

Message from the Chair and Chief Executive Officer

As we look back on 2017-18 at Spinal Cord Injury Ontario, we see a year of strength, change and community.

In the midst of powerful social and political discourse in our province and around the world, we continued to speak out about injustice and fight for an inclusive and equitable Ontario, our mandate since 1945. History demonstrates that social change arises when under-represented and marginalized people unite together – despite their individual differences – to be seen, heard and counted as others already are.

This same spirit of social unity and collective change pervades Spinal Cord Injury Ontario. As an organization, we are as effective, engaged and relevant as our community makes us. We are composed of and belong to Ontarians with a spinal cord injury, as well as our volunteers, advocates, donors, staff and all those who work to advance the fair and equitable standing of those with a disability. The more active our community, the greater our power and louder our voice. Take a look at the many important outcomes of that work in this Report.

SCIO exists to enable our community to achieve its goals. Only together can we address those urgent objectives we share, such as resolving service gaps, increasing resources, changing laws, informing research, increasing funding and campaigning for greater accessibility. How do we do this? In short, through sweat equity and financial backing. With flat funding from the government, SCIO relies on you – every member of our community – for the engagement, donations, volunteer hours, advocacy, staff expertise and continual improvement we need to, together, make the greatest impact possible.

Since our founding, we have achieved dramatic change. Going forward, there is considerable work to be done to improve the quality of life of those living with a spinal cord injury and we believe we are up to the task. Our strategic priorities – Expand Our Impact Across Ontario, Share Knowledge and Amplify Our Community's Voice – have begun to take shape and we thank you for supporting

these vital goals this past year. You are the bedrock of this organization and we appreciate your commitment to creating an even stronger SCIO and a more equitable and accessible Ontario.

Bob Nigol
Chair of the Board

Dr. Stuart Howe
CEO