



BELLWOODS COMMUNITY NEWS

SUMMER 2025

THE HEADLINES

Do you know about the Canada Disability Benefit?

The Canada Disability Benefit provides direct financial support to people with disabilities who are between 18 and 64 years old. The program is administered by Service Canada. The first month of eligibility for the Canada Disability Benefit is June 2025.

If you qualify for payments, you will begin receiving payments the month after your application is received and approved (although the system may face back-logs).

Scan the QR code for more information on eligibility and how to apply. You may also call the federal support line at **1-833-486-3007**.



Reminder: BCAC seeking new members

The Bellwoods Community Advisory Council (BCAC) is seeking new members to serve on the Council as part of annual recruitment.

The Council, made up of Bellwoods' clients and community allies, helps make recommendations to leadership on issues that affect client experience and quality of life.

Interested in joining?



*Scan to access
the form to print
and mail in*



*Scan to fill
out the
digital form*

Lift equipment: Annual load tests completed

Bellwoods is committed to an effective preventative maintenance program to ensure that all of Bellwoods equipment is safe and functional for both clients and staff.

From June 16-20, Bellwoods completed its annual lift equipment inspection. This preventative maintenance program helps us identify and address any potential problems with the equipment and keep service running smoothly.

STAFFING NEWS

New and returning team members

Bellwoods welcomed the following PSWs over the last month:

- Fausat Baruwa, Dundas
- Gift Osazuwa, Dundas
- Kadeysha Hamilton, Shaw
- Tymika Duncan, AO East/Scarborough South
- Dharati Patel, AO East/Scarborough East
- Florence Kitson-Mills (returned to work in a casual capacity)

We're excited to have each of them on the Bellwoods team.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Spring planting day

At the end of May, clients and team members gathered at the Dundas site for a morning of spring planting! Client Blair Williams led the event, directing the team as they shovelled fresh soil, planted vegetables and fertilized.

A special thanks to Jared Nathan, founder of non-profit Disability Privilege Productions, who donated funds for the soil. We're also grateful to Bellwoods' neighbour Jacqueline Waspe who sprouted the veggies at home and generously shared them with Bellwoods for planting. It was a great morning of sunny weather and community connection. Check out the garden next time you're nearby!



COMMUNITY CORNER

In case you missed it: Meet Nirogi K.

Earlier this month, we shared that Bellwoods created a brand new position — the Client Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator!

Nirogi Kuganeshen took on the role and is already busy working directly with you, our clients, to bring events and programs to the Bellwoods community. From move nights to music circles, Nirogi will help create opportunities for all clients to connect, meet their neighbours and have some fun. A special thank you to the donors who helped fund this position and bring new programming to Bellwoods.



Anna Schmidt, Bellwoods' comms specialist, met up with Nirogi at our Dundas site to learn more about her plans and approach to the role. Scan the QR code below to watch!



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inP_fw-r2lo

EVENTS

Client BBQ June 26: Last chance to RSVP

The Client BBQ is this week! The event will take place from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, June 26, outdoors at 1082 Dundas St. West.

Dig out your best Canadian outfit, whether that's plaid, denim or something else, and join us for a casual evening of food and fun.

The event will feature:

- The Great Canadian Food Truck with sliders, poutine, wraps and more! (vegetarian, vegan, halal, and gluten-free options available)
- Ice cream truck
- Games and activities, including a photo booth, talent table and short client performance segment

Thank you to everyone who has RSVP'd — we can't wait to see you there! Haven't RSVP'd yet? There's still time! Call 416-696-9663 to let us know you're coming.



EVENTS

June is National Indigenous History Month



June is National Indigenous History Month — an opportunity to honour the history, heritage and diverse cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples across Canada. It's an opportunity to learn about Indigenous traditions and acknowledge their ongoing contributions.

Visit the link below to learn more about how you can engage in a meaningful way.

canada.ca/national-indigenous-history-month

Pride Month



At Bellwoods, we strive to create a community where everyone feels seen, valued and included. In June, we join communities across the country in celebrating Pride Month — a time to recognize the voices of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals. It's also an opportunity to reflect on the importance of equity and inclusion, both in our Bellwoods community and beyond.

Visit toronto.ca/pride to explore events and ways to get involved.

Laughs Without Limits: 1 Year Anniversary Show!

When: Sunday, June 29 at 7 p.m.

Where: Comedy Bar Danforth - Barrier-Free

Ticket Price: Pay What You Can

Celebrating one year of Laughs Without Limits — Toronto's only monthly comedy showcase where inclusion takes centre stage! This special anniversary show is Pay What You Can, so everyone can experience a night of unforgettable, barrier-smashing comedy.

Hosted by Bellwoods' own Blair TheHandy, this show features a diverse lineup of comedians whose lives are influenced by disability.



**Scan to
learn more**

REMINDERS

Bridging the Gap Fund

This program is for any client who might need some extra support when funds are tight or an emergency situation comes up that cannot be funded by another program.

Want to learn more? Contact the program coordinator at ciw@bcclsp.org or 416-970-6773.