



SEMIAHMOO
HOUSE
SOCIETY

PENINSULA
ESTATES HOUSING
SOCIETY

THE
SEMIAHMOO
FOUNDATION

July 24, 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.

July 24th Update

Community Services

This week in Community Services, staff members worked on creating pods—groups of staff and people we support who will try to work together through the summer. The purpose of these pods is to create small groups of people (6 to 8) who will share building space, activities, and transportation (within SHS's safety protocols). This should enable more hours of support for people and also allow staff members to cover each other off when necessary. You should hear more about this next week when your direct support staff reaches out to you with more information. Please contact the relevant person at the end of this letter if you want more information about the pods.

All SHS Services

While the last few weeks of summer have been quite nice and people have been able to get outside and do more things, we are also aware that it is very possible that COVID-19 will come back in the fall. With this in mind, the Crisis Response Team has been planning to ensure we are prepared if and when it does. Some of the actions that we have been taking include the following:

1. Securing more indoor space for community services for the fall so we can continue to support people if we need to go back to Phase 2 or Phase 1. Any support in these phases would be based on the recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer
2. Acquiring Personal Protective Equipment for staff members and people we support so we are prepared for the fall. While we have always had sufficient PPE, we want to ensure that we do not run out if there is another shortage
3. Working with stakeholders to ensure that the people who live in group homes and the staff members who support them are safe if COVID-19 makes a comeback.

In mid-March when we first closed down our facilities because of COVID-19, many people went without services. We want to be prepared to still provide services if COVID-19 comes back. These services, of course, be within the directives we get from WorkSafe BC, our funders, and the Provincial Health Officer.

I'd like to share three more COVID-19 safety protocol videos created by the Self-Advocates of Semiahmoo and other members of the SHS community:

[Coronavirus: Different Ways to Say Hi](#)

[Coronavirus: Dining a CULA Message](#)

[Coronavirus: Effective Communication](#)

Finally, I'm happy to report that SHS was successful in winning a grant of nearly \$15 thousand dollars from Second Harvest that will support our Culinary Arts Program to provide food for seniors and others in South Surrey. More information about Second Harvest can be found at www.FoodRescue.ca. We are very grateful for their support.

Home Share Emergency Funding

Thank you to all home share providers for their patience as we have gathered information and worked with CLBC to get your Emergency Funding. It is coming and hopefully will be with you before my next community letter (this is the same message as in my last two letters—I thank you again for your patience). Please contact Gale if you have any questions.

Important and Ongoing Information

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/) < <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.

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/>