

The Toronto Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Network was established in 1995 to address issues of fragmentation in the system and inequitable access to service for individuals with an acquired brain injury. Since its inception, the Toronto ABI Network has grown to over twenty publicly-funded member organizations from across the Greater Toronto Area and across the continuum.

In review of the Network's accomplishments and growth to date, it has been noted that the Network needs to formalize its membership criteria to provide clarity and to ensure that the Network's decisions in this regard are fair, equitable, and transparent. The purpose of this document is to describe the characteristics/criteria that must be met by member organizations of the Toronto ABI Network.

## Vision, Mission and Values of the Toronto ABI Network

### VISION

Influencing excellence in publicly-funded services and support for persons living with the effects of an acquired brain injury

### MISSION

To provide leadership in furthering equitable, accessible, responsive, cost-effective and quality publicly-funded services and support for persons living with the effects of an acquired brain injury in the Greater Toronto Area

### VALUES

The values as stated are not intended to be exclusive or all-encompassing but to serve as the principles guiding the activities of the Network

- Quality of life ~ Defined by the person and his/her family
- Social responsibility ~ Equal access and timely service
- Responsiveness to individuals and their families ~ Feedback from persons and their families is essential
- Knowledge-based services and support ~ Recommendations regarding services and support will be supported by data
- Partnerships ~ Collaboration with all stakeholders is crucial
- Research ~ Research and evaluation of clinical outcomes are fundamental
- Education ~ Education of all stakeholders is critical to influence excellence in service and support

## Criteria for Membership in the Toronto ABI Network

In keeping with the Network's Vision, Mission and Values, organizations in the Toronto ABI Network will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Geography**  
Organizations of the Toronto ABI Network must provide services to those in the Greater Toronto Area, which is currently defined as the City of Toronto and the Durham, Halton, Peel and York regional municipalities.
- **Source of Funding**  
The primary source of revenue for member organizations and/or ABI program(s) of member organizations must be from the public purse.
- **Organizational Status**  
Member organizations must have a not-for-profit status. Further, it is preferable for member organizations to have charitable status.
- **Accreditation**  
It is preferable that member organizations engage in an external accreditation process for ongoing quality improvement.
- **Governance Structure**  
It is mandatory for member organizations to have a board of directors to whom the organizational staff reports and is accountable OR to have an alternative demonstrated accountability framework.

## Process of Determination of Membership in the Network

- Requests for membership must be submitted in writing
- Requests will be evaluated against established criteria
- Determination of membership will be achieved through a majority vote of Advisory Committee members.
- Members must sign a Participation Agreement, the terms of which are approved by the Advisory Committee.

Participation of select ex-officio appointees may be encouraged on behalf of representatives who have a stake in ABI services in Toronto but do not meet the above criteria (e.g., University of Toronto, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, health planners such as Toronto District Health Council). Ex-officio members participate as non-voting representatives.