St. John’s Rehab is the site of Canada’s only dedicated electrical injury rehabilitation program. Our highly skilled rehabilitation professionals work with patients and their families to offer customized comprehensive assessment and care to people who have been living with the adverse, often invisible, effects of electrical injuries.

Clients will benefit from our capability to recognize the early symptoms of these injuries, offering timely diagnosis and treatment in an attempt to minimize long-term effects. Our interprofessional team approach will help clients regain their independence in work, daily life, mobility, leisure, and social roles.

To provide the best possible care at all stages of recovery, St. John’s Rehab has partnered with Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Together, we are the only hospitals in Canada publishing research on electrical injuries. People from across the country have been assessed and treated since the Electrical Injury Program began in 2003.

**Electrical Injury Program**

Clinic operates Monday to Friday  
For information, call 416-224-6949  
Located on the Ground Floor, Agnew Wing (west entrance)

Recognized by the Ontario Hospital Association as a high-performing rehabilitation hospital.
WHAT ARE THE INVISIBLE EFFECTS OF AN ELECTRICAL INJURY?

Not all electrical injuries are immediately visible. With a burn or trauma-related electrical injury, invisible functions including productivity, memory, and the capability to do daily tasks can be affected. The delayed appearance of symptoms can be confusing to both the patients and to other healthcare providers.

According to the Association of Workers’ Compensation Boards of Canada, 600 to 800 people experience workplace electrical accidents annually. With the right care, people can recover from these complex and often invisible electrical injuries and successfully return to work, their communities, and their lives.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Our interprofessional team works with patients and their families to promote independence through:

- Early identification of impaired functions for a faster, more successful recovery
- Energy conservation training
- Pain management
- Cognition improvement techniques
- Medication and nutrition education
- Customized exercise program for improved mobility and optimal cardiac and respiratory function
- Individualized psychosocial counselling and support
- Stress management therapy
- Telemedicine technology for timely and convenient follow-up care with specialists

Clients also have access to additional therapy such as **chiroprody, chiropractic, acupuncture, and aquatic massage**. All services are uniquely located in an accredited hospital setting.

As part of our Back on Track program, the Electrical Injury Program uses best-practice techniques throughout the rehabilitation process, including:

- Multi-dimensional assessments and treatment
- Goal-oriented client and team collaboration
- Continuous outcome monitoring
- Regular feedback and reporting to referral sources

Our individualized, active program is focused on improving function, endurance, and managing activities of daily living so that clients can return to work, their communities, and their lives.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Anyone who has sustained an electrical injury and is experiencing adverse symptoms can participate in the Electrical Injury Program. A referral is required by a physician, rehabilitation consultant, insurance agency or WSIB case manager.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Services are covered by auto insurance, the Workplace Safety Insurance Board, and by extended health insurance plans.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

St. John’s Rehab and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre are the only hospitals in Canada currently publishing research on electrical injuries. Recent studies have been published in the Journal of Burn Care & Research, including:

- **Quality of Life and Return to Work Following Electrical Burn Injury**  
  Jason Noble, Manuel Gomez, Joel S. Fish.  
  BURNS 2006;32(2):159-164

- **Long-Term Sequelae of Low Voltage Electrical Injury**  
  Jennifer Singerman, Manuel Gomez, Joel S. Fish  
  J Burn Care Res 2008; 29(5):773-777

- **Return to Work After Low Voltage Electrical Injury**  
  Kirstin Theman, Jennifer Singerman, Manuel Gomez, Joel S. Fish  

Additional studies have analyzed the treatment, prevention, and diagnosis of electrical injuries. St. John’s Rehab continues to pursue research initiatives to provide electrical injury survivors with the quality and expertise required to meet their diverse needs.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre  
Hydro One  
Ontario Ministry of Labour  
Power Workers Union  
Electrical Safety Authority Ontario