



SEMIAHMOO  
HOUSE  
SOCIETY

PENINSULA  
ESTATES HOUSING  
SOCIETY

THE  
SEMIAHMOO  
FOUNDATION

March 18, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Semiahmoo House Society PD, Transitions, or Focus Group Services Participant/Supporter,

This letter is to inform you that Semiahmoo House Society (SHS) has closed our South Campus (Treehouse) and North Campus (Newton) buildings for any Community Inclusion services, including Personal Development (PD), Transitions, and the Focus Group. We have made this decision based on the advice given by our Canadian and British Columbian Health Officers and our own concerns of potential ramifications if a COVID-19 outbreak occurred in one of our buildings. It is time for people to hunker down in their homes as we all work to “flatten the curve” of this pandemic.

Closing our buildings does not mean that our services are also shuttered. Although many people had already self-selected to remain home (which we appreciated), we do realize that there may be people we support who will still need some form of support from SHS over the next few weeks. Because of this, in addition to this letter, people who use SHS’s Personal Development, Transitions, or Focus Group services will be contacted by one of our staff members who will find out how they are doing, if there are any struggles at present, and if there are ways that we could support them over the next few weeks. Our leadership team will then figure out how we can best re-allocate our staff and other resources to continue to work with the people who still urgently need some form of support. While we are limited by best health practices and the present situation in how we can support you, there may be some ways that we can help you during this difficult time.

In addition to this letter, people who use SHS’s PD, Transitions and Focus Group services, will be contacted by one of our staff members and who will find out how people are doing, if there are any struggles at present, and are there ways that we could support them over the next few weeks. Our leadership team will then figure out how we can best re-allocate our staff and other resources to continue to support the people who still urgently need some form of support.

While we cannot guarantee that there will be no disruption during this time, we are confident that if we work together we will get through this.

If you have any questions, please contact the relevant supervisor:

Personal Development (PD)—Sheri Woods 604 374 4107

Transitions and Focus Group—Teresa Randle 604 218 3594

### **An Ongoing Response**

The decisions that we are making today and the decisions that we will make in the future are not easy. Our primary duty at this time is to ensure the safety of the people we support, our staff members, and the general community. This is best done by following the advice of our Canadian and British Columbian Health Officers and reducing the number of people who are gathering in our buildings and in community buildings. SHS will continue to pay close attention to and make decisions based on the information and guidance being shared by reputable organizations, including the World Health Organization, Canadian and British Columbian government Health Officers, Fraser Health, Community Living British Columbia, and our Resource Nurse.

Sincerely,

Doug Tennant

CEO, Semiahmoo House Society

## Resources

While there is much media coverage of the COVID-19 virus it is important to be sure the information is reputable and up to date. Here are five sites that will keep you informed (google the name if this is not an electronic letter):

- [Public Health Authority of Canada](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [BC Ministry of Health](#)
- [Government of Canada Travel Advisories](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

SHS's communications about COVID-19 and our response can be found here:

[www.unit4all.com/coronavirus-communications/](http://www.unit4all.com/coronavirus-communications/)