

7 AUGUST, 2026
SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
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HONOURABLE JOSIE OSBORNE
MINISTER OF HEALTH
PO BOX 9050 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA BC, V8W 9E2



Dear Minister Osborne,

Re: Expanded Supports for British Columbians with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)

On behalf of the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA), whose governing Executive represents 37 municipalities and regional districts across British Columbia's Southern Interior, I am writing to the Province to urge the expansion of traumatic brain injury (TBI) diagnosis and treatment as one of the Province's tools in their Complex Care approach to the toxic drug, mental health, and housing crises.

Across Canada, it is estimated that more than 150,000 individuals experience a TBI annually. These injuries often go undiagnosed and untreated, leading to increased risks of mood disorders, comorbidities such as seizures and migraines, and substance abuse. Those who use alcohol after a TBI are four times more likely to sustain another TBI, in severe cases, this can create a perpetual cycle of brain damage and substance abuse. While recovery is possible, this can only be achieved through robust pathways to diagnosis and subsequent treatment. Research indicates that acute inpatient treatment substantially increases the likelihood of recovery from a TBI, which can only be achieved by providing sufficient inpatient beds in treatment centres across the Province.

Expedited diagnosis and treatment of TBIs is preventative healthcare, reducing downstream pressures to treat various physical comorbidities, mental health disorders, and dependency on illicit substances. Further, robust intervention in TBIs also reduces strain on emergency services beyond healthcare and decreases housing instability for those affected. With such a high number of TBI incidents occurring annually, earmarking robust funding and treatment beds for TBI diagnosis, treatment, and support will alleviate costs on myriad social services provided by the Province.

While SILGA is heartened to hear that the Federal government had its first reading of Bill C-206 in June, this Bill only asks for the Federal Ministry of Health to prepare a strategy for TBI treatment, and it provides no immediate supports. Furthermore, intervention and treatment of TBIs in British Columbia is still behind many other Provinces. Our communities are in dire need of consistent, long-term funding to address TBIs and consequently reduce strain on our public services.

SILGA requests that Minister Osborne and the Ministry of Health urgently investigate the benefits to communities and public services provided by TBI intervention and explore the funding of TBI treatment to secure the safety and wellbeing of our constituents.

Sincerely,

Bill Sarai, President
Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA)