

June 5, 2020

COVID-19 Stakeholder Update

Hello everyone,

On being #DifferentTogether

As you know, *posAbilities* is committed to building an inclusive community characterized by diversity, hospitality, belonging and respect; where all persons are welcomed and valued for who they are and for the contributions they make. As we have recently been shaken by the heartbreaking events in Minneapolis and senseless death of George Floyd, it's important to think about who we are, the respectful and safe spaces we create at work, and in the communities we serve. We also have the opportunity to do more, and to be the change we want to see in this world.

One step that we can take to prevent further discrimination against black peoples, and others across the globe, is to pledge to end race-based violence and discrimination. We invite you to learn more in [this week's blog](#), and to consider joining us in the **#DifferentTogether** digital campaign hosted by BC's Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin.



#DifferentTogether Pledge

Our B.C. is inclusive and respects people of all ethnicities, cultures and faiths and their contributions to our collective well-being.

Our B.C. holds diversity as a fundamental value at the heart of the success, strength and resilience of our communities, workplaces, schools, public and private institutions.

I pledge to uphold and promote these values and I commit to speaking up to oppose racism and hate in all its forms.

posAbilities COVID-19 Health Check

We continue to be healthy and strong, and have no incidences of COVID-19 to report. Thank you everyone, each of you and your efforts are keeping us all safe!

Provincial Website Creates New COVID-19 Supports for People with Disabilities

The Province of BC has created a new plain language webpage about COVID-19 Supports for People with Disabilities. [Click here](#) for information about income or disability assistance, services to adults with disabilities, children and youth with disabilities and their families, and assistance for low-income seniors.

Information from Community Living BC (CLBC) about COVID-19 Stage 2 Recovery

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR) and Community Living BC (CLBC) hosted two teleconferences last week, which included the deputy public health officer from the Public Health Office. The calls were an opportunity to inform service providers, individuals and families of how they are approaching the changes to service delivery, ensuring that they are done gradually, safely and as quickly as possible. CLBC's summary of these conversations are [here](#) and full transcripts are available by [clicking here](#).

CLBC's weekly update was released today, and includes interesting news, helpful tips and resources, and an inspirational story. Please check out the June 4 summary [here](#) and note that the next teleconference is to answer COVID-related health questions that individuals and self-advocates have. This call will be on June the 16th. Please [click here](#) for details about how to dial in, and where to send your questions.

posAbilities would love to hear from you! Tell us a bit about your Pandemic Learning Journey!

We invite you to participate in our [Pandemic Learning](#) project! You can contribute independently using this [online tool](#) or get in touch with Emily Hein, one of our Community Connectors. Emily can schedule a phone call or Zoom meeting to answer any questions you have, and to write down your examples of the things you've been going through. This information will help us prepare for future crises. You can reach Emily by phone 778.706.3254 or email Emily@buildingcaringcommunities.ca

In closing, we are moving forward, and on target with our plans for phase 2 of the recovery work, which includes developing Community Inclusion services that meet the new health and safety guidelines for preventing the spread of COVID-19. Our hope and intention is to gain a speedy approval of our plans, however, we must also be mindful of the need for review by CLBC, which could impact our timelines. We will keep you posted as we learn more. It's been a challenging time for everyone, and we look forward to sharing a special edition of our **Imagine** newsletter with you next week, filled with stories of beauty, hope and belonging.

Until next time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Coelho". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and a long, sweeping underline.

Fernando Coelho, CEO