



SEMIAHMOO
HOUSE
SOCIETY

PENINSULA
ESTATES HOUSING
SOCIETY

THE
SEMIAHMOO
FOUNDATION

October 29, 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.

October 29th Update

Mandatory Masks

This week marked the implementation of a mandatory mask policy for our facilities and I have been pleased to see everyone who can wear a mask with one on this week. The Fraser Health Region is currently the hot spot for COVID-19 infections in B.C., so it is imperative that we continue to do all that we can to ensure the safety of all people using our buildings.

Having a Safe Halloween

While Dr. Bonnie Henry has said that a maximum of 6 non-household members can get together (if necessary) in someone's home—with proper mask, social distancing, and ventilation—Fraser Health, because of our increased case load, had issued an even stricter mandate for homes, as reported in this [Peace Arch News article](#): “In Fraser Health, due to the rapidly escalating case count, we're going one step further and asking our residents not to hold parties, with people outside their household, inside their home at this time,” said Dr. Elizabeth Brodtkin, Fraser Health's interim chief medical health officer and vice-president, population health.

Halloween Extravaganza

But there is an opportunity to have a safe Halloween party! Tomorrow, on Friday, October 30th, from 10 a.m. to noon, Community Services will be hosting a virtual Halloween Extravaganza. There will be music, games, and a costume contest. Registration information can be found at the end of the Online Campus Letter attached to the email this letter is attached to.

Online Campus Course Changes

This Monday, November 2nd, SHS's Online Campus will be ending some classes and beginning some others. More information about these changes in the Online Campus.

Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) Information

On Monday, I attended a CLBC Service Provider and Home Share Provider Teleconference where pertinent COVID-19 information was shared by Dr. Danièle Behn Smith of the Public Health Office and Ross Chilton, CEO of CLBC. The information shared was useful for service providers but is likely also of interest to people we support and families. You have access to these [Service/Home Share Provider Teleconferences](#) as well as [Information for Individuals and Families](#) on the CLBC website.

Rec and Leisure Update

As a non-essential service, Rec and Leisure has not been running for the past 7 months. This will continue for the foreseeable future. During this time, we are conducting research and thinking about what Rec and Leisure will look like post-COVID-19. As part of this project, we will be applying for a grant to determine the needs of youth who have disabilities and what types of services would best address these needs.

Sincerely,



Doug Tennant

CEO, Semiahmoo House Society

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	Community Services
Brianna Hopaluk Community Services Manager b.hopaluk@shsbc.ca 604 536 1242 ext. 232	South Campus
Teresa Randle Transitions Services Supervisor t.randle@shsbc.ca 604 536 1242 ext. 311	North Campus 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

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/>