

April 17, 2020

Dear Friends,

According to the news, the measures that have been taken in Canada and Ontario seem to be having a positive impact on slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Even so, as the head of the World Health Organization said this week, “The way down is much slower than the way up”. It is not surprising, therefore, that Premier Ford has extended the lock-down in Ontario until May 12. Nor is the message that the Prime Minister has sent, that the full-scale lock down people are currently in, will likely extend for several weeks. Until a vaccine is found and implemented, the risk of ongoing outbreaks will continue.

In light of this news, under the Board’s direction, ESS will extend its current group program suspensions, due to expire on April 26, to May 12, 2020.

At the same time, the Board has asked that a Reopening Plan for our group programs be developed. This will be guided by the Board and based on Public Health directions as well as the input and advice of clients, caregivers, volunteer and staff teams. It can be expected to involve an incremental and phased return to operations.

On a more positive front, ESS’s shift to virtual program delivery is going well. Our Caregiver Support Group “met” for the first time this week from their various homes and I understand our social recreation activities delivered through group telephone calls is being well received by clients and caregivers.

Our grocery pick-up and delivery activities really ramped up this week as well. If you or your neighbours need this kind of help, please connect them to our phone (416) 243-0127, our web site www.esssupportservices.ca and our e-mail address agency@esssupportservices.ca.

We continue to engage in the various broader community initiatives with our Local Health Integration Network, City, funders and other agency partners.

Everyone at ESS sends our best wishes for a safe, connected and healthy week ahead.

Regards,



Alison Coke, CEO
ESS Support Services