

THE VOICES BEHIND THE NATIONAL STRATEGY ON BRAIN INJURY ACT: FROM BILL C-323 TO BILL C-277 TO BILL C-206

“Fight for the things that you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”

– Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

There are moments in leadership when we are called to inspire.

There are moments when we are called to defend.

And there are moments—like this one—when we must do both.

Today, I speak not just as the leader of the CGB Centre for Traumatic Life Losses, but as the voice standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the more than **250 survivors and family members from across Canada** whose lived experience has shaped the path toward justice. Over the past three years, we’ve engaged in **more than 500 direct interactions** with survivors and families—some standing with us in multiple stages of this work, each one an irreplaceable contributor to the movement. **These are the voices who carried the torch when the road was steep, when the costs were personal, and when no one else dared to speak.**

It was their stories, their suffering, and their courage that laid the foundation for what is now **Bill C-206**, the *National Strategy on Brain Injury Act*—formerly known as Bill C-277 and, before that, Bill C-323.

Since 2017, the CGB Centre has led this work. We asked for a National Strategy on Brain Injury to be tabled in the House of Commons when no one else would. We built the relationships, shaped the language, and formed the coalitions. We’ve held **75 meetings** with elected officials—Mayors, MLAs, MPs, and Senators. **Eighty survivors and advocates led our “125 Days to Say Yes” campaign.** The **March of Dimes Brain Injury Survivors** hand-stuffed and mailed **3,000 letters** to the House of Commons. Across the country, **hundreds more letters were delivered to MPs** in local ridings. This is a tapestry woven by many hands—threaded with love, rage, resilience, and hope.

To be clear: **this movement was not created in a boardroom.** It was born in living rooms and kitchens. It came from people who had everything taken from them and still gave more. It came from unpaid labour, from trauma-informed wisdom, and from the moral clarity that says: ***“We will not be invisible anymore.”***

To every survivor and family member who trusted us with your story...

To those who marched, wrote, spoke, cried, and rose again...

This is your legacy. You are the authors of this bill. You are the reason change is possible.

We welcome all allies who join in good faith. But we insist—firmly and without apology—that truth and justice lead us forward. This movement belongs to the people who built it, and we will ensure their voices are never forgotten. Let us continue forward—not just in the name of policy, but in the name of **dignity, equity, and truth.**

—

Janelle Breese Biagioni

CEO, CGB Centre for Traumatic Life Losses

Community Lead, National Strategy on Brain Injury