

April 9, 2020

Dear Friends,

Just when the world seems to have turned upside-down, spring arrives along with warm bright days, little green shoots and buds ready to break open. What a welcome relief from all the news and events of these past weeks! It reminds me of one of my Mom's favourite sayings... "This too shall pass".

ESS continues to provide direct service delivery, through respite, our 24/7 Caring Centre, telephone outreach, wellness check-ins and transportation for food access and medically-essential appointments.

ESS has begun a grocery porch-drop initiative to support the clients of Stonegate Community Health Centre. This is going well. As the period of self-isolation continues, we encourage ESS clients who need help with groceries to reach out to us.

We are also carefully monitoring calls to the office, questions sent through our web site www.esssupportservices.ca and to our e-mail, agency@esssupportservices.ca. We look forward to hearing from you.

Staff are investigating 'virtual' programs, such as internet-based arts, crafts, movies and fitness programs that we can provide to clients. As these programs develop, ESS will provide weekly updates through this newsletter and our website.

These challenges have provided ESS an opportunity to collaborate with other agencies led by the City and United Way of Greater Toronto. One method is by forming 'clusters' of agencies in different parts of the City to facilitate coordinated services. ESS has been actively involved in both the North and South Etobicoke Community Clusters.

Another important initiative has been launched by the Central Local Health Integration Network (CLHIN). Agencies funded by the CLHIN are asked to note any changes in their service delivery and to share ideas and suggestions on how we might help meet the pressures on the health system as a result of the Pandemic.

Hopefully you will be able to find some time this weekend and over the coming week to soak in some sun, take a nice 'socially distanced' stroll and connect with those who are important to you.

Everyone at ESS sends you their best wishes for a safe and happy weekend.



Alison Coke, CEO
ESS Support Services

cc: ESS Board of Directors



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