

May 14, 2020

To: All KSCL Staff

As we approach Phase 2 for B.C. residents, (May 19, 2020) I know most of you are wondering what does Phase 2 look like for KSCL and other Service Providers. It has been widely published that BC can go back to 60% of what we previously knew as normal, however for those we support and deliver services too, this has to be carefully planned and cautious approach taken.

Last night, Ross Chilton, CEO of CLBC distributed correspondence that gives some information to how this will look. Here's Ross's message to Service Providers:

The government approach to re-starting the province will focus on continuing to slow the spread of the virus and keep people safe, while considering the physical and mental health impacts and the need to get people back to work.

We know some of you have already begun to hear from individuals and family members about fully restoring your services. Self advocates have been feeling the emotional strain of physical distancing. Families are feeling the challenges of extra caregiving.

We must now plan how we can carefully transition community living services as we begin to move to the next stage of COVID-19 recovery. According to the scientific model, in this second stage people can safely return to up to 60 per cent of the kinds of contacts with others that we used to have – but we need to do this together in a coordinated and measured way to make sure we keep people safe.

How do we keep people safe in this stage?

How do we adjust and restore our support services to this safe new level? Some individuals and caregivers may be very worried about any increased contacts. Others will be eager to get their services back as quickly as possible. The shift to stage two needs to be based on guidance from the Provincial Health Officer, WorkSafeBC and the unique circumstances of the individuals you support. It also needs to be coordinated with the other agencies that are involved in many individuals' lives.

While I'm sure many of you have started to consider what must be part of the plan for the people you support, please be patient. The government has been clear to say this is not like an "off" and "on" switch. Services cannot immediately return to what they were.

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We understand some people have asked about services resuming as early as May 19. **Please refrain from making immediate changes. Services should continue as they are until you receive further guidance.**

Many individuals supported by your agencies are at greater risk of harm should they contract the virus. This is also true of some families, home sharing providers and staff. Therefore, service providers need to proceed with plans that have input from individuals and families and that are coordinated with other agencies involved in individuals' lives.

CLBC is developing guidance for stage two

CLBC is using the core guidelines announced by the government and Provincial Health Officer on May 6 to develop guidance for community living services in stage two of COVID-19 recovery.

We plan to distribute this guidance by the week of May 25 to our service providers. This will include tools to help each service provider understand how to adjust and communicate changes to their services over the next months in a way that is safe for individuals and their support workers. We expect service providers to continue services as they are now until they receive further CLBC guidance.

Following distribution of our guidance, we will organize teleconference calls to provide an update on stage two of community living services. Stay tuned for invitations that will be distributed and posted on our COVID-19 web site pages at www.communitylivingbc.ca .

We can't immediately return to the way it was before COVID-19, but we will work carefully and base our actions on public health guidance to start moving in that direction.

Ross Chilton, CEO, CLBC

Again thank-you to everyone for your continued commitment to KSCL. The KSCL Administration team will be back in the office May 19, 2020 practicing all the measures outlined for Phase 2. Although the office is still closed to the public, we will be available by phone/email.

Kathleen Elias, Executive Director, KSCL