



**Acquired  
Brain Injury  
Network**

**November 3-4, 2008**  
*Hilton Toronto • Toronto*

### **Conference Presentation Abstract ~ Podium Presentation**

**Date/Time/Room:** Monday, November 3, 2008 1:30 pm – 2:15 pm Tom Thomson

**Abstract ID:** 3c

**Title:**

**From Adolescence to Adulthood...Taking the Roller Out of Coaster**

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**Presenters:**

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**Summary:**

For many adolescents, the transition into the adult world can be a difficult and confusing time. For adolescents with an acquired brain injury it can become fraught with barriers and the realization of lost opportunities. Recent research (Gagnon et al, 2008) supports the need for support services to meet the unique needs of adolescents and their parents following traumatic brain injury. In addition, evaluation research conducted on the PABICOP program (McDougall et al, 2006) demonstrated the importance of an individualized, needs based approach.

The opportunity for long term follow-up with the PABICOP program has afforded us the ability to provide supports over many years, often assisting with transition planning from adolescence to adulthood. Careful guidance, support and planning, beginning as early as the start of high school can ensure that adolescents with acquired brain injuries maximize their potential and reach their goals. Ongoing communication and flexibility with regards to changing needs is critical.

Discussion will focus on the unique needs of adolescents and how our approach is tailored to the specific needs of each client and family. We will illustrate methods of collaboration with schools and community partners to enhance support and successful planning.

Case illustrations will highlight this process in adolescents with both mild and severe brain injuries.

**Outcomes/Objectives:**

Participants will learn about our individualized, tailored approach to successful transition planning from adolescence to adulthood. The presentation will also focus on the specificity of adolescent needs.