



Health & Home
CARE
Foundation of BC

Supporting
Meals on Wheels (Vancouver & Richmond),
the Family Respite Centre,
and the **Community Integration Project.**

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Thanks to your support, vulnerable homebound seniors are not alone and still receiving hot nutritious meals.

April 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters of Care BC:

I think it's fair to say that the global COVID-19 pandemic is changing life as we know it on a daily basis, including caring for homebound vulnerable seniors. I hope you are doing well and staying safe during these challenging times.

Given the crisis in which we find ourselves, I wanted to take this time to once again thank you for your vital support of Care BC's services and to provide you with a brief status update about the **Meals on Wheels (MOW) Program** which provides hot nutritious meals to seniors in need throughout Vancouver and Richmond, and **the Family Respite Centre**, where seniors with mental or physical frailties receive temporary care, thereby enabling their caregivers to benefit from a much needed "break".

While it is our goal and plan to continue delivering MOW to our clients for as long as we have enough volunteers and staff available to do so, cancellations of some meals have already occurred due to a number of our volunteers, many of whom are retirees and seniors themselves, having to step back from deliveries. Our staff have been telephoning all of our meal recipients or their identified family or friend contact to assure them we are continuing our efforts to deliver meals to them. In the process we have identified some individuals who have other means of accessing food at this time, and who have therefore agreed to temporarily suspend the MOW service. This has enabled us to reduce the number of daily deliveries somewhat and also to continue to accept some new referrals.

In March, we were most fortunate and grateful for the interest and media support we received from *Global News*, *CBC Radio*, and *the Vancouver Courier*, who have assisted us to actively recruit new MOW volunteers. The response has been significant as we have had more than 150 individuals apply. While it's been somewhat overwhelming as it takes time to screen, process and orient new volunteers, we are very thankful for those who have reached out and we are moving as quickly as possible to get these new volunteers in place. It is so heartwarming as the community comes together, during this time of crisis, to make a real difference and to help when and where they can.

With regards to the Family Respite Centre (FRC), services within all of the Adult Day Programs (ADP) in British Columbia were temporarily suspended on Friday, March 20, 2020. In the interim staff from the FRC will continue to be in regular contact by telephone with Care BC's ADP Clients and their Caregivers to ensure all aspects of their care (including access to meals, caregiver support and capacity, medication management, home support needs, etc.) will be individually monitored and considered. Provision of Overnight Respite at the FRC has now also been temporarily suspended. While it is recognized by the Ministry of Health that both ADPs and overnight respite provide important benefits for caregivers, these measures were introduced to prevent the spread of COVID-19 from asymptomatic individuals in the community. It was felt that at this time the risk of spreading the virus outweighed the benefits of keeping these programs operating.

Thank you once again for your past support and we hope you will consider supporting us again in the future.

Please stay well and safe!

Warmest regards,

Inge Schamborzki RN, D.Ed.
Care BC Executive Director