping a young outpatient client named Hira meet her rehabilitation goal – all while kicking a soccer ball.
- The *National Post* spoke to Bill Holland for a wide-ranging feature on the transformational philanthropist, including what motivates him to give and his longstanding connection to, and support of, Holland Bloorview.
- Holland Bloorview was recognized for its role in supporting the redevelopment of 50 Torbolton Dr., a Toronto Community Housing Corporation community designed for families, including those with children with disabilities. Staff provided expertise to help enhance the site's physical and sensory accessibility. Bruce Squires, Kathryn Decker, and Josh Scroggy attended the July 9 reopening and ribbon-cutting event alongside federal and TCHC representatives.
- Dr. Melanie Penner, developmental pediatrician and senior clinician scientist, is interviewed in an article about recognizing early signs of developmental differences in children, including challenges with eye contact, gestures and social communication. The ECHO Autism project, led by Dr. Penner, also receives a mention.
- *Hospital News* profiles the Extensive Needs Service's program to provide meaningful support for families awaiting care for children with urgent and complex needs. The program, While You Wait for Services, offers caregiver wellness programs, behaviour management training, respite care, resource navigation and social skills workshops to help families build skills and prepare them for what to expect upon service entry.
- *Hospital News* profiles the recent joint announcement made by Holland Bloorview SickKids receiving upwards of USD $17.25 million from Aligning Research to Impact Autism to advance autism and neurodevelopmental research through a global clinical trial readiness network.
- Toronto Star visited Holland Bloorview to tell the story of twin sisters and SODR inpatient clients Milyana and Naya. The pair are being cared for by "twin" nurses – Michael Feir and Joshua Legaspi – who both work on SODR and who have gone above-and-beyond to bring joy and laughter to the girls during a lengthy inpatient rehabilitation stay at the hospital over the summer.
- CTV News Toronto - Holland Bloorview partnered with non-profit organization the Bowery Project on a rooftop crate garden that has grown 20 lbs of produce to date. Led by the hospital's Youth Advisory Council, who is celebrating its 30th anniversary, is giving back to the community

that has given them so much – providing fresh produce to inpatient families and hospital program participants.

- People.com profiles Holland Bloorview first twin inpatient clients in the SODR unit, Malayna and Naya, both 10, and how Joshua Legaspi and Michael Feir, known as the 'nurse twins', have brought so much joy to their stay with laughter, cartwheels and fun.

Sustainable

Serving up climate action: Holland Bloorview signs global pledge to reduce food-related emissions

Holland Bloorview has signed the Coolfood Pledge, a global initiative led by the World Resources Institute that commits participating organizations to reducing food-related greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent by 2035. This commitment aligns with the hospital's sustainability strategy and recognizes the connection between environmental health and child health outcomes. Through participation in Nourish Leadership's 100 Million Better Bites campaign and as a founding member of the Nourish Commons, Holland Bloorview will leverage data and best practices to measure and reduce emissions while increasing appealing plant-based food options.

The hospital has already begun implementing measures to achieve this goal in partnership with Sodexo Canada. Food waste tracking introduced in 2025 and expanded in 2026 has prevented 823 kg of food waste, avoiding approximately six metric tonnes of CO_2 emissions, while waste was reduced by 19 per cent in the most recent quarter.

Additional initiatives include expanding plant-forward menu choices, redistributing surplus food to inpatient families, and exploring food donation opportunities through Second Harvest. Based on current purchasing data, achieving the Coolfood target would reduce Holland Bloorview's food-related emissions by an estimated 142 tonnes of CO_2e annually, further strengthening the hospital's leadership in sustainability within the health-care sector.

Holland Bloorview
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Excerpts from President and CEO Report
September 23, 2026

Bloorview Research Institute (BRI)

- Select Publications and Achievements
- International Talks

Bloorview Research Institute

Select Publications & Achievements

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International Talks

Fehlings, D. 2026 Jun **Co-Chair**. (Co-Chairs: Aravamuthan B, Novak I). Cerebral Palsy Operational Diagnosis Summit. Galway, Ireland. June 6-7, 2026.

Fehlings, D. 2026 Jun **Presenter**. (Co-Presenters: Aravamuthan B, Novak I, Srivastava S). An evidence-based, standardized and practical diagnostic framework for cerebral palsy. 38th European Academy of Childhood-onset Disability Annual Meeting (Instructional Course). Galway, Ireland. June 6, 2026. (200 in attendance)

Fehlings, D. 2026 Jun **Presenter**. (Co-Presenters: Shearer H, Silberg T). Mind Over Pain: Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Techniques for Youth with Physical Neurodisabilites and Chronic Pain. 38th European Academy of Childhood-onset Disability Annual Meeting (Instructional Course). Galway, Ireland. June 5, 2026. (60 in attendance)

Fehlings, D. 2026 Jun **Presenter**. (Co-Presenters: Fahey M, Fehlings M, McDowell D, Novak I). Restorative, Reparative, and Regenerative Cellular Therapies for Cerebral Palsy: Where are we now and where are we going? 38th European Academy of Childhood-onset Disability Annual Meeting (Mini-symposium). Galway, Ireland. June 4, 2026. (500 in attendance)

Ellegood, J. 2026 June ADHD Symptom Dimensions Show Distinct Nonlinear Regional Volume Responses to Anxiety/Depression. Rafaela Goveia1, Jennifer Crosbie2, Elizabeth Kelly3, Julia Frei4, Jason Lerch5, Evdokia Anagnostou1, Jacob Ellegood1, Organization for Human Brain Mapping Annual Meeting, June 2026, Bordeaux France.

Ellegood, J. 2026 Jun Neuroanatomical Subgroups Show Distinct White Matter-Cortex Scaling in Neurodevelopmental Disorders. Jacob Ellegood1, Antoine Beauchamp1, Jennifer Crosbie2, Elizabeth Kelly3, Julia Frei4, Jason Lerch5, Evdokia Anagnostou1, Organization for Human Brain Mapping Annual Meeting, June 2026, Bordeaux France.

Ellegood, J. 2026 Jun Deep Generative Diffusion Framework for Suppression of Motion related artifacts in MRI images. Jenita Manokaran1, Evdokia Anagnostou1, Jacob Ellegood1, Organization for Human Brain Mapping Annual Meeting, June 2026, Bordeaux France

Franz, K. S., & **Kushki, A**. (2026, July). Towards bias-aware model selection in federated clustering under non-IID data[Poster presentation]. 48th Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Bagheri, M., & **Kushki, A.** (2026, July). Evaluating the Utility of Wearable Devices for Prediction of Mental Health Symptoms in Neurodivergent Children[Poster presentation]. 48th Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Ross, T., Buliung, R., Titchkosky, T., and Hess, P. (Lectern). “Engaging Disability Theory in Planning Practice.” World Planning Schools Congress 2026. Helsinki-Espoo-Tampere, Finland. June 29-July 3, 2026.

Comeau, É., Buliung, R. and **Ross, T.** (Virtual). “Advancing Accessible School Transportation Planning: Insights from Education Professionals and Families Living with Childhood Disability.” World Planning Schools Congress 2026. Helsinki-Espoo-Tampere, Finland. June 29-July 3, 2026.

Comeau, É., Kelly, S., Hamdani, Y., and **Ross, T.** (Virtual). “Advancing Accessible Taxi Services for Disabled People in Toronto, Canada.” World Planning Schools Congress 2026. Helsinki-Espoo-Tampere, Finland. June 29-July 3, 2026.

Research Grants and Successes

Lindsay, S., Bruce, C., Martiniello, N., **Munce, S.**, Peers, D., Sukhai, M., Wolbring, G. (July 2026). *Development of an anti-ableism framework and guideline (REACH) for health research*. Project Grant, CIHR. $365,068, 2026-2029.

People with disabilities remain overlooked in health research. Several prominent governing bodies, such as the World Health Organization, the Lancet Commission on Disability and Health, and CIHR, call for the implementation of more anti-ableist health care systems and research. Anti-ableist approaches (e.g., strategies, theories, and practices that challenge and counter ableism) aim to reduce disability-based inequities through research, policy and practice. Identifying and applying anti-ableist research strategies can therefore advance health equity and improve health outcomes for people with disabilities. Our team includes researchers with disabilities who contribute lived experience and expertise in ableism

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Our objectives include: (1) to synthesize the literature on anti-ableist and disability inclusive strategies, models, theories, frameworks and guiding principles for including people with disabilities in health research (as participants and as researchers) and to identify their common elements; (2) to reach consensus about how meaningful the key components of these models, theories, frameworks and guiding principles are for people with disabilities, and experts in ableism, through a Delphi process to inform the development of an anti-ableism (REACH: Research Equity Advancement for Communities with Disabilities in Health) framework and guideline. The REACH framework will define core concepts, domains and mechanisms of anti-ableism in health research, and the reporting guideline will translate these into actionable steps, such as planning, recruitment, data collection and analysis, supported by stage-based checklists, templates and training modules. By guiding users through each stage of the research process, the REACH will help identify, prevent and address ableist assumptions and structural barriers, aiming to improve scientific quality and equity. Our findings will promote greater accountability and standardization of anti-ableist practices by contributing a framework, guideline, and community of practice. These results strengthen the inclusion of people with disabilities in health research and guide promising practices, programs, and policies for engaging people with disabilities in health research.

Embargoed Lifted for:

McPherson, A., Burkholder, C., Keehn, M., Soldatic, K., Stinson, J. (March 2026). *Reimagining Disability in a Digital World: How do disabled youth navigate, experience and express their sexuality in digital environments?* Insight Grant, SSHRC. $398,963, 2026-2028.

Non-disabled youth navigate digital environments (e.g., social media platforms, messaging apps, online forums) for information about sexuality, to explore and express sexual identity, and build romantic or sexual relationships. Digital environments may offer alternative spaces for disabled youth to learn, connect and explore their sexuality, but these opportunities are restricted by cultural values, social norms and access inequities. Understanding these nuances is critical for inclusive policy, education and digital design. Aligning with SSHRC priorities 'Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization' and 'Global Health and Wellness for the 21st Century' and guided by a Youth Advisory Committee, our Study Objectives are: 1) To critically examine how disabled youth engage with digital environments for sexual information, connection and self-expression across diverse cultural, social, and environmental contexts; 2) To explore the role of caregivers in supporting disabled youth to use digital environments to affirm their sexuality and mitigate risks; and 3) To apply an intersectional equity co-design framework to create prototype digital resources that support disabled youth's sexual rights and wellbeing.

Co-Leads: **Anagnostou, E.**, **Baribeau, D.**, Scherer, S. (also at BRI: **Brian, J.**, **Kushki, A.**) (February 2026). *Toronto, Canada (Holland Bloorview & SickKids) as participating site in Innovative Medicine and Precision Approaches to Clinical Trials (IMPACT) Network.* Aligning Research to Impact Autism (ARIA). $17,250,000, 2026-2031.

Our Toronto, Canada site is represented by two institutions: (1) Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, Canada's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital and only Canadian research institute dedicated to childhood-onset disability, and (2) the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), Canada's largest pediatric hospital and pediatric research institute. Both are fully affiliated with the University of Toronto and part of the Toronto Academic Health Sciences Network (TASHN). The two institutions are highly integrated to advance precision health for children with neurodevelopmental conditions/disorders (NDDs). Holland Bloorview is the largest provincial diagnostic hub for autism, providing assessments to more than 1300 children a year, of which 20% meet criteria for profound autism. It is also a provincially funded hub for longitudinal care for children and youth with NDDs, including rare genetic conditions, who have high pharmacological, rehabilitation, or complex needs. SickKids provides acute medical care, as well as clinical genetics services to more than 1500 families with autism and other NDDs per year. The SickKids DAGSY clinic provides comprehensive interdisciplinary assessments to children with rare genetic conditions at risk for NDDs. Both institutions share the mandate to provide care to children with genetic conditions. Across institutions, we have extensive experience in both longitudinal cohort and intervention studies, across genetic and idiopathic, rare and common NDDs, and across the ability spectrum. Our research institutes drive precision health care for kids and youth with NDDs in unique and complementary ways. Together we deliver genomics and related sciences, neuroimaging/EEG and other biomarker studies, brain stimulation, and device development to facilitate communication and

inclusion. Supported by patient advocacy organizations, industry, community clinical services, and government decision makers, we are making shared investments to further integrate EHR data across institutions, as well as basic sciences with clinical trials infrastructure, to support discovery of novel therapies and the IMPACT Network's goals