



Bellwoods' clients practicing physical distancing -
6 feet apart...**but still together!**

This newsletter is distributed six times a year. It provides our clients, partners, donors and other stakeholders with information on what's new at Bellwoods.

"During the pandemic, there are five practices that can promote mental health and resilience:

1. Connect with others
2. Be active
3. Keep learning
4. Be mindful
5. Give back."



Source: Dr. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health, City of Toronto

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RESPONSE TO COVID-19

As part of our efforts to keep our clients and staff safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19, Bellwoods remains committed to the following goals:

1. To maintain critical functions and provide care for clients most in need.
2. To ensure clients and front-line service providers are aware of how to prevent exposure to COVID-19.
3. To equip all staff with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
4. To implement daily active screening and surveillance protocols to manage exposure and spread.
5. To issue timely and regular communication on infection prevention and control practices and other supports for clients and staff.

STAY SAFE & PROTECT EACH OTHER



Stay 6 feet, or 2 metres apart



Always stay home if you are sick



Frequently wash your hands



Ensure you wear a mask in indoor public settings

TORONTO.CA/COVID19

 **TORONTO** Public Health

Your continued hard work and commitment to our public health measures have helped reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our city and can keep us moving forward.

Source:
<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/>

Important Reminders

- Continue to practice proper hand hygiene. Alcohol-based rub or proper hand washing for 20 seconds with soap and water will remove the virus from your hands.
- Practice physical distancing by staying at least two metres (or 6 feet) away from other people whenever possible.
- Comply with daily screening protocols.
- Wear a face mask or covering when you are unable to maintain physical distancing (i.e., when in an elevator, when shopping or entering/exiting high traffic places, or when using public transit).
- Follow good respiratory etiquette at all times.





MANDATORY MASKING WITHIN ENCLOSED PUBLIC SPACES

As of July 7, 2020, wearing a mask or face covering is required in all indoor public spaces in the City of Toronto (*By-Law 541-2020*). This means that all individuals must wear a cloth mask or face covering in all enclosed public spaces. The By-Law is consistent with Bellwoods' internal policies that require masks to be worn by staff, client and visitors.

Reminder: The *Cloth Mask Policy for Clients* requires all clients to wear a cloth mask during service visits. Bellwoods is providing cloth masks to clients.

Wear a face covering when physical distancing is a challenge and be respectful of those who can't wear a mask for medical reasons.



**My mask
protects you
& your mask
protects me.**

Protect each other. Wear a mask.

**Brought to you by
Toronto Public Health**

Source:
<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-protect-yourself-others/covid-19-reduce-virus-spread/?accordion=face-masks-coverings>

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

BELLWOODS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE!

Bellwoods' 2020 Annual General Meeting will be held as follows:



Date: Monday, September 14, 2020
Time & Location: To be confirmed

This year's presentation - "**Change for the Better**" will celebrate the changes that have been made to strengthen clinical and work practices at Bellwoods. This annual event is open to clients, staff, partners, supporters and friends of Bellwoods. More information will be available on our website closer to the date.

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

CLINICAL RESOURCE TEAM (CRT)

In March 2020, Bellwoods launched the Clinical Resource Team (CRT) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. CRT is led by Huy Ngo, Director of Quality and Client Engagement who joined Bellwoods in April 2020. The Team is comprised of three nurses who were employed in other capacities within the organization:

- **Karen Hrynyshyn, RN,
MILE Program
Facilitator**
- **Neda Mihandoust, RPN,
Clinical Supervisor**
- **Masomeh Toraby, RPN,
Clinical Supervisor**

CRT provides follow-up on positive screeners and responds to other preventative and protective activities that have been launched to support consistent adoption of IPAC practices and outbreak protocols across the organization. The Team operates seven days a week from 7 a.m. to midnight Monday to Friday and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends.

Moving forward, the CRT will be embedded as a key part of operations providing expert guidance in a number of areas including:

- **ADVISING** on policy and training.
- **UNDERTAKING** skills training and auditing to support PSWs.
- **ADVANCING** quality practices across the organization.
- **PROVIDING** secondary assessments for staff and clients who screen positive on the mandatory COVID-19 screener.
- **IMPROVING, MONITORING AND RESPONDING TO IPAC** practices to minimize the risk of transmission and/or spread of the virus.



The graphic features a vibrant yellow background with a blue wavy pattern on the left side. On the left, there are small icons of people in swimwear and beach items like a pink and white umbrella, sunglasses, and flip-flops. On the right, large white text reads "BELLWOODS LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR STAFF" and "FUN IN THE SUN 2020". Below that, in a smaller font, is "(July 1 - August 30)". Further down, it says "Donations are welcome. Please contact hre@bcclsp.org". At the bottom right, it says "Thank you all for your support!".

NEWS FOR CLIENTS

This section of the newsletter is sponsored by Bellwoods Community Advisory Council (BCAC). The Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Board, providing advice on improving services for clients and other matters that impact the client experience.

SUPPORT DURING COVID-19

COVID-19 has presented a number of new challenges for everyone. In June 2020, the Federal Government announced its intention to provide financial supports to help seniors and people with disabilities as part of their COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. Current recipients of Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) who are currently receiving income support will continue to receive their benefits but may also be eligible for additional supports based on recent announcements (see below).

<u>Programs/Supports</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Information re: eligibility and application</u>
<u>COVID-19 One-time tax-free payment for seniors</u> <i>(Disclaimer: This program is pending approval.)</i>	A special one-time, tax-free payment for eligible seniors to help offset increased expenses that have been incurred as a result of the pandemic. The payment provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$300 for seniors eligible for the OAS pension• An additional \$200 for seniors who also receive GIS	Eligibility: This one-time support payment is available to eligible seniors who receive OAS and/or GIS. How to apply: No application is necessary. Those eligible will receive the one-time payment automatically. For more information: https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/publicpensions/notice-covid-19/one-time-payment.html
<u>COVID-19 One-time tax-free payment for persons with disabilities</u>	The Government of Canada has proposed a one-time tax-free payment for persons with disabilities to help them deal with extra expenses faced during the pandemic. This one-time, tax-free payment of \$600 would be available to individuals who are certificate holders of the Disability Tax Credit (DTC).	Eligibility: Canadians who are certificate holders of the DTC will receive \$600.00. How to apply: No application is necessary for those who hold a DTC certificate. Individuals with a valid certificate of DTC and who also receive the OAS pension will receive \$300 (in addition to the special COVID-19 one-time tax-free payment (see above). Seniors with a valid certificate of DTC and eligible for GIS will receive \$100 (in addition to the combined \$500 from the special COVID-19 one-time OAS pension and GIS payments).

NEWS FOR CLIENTS

SUPPORT DURING COVID-19

Programs/Supports

Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

Note:
Clients who do not meet the criteria for CERB but have received CERB may have their disability benefits altered and are also at risk of fraud. Clients who become ineligible for ODSP income support while receiving CERB will not lose access to health benefits. They will also remain on social assistance at the nominal level that will ensure access to continued benefits and other supports in case management.

Description

CERB provides financial support to employed and self-employed Canadians who are directly affected by COVID-19.

Individuals eligible for CERB can receive \$2,000/month in taxable income to those unable to work due to COVID-19, whether or not they qualify for EI.

For individuals currently receiving ODSP, CERB payments are treated in the similar manner as employment earnings.

You are required to report any extra income while on ODSP, including what you have earned from a job or from other government benefits (e.g., CERB).

Information re: eligibility and application

Eligibility:

Applicants must be a resident of Canada, over the age of 15 and who have been forced to stop working due to the pandemic. Applicants must also have earned a minimum of \$5,000 over the last 12 months and must expect to make less than \$1,000 a month while collecting CERB.

Clients who receive CERB are required to report this benefit as income to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. You can do this by contacting 1-888-444-2412 or sending an email to the general ODSP office email address at ODSP.EmergencyBenefit@ontario.ca

How to apply:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>

Note: The majority of Bellwoods' clients are not eligible for CERB. If you did not earn an income of \$5,000 (before taxes) in the last 12 months [or in 2019], from employment income, self-employment income or provincial benefit payments related to maternity or parental leave, you are NOT eligible for CERB. Collecting the benefit without being eligible is fraud and will be followed up on by the government who is investigating ineligible applicants.

NEED HELP WITH FOOD & GROCERIES?

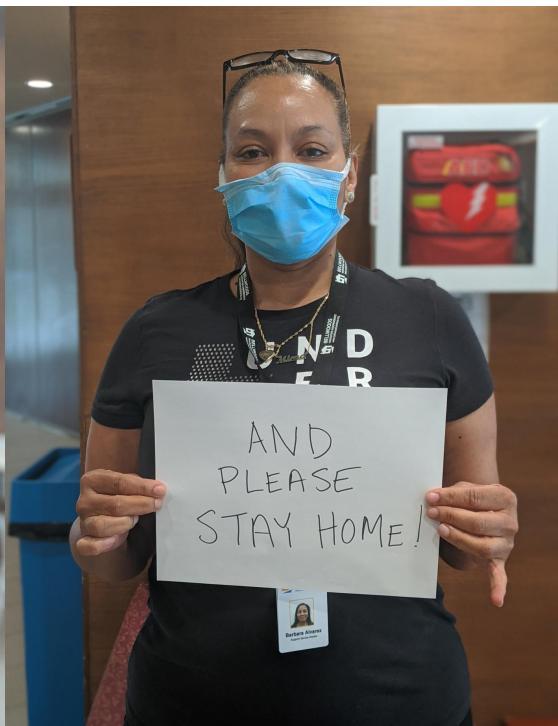
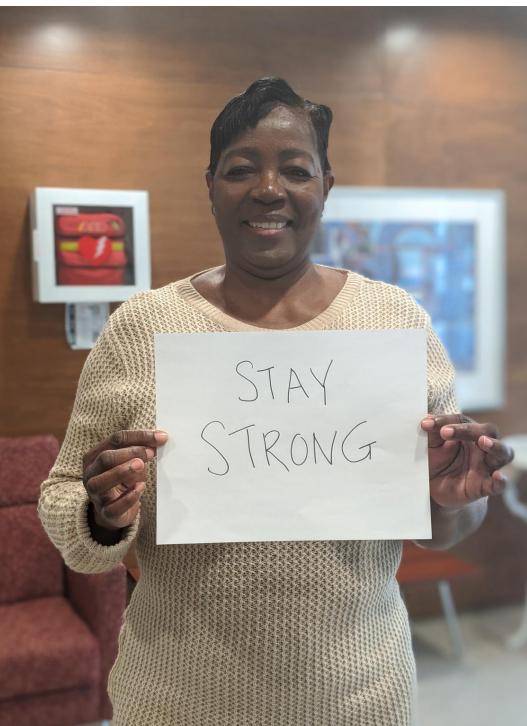


Difficulties accessing food during COVID-19 is a 'top of mind' concern for many. Bellwoods is grateful for the donation by Freshii and AlayaCare that has provided meals to some of our clients. In response to requests from clients, we have also developed a list of some local organizations and food banks that help individuals meet their food security needs. The list of resources will be circulated over the summer.

Individuals who are in immediate need of food can contact 2-1-1 for information on food program availability or visit <https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-financial-social-support-for-people/covid-19-seniors-vulnerable-people/> for more information.

GRATITUDE, THANKS & SUPPORT

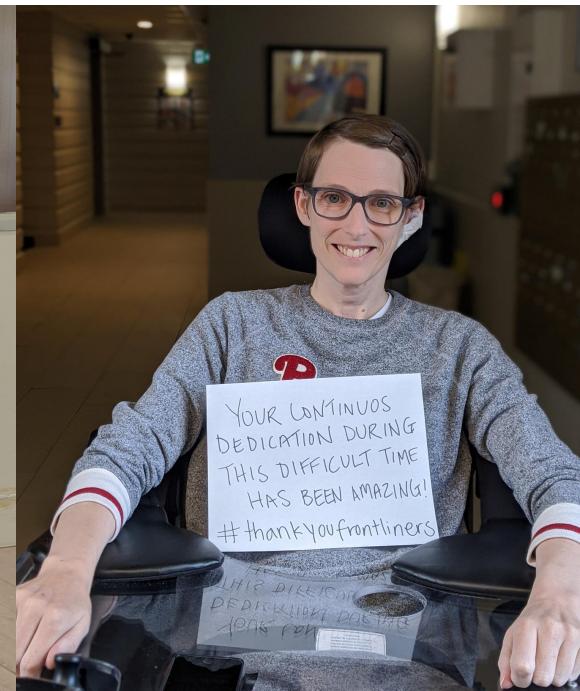
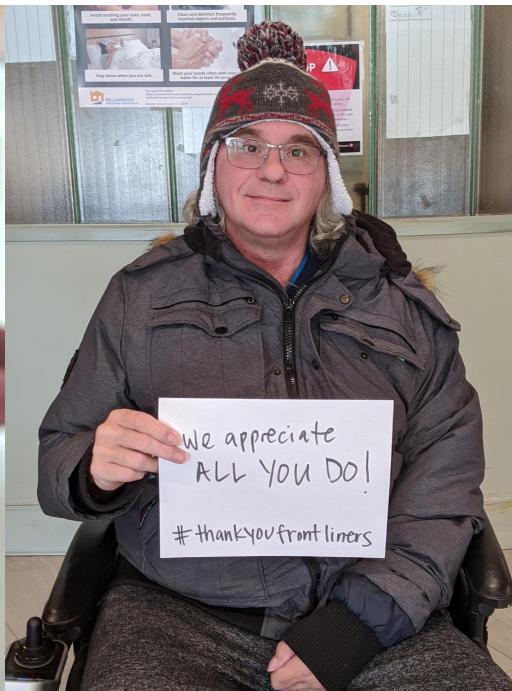
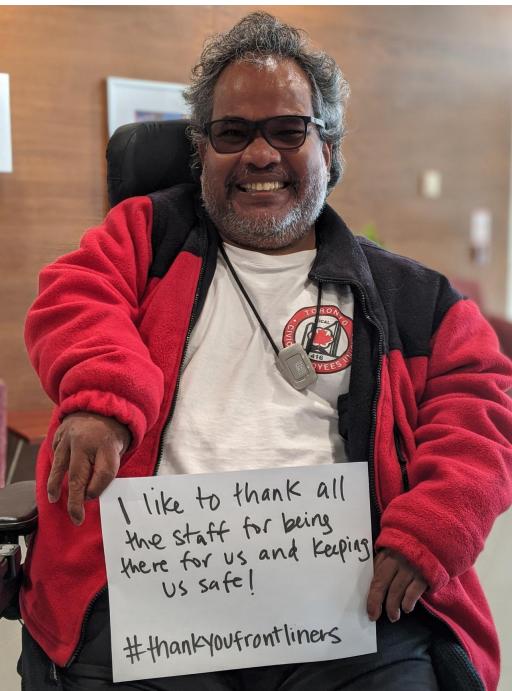
MESSAGES FROM BELLWOODS' STAFF & CLIENTS



SHARE YOUR STORIES OF HOPE & HAPPINESS

It's been heartwarming to hear all the ways that our clients, staff and supporters have worked together to support each other and get us through the pandemic. We want your stories and photos for use in future newsletters, etc. Please send them to ayip@bccls.org

Thank you all.



GIVE THE GIFT OF INDEPENDENT LIVING... PLEASE DONATE TO BELLWOODS!

Your gift will help to improve the quality of life of those we serve. To make a charitable donation:

- Visit Canada Helps at www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/3900 or
- Contact Anna Yip, Communications & Development Associate at 416-447-1168 or by email at ayip@bcclsp.org



BRIDGING THE GAP FUND (BTGF)



This fund is intended to '**Bridge the Gap**' for Bellwoods' clients during periods of greater financial hardship. If you need help or know of a client that does, apply or reach out to the Bridging the Gap Coordinator at 416-447-1168 or by email at ayip@bcclsp.org

- ***Applications are being accepted for the Bridging the Gap Fund (BTGF)***



VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all the volunteers who have come forward to deliver meals, prepare PPE kits for staff and clients and support our staff.

If you are interested in volunteering at Bellwoods contact Raquel, HR Coordinator at 416-447-1107 or by e-mail at hr@bcclsp.org

On behalf of Bellwoods and our clients and staff, thank you for your generous gift of time. You are appreciated.



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10807 0665RR 0001

This newsletter is produced by Bellwoods a charitable, non-for-profit organization headquartered in Toronto. Bellwoods provides housing, personal support services and reintegration services to individuals with a broad range of disabilities and also provides transition programs and supports for clients transitioning from hospital and/or those at risk of homelessness.

Electronic copies of this newsletter are available on our website <https://bellwoodscentres.org/resources/> See Publications > Newsletters. For a printed copy and/or suggestions on content for future topics contact Anna Yip, Communications & Development Associate at 416-447-1168 or by email at ayip@bcclsp.org