



SEMIAHMOO
HOUSE
SOCIETY

PENINSULA
ESTATES HOUSING
SOCIETY

THE
SEMIAHMOO
FOUNDATION

June 5, 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.

June 5th Update

Service Re-Activation

I've really enjoyed seeing some staff members and people we support in one-to-one activities in the Treehouse building this week. We will continue with Phase 2 next week, which for Community Services involves short direct support one-to-one sessions in the same physical space. We are trying to ensure that every person who wants support can have two hours of one-to-one support a week during Phase 2, as well as the many online activities that people can participate in (if you need support accessing the Online Campus, please ask your direct support worker and we will get that support to you). At this point it seems like mid-June will be when the province and we move to Phase 3, which features small groups being able to get together and some more service time available for the people we support.

Other aspects of Phase Three (to begin mid-June with BC's Phase 3) for Community Services include:

- Direct one to one support can remain as per preference and need
- Increase staff/person ratio to two to one for those with shared connections and/or similar interests and where social distancing can be maintained
 - Groups of people will remain consistent
- Combine two small groups in a shared space where social distancing can be maintained
 - Groups of people will remain consistent
- Support hours will be flexible based on preference, staff and space availability
- Safety protocols will be in place and must be followed
- Tracking and reporting systems will be developed
- On-line Campus option remains in place

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Services

ABI Services Phase Two re-activation will also continue next week. People who are funded by Fraser Health to receive SHS ABI Services will receive an ABIS Re-Activation Plan Overview with this letter. If you have any questions about this plan, please contact Kristyl (contact information at the end of this letter). I am pleased that ABI Services has been active with SHS's Online Campus and are working out some of the bugs as they try to bring some of their great in person games (Jeopardy) to the virtual world. I'm looking forward to joining them for a game in the next little while.

Self Advocate Leadership Network (SALN)

I'm very proud that UNITI is a supporter of SALN. They are doing great work during this crisis. Their most recent project has been creating a website with straight-forward language COVID-19 resources to be used by the general community, including people with disabilities.

This website was created out of the need for self-advocates and others to be able to go to ONE place to find information about COVID-19. The Self-Advocate Leadership Network in partnership with SelfAdvocatenet.com, The Self-Advocates of Semiahmoo, (and others) have worked hard to put this together.

There are a few areas of the website that are still under construction – but otherwise, there are some very good resources and information that people can access now.

Check out the website here: <https://salnbc.com/>

Not a super long letter today—we are maintaining our Phase Two activities and ensuring our buildings are safe for staff members and people we support. We've even brought in some pool noodles for the Treehouse after seeing Danielle in the following video (click on image to go to video).



Link: <https://youtu.be/zhIpra3ZsAw>

I wish you all a safe and healthy weekend.

Doug

Important and Ongoing Information

Pandemic Learning Project

UNITI and SHS are participating in a project that will help us and others be better prepared for future emergencies by learning about what people have been doing during the pandemic. The project involves

collecting stories from people from across Metro Vancouver with all different kinds of experiences, especially people with disabilities, their families, home share providers, and the people who work with and support them. Please check out our project page and click on the link at the bottom if you have a story or stories to share. If you need someone to help you with doing this, contact Lynne Ford at l.ford@shsbc.ca or 604-536-1242 ext. 258. The more stories that are told by people in the disability community, the better. The project page is here: <https://uniti4all.com/pandemic-learning/>

Personal COVID-19 Emergency Plans

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](#).

Self-Advocate Work

Semiahmoo House Society and The Semiahmoo Foundation has been supporting self-advocates to have a voice during the COVID-19 pandemic. I wanted to share with you some of the advocacy work that two self-advocate groups that we are associated with have been doing. The Provincial Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) have been creating news releases and sending them to provincial and federal leaders, and the Self-Advocates of Semiahmoo (SAS) have created five public awareness videos about COVID 19. SALN news releases and SAS videos can be found on the [Uniti4All COVID-19 webpage](#) < <https://uniti4all.com/covid-19-information/> >

Guidance Counselor

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

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

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.

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, please contact the relevant person listed below.

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

Semiahmoo House Society's COVID-19 Principles

- 1) All our decisions will be made with the safety of the people we support and our staff members being our first priority
- 2) We will support people with disabilities to have the same right to safety as all other citizens in BC
- 3) We are person-centred and will adapt our services to support people in the way that is best for them, given safety and resource realities
- 4) We are open-minded and will revise our plans when new information suggests this
- 5) We will be responsible with taxpayer funds and will use alternate resources when necessary in our response

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](#)
- [CLBC COVID-19 Information Page](#)

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

<https://uniti4all.com/covid-19-information/>