



SEMIAHMOO  
HOUSE  
SOCIETY

PENINSULA  
ESTATES HOUSING  
SOCIETY

THE  
SEMIAHMOO  
FOUNDATION

June 12, 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 12<sup>th</sup> Update**

While things are looking better in BC as the number of COVID-19 cases decline, we must continue to be vigilant during Phase Two of our re-activation. Earlier this week Dr. Henry talked about a cluster of COVID-19 cases that came from a family party. As we start to support people to be more engaged with their community, we will continue to follow our COVID-19 Response Principles, Dr. Henry's advice, and our health and safety policies and protocols.

### **Community Services Re-Activation Survey**

A four question re-activation survey was sent to family members and supporters of people who use SHS's Community Services earlier this week. We will use the information we gather about your hopes and worries of re-activation to inform our approach as we move forward through our phased re-opening. Contact Teresa (North Campus) or Sheri (South Campus) if you have any questions about the survey.

### **Guidance Counselor Reminder**

I wanted to remind everyone that thanks to a Peach Arch Hospital Foundation grant, Registered Family Counselor Shab Khan is available to work with family members and home share providers who need support (in addition to her support of people with disabilities and SHS staff members). Don't hesitate to contact her if you are feeling in need of support. Her contact information can be found in the **Important and Ongoing Information** section of this letter.

### **Self-Advocate Teleconference with Dr. Daniele Behn Smith and Ross Chilton**

CLBC CEO Ross Chilton and Deputy Provincial Health Officer Dr. Daniele Behn Smith are hosting a teleconference for self-advocates on Tuesday, June 16, from 1:05 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you want to join the call, start dialling at least 15 minutes ahead of time to ensure you get on.

*How to call in:*

Telephone: 604-681-0260

Participant Code: 37568#

### **Culinary Arts Program (CULA)**

CULA is beginning a slow and steady re-activation of their services. Chef Roger and May will be restarting training two days a week for a small number of trainees. Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Chef Roger and May have been doing wonderful work preparing meals for seniors, food banks, and group homes.

### **HandyDART**

We are meeting with HandyDART representatives early next week to try to figure out how their services can best support people in need of transit within the limitations set by COVID-19 health and safety protocols. More to come after that meeting.

### **Kudoz**

One of our community partners, Kudoz South Fraser, is looking to connect with and support people with disabilities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. There are lots of unique online learning experiences that are a great complement to SHS's Online Campus. For more information, please contact Tamsen at [Tamsen@kudoz.ca](mailto:Tamsen@kudoz.ca)

I wish everyone a safe and healthy weekend. Looks like it will be a bit wet!



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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Additional Support

If you need additional support, please contact the relevant person listed below.

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