April 27, 2020

Dear Families, Friends and Caregivers of people served through Kinsight:

On behalf of our Kinsight team, I am checking in with you to see how you are managing through the pandemic, and to remind you that we are here to support you in any way we can. We know that for many, this has been a difficult time and we hope you will take advantage of some of the outreach services we have put in place. We also invite you to connect with us and other families, caregivers and people served on Zoom calls in real time – to be held every two weeks through May.

**Outreach Services: Groceries, Gift Cards & Activity Kits**

In late March, Kinsight launched an outreach service to support families and people served with their most urgent needs as the impacts of COVID-19 continue. We are delivering groceries, gift cards and household supplies to families and individuals who cannot leave their homes to shop, or who need temporary financial support to do so. We are also offering activity kits to help entertain, stimulate and engage people while they stay at home.

We have heard many positive comments from people who have taken advantage of the outreach service. Receiving groceries and activity kits has been a huge relief for some and being able to assist has been rewarding for Kinsight staff.

As a reminder, we are offering the following for Kinsight served families and people in need:

* Groceries and supplies purchased and delivered
* Financial support to purchase groceries and supplies through gift cards
* Activity kits
* Online connections and learning through [CoMakeDo.ca](https://www.comakedo.ca/)

Learn more about the supplies and resources that are available and how you can access them in the attached flyer. I also encourage you to check out the [CoMakeDo](https://www.comakedo.ca/) website and to take advantage of the many virtual activities available each week such as “Silly Bird Tricks with Lorito, the Performing Parrot,” led by Martine, a Kinsight team member.

**Staying Connected: Zoom Call with Kinsight Families, Providers and People Served**

We were pleased to host a call with some families and people served and providers involved in our Adult Services programs last week. We are planning more calls with all families of children, youth and adults through to the end of May.

The Zoom calls will be an opportunity to connect with us and with each other and to share experiences, ideas and challenges during this prolonged pandemic. Led by Gareth Williams, Director of Family & Children’s Services, and Tess Huntly, Director of Adult Services, the sessions are designed to provide updates on Kinsight’s new and adapted supports, to highlight any funding or government announcements that impact the services people receive, and to hear from you. In particular, we would like to find out what supports are most useful, what other assistance or information may be required, and how you would like to stay connected with Kinsight and each other in the weeks and months ahead.

Details of the Zoom calls scheduled through May include:

* Thursday, April 30th, 7 p.m.
* Thursday, May 14th, 7 p.m.
* Thursday, May 28th, 7 p.m.

For details on joining the Zoom call, please reach out to your Kinsight contact person or Director (emails below).

I will continue to provide updates as our supports evolve to meet the needs of our community during the pandemic. In the meantime, please continue to connect with your Kinsight consultant, key worker or staff contact person and please review the Outreach Program material attached. We hope you will take advantage of this if your family needs a little extra support during this time.

Additionally, you may reach out to our directors if you have any questions.

* Gareth Williams, Director of Family and Children’s Services at gwilliams@kinsight.org
* Tess Huntly, Director of Adult Services at thuntly@kinsight.org

We hope to see and speak with you during one of our upcoming Zoom calls. Keep well and stay safe.

Sincerely,



Christine Scott

CEO, Kinsight