

Subject: COVID-19 Updates - May 25, 2020

Date: Monday, May 25, 2020 at 12:17:32 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Ernie Baatz

To: Ernie Baatz

Supports for Front Line Workers

Emergency Advance Funding from CLBC: We have applied for and received approval of emergency funding for our home-share providers. They will be receiving individual letters outlining the amounts of emergency payments they will receive and the funds will be paid to them on Thursday this week. This application was for the months of April and May 2020. We will see what conditions are placed on funding for June and how people are doing with getting back to their regular routines.

Last week we got the announcement of **Pandemic Pay** - \$4/hour for frontline workers for the period from March 15th to July 4th (16 weeks). This funding comes from the Federal (75%) and Provincial (25%) governments. We don't have the details on exactly how and when this pay will make it to the workers, but I think this much can be confirmed:

- The employer will apply for the amount of funding required to pay all employees who worked front line shifts in the 16 weeks.
- The payment will be a lump sum to the employees after July 4th, 2020.
- Supervisors are included as essential front-line workers.

We will let you know when we hear more details about the timing of these payments.



CLBC Weekly Update for Individuals & Families



Below is

an update from CLBC for Individuals and families. One item of particular interest is the plain language description of CLBC's recovery planning:

https://www.communitylivingbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/CLBC-Update-on-Recovery-Plain-Language-Summary.pdf?mc_cid=d2b12012dc&mc_eid=d4i7Xzf4Pw

The government approach to re-starting the province will focus on:

1. Continuing to slow the spread of the virus so the health care system has the ability to support people who become ill
2. Keeping people safe
3. The physical and mental health of people
4. The need for people to go back to work

CLBC will have guidance for service providers ready this week.

Ernie Baatz

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living

Express yourself. Build your network. Find your voice.

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CLBC Weekly Update for Individuals & Families



Welcome to the May 25 edition of CLBC's Update for Individuals and Families. As a reminder, you can find all Updates (including past editions) [posted on our website here](#). If you know of anyone who would like to receive future Updates, please share [the link to our sign up page](#) with them. If you have a specific question, or feedback about this update, you can send an email to CLBCInfo@gov.bc.ca.

CLBC and Government Updates

Plain language information and teleconference on recovery planning

The B.C. government's [Restart Plan](#) lays out a series of steps to protect people as restrictions on different types of activities and gatherings are gradually lifted beginning this week.

CLBC CEO Ross Chilton recently shared an [update with individuals and families](#) about the government announcement, as well as initial information about what this will mean for CLBC funded services.

CLBC has created [a plain language summary of this update which you can read here](#).

To answer questions that individuals and families will have, CLBC plans to hold a teleconference. An invitation with details about how to join the call will be distributed soon.

Update on hospital visits

Last week, B.C.'s Ministry of Health issued updated guidance to clarify essential visits to

Plain
Language

support individuals with disabilities while in the hospital with important things like communication, emotional support and supported decision making.

You can [read an update shared by CLBC here](#), and a plain-language version will be shared in the next edition of this Individual and Family update and posted on the CLBC website as soon as it is available.

Share your thoughts: BC COVID-19 survey closes May 31

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) is collecting input from British Columbians through the “BC COVID-19 Speak: Your Story, Our Future” survey. This is a chance to share your experiences, knowledge and actions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results will help the BCCDC understand the social, economic, mental wellness and community impacts of COVID-19.



[Click here to learn more and find a link to take the survey.](#) This page includes information about helping people in your life to access the survey, as well as guides in multiple languages.

Helpful information pages from health leaders

Public Health Canada and the BC Centre for Disease Control both have pages on their websites dedicated to guidance and resources for people with disabilities.

[Visit Public Health Canada’s web page here.](#)

[Visit the BC Centre for Disease Control’s web page here.](#)

Information about B.C.’s Restart Plan in Sign Language

The Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility is a B.C.-based organization that helps reduce communications barriers for people who are deaf and hard of hearing. [Learn more about them here.](#) During the COVID-19 pandemic, Wavefront has been creating American Sign Language (ASL) videos of B.C. government announcements, and [sharing them on their Youtube page here.](#) This includes ASL versions of the [different parts of BC’s Restart Plan.](#) We’ve added links to these videos to the Plain Language Resources page [on the CLBC website here.](#)

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Home > Public Safety & Emergency Services > Emergency Preparedness, Response & Recovery > British Columbia's Response to COVID-19 >

BC's Restart Plan

BC's Restart Plan lays out a series of steps that we will take together to protect people and ensure that our province can come back from COVID-19 stronger than before.

Last updated: May 6, 2020



BC'S RESTART PLAN

B.C.'s Response to COVID-19

Learn about... is supported... for the...
 = H...
 = G...
 = C...

On this page:

- [Overview](#)
- [Protective measures we've taken in B.C. have made a difference](#)
- [The next stage of our challenge](#)
- [How we'll start getting people back to work](#)
- [Some next steps to make life a little easier](#)
- [How we'll keep taking care of each other](#)
- [The little things make a big difference](#)

Staying connected and supported

Webinar shares sensory strategies at home

Tomorrow (Tuesday, May 26), the CLBC Provincial Assessment Centre (PAC) is hosting a free webinar about incorporating sensory strategies for adults with developmental differences who are living at home, presented by Occupational Therapists Brianne Samson and Cindy Ho. The first 40-45 minutes will focus on the presentation with 10 minutes for questions and answers at the end.



The webinar takes place from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (PST) and [you can find the call in details and register to join here.](#)

Plan Institute webinars

Plan Institute is hosting a free five-part webinar series specifically designed to help people facing social isolation stay connected.

Each webinar will feature a conversation with Rebecca Pauls and Shelley Nessman from [Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network \(PLAN\)](#), alongside guest speakers, to discuss ways

that we can ensure our friends and loved-ones maintain their social connections throughout this crisis.

The first webinar, “Don’t Wait to be Asked,” will take place on May 26, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (PST).

You can learn more, including information about all of the webinars in the series, and [find the link to register on their website here](#).

South Asian Health Institute

The South Asian Health Institute (SAHI), a program of Fraser Health, has compiled a list of resources, services and contacts to support the South Asian community during the COVID-19 pandemic, including information in multiple languages. You can [learn more and find links to these resources here](#).



Anxiety Canada Town Hall Series

Coping with the increased uncertainty and change brought about by COVID-19 can be a source of anxiety for many. Anxiety Canada is hosting a series of live town halls on their Facebook and YouTube channels to help people cope. Whether you are struggling with self-isolation, financial hardship, are working on the frontlines, or are simply feeling scared about the future, it’s more important than ever to stay informed about how to take care of your mental health. An upcoming town hall is scheduled for May 28. You can [visit their website here for details about how to join](#), as well as updates about future sessions, and helpful articles like [“What to do if you’re anxious or worried about COVID-19.”](#)

Self Advocate Corner

Helpful book for those who are feeling down

The COVID-19 crisis has many of us feeling down. The Scottish Commission for Learning Disability has created a tool that might be helpful. You can [find the “Feeling Down” booklet on their website here](#).

Singing the same tune

This evening, West Coast Reach Association is hosting its weekly “Sing Along from Home” event from 7:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. (PST). It’s a great way of connecting with others through song. To register for the virtual singing sessions (using either your phone or computer), email westcoastreach@gmail.com for details. No singing experience is required, and you’re free to join in, or just listen to the music.

Reminder: BC People First’s “We’re All In This Together” Tuesdays

BC People First is continuing to host “We’re in this together Tuesdays” for self advocates to connect, learn, share stories and concerns, and ask questions. Each Tuesday brings new discussion topics, guest speakers, mini-lessons and activities. These sessions are open to BCPF members and non-members alike. This weekly event happens every Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (PST), and people can attend one session, or many. [Click here to learn more and find information about how to join.](#)

Stories of hope and encouragement

Thanking front line workers

Here’s a [great video message of thanks from B.C. Premier John Horgan](#) to B.C.’s many front line workers from all walks of life who are working to keep our province going.

Sproutflix Film Festival

Sproutflix is a film distributor that hosts a large and diverse assortment of films featuring people with developmental disabilities. During COVID-19, they are [hosting a virtual film festival on their website here](#) with free access to short films. At the bottom of this page, you can also find a form to sign up and receive their weekly email update which will include a free-mini playlists of other films to enjoy from their catalogue.

Sing Along From Home

(While we're isolated!)



Mondays in April and May, 7-8 p.m. (Pacific)

- A free, community service
- No singing experience needed
- Sing along or just sit back and listen
- Songs are chosen to touch hearts and lift our spirits

For details email: westcoastreach@gmail.com



Important things to remember as we move to Stage 2

With our province beginning the steps to move to Stage 2, Community Futures British Columbia has put together the following list of things to keep in mind, recognizing the importance of being kind to each other as we adapt to this new normal.

As Premiers are talking about reopening provinces to a new normal, please remember:

- Some people don't agree with the reopening.... that's okay. Be kind.
- 🏠 Some people are still planning to stay home.... that's okay. Be kind.
- ☐ Some are still scared a second wave happening....that's okay. Be kind.
- 👤 Some are sighing with relief to go back to work knowing they may not lose their business or their homes....that's okay. Be kind.
- 👤 Some are thankful they can have a surgery they have put off....that's okay. Be kind.
- 👤 Some will be able to attend interviews after weeks without a job....that's okay. Be kind.
- 😊 Some will wear masks for weeks....that's okay. Be kind.
- ✂️ Some people will rush out to get the hair or nails done.... that's okay. Be kind.
- 💬 Some people will post things online that seem off, don't make sense, that you misunderstand or that you don't agree with. That's ok. Be kind.
- ❤️ The point is, everyone has different viewpoints/feelings and that's okay. Be kind.

We each have a different story. If you need to stay home, stay home. But be kind.

If you need to go out, just respect others when in public and be kind.

communityfutures.ca/edp

Signing off

Well, it's time to cut this edition off, something that some of us have been wishing we could do with our hair. So on that note, we're signing off with an image many can probably relate to. Until next week.



**I miss my
Hairdresser.**