

August 12, 2020

Community Integration Services Society (CISS) is a not for profit organization that provides community inclusion services for adults with a developmental disabilities. Since our inception in 1990 CISS has provided services in the Port Moody area and up until COVID-19 we hosted a weekly lunch program for the community in collaboration with Kyle Center.

Our services are typically provided in the community offering supports in a variety of areas such as; employment development, volunteer experience, continuing education, life skills training, leisure and recreation.

Typically the individuals who use our services arrive to a location in the morning and meet their Life Skill Worker and proceed to the community to attend their employment or volunteer placement, to recreate and learn. Since COVID-19 our clients have, like all other citizens of BC, been terribly impacted by the disease and have not been able to actively engage in their services.

As a charity we have limited resources and that includes indoor space. We currently have one building (Heritage House) located in Port Coquitlam and are able to support only a handful of people. With the Public Health Officer's orders and recommendations we need to assure that we keep a limited number of people in any space within our building. This has had a very negative impact on several individuals and their families who desperately need services. For some people they need the routine of their supports and for others the families need somewhere safe for their loved one to go so they can return to work.

As a short term solution we were able to secure a generous donation of ten town houses in Port Moody where we could have small groups assemble Monday through Friday. In the town houses we have put in place strict rules to assure that we have no more than six people in a house at one time and that they are not gathering in the same room at the same time. It is important that our physical distance between each other is six feet.

In our supports we have a very high staff to client ratio with 1 staff to 1 or 2 clients at any given time. Our high ratio allows for safe support during COVID-19 helping our clients understand and learn how to keep a safe distance at all times.

In each town house we have installed two computers, two tables and six chairs along with craft materials, games, and cleaning supplies. It is planned that much of the activities will be done outdoors and at the local parks assuring that we follow Dr. Henry's bigger spaces, fewer faces.

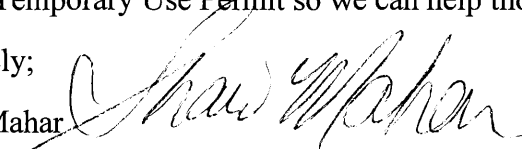
The EDGAR group has agreed to loan (donate) these spaces for up to one year (July 2020-2021) however we would return to our normal services if there is a lift in restrictions in the community at any time.

Each unit comes with one parking stall and the property manager has issued an extra parking stall for a couple of the units. Our employees would park their cars in spaces that are assigned and use street parking if needed. We currently have 12 stalls assigned to use however we believe that additional spots could be awarded.

If the local community centers, pools and other community facilities re-opened and the Medical Health Officer lifted restrictions we would be returning to our usual way of supporting however until then we are desperate to find a safe place to help the people who use our services. For many of the people who come to CISS we are the only connection they have outside of their family. For families who rely on our supports they are carrying a heavy burden and have done so since the spring. We strongly advocate that the City of Port Moody award us with a Temporary Use Permit so we can help those who are not able to attend CISS currently.

Sincerely;

Shari Mahar



Executive Director