

# Home Share News

at Community Connections Support Services

November 2020

<http://commconn.ca>

## hi everyone!

It's been a long time since we've sent out a newsletter to our fantastic home share community. Here's a bunch of things that we're keeping an eye on in home share. If you have something you are interested in passing along, please let us know about it, we'd love to hear from you! Lindsay Peabody ([lindsay@commconn.ca](mailto:lindsay@commconn.ca)) and Joel Gunther ([joel@commconn.ca](mailto:joel@commconn.ca)), Service Coordinators for Home Share.



## supports to shared living

CLBC is examining the use of extra funds usually grouped in your contract as 'Supports to Shared Living'. The rationale for looking at this is to utilize funding as effectively for the people we serve as possible. As a consequence, we may ask you to track how you spent additional dollars if they are included in your contract. The best way for you to determine whether or not you receive this funding is to look at page two of your contract to see if you have one of the following 'extra' items as a separate line : supports the shared living, additional respite, or other expenses. If you are not currently budgeting and tracking this in your own way, you may be interested in [our online billing form which can be accessed here](#). For home share providers who do not receive any additional funding, it is our understanding that your regular respite does not need to be tracked, however, if the [online billing form](#) is helpful to you, please feel free to use it. It is a fairly simple form that once filled out provides you with a paper copy of the respite that you have used and our agency retains a copy as well.



## national caregivers month: november

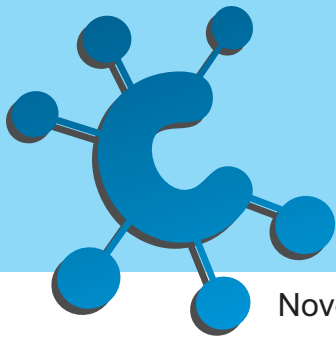
CCSS would like to observe November as National Caregivers Month and would like to take this opportunity to honour and acknowledge all of our Home Share Providers. The support you provide and your dedication to the people you support is invaluable and appreciated.

We want to acknowledge that 2020 has been an especially trying year for our subcontractors with increased focus and stress associated with the health of those you support and your family, financial strain due to need for items such as hand sanitizer, masks and other PPE needed to ensure ongoing safety, and of course, limitations placed on day programs for those you support leading to the need for you to be more available than ever.

Our agency wishes to celebrate and support all of your hard work and commitment and will be dedicating our website and its contents to Home Share Providers during the month of November. Please check in to find resources for caregivers such as accessing PPE, addressing burnout, applying for funding, dealing with compassion fatigue and getting support when you need it.

## COVID-19

CCSS is proud and relieved to report that, to date, we have not yet had to address a single positive case of Covid-19 among those we support, our employees or our caregivers! We extend our appreciation and gratitude to you for all the efforts you have made to keep yourself, your family and those you support safe and healthy. We will continue to respond as quickly as possible to changes in Covid-19 restrictions and precautions and intend to keep you informed as new



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## COVID-19 cont'd

information becomes available.

We know that the early months of the pandemic left many of us fearful of our inability to obtain necessary supplies such as gloves, masks, etc. should they become necessary. Thankfully, those supplies have become a lot more available in our communities and can be found in most stores. Additionally, CLBC has assisted in providing financial support for expenses incurred for PPE supplies. If you need more information on financial relief for PPE supplies, please visit our [website](#) or contact your Home Share Coordinator.



We remain committed to helping where we can and encourage you to get in touch as soon as possible should you or anyone in your household become ill. We do have resources available to help and are committed to getting you and the person you support what you need.

## training

First Aid: We continue to navigate The 'New Normal' as it relates to covid-19. as a consequence, if your first aid comes up for Renewal and there is a reason why there needs to be an accommodation made in order to complete this requirement of your contract, there may be options to address this qualification alternatively. Please consult your home share coordinator should you need to renew your first aid but are concerned about covid-19 restrictions.



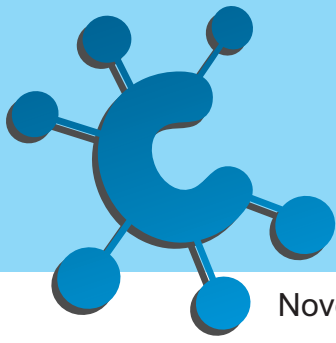
## personnel changes

We'd like to welcome a couple of new members to the team: Sheryl Kucher continues to fill in for Jodi St. Thomas who is on leave until September 2021. Sheryl will be providing home share coordination for the crew of Home Share Providers in Grand Forks and area. Also, we welcome Brittney Vanderwerme who is filling in for Kristina Powell. As you may know, Kristina is off on maternity leave until next year. Welcome Sheryl and Brittney and best wishes to Kristina and Jodi on their time away from work.



who else can't wait for this year to be over?!?





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## contracts

Contracts for the 2020/2021 contract year have been issued and sent out electronically. For those people for whom we do not have an email address, we have sent out a paper version for completion. Please double check your inbox for your contract and complete the electronic signature process. Thanks so much to everyone for your patience as this year's Contracting process was extremely complicated. In addition to waiting for CLBC to release funding for increases as well as a current Table of funding tied to the GSA level of the person that you support, we were entrusted to distribute the emergency covid-19 funding for those people that qualified. The combination of all of these items made it extremely difficult to get contracts out to you and our priority was to distribute the funding first and follow up with the paperwork second. We are thrilled at the feedback that we've received from those who took the time to let us know how much they appreciated receiving their contract electronically. This allowed us to get our contracts efficiently in an otherwise delayed process. We thank you for your patience and support. We believe that the changes that we've made will allow us to get contracts, revisions to contracts and any additional funding in a much smoother way next year.



## winter

Winter is just around the corner and promises to be a snowy one this year! Just a reminder to make sure you are taking all the necessary precautions when you're out and about to ensure your safety and the safety of those you support.

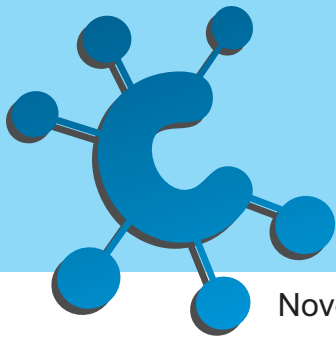
Our policies on Avalanches, Storms, Power Failures and ICBC Drive Smart Emergency Strategies are full of good information and additional resources - be sure to check them all out in our [CCSS Policy and Procedures Manual](#).

Wishing you all a healthy, safe and fun winter and holiday season!



## worksafe bc

A reminder to all of our Home Share Providers that it is necessary to contact Worksafe BC if you haven't done so already to register for Personal Option Protection or waive coverage. We have had a lot of letters back from people deciding to not participate in POP or copies of registration numbers for those who do. As we move closer toward the 2021/22 contracting year this obligation will need to be completed. Don't wait and risk a holdup in renewing your contract. Thanks for your support as we complete this necessary work. Please connect with us if you have any questions.



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## on our website:

- [Putting on and taking off PPE](#)
- [November is Caregivers Month](#)
- [COVID-19 Updates](#)
- [Beat the Cold!](#)
- [IncludeMe! Our Results Are In](#)
- [Here To Help - BC Mental Health Resource](#)



## your home share team

### East Kootenay

Michael Holdsworth [mike@commconn.ca](mailto:mike@commconn.ca)

Erica Simon-Cumming [erica@commconn.ca](mailto:erica@commconn.ca)

Brittney Vandermerwe [brittnyccss@gmail.com](mailto:brittnyccss@gmail.com)

### West Kootenay

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### Central Okanagan

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Karen Milner [karen@commconn.ca](mailto:karen@commconn.ca)

Thea Wood [thea@commconn.ca](mailto:thea@commconn.ca)

### Service Coordinators

Kootenays: Lindsay Peabody [lindsay@commconn.ca](mailto:lindsay@commconn.ca)

Okanagan: Joel Gunther [joel@commconn.ca](mailto:joel@commconn.ca)