THE FIRST STEP

Creating (***with <u>your</u> help***) a world class
Neuro Rehabilitation Innovation Centre
at the University of Alberta Hospital

University Hospital Foundation's

Festival of Trees

PRESENTED BY LANDMARK HOMES

It was just another day until it wasn't

THE OFFICIAL CAUSE OF BILL STEPHENSON'S PLANE CRASH WAS ENGINE FAILURE AFTER TAKEOFF.

Flown by air ambulance from the crash site at the Wetaskiwin airport to the University of Alberta Hospital (UAH), Bill underwent several hours of surgery on his shattered spine. He also had 12 broken ribs.

A few days later, he had a talk with his physician. "I asked him, 'In your experience with this extent of injury, have you seen anyone walk from it?' And he just shook his head."

But Bill did not accept his physician's prognosis as final. "I'm a very active person. I have my own gym in the house. I'm a portrait artist. I play piano and flute. I fly airplanes. I have a farm. So yeah. When they offered me rehabilitation, I took it."

Dr. Chester Ho, a physiatrist at the UAH who specializes in rehabilitation after neurologic injuries, saw potential in Bill immediately after his initial evaluation in the intensive care unit. "We identified him as someone who could recover with the right rehabilitation."

Using hydrogel electrodes placed strategically on his legs, Bill's muscles began responding. Within days, he began to feel a faint tingle in his left foot. After six months, Bill was able to walk unaided in his house, and with a walker when he went outside.

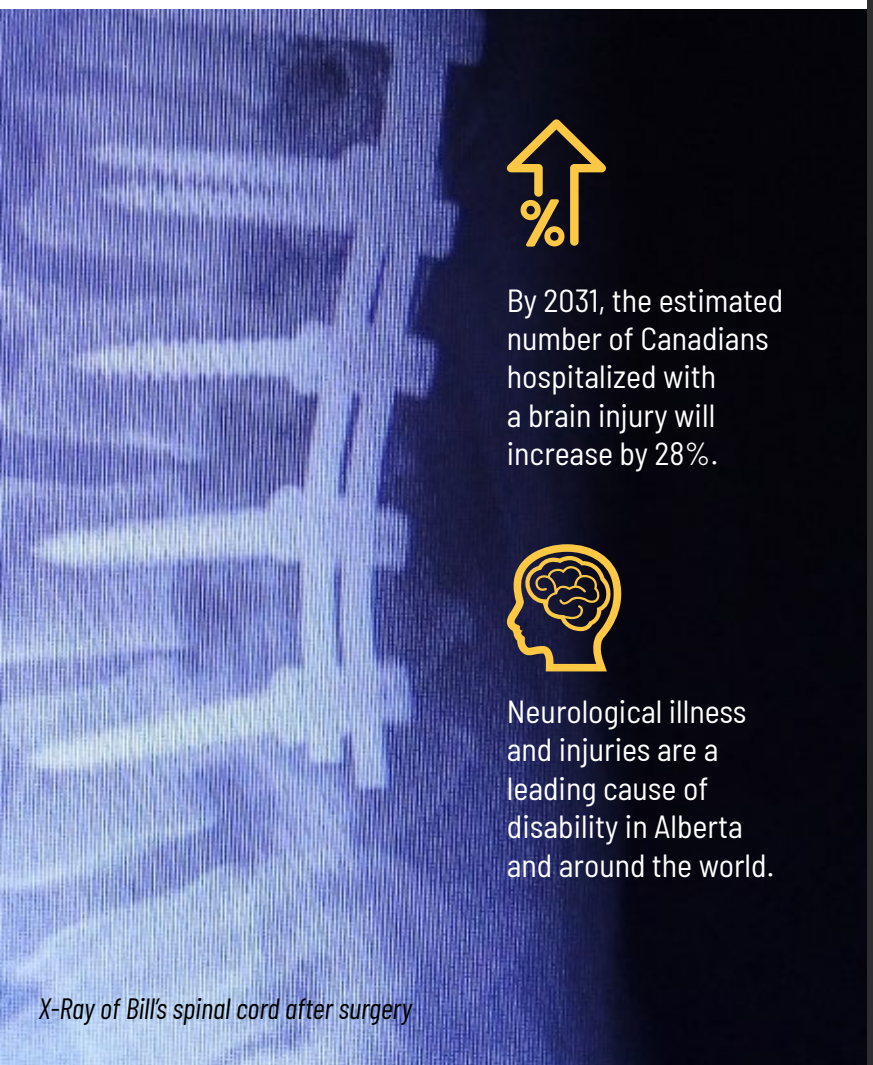
For patients with debilitating brain and spinal cord injuries, early access to advanced rehabilitation is critical to recovery. Currently, the wait is between 15-25 days.

A new, state-of-the-art Neuro Rehabilitation Innovation Centre at the UAH will provide patients with convenient and early access to innovative treatments and state-of-the-art technology.

15 TO 25 DAYS

IS CURRENTLY THE AVERAGE WAIT TIME NEUROLOGIC PATIENTS SPEND IN ACUTE CARE BEFORE BEING TRANSFERRED TO AN INPATIENT REHABILITATION FACILITY.

The current set up at UAH gives Dr. Ho and his team of highly trained experts the chance to work their magic on people with devastating injuries like Bill, but it's hardly ideal. Equipment needed to perform critical assessments of patients before rehab can begin is not readily available. And it does not support the level of innovation and advancements that can elevate the program to the world stage of neuro rehab patient care and, with much more far-reaching impact, research in an acute care setting.



X-Ray of Bill's spinal cord after surgery

By 2031, the estimated number of Canadians hospitalized with a brain injury will increase by 28%.

Neurological illness and injuries are a leading cause of disability in Alberta and around the world.

"WE THINK ABOUT HOW TO SAVE LIVES, WHICH IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT, BUT THEN AFTER YOU SAVE A LIFE, HOW DO YOU GIVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE BACK TO PEOPLE? THAT'S WHAT REHAB DOES.

DR. CHESTER HO
Physiatrist and Interim Edmonton Zone Clinical Department Head, Neurosciences

IMAGINE THE THRILL OF TAKING THE FIRST STEP AFTER YOU'VE BEEN TOLD YOU WILL NEVER WALK AGAIN.

Adding a state-of-the-art Neuro Rehabilitation Innovation Centre at UAH will give patients with potentially debilitating neurologic conditions timely access to intensive rehab treatments and improve their chances for a full recovery.

In addition, the new Centre will make UAH one of the very few acute care settings in North America to offer advanced rehabilitation to its brain and spinal cord patients.

This rare opportunity for neurologists and researchers to work side-by-side in real time will close the gap between knowledge and patient care and provide invaluable opportunities for groundbreaking discoveries.

The University Hospital Foundation is committed to raising $2.7M in support of creating a Neuro Rehabilitation Innovation Centre at UAH.

With you support, we know we can make it happen.

Adding a state-of-the-art Neuro Rehabilitation Innovation Centre at UAH is the official cause of the 2022 Festival of Trees.

To learn more or to donate now, scan here

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