

Messages From Isolation

While we continue to work hard in our preventative measures, Bruce Peninsula Association for Community Living employees and people supported have been doing well thus far. We have been in social isolation since March 18th, over 5 weeks now! There have been many challenges adjusting to what is the “new normal”, but Support Workers and people supported are settling in and adapting to the changes.

We are extremely grateful for our dedicated Support Workers who are demonstrating commitment, courage and resilience, as they provide essential supports and services during this most challenging time. The Support Workers in our Residential and Supported Independent living programs have been helping people to adjust to the many changes in their lives that have come about due to required social distancing measures.

People are adjusting exceptionally well to new routines. Staff have expressed that the biggest challenge is helping some of the people supported to understand and adhere to social distancing measures. One staff shared, “We are having conversations daily about social distancing, and reminders that we are making sure everyone is safe, and that it’s not staff’s fault that this is happening.” People miss their families and Support Workers are doing all they can to help connections to be made. One lady made cards for her family, and it brought her joy to drop it off on their doorstep and call them to say she left a present. Without violating social distancing protocol, it has been possible for family to go for a ‘socially distanced walk’ with their loved one, walking on opposite sides of the road. These types of interactions have lifted the spirits of families and reduced the loneliness experienced by many. Over time, people have begun to settle into this routine, but they look forward to things returning to normal. Brandon, a man supported residentially stated, “After all this is done, I’m going to take Mom out for dinner!”

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Passport has made temporary changes to eligible expenses including sensory items to alleviate anxiety/stress, technology (laptops, tablets, video games and video streaming applications such as Netflix), Supplies to support home-based physical activity and hobbies (art supplies, puzzles..). Details about these changes can be found on the Ministry of Children, Community and Social services website through the following link: <https://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/programs/developmental/serviceSupport/passport.aspx>

As our organization adapts to the new reality due to COVID-19, we have been touched by the support we have received from the community. We have received masks sewn by several community members who have been working hard to help out in any way possible. These masks have been distributed to Support Workers to help prevent the spread of the virus. We are grateful for these essential items, and they also remind us that at our community recognizes that our services and supports are essential and appreciated. Thank you.

BPACL continues to work closely with the Grey Bruce Health Unit, following their guidance on health and safety procedures and recommendations.

We recognize this is a challenging time for the people we support, our employees and the families we serve. We will get through this together. We will continue to provide updates on how our organization is responding to and impacted by COVID-19.



Dedicated Support Workers Who Truly Care