



SEMAIHM
MOO
HOUSE
SOCIETY

PENINSULA
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SOCIETY

THE
SEMAIHM
MOO
FOUNDATION

April 9, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Semiahmoo House Society Community,

I am addressing this letter to the whole Semiahmoo House Society community: people we support, the families of people we support, home share providers, and all our staff members. For the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be working together, with as few boundaries as possible to ensure that everyone is supported and safe.

The theme of today's letter is "hold the line." New Zealand's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been decisive and they currently have only one death in their country from the virus. Their Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, has the country in the middle of a strict month-long lockdown, which they are halfway through. That lockdown will continue because it is working. For the same reason, SHS will continue our practice of supporting people to be safe at home with as little contact with the outside community as possible. Thus far, we have been fortunate in not having anyone in our SHS community hospitalized for COVID-19, and I want it to stay that way.

I realize when I say that SHS will continue to support people to be safe at home that what I am actually saying is that they will be supported at home by family members and home share providers, with potentially some online support from SHS staff members. And I am eternally grateful that all of you have been so prepared to take care of your loved ones in your homes with far less direct support than you were receiving before the COVID-19 pandemic. You will see from my update below that SHS is developing more online ways to connect people. I should also let you know that there are still some people that we continue to support directly in the same physical space because of their critical needs. If you have critical needs that are not being addressed, please contact the appropriate person listed at the end of this email to let us know. As well, while Easter Weekend is upon us, if you have urgent needs over the next four days, please do contact the appropriate person. We will all be checking our emails and phone messages every day.

April 9 Update

Personal COVID-19 Emergency Plans

I've been having some good discussions with leadership members about these documents, which have been sent to you. The purpose of these documents is to identify areas where support is needed if people get sick or injured during this crisis. It is not critical for Community Service participants to send a copy of the document to SHS—the document is for your use and you should share it (or not) with the people who need to see it. If you identify areas where additional support may be needed, please contact us and we can assist you in figuring out those areas. People supported in home share and staffed residential settings (group homes and Chorus) are asked to return their forms to SHS.

The Personal COVID-19 Emergency Plan documents have been uploaded to the [Uniti4All COVID-19 Information Page](#).

Guidance Counselor

I sent this in our last update as well, but wanted to ensure that you all know that Shab Khan, Registered Family Counsellor, MPCC, RPC, will be providing support to people connected to Semiahmoo House Society during the COVID-19 pandemic. The counselling is meant for people SHS supports, including people already on the Guidance Counselor's active list, people on her wait list, family members, and home share providers. Priority will be given to the people in the most critical situations (environmental, health, or emotional). The support given will be virtual—through phone, email, or secure online platforms. Contact information below:

Guidance Counselor contact information:

Shab Khan, Registered Family Counsellor, M.P.C.C., R.P.C.
Telephone: 604-536-1242 Extension: 276
Email: s.khan@shsbc.ca

Peninsula Child Care (PCC)

PCC re-opened this week for children of staff members who are doing essential work and for the children of health care workers/first responders in South Surrey. Staff members and community health care workers or first responders who need childcare should contact Liz Deschenes (contact information at the end of this letter).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

This is another repeat from Monday's letter: If someone we support in home share or residential services does get ill with COVID-19, we have N-95 masks, face shields, and other PPE to distribute to people we support, home share providers, and staff members who are at risk. Due to limited supplies, these PPE are reserved for cases of confirmed COVID-19 infection (by Fraser Health) in staffed residential settings (group homes and Chorus) and home share homes only.

Online Support

I was excited to be able to say hi to a group of people we support who I have not seen for a while today on one of the daily (Mon-Fri) coffeehouse meetings that our Rec & Leisure Services are running. These meetings are open to all and are a chance to catch up with each other and see some friendly faces. If you are interested in joining those calls, please contact Anita Bhatti (contact information at end of letter).

If you are using any online social sites or games with your family and friends that you recommend we look into, please send them to the staff members connected to the service you use at the end of this letter.

I'm also very excited and grateful to announce that we have been successful in winning a Vancouver Foundation Community Response Grant and will be using it to connect people virtually, promote mutual support, and help alleviate fears during this crisis. Thank you Vancouver Foundation for the quick turnaround from application to acceptance for this grant.

WISE Employment Solutions

The WISE team is figuring out how to do the discovery process with job-seekers online. More information about this will follow next week.

Rec & Leisure

We have cancelled all May and June Rec & Leisure events. Participants will receive refunds for those sessions. A letter is attached for those impacted.

Provincial Financial Support and Resources People with Disabilities

More information on this benefit and others can be found [here](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/on-assistance/covid) < <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/on-assistance/covid> >.

Additional Support

If you need additional support over the Easter Weekend, please contact the relevant person listed at the end of this letter.

SHS Staff Member	Service/Program
Lise Boughen Director of Inclusive Living l.boughen@shsbc.ca 604 536 1242 ext. 227	Staffed Residential (Group Homes) Chorus Apartment Supports
Gale Cooper Manager, Community Support Network g.cooper@shsbc.ca 604 536 1242 ext. 231	Home Share Providers
Liz Deschenes Community Services Director e.deschenes@shsbc.ca 604-536-1242 ext. 234	Peninsula Child Care Acquired Brain Injury Services
Brianna Hopaluk Community Services Manager b.hopaluk@shsbc.ca 604 536 1242 ext. 232	South Campus (formerly PD)
Teresa Randle Transitions Services Supervisor t.randle@shsbc.ca 604 536 1242 ext. 311	North Campus (formerly Transitions) Focus Group Encore
Anita Bhatti Recreation and Leisure Services Program Coordinator a.bhatti@shsbc.ca 604-536-1242 ext. 255	Rec & Leisure Services
Kristyl Downing Program Coordinator—ABIS k.downing@shsbc.ca 604-592-1006 ext. 230	Acquired Brain Injury Services
Seema Tripathi Employment and Innovative Services Director s.tripathi@shsbc.ca 778 888 5916	WISE Employment Solutions Culinary Arts Program (CULA) SPARK tidyAlot

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:

<https://unit4all.com/covid-19-information/>