



## Canadian Brain Council potential model

Neurological Health Charities Canada (NHCC) believes it is time for Canada to establish a Brain Council to lead unprecedented collaboration within the brain health community. We know excellent research is being done at universities and hospitals on potential treatments, better diagnoses and possible preventions. We know innovative health care services are helping people affected by brain conditions have healthier lives. What we don't know is whether all of this knowledge and innovation is reaching the people it is intended to help.

We envision a **Canadian Brain Council** that would pull the brain health community together and coordinate efforts to move forward. We recommend it be comprised of Canadians living with brain conditions, families and caregivers, brain health charities, health-care professionals, social services experts, brain health researchers, the federal health portfolio, representatives of provincial and provincial governments and the pharmaceutical industry.

It could serve as a knowledge hub to bring together existing resources, consider emerging trends and gap areas, and disseminate information and engage more partners in finding solutions. It would also serve as a bridge bringing together neurological and mental health sectors.

### Example – European Brain Council

A potential model for a Canadian Brain Council is that of the European Brain Council. Founded in 2002, the European Brain Council brings together key players in the brain community. Its members include scientific societies, patient organisations, professional societies and industry partners. It also works with 20 national brain councils within Europe. Its main mission is to promote brain research with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of the estimated 179 million Europeans living with brain conditions, mental and neurological alike. ([www.braincouncil.eu](http://www.braincouncil.eu) )

It also fosters cooperation between its member organizations and other stakeholders, promotes dialogue between scientists, industry and society.

- Its current call to action asks the European Commission to develop a European plan to tackle brain health in a collaborative, integrated and comprehensive manner, as well as to further support European Union Member States and associated countries in their efforts to combat the impact of brain disorders.
- It asks European Union member states and associated countries to implement public health programs to address brain health in a systematic way, to stimulate more and better co-ordinated brain research, and to foster strategies for prevention, early detection, diagnosis and adequate treatment.

The Council brings stakeholders together on a regular basis and provides reports and studies on the economic impacts of brain conditions as a whole and as individual conditions.

### Contact

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