

**(SCIRE logo appears on top right corner and the words “Sexual Health and SCI” in center appear on screen.)**

**(Close-up shot of water sprinkling over the edge of a rock.)**

Brad Jacobsen: When I was first injured and I was lying in the river,

**(Picture of a river densely surrounded by trees appears on screen.)**

I broke my neck camping when I dove into a glacier river, way out in the outskirts of Pemberton,

**(Camera scans foliage of different trees in various shades of green.)**

I was lying there in my cut-off shorts, it was cold, and I was paralyzed.

**(Medium close-up shot of Brad Jacobsen.)**

My friend, who had dove in the river and saved my life, was holding my hand and I said to him: Cam, I’ve got a boner, man, I’ve got an erection!

He looked at me with such passion in his eyes, and said: You’re going to be okay, man!

**(Picture of Brad looking into the distance.)**

Little did we realize that it happens often to guys who’ve had a traumatic spinal cord injury; it’s a reflex.

**(Medium close-up shot of Bonnie Venables, Outpatient Nurse, G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre, Vancouver Coastal Health.)**

Bonnie Venables: I think with a lot of young guys, that might be the first thing that pops into their heads because that is a huge part of their life.

**(Bonnie speaking to a man with SCI.)**

They want to know “Is it still going to work?”, or for women, “Am I still going to be able to have children?”, “Am I going to be able to be a Mom?”

**(Return to medium close-up shot of Bonnie Venables.)**

I think lots of times they’ve been told - no, that it’s not a good idea.

But, slowly that culture is changing and we need to educate people that it’s absolutely possible to be sexual, and it’s absolutely possible to be parents.

**(Medium close-up shot of Dr. Stacy Elliott, Sexual Medicine Consultant from Vancouver Coastal Health.)**

Dr. Stacy Elliott: When we look at people who have been injured or have some disability, sexual needs often fall by the wayside.

But it’s a huge issue for anybody, let alone for somebody with a spinal cord injury.

**(Brief clip of a woman with SCI brushing her hair and picking up lingerie before returning to medium close-up shot of Bonnie Venables.)**

Bonnie Venables: It is an important part of your everyday life, and it is a question that should be asked.

It can be just as simple of a question saying, “Is this something you’re interested in?”, “Is this something you want to talk to somebody about more?”

And if you get an answer that’s no, I can bet you, in another year, you’ll see that same person, and the next time they might say yes.

So it’s important to ask it again.

**(Return to medium close-up shot of Brad Jacobsen.)**

Brad Jacobsen: At the time, I had no clue what was happening.

I was just going with my gut feeling, going with my instincts, and I wanted to remain sexual.

I needed it actually – I needed to be close, to feel loved and to feel that intimacy while I was at my weakest most vulnerable point.

And I think a lot of people feel that way.

How do you allow someone to sit on your lap for the first time, when you’re in a wheelchair?

How do you touch someone when your hands aren’t working properly?

**(Quick transitions between clips of a woman walking down a sidewalk to a woman with SCI looking out a window and to a man with SCI speaking to a nurse.)**

Bonnie Venables: If you think about how sexual health is important to you as an individual, it’s just as important to every single other person.

**(Return to medium close-up shot of Bonnie Venables.)**

So not to ignore it, to educate yourself about it first, to not be afraid to ask questions – Are you in a relationship? Do you have a partner?

You don’t need to have all the answers, but you do need to know how to ask the simple question and resource them if they’re interested.

**(Words “To Learn More Visit [scireproject.com](http://scireproject.com)” and “Follow us @SCIREProject” appear on screen.)**

**(Transition to new slide with bolded words “Thank You to” above the words “Clinicians: Dr. Stacy Elliot, Bonnie Venables RN” and “Participants: Teri Thorson, Brad Jacobsen, Bobby Brar, Matthew Querée, Shannon Sproule and the rest of the SCIRE Team.” Below: Logos of the Rick Hansen Institute, University of British Columbia, icord, and Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation.)**

**(Words “Created by Merilin Paart at the Knowledge Mobilization Studio at the Centre for Hip Health and Mobility” appear with the Knowledge Mobilization Studio logo before screen dips to black.)**