

Subject: COVID-19 Updates - July 27, 2020 - Outdoor Pools and Libraries are Re-opening
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Outdoor Pools and Libraries are Re-opening

Vancouver residents can now cool off in one of the city's outdoor swimming pools. Kitsilano, New Brighton and Second Beach pools opened on July 13, followed by Maple Grove pool on July 20th. Indoor pools remain closed. Outdoor pools are also open in Surrey and Burnaby, along with three of Burnaby's indoor pools. For more information, check the municipality website for your area.

Libraries are also re-opening in many municipalities, with some limitations on services available. Check the public library website for your area to learn more.

Sterling James and his team of community inclusion staff have been keeping tabs on the re-opening plans for city amenities and other community activities that are enjoyed by the people they support. Thanks to Simon and others for your investigative work, and helping people safely access some of the activities they are eager to get back to. We're excited to hear that many individuals are resuming more of their usual routines, including swimming, visiting the library, and volunteering.





We join with Dr. Henry in encouraging everyone to get outside and enjoy the beautiful summer weather. In her update today, Dr. Henry reiterated that spending time outside with friends, at a safe physical distance, is preferable to visiting indoors. Having more amenities opening provides more options for things to do, more opportunities for people to get back into something resembling their normal routine.

If you are planning a visit to your local pool or library, please check the website or call first to confirm hours of operation and any safety measures you'll need to know about. Here are some tips from Sterling and Simon based on what they've learned about the Vancouver amenities:

(Swimming pools) The change rooms will be closed, so people have to arrive and leave in their swimming gear. There will be an online booking system, people can book up to 90 minutes at a time. There will also be a bunch of signs and rules for physical distancing. There won't be any flutter boards or anything like that allowed.

(Libraries) Five of the Vancouver libraries have re-opened, with new hours. Visits are limited to 30 minutes, or 45 minutes if you are booking a computer. At Renfrew where Simon visited, there was a reduced number of computer stations for physical distancing, two per table (see picture below). The library has new occupancy limits and asks that patrons sanitize their hands and maintain physical distancing.





There is a Worksafe BC page on sports and recreation as well:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/sports-recreation>

Federal Government Support for People with Disabilities

Bill C-20, An Act Respecting Further COVID-19 Measures, received Royal Assent today, and also came into force. This Act includes the one-time financial assistance of up to \$600 to people with disabilities. It's a done deal.

As a reminder, to be eligible for the funding you must be a recipient of one of the following programs or benefits:

- * A Disability Tax Credit certificate provided by the Canada Revenue Agency;
- * Canada Pension Plan Disability benefit or Quebec Pension Plan disability benefit
- * Disability supports provided by Veterans Affairs Canada.

You can read more about this Act at: <https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails.aspx?Language=E&billId=10833096>

Equal Work Equal Pay BC – We need your Support!



Send your letter now!



Visit www.equalpaybc.ca to send a letter of support to your MLA.

Yes, the government provided the 3.5% increase for recruitment and retention to non-union agencies for April 2020, but this does not address the ongoing issue of **equal pay for equal work** in the community social services sector. There was a 3.35% increase in April 2019 that our non-union employees did not get. There is another increase scheduled for April 2021 that government has not committed to funding for non-union employees. Please go to the www.equalpaybc.ca website, click on the **Send Your Letter** link, and send a letter as an employee, or as a supporter (family, friends, self-advocates, neighbours!).

- Enter your address first, and your MLA will be selected from the data base.
- You can click PREVIEW to see how the letter will look
- Click “I accept the Privacy Policy”
- Click “SEND LETTER”

There have already been over 1,300 letters sent to local MLA’s! So please do your part and support our front line workers to get equal pay for their essential community supports to people with disabilities.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Ernie Baatz

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living

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Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe