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HOUSE
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SOCIETY

THE
SEMAIHM
MOO
FOUNDATION

January 15, 2021

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.

January 15th Update

The only new information in this letter is the Tech Titan post below. I have included information on the Provincial Health Orders and Guidance Counselling for people who missed last week's letter.

Community Connector's Tech Titans

Tech Titans is a group that has been spearheaded by Semiahmoo House Society's own SPARK Community Connection Services. Tech Titans main goal is to help increase people from Semiahmoo's digital literacy and technology skills. They have focused on topics like how to write formatted emails for job placements, how to send a Zoom link to a friend over email, and how to make friends over Zoom calls. The best part about Tech Titans is that there is a community of people from Semiahmoo House Society that are dedicated to learning, and side-by-side learning happens in every session. People are welcome to bring their technology questions to the group, and the whole group ends up benefiting from one person's curiosity. We believe every person deserves to be included in the digital world in Tech Titans and we focus on things like digital community inclusion, staying organized through technology and best practices for technology.

This course runs every Wednesday from 1-2 PM, and is held over Zoom. To get the link for this free course email Laura from SPARK at lwood@shsbc.ca or sign up on the online campus.

Provincial Health Orders

As you likely know, [Dr. Henry extended the ban on social gatherings and other restrictions until February 5th](#). SHS continues to follow these orders to the best of our ability within the context of our essential work. We continue to work in Pods or keep our gathering as small as possible, while following our COVID-19 protocols.

Guidance Counselor

Shab Khan, Registered Family Counsellor, MPCC, RPC, is again be providing support five days a week 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 is 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

COVID-19 Communication

While Fraser Health is responsible for COVID-19 contact tracing, out of an abundance of caution, SHS is also contact tracing as soon as we are made aware of a COVID-19 case within our community. This means that we will communicate with you if you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19 at a SHS building or service. Please understand that we cannot legally or ethically release any personal information or identify anyone who has COVID-19. It is very important that we have a culture that supports people letting us know if they have COVID-19 or have had contact with someone who has COVID-19. Respecting people's privacy will allow for more open sharing of this type of information, which will make everyone safer.

If you have any questions about SHS services and the new provincial health order, please contact the relevant person from the list on the next page.

Sincerely,



Doug Tennant

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 Associate Director of Community Services 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/>