

July 3, 2020

Dear Friends,

Though a few days late, everyone at ESS hopes you had the chance, on July 1, to celebrate this beautiful country of Canada.

As our Adult Day Programs continue to be suspended until it is safe again to have groups back, it was still sad to recently move out of Humbervale Place. Once things improve, a new Adult Day Program will be opened at our new Centre at 30 Rosemount Avenue, York, ON. We all look forward to welcoming everyone back either to this new location or to our programs at Wesburn, the Village of Humber Heights and Alderwood.

What we are hearing at various policy and operational tables, is that the new normal for group programming will likely involve both smaller in-person, or one-to-one in-home visits as well as virtual activities. The way we operate and the number of people we can serve in a specific location at a time will be quite different in the future. Groups that are convened 'in-person' will be much smaller to ensure social distancing and reduce the risk of infection for everyone's sake.

One of the Infection Prevention and Control measures we have taken recently is the installation of shields in our vehicles. These will provide a separation between the driver and passengers. So, in addition to the limited number of people we can carry during a ride and the escalated sanitization of the vans, these shields will offer an extra barrier for the protection of staff and clients.

ESS has been invited to participate with a group of agencies in North Etobicoke to support the development of 'Local Ambassadors'. Leading this effort will be the Health Commons Solution Lab. Their mission is to find ways to empower local residents who might face barriers, or be excluded from services, as a result of economic disadvantage, social, linguistic and cultural isolation.

The idea is to bring agencies together, identify leaders living in the community who really understand the issues residents there face, and provide them with the information and support they may need to spread the work to their neighbours on the services and supports available – including those that ESS has to offer. Real change and empowerment so often comes from such grass roots initiatives and we are delighted to have the chance to contribute to this venture.

Once again, a belated Happy Canada Day! If we can support you or anyone you know who may need our help, please call (416) 243-0127, access us through our web site at [www.esssupportservices.ca](http://www.esssupportservices.ca) or by e-mail at [agency@esssupportservices.ca](mailto:agency@esssupportservices.ca).

Regards,



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