

# Home Share News

at Community Connections Support Services

April 2021

<https://commconn.ca>

## hi everyone!

Lots of changes on the home share front these days and it's a great time to send out a newsletter. We hope that this finds you well and enjoying the change to spring. Lots happening around the province as the vaccine for COVID-19 is rolled out. In addition to that, here are 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)), Service Coordinator for Home Share.



## contracts

It's that time of year again and we have issued contracts electronically like we did last year by utilizing the Panda Doc service. As promised, we have been able to get contracts out much sooner than we did last year. Look to your email inboxes for a link to the electronic contract. If there are any discrepancies between what the contract stipulates and what you are paid by the agency, please let us know at your earliest convenience. Once all parties have completed it, the contract will be available for you to download should you need a copy. Special thanks to Joanne Walker for getting these out to you.



Do the people you support need help filing their income tax?

It is always a good idea to be prepared for tax season. If you are receiving PWD and need assistance filing your income tax returns from past years, Disability Alliance BC and the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society are great resources and offer free support and services.

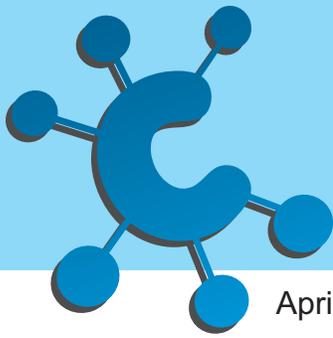
The Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society has agreed to partner with CCSS and has committed to helping up to ten people we support in Home Share file their income tax. They provide services in person and virtually and can offer their services to people in Kelowna and the East and West Kootenays.

An advocate from DABC can help you with the following. (for Kelowna Residents only)

- Help you gather the documents necessary to file your taxes
- Meet with you one-on-one to help you file your basic income tax return
- Provide information and advice (in-person, or by phone and/or email) about filing income tax returns
- Provide referrals to community organizations in your area that can help with more complex tax returns
- Access advice and support for you from a chartered accountant, if your tax return is complex

Check out their website for more details:

<https://disabilityalliancebc.org/direct-service/file-income-taxes/>



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## changes at community connections

For those who haven't yet heard, the agency is going through a few changes. First, Jackie and Brian decided to downsize the agency to reflect some changing personal needs. We continue to focus on our home share and residential services but have given notice on our community support services in Kelowna. As Joel Gunther, who was also a Service Coordinator for home share in Kelowna, led the community support team, he, unfortunately was included in the downsizing. We thank him for his years of service and wish him well in his new job. These changes have included a change in our Kelowna mailing address which, effective immediately, is:

Community Connections Support Services  
Unit 236  
9- 3151 Lakeshore Road  
Kelowna, BC V1W 3S9

Our fax number has also changed to:  
1.866.728.2938

But our phone numbers remain the same:  
Local (Kelowna): 250.491.2907  
Toll Free: 1.888.491.2907



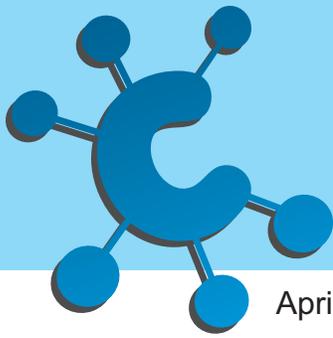
## worksafe bc

Our Worksafe BC project is now complete and all of our home share providers have either: 1. registered for personal option protection (pop) with Worksafe BC; 2. have waived pop protection or 3. have signed a letter to the agency that indicates that they will or will not register for protection under Worksafe BC. This process was completed in time for the 2021/22 contracting year. If you have any questions about Worksafe BC, please contact your home share coordinator or Worksafe BC directly.



## ppe update

Many of you let us know about your personal protective equipment needs in time for us to be able to place an order on your behalf with the provincial PPE hub. This order has been fulfilled and we accepted a huge shipment in Kelowna for distribution to the Kelowna area, the East Kootenay and the West Kootenay. Unfortunately, the Provincial Supply Hub was out of a number of items that were requested by home share providers. We were able to get a great number of items that you had requested and those will be distributed to you over the next couple of weeks. Please contact your home share coordinator should you have any questions or concerns about your order. Thanks for your support and patience as we get these items to you.

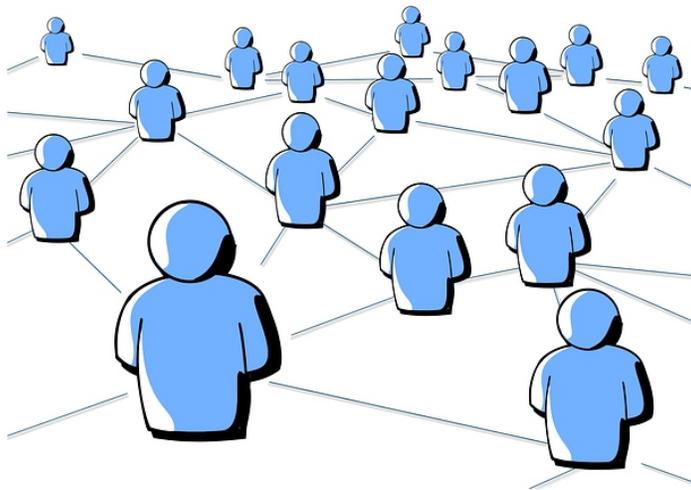


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## in memoriam: Carrie Koski



## personnel changes

To reflect a more regional focus at the agency in terms of our relationship with CLBC, Lindsay Peabody will assume all of the Service Coordination duties for the Home Share team effective April 15th 2021. Sheryl Kucher continues to fill in for Jodi St. Thomas who is on leave until September 2021. Brittany Van der Merwe continues to fill in for Kristina Powell who is off on maternity leave until the fall.

Family, friends, and community suffer the tragic loss of Carrie Koski

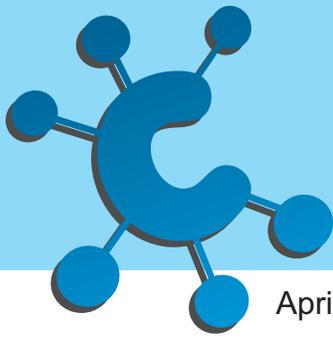
We want to celebrate the life of Carrie Koski - a compassionate, hard-working, highly-skilled Home Share Provider who worked many years with Community Connections (and prior to that CLBC). She was loved like family by those she supported and she is missed dearly by all of us who knew her and worked with her. Our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones.



## on our website:

- [Mental Health First Aid](#)
- [Wildfire Safety: Be Prepared](#)
- [Stay Healthy, Be Safe, Wear a Mask](#)
- [Mindfulness](#)





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check out what some of the people we support have been doing to stay positive during the restrictions



Chris has been getting through this pandemic by getting creative. He loves taking pics while out on walks and recently started using a lensball to get some fun shots! He's even got first place in a photography contest this winter (with the picture of trees/sun below). He's hoping to be able to start his own business and just got some business cards made up.



Bev has been getting through these crazy times by keeping her sweet tooth fed, loving on her kitty, and staying active – she rarely gets less than 10,000 steps a day! 🐾



Brenda, Jeff, Bob social distancing with family and enjoying a coffee and cake back in January along the Pelme wash Parkway near Oyama! Yummy!



