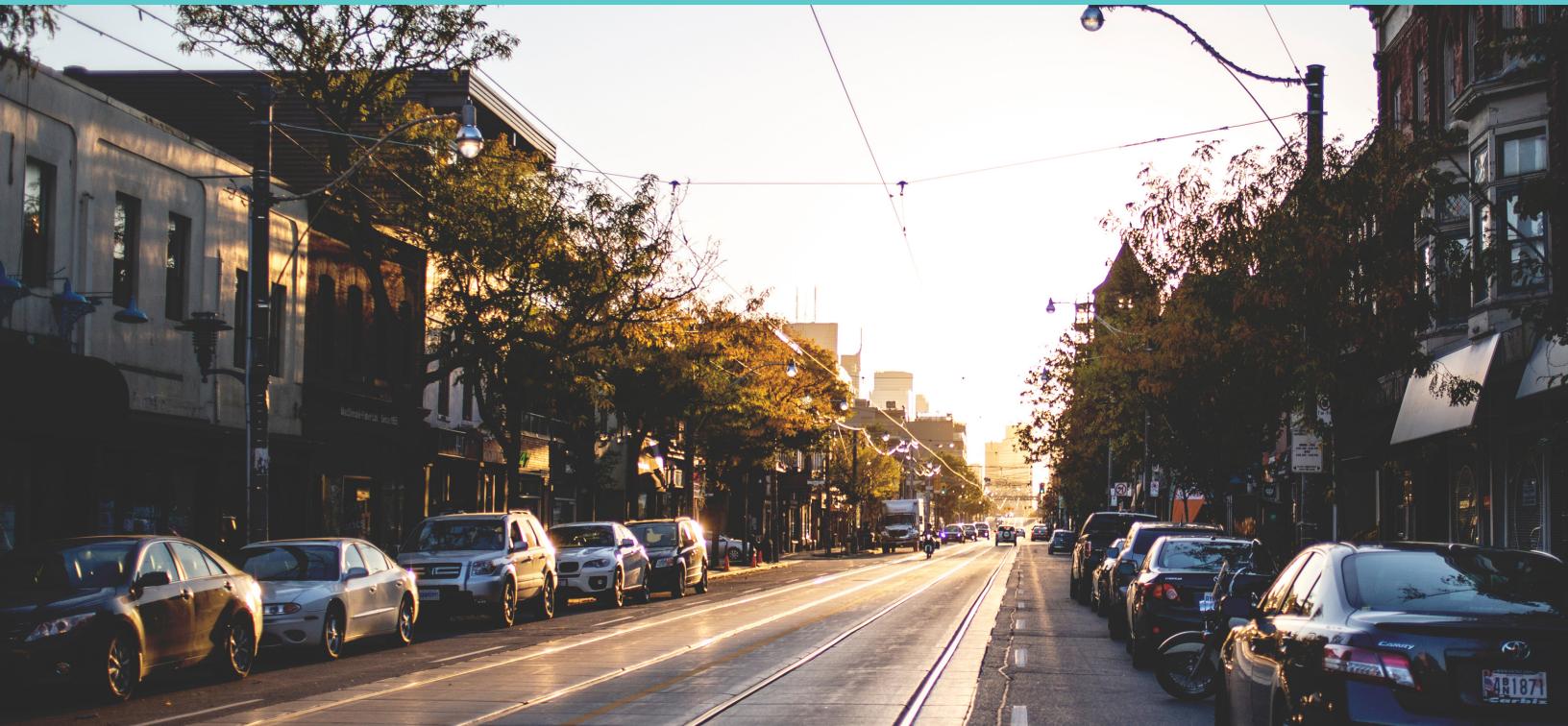




# Bellwoods Community News

*The latest news, updates and announcements*



## **Message to Clients from Lori Holloway, CEO**

I am immensely proud of our community's standout response to this once-in-a-lifetime pandemic. Everyone has done an exceptional job to help make Bellwoods a strong community leader in COVID-19 prevention and protection and have demonstrated a tireless commitment to placing health and safety front and center of that work. We have also succeeded in continuing our other critical work to advocate for equity and improved supports on behalf of our community. Thank you for coming together in the pursuit of our mission. I hope you are all taking some time to enjoy the sunny days of summer.

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# RESPONSE TO COVID-19

## COVID-19 Updates

### Safety in the Workplace:

As the spread of COVID-19 slows down, the Ontario government is gradually beginning to permit workplaces to re-open. Bellwoods' Head Office has been open during the pandemic respecting all PPE precautions to support the needs of front-line staff and facilitate continuation of ongoing operations. However, given circulating variants and ongoing vaccinations of both staff and clients, Bellwoods continues to support administrative staff who are continuing to work from home. A further update on returning to the work place will be provided in September and will be informed by provincial and municipal guidelines being developed to bring employees back to work safely.

### Personal Protection:

Always remember to follow good hygiene practices like washing your hands, covering your coughs and sneezes and improving ventilation. If you have symptoms that could be COVID-19 you should not be in close contact with others, even if vaccinated.

Face coverings in indoor public settings and physical distancing requirements remain in place. In addition, face coverings may also be required in some outdoor public settings. The Chief Medical Officer of Health will continue to evaluate these needs on an ongoing basis.



Wear a mask



Maintain physical distance of 2 m (6 ft)



Clean your hands regularly



Follow Public Health precautions & restrictions

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Based on vaccination status, clients can expect to see a variation of PPE that staff will be wearing moving forward. Staff have been requested to continue to follow the Point of Service Risk Assessments (PCRA) that provides them with education in how to assess their individual risk and determine the required PPE when working with clients.



### COVID-19 Vaccines:

**Congratulations** to the Clinical Resource Team (CRT) and Supervisors for their hard work in preparing and organizing our vaccine clinics. Bellwoods completed the last second dose vaccine clinic at the Walton site in early July.



Bellwoods has hosted 16 vaccine clinics at our Supportive Housing sites



CRT coordinated with 20+ community agencies to administer over 1,400 vaccines to our communities



88%  
of Bellwoods' clients have received at least one dose of the vaccine



76%  
of Bellwoods' staff have received at least one dose of the vaccine

# COVID-19 Updates *(continued)*

The CRT continues to provide information and support to address vaccine hesitancy. If you are able to get to a public vaccine clinic visit <https://vaccineto.ca/sites> to book an appointment. Our volunteer, Rose, continues to be available to help book appointments. You can contact her at 647-458-223. **Thank you Rose!**

Any questions about the vaccine can be directed to CRT at covid-screening@bcclsp.org or 416-447-1227.

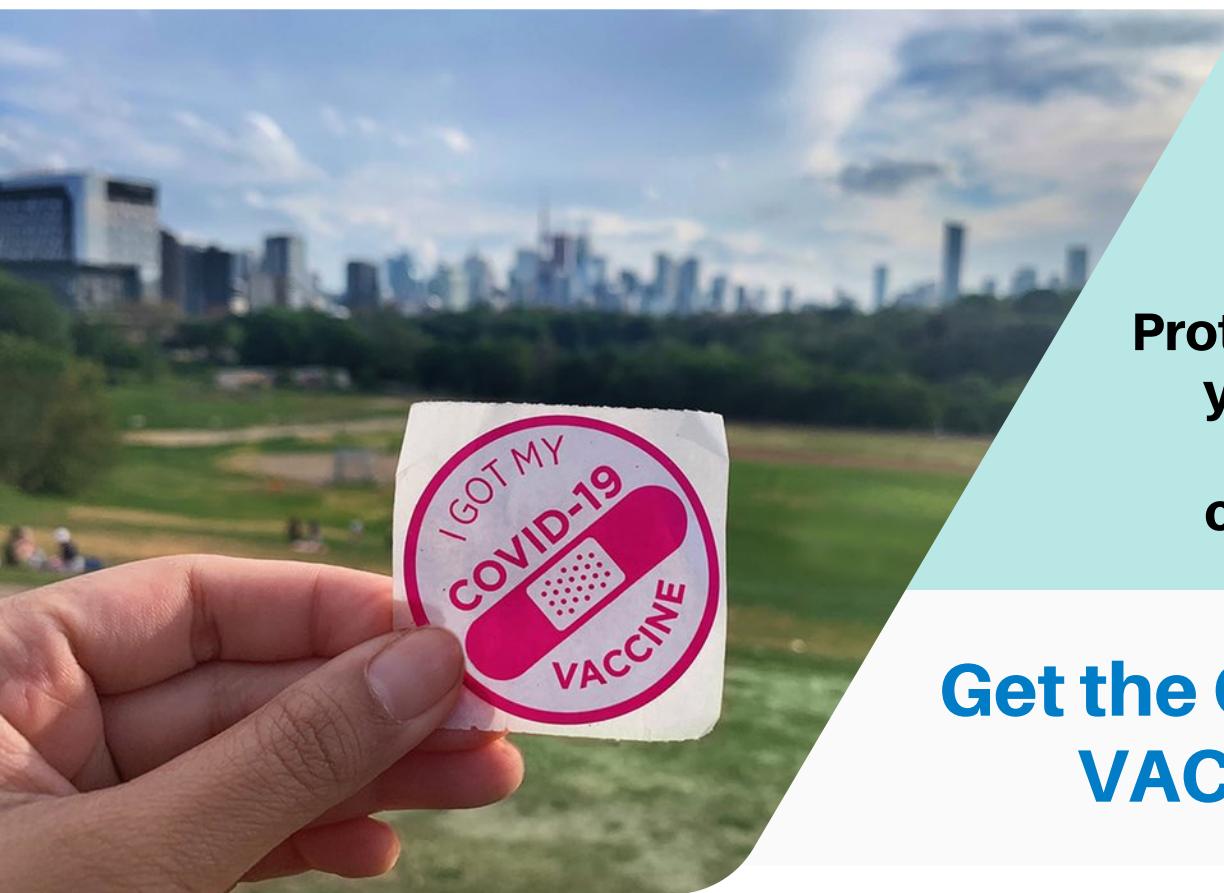
## COVID-19 Vaccination in Toronto

While vaccination is not mandatory, everyone is strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. Text “**VACCINE**” to 1-833-750-0888 for appointment bookings, information about vaccines and telephone town halls.

### Total Vaccine Doses Delivered in Toronto

**4,320,309**

- as of July 30 at 3:00 p.m.
- +12,838 since July 29



**Protect yourself,  
your family  
and your  
community**

**Get the COVID-19  
VACCINE!**

# TWO DOSES PROVIDE THE BEST PROTECTION



**DOSE #1**  
COVID-19 Vaccine



**DOSE #2**  
COVID-19 Vaccine



**2 WEEKS**



**Fully  
Vaccinated**

Two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine provide the best protection against COVID-19 and its variants. If you have a second dose appointment for later this summer or the fall, why not get it now so you are protected sooner. City clinics have many appointments available: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>

## What does getting vaccinated against COVID-19 mean for me?

Getting vaccinated means that you benefit from both the protection you get against COVID-19 and the easing of restrictive measures in your community (see below). If you are at risk of more severe disease or outcomes, masking and physical distancing provide additional layers of protection that further reduce your risk in all settings. Local public health advice in public settings (e.g. workplaces, public transit) should still be followed.

### SETTING OR ACTIVITY

(Always follow local guidelines for gatherings and public health measures)

### YOU ARE NOT VACCINATED OR PARTIALLY VACCINATED

### YOU ARE FULL VACCINATED

(i.e. you have received the full series of a vaccine authorized in Canada at least 14 days ago)

Outdoors with a small group of **fully vaccinated** individuals

e.g. small family BBQ, camping with friends/family, sharing a hug

No mask or physical distancing is necessary if everyone is comfortable with that

No mask or physical distancing is necessary

SETTING OR ACTIVITY	YOU ARE NOT VACCINATED OR PARTIALLY VACCINATED	YOU ARE FULLY VACCINATED
<p>Indoors with a small group of <b>fully vaccinated</b> individuals</p> <p>e.g. dinner with a small group of friends, watching sporting event on TV, sharing a hug</p>	<p>Consider removing your mask and being physically close to the fully vaccinated individuals if everyone is comfortable, AND nobody is at risk of more severe disease or outcomes</p>	<p>No mask or physical distancing is necessary</p>
<p>Outdoors with people from multiple households who are <b>unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, or their vaccination status is unknown</b></p> <p>e.g. gathering with a group of friends, child's outdoor birthday party, outdoor wedding</p>	<p>For now, consider wearing a mask if physical distancing cannot be maintained, especially if you or others are at risk of more severe disease or outcomes</p>	<p>No mask or physical distancing is necessary</p>
<p>Indoors with people from multiple households who are <b>unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, or their vaccination status is unknown</b></p> <p>e.g. private celebrations or ceremonies, places of worship, fitness facility</p>	<p>Wear a mask and maintain physical distancing</p> <p>Follow the measures put in place by the owner/organizer to reduce the risk of COVID-19</p> <p>Keep windows and doors open, if possible</p>	<p>Follow the measures put in place by the owner/organizer to reduce the risk of COVID-19</p> <p>If you are at risk of more severe disease or outcomes, consider wearing a mask and maintain physical distancing</p> <p>Keep windows and doors open, if possible</p>
<p>Indoors or outdoors in a large crowd where people are closely gathering</p> <p>e.g. crowded concert, organized sporting event, house party</p>	<p>Wear a mask</p> <p>Follow the measures put in place by the owner/organizer to reduce the risk of COVID-19</p> <p>Maintain physical distancing wherever possible</p> <p>Consider only attending events where there are safety plans in place that follow local public health advice</p>	<p>If you are at risk of more severe disease or outcomes, consider wearing a mask and maintain physical distancing. Even if you are not at risk, you may still consider wearing a mask at an indoor crowded setting</p> <p>Follow the measures put in place by the owner/organizer to reduce the risk of COVID-19</p>

# Organizational News

## Staff Changes

Ethel Kaiserman, Director of Client Services left Bellwoods on July 2. Ethel joined the Bellwoods leadership team last May and provided support to our community during the pandemic. We are grateful for the support, guidance and knowledge she shared with us this past year. In the interim, our Support Service Supervisory team will report to Jan Mowat, Manager of Client Services.

Supervisors will also continue to be supported in their work through a redistribution of responsibilities among the existing leadership team.

## Bellwoods' Annual Report is now available



The 2020-2021 Annual Report to the Community -- **"Building Resilience"** is now available on our website: [www.bellwoodscentres.org](http://www.bellwoodscentres.org). Please take a few minutes to read it. Hard copies of the report are also available by contacting Anna Yip, Communications & Development Associate ([ayip@bcclsp.org](mailto:ayip@bcclsp.org)) or Head Office.

## Support for Clients

Isolation and increased food security emerged as 'top of mind' issues during the pandemic. Staff and volunteers responded with a *Wellness Check* program for those at greatest risk of isolation. In response to suggestions from clients, information sheets were also distributed on food delivery services, food bank resources and volunteer grocery programs. Clients with the highest needs were supported by PSW Supervisors, Mobile Independent Living Educator (MILE) Facilitators, our Community Resource Navigator and Housing with Layered Supports (HLS) staff. We also:

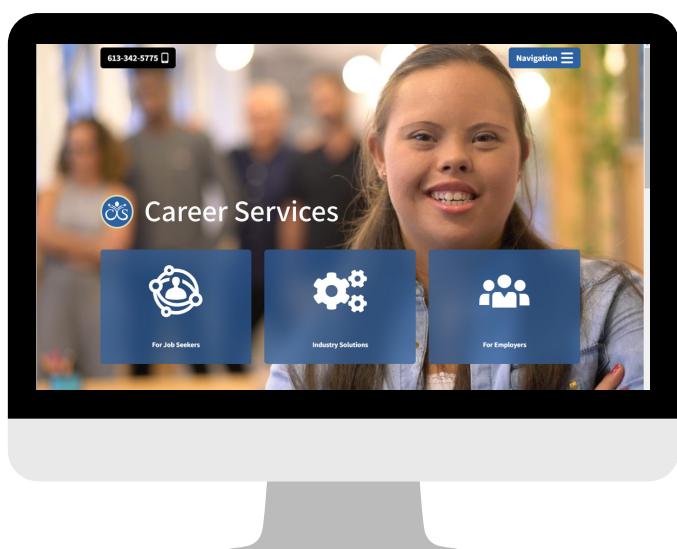
- Partnered with **STOP Community Food Centre** for delivery of fresh and non-perishable foods to clients in one of our buildings.
- Linked clients in need with **The Good Neighbour Project** – a program that matches volunteers to seniors or adults with disabilities needing assistance with grocery shopping.
- Partnered with **AlayaCare** to access the **Madiro Fund** - a partnership between **AlayaCare** and **Freshii** - providing 125 clients with two fresh meals a week from March 31 to October 23, 2020. Meals were delivered to clients homes by community volunteers.
- Distributed grocery gift cards to all Bellwoods clients thanks to two successful grant applications (\$20,000 each) received from the **Community Food Centres Canada**. The Neighbourhood Group volunteer program helped package and distribute information sheets and cards to our clients.

If you need support with isolation, food security or another issue please reach out to our Community Resource Navigator at [aprabhu@bcclsp.org](mailto:aprabhu@bcclsp.org)

# News for Clients

## Helping people with disabilities find jobs

In early July, the Ontario Government announced that it will invest over \$380,000 in a free, virtual program led by **Career Services Brockville**. This program will prepare up to 160 people with disabilities for careers in the food and hospitality sector. Participants will be given sector-specific and transferable skills to prepare them for employment. Those demonstrating a likelihood to succeed will advance to five to 20 hours of guided learning using a virtual reality tool – **VjobReady** - to help them develop skills such as taking customer orders, food preparation and dealing with clients at point of sale.



The program is part of Ontario's Advancing Accessibility framework and is focused on opening doors for individuals facing barriers to employment.

Those interested in applying can contact Career Services Brockville <https://careerservices.ca/> or their local school board, Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) or local employment service provider.

## Introduction of Bill C-35, The Canada Disability Benefit Act

Bill C-35 establishes the legislative framework for a new federal income support benefit to support working age adults with disabilities and will supplement existing federal and provincial/territorial income supports for people with disabilities. The first-ever Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) will include:

A new Canada Disability Benefit

A robust employment strategy for Canadian's with disabilities, and

A better process to determine eligibility for federal disability programs and benefits.

The proposed legislation is part of the federal government's commitment to work with the disability community to reduce systemic inequalities for people living with disabilities. The benefit will supplement, not replace, existing federal and provincial-territorial supports in hopes of providing financial support. Bellwoods looks forward to working with our government and community partners to continue to advocate for supports that will move us towards a more fully inclusive society.



The Accessibility Industry's  
Premiere Event!



Presented by **Bell**

# THE ACCESS EXPO

PRODUCTS • RESOURCES • EXPERTS & ANSWERS

**FREE 2-DAY EVENT**  
VARIETY VILLAGE, SCARBOROUGH  
**SEPTEMBER 17-18**

**The first in-person Disability Exhibition since COVID!**

Showcasing programs and services promoting: accessibility, inclusion, healthcare, sport, fitness and healthy living! Offering consumers Access and Inclusion, Disability exhibition, Career and Education Fair, Government Programs, Transportation and Mobility, Family fun activities, Disability products and service providers + more!

***There's something for #EveryBODY!***

[accessexpo.ca](http://accessexpo.ca)



  
@theaccessexpo  
#ACCESSEXPO



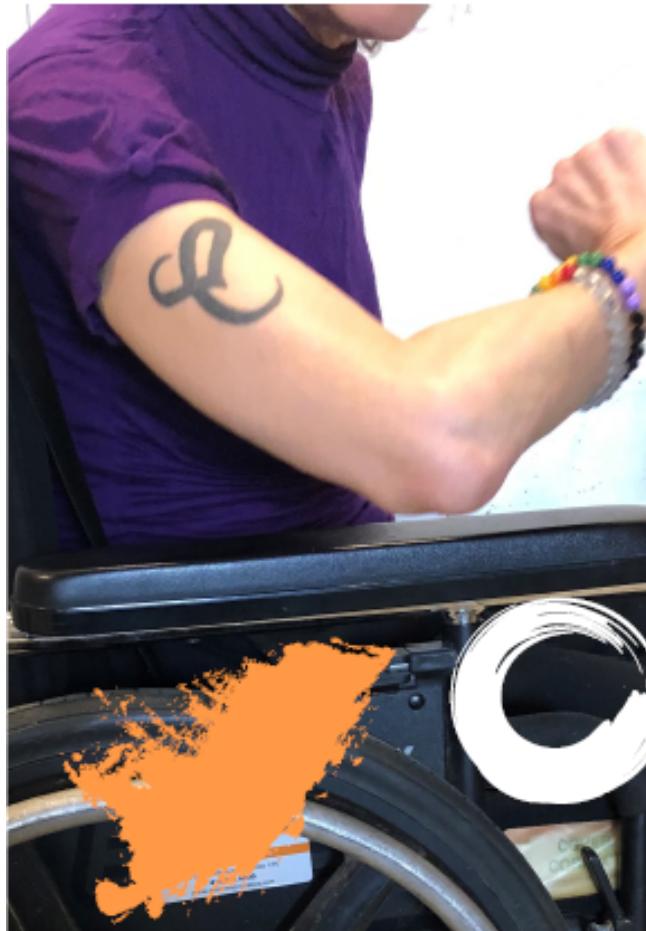


# BRAVE



**WEN-DO WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENCE**

for Women, Girls & Other Marginalized  
Genders with Disabilities



**JOIN US on**



Tuesdays & Fridays

AUG 3 - AUG 20 - 2:30 - 4:00 PM

AUG 24 - SEPT 10 - 7:00 - 8:30 PM

You MUST complete the Pre and Post Evaluation

**LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE**

Limited Attendant Care and Childcare will  
be provided upon request

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
**Contact Lucy**

PH: 416-486-8666 ext. 226  
[lucyn@vibranthealthcare.ca](mailto:lucyn@vibranthealthcare.ca)

**WDAAG**

Women Disability Action Awareness Group

Safe, inclusive space for women and  
girls with disabilities. Operating  
within a independent living  
environment



**Vibrant Healthcare Alliance**  
[www.vibranthealthcare.ca](http://www.vibranthealthcare.ca)

This project is funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada through the Canadian Women's Foundation



# News from Bellwoods' Community Advisory Council (BCAC)

## Update on Raised Accessible Vegetable Garden

The two raised accessible gardens in the courtyard between Dundas and Shaw sites look amazing!



A celebration event for the new organic vegetable garden took place on July 17<sup>th</sup> to recognize the efforts of the volunteers, donors and staff that participated in this project. The event included performances from musicians: *Balazs Hollosy, Rob Klein, and Steve Marriner*. A third garden is in the planning.



*The garden was  
dedicated to our staff!*



## An ENORMOUS THANK YOU to:

- *Blair Williams*, Co-Chair of BCAC for his leadership on this project.
- *Ruth and Paul Mouldey, Corpus Sanchez International Consultancy (CSI) and the Stop Community Food Centre* for their generous donations.
- The Garden Committee: *Blair Williams (lead), Marissa Blake, Christine S., Tara Gibson, Brad Campbell (CSI), Bellwoods Staff: Rebecca Chaston, Adrien Leblond, Javier Mejia, Roxanne Penrose, Crystal Wright-Wilson and Anna Yip*
- The Garden Builders: *Tony and Sandra Benattar, Joe Farrell, Balazs Hollosy, Kimberley Gartner, Ben Ingram, Samantha Indrakumaran, Heiko and Laura Mueller, Chantel Therion, and Jamie Trethewey.*
- Food donations by *Kimberley Gartner and Ruth Mouldey.*



**Your hard work and generosity have made a difference!**



# SAVE the DATE

A client BBQ will be held in September with food and live entertainment. We hope you will join us!

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021

**LOCATION:** Courtyard at 1082 Dundas Street West, Toronto

Please stay tuned for further details!

# Bridging the Gap Fund (BTGF)



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

This fund is intended to '**Bridge the Gap**' for Bellwoods' clients experiencing 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](mailto:ayip@bcclsp.org)



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This newsletter is produced by Bellwoods a charitable, not-for-profit organization headquartered in Toronto. Bellwoods provides housing, personal support 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/about-us/publications/> See Publications > Newsletters. For a printed copy and/or suggestion on content for future topics contact Anna Yip, Communications & Development Associate at 416-447-1168 or by email at [ayip@bcclsp.org](mailto:ayip@bcclsp.org)