

CANADIAN COUNCIL
OF THE BLIND



LE CONSEIL CANADIEN
DES AVEUGLES



20 | Annual 25 | Report

Letter from the Board President

As we reflect on 2025, I am pleased to share several highlights that demonstrate the continued dedication of the Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB) and our chapters across Canada.

One of the most welcome moments this year was the return of the Canadian Vision Impaired Curling Championship (CVICC). This long-standing national event once again brought curlers across Canada together.

Advocacy continues to guide much of our work. For White Cane Week, chapters from coast to coast organized displays, presentations, and community activities. These efforts reflect our growing collaboration with partners and improved internal and external communications that help connect our network and amplify our shared priorities.

We also saw continued growth in the Get Together with Technology program, which provides practical learning opportunities that help individuals build confidence using assistive technology.



Board President Jim Tokos
Photographer: Andre Martin

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and our volunteers, I extend sincere thanks to everyone who contributes to the work of the Canadian Council of the Blind. Your commitment allows us to continue building a stronger, more inclusive future for Canadians living with vision loss.

Board of Directors

The Canadian Council of the Blind is led by the strategic direction of our board.

National President
Jim Tokos

Past President
Louise Gillis

First Vice President
Leslie Yee

Second Vice President
Leo Bissonnette

Third Vice President
Surander Singh

Board Members

Elizabeth Mayo

Heather Hannett

Heidi White

Lori Shea

Michelle Bartram

Sharon Ruttan

Terri-Lyn Dietrich

Highlights from 2025

The Return of the Canadian Vision Impaired Curling Championship

2025 marked the return of the Canadian Vision Impaired Curling Championship. After an absence of four years, eight rinks (teams) went head-to-head in a full round-robin tournament. Fifty athletes gathered from across the country, reconnecting with longtime competitors and welcoming new curlers to the ice.



Celebrations Across Canada

While Team British Columbia, skipped by Eric Rosen, was winning the gold medal, CCB chapters across Canada celebrated White Cane Week. Held the first full week of February, it is a coordinated cross-country effort. Over 20 events, from webinars to bowling tournaments, were held in 17 cities, demonstrating the reach and collective voice of the CCB. The focus is not only to raise awareness about vision loss, but also to spark meaningful conversations about the importance of community support.

Together We Thrive



The annual conference celebrating Vision Health Month welcomed 210 attendees, 17 of our industry and corporate partners, and 10 speakers.

The goal was to cross the divide between their fields and imagine a holistic approach to vision, eye health, and disability justice. Together, participants explored strategies that put patients and individuals with disabilities at the center of care. Sessions highlighted practical tools, inclusive technologies, and community-based supports that empower people to manage their eye health while maintaining independence and quality of life. Attendees shared insights, built connections, and left with actionable ideas to implement in their own organizations. By fostering collaboration across sectors, the conference strengthened the network of professionals committed to creating a more accessible, equitable, and patient-focused vision care system.

Advocacy Throughout the Year

January

CCB's own Shelley Ann Morris is recognized by the Canadian Association of Optometrists as the 2024 Vision Champion Award Winner.

A key member of several sports and recreation groups, and countless radio and music initiatives, Shelley is known across Ottawa. As a long time activist and accomplished athlete, this recognition was a long time coming.

February

CCB participated in hands-on testing of the GoodMaps app at the CF Rideau Centre. Participants using VoiceOver, mobility devices, and guide dogs identified barriers such as connectivity gaps and contrast issues. Their feedback ensured real-world accessibility data informed improvements and strengthened the case for inclusive indoor navigation standards nationwide.

April

Attendees of Ottawa's 55+ Show were invited to test their eye health awareness with our interactive display. CCB staff held meaningful conversations about the importance of early detection and long-lasting social support for seniors experiencing vision loss.

September

At the 11th General Assembly of the World Blind Union in São Paulo, the Canadian Council of the Blind joined delegates from 190 countries. Engagement in forums on equity, emergency preparedness, braille, and technology strengthened CCB's alignment with international standards and informed evidence-based accessibility advocacy in Canada.

October

The Canadian Council of the Blind hosts its annual World Sight Day Conference. Industry and activist leaders gather in Toronto, Ontario to discuss shared goals and make urgent calls to action. We must act now and act together to facilitate change across Canada's vision landscape.

November

CCB Board President Jim Tokos attended the unveiling of VIA Rail Canada's 2026–2029 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. Through ongoing advisory committee work, CCB leadership helped embed the perspectives of blind and low-vision travellers into national transportation planning, demonstrating how sustained consultation shapes barrier-free policy and practice across Canada.

By the Numbers

1857

Eye Health
Resources Shared

200+

Community Events

65

Chapters

1500+

Members

96

Virtual Weekly Chats

25,000+

White Cane Magazines Read

Chapters Across Canada

24

Men and Women of
CCB's Meetings

372

Get Together with Technology
Group Workshops

Alberta

CCB Calgary Club
CCB Edmonton Chapter
CCB GTT Edmonton Chapter

New Brunswick

CCB Bathurst Club
CCB Miramichi Club
CCB Moncton Curling Chapter
CCB Moncton Club

CCB Mississauga V.I.P.s Chapter
CCB Ontario Blind Golf Chapter
CCB Ottawa Blind Curlers Club
CCB Ottawa Chapter
CCB Pembroke White Cane Chapter
CCB Peterborough Chapter
CCB Road Runners Chapter
CCB Rocks Chapter
CCB Sault Ste. Marie White Cane Chapter
CCB Thunder Bay & District Chapter
CCB Toronto Blind Curling Club
CCB Toronto Ski Hawks Ski Club Chapter
CCB Toronto Visionaries Chapter
CCB Waterloo Regional Club
CCB York Region Lighthouse Chapter

Newfoundland and Labrador

CCB St. John's Royles Chapter
CCB Humber Valley – Bay of Islands Chapter

Nova Scotia

CCB Blind Sports Nova Scotia Chapter
CCB Crafts & Hobbies Chapter
CCB Faith, Hope & Love Chapter
CCB Sydney Curling Chapter
CCB Sydney Chapter

Ontario

CCB Afloat Chapter
CCB Chatham-Kent Chapter
CCB Club "60" Barrie Chapter
CCB Cornwall Chapter
CCB Dragon Boat Toronto Chapter
CCB GTT North Bay Chapter
CCB Hamilton Blind Curlers Chapter
CCB Hamilton Chapter
CCB Listeners Book Club
CCB London Chapter
CCB London Vision Impaired Curling Chapter

Prince Edward Island

CCB Prince County Chapter
CCB Queensland Chapter
CCB Summerside Socialites Chapter

Saskatchewan

CCB Regina Chapter
CCB Ohana Saskatoon Chapter

3

Coast-to-Coast-to-
Coast Bistro Nights

200+

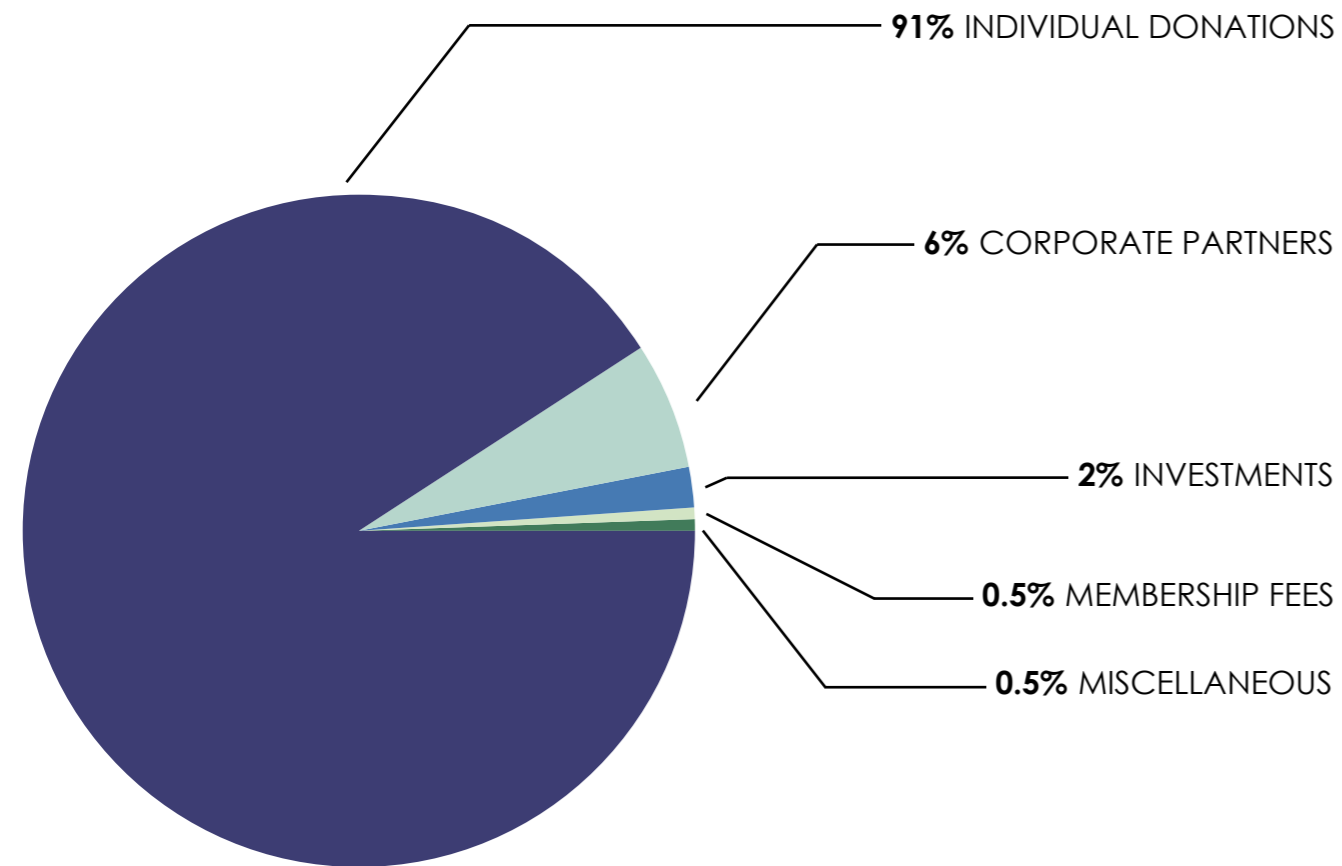
Get Together with Technology
Clients

British Columbia and Yukon

CCB 100 Mile House & District Chapter
CCB Blind-Yukon Chapter
CCB Alberni Valley Chapter
CCB Campbell River White Cane Chapter
CCB Chilliwack & District Chapter
CCB Comox Valley Chapter
CCB Dogwood Chapter
CCB Festival of Friends Chapter
CCB GTT BC Chapter
CCB Kamloops White Cane Chapter
CCB Kelowna Blind Curlers Chapter
CCB Hands on Yarn Chapter
CCB Lower Mainland Chapter
CCB Nanaimo Chapter
CCB Parksville & District 69 Chapter
CCB Prince George Blind Curling Chapter
CCB Provincial Book Club
CCB South Okanagan Chapter
CCB Sunshine Coast White Cane Chapter
CCB Vancouver Arts & Culture Lovers Chapter

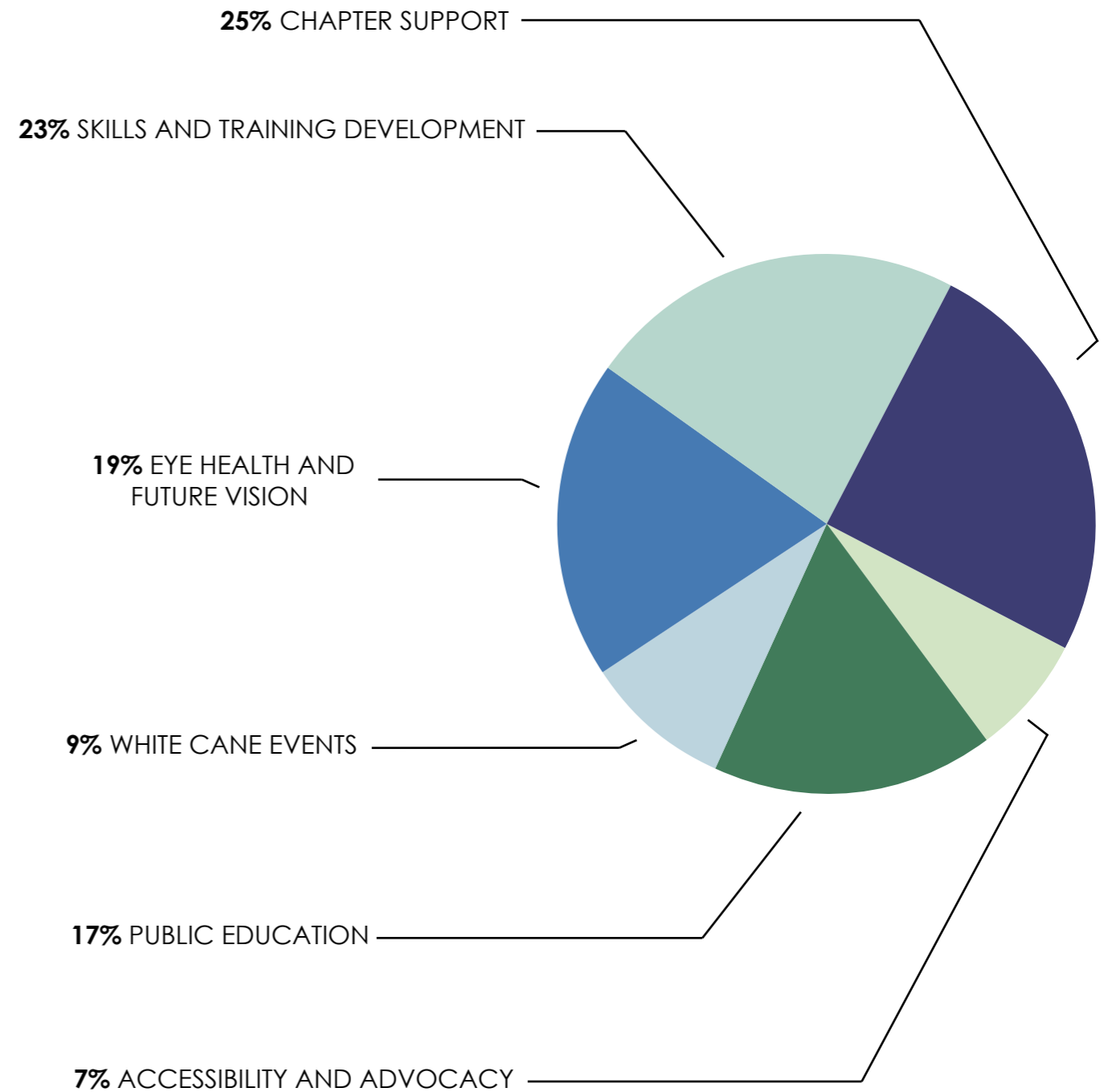
Financial Summary

Funding Sources The majority of our program funding comes from independent donors across Canada. Their support allows the Canadian Council of the Blind develop our programs, support our chapters, and continue advocating for Canadians who are blind, low vision, or living with vision loss. Thank you!



Complete audited financial statements available at www.ccbnational.net/about-us/

Program Spending Our programs reflect the three pillars of the Canadian Council of the Blind's work: awareness, collaboration, and prevention.



Your Impact

The programs and services highlighted here are possible because of the support of donors and partners. Your contributions allow the Canadian Council of the Blind to offer practical, accessible programs like the Get Together with Technology (GTT) sessions.

Donations support everything from technology platforms for virtual meetings to the trainers who provide one-on-one and group assistance. Because of this support, participants can learn to use assistive technology, stay socially connected, and navigate daily challenges with greater independence.

“The Get Together with Technology (GTT) program is more than just technical support. It creates a community where we share experiences, inspire one another, and face challenges together.”

“Our accessibility trainer has been life-changing. His knowledge, encouragement, and moral support over the years have made learning technology possible and enjoyable.”

“Through GTT, I’ve mastered tools like JAWS, Apple iOS apps, BLINDSQUARE, and audio book players. The program has allowed me to continue working part-time and remain independent.”

Testimonials have been provided by Get Together with Technology clients. For more information, visit: www.ccbnational.net/the-ccb-gtt-program/

Thank You

Our Community

The Canadian Council of the Blind is centred around community. The support and participation of our members, donors, partners, and sponsors made 2025 an exceptional year. Because of your support, we were able reach more Canadians who are blind or experiencing vision loss.

A special thanks goes out to our 100+ volunteers who support chapters across Canada. We are grateful for the care, dedication, and experience that each one of our volunteers brings. Thank you!

Our Sponsors

Our sponsors make our work possible. Their partnership is essential to the growth and success of the Canadian Council of the Blind. Thank you for standing with us.



Our Partners

The Canadian Council of the Blind works with a network of organizations dedicated to Canada’s future vision health. Thank you to our Vision Health Partners.



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Awareness.

Collaboration.

Prevention.

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