

SALN

Self Advocate Leadership Network

April 17, 2020

SALN COVID-19 News-sheet #4

This News-sheet is a public document. Information, quotes and questions are invited to be shared and included outside of SALN.

The majority of SALN members are part of provincial self-advocacy and advisory groups. SALN is aware and interested in the BC self-advocate movement. All SALN members are well established and recognizable. All SALN members are from leading groups in the movement.

SALN Mission Statement:

To promote a good life through positive and informed: actions, networking and advocacy.

1. SALN would like to share the following:

1. Government of BC Mental Health Supports During COVID-19, To support British Columbians of all ages during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province is expanding existing mental health programs and launching new services.

Media Links:

April 16, 2020 Link: [Government of BC Virtual Mental Health Supports During COVID-19](#)

SALN Comment:

- Several SALN members are planning to try the services and share their opinion on it.
 - "There is a bunch of supports out there but are they set up to help people who have diversibilities? Our mental health can be different from others."

Quotes from SALN members:

- "Mental Health affects everyone and certainly affects us. It is crucial and would be good specifically for people with disabilities because there are some unique circumstances and different barriers. I am going to check this out."
- "It is crucial. Decisions are being made during crisis and there is going to be a mental health crisis if we don't do something for people."

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2. Children and youth with diversabilities in the school system. What type of support does SALN feel would help students?

Quotes from SALN members:

- "Students need support from their EAs, even from afar. They can connect by Zoom, driving by their house and waving, and writing letters. Anything that will let them know they are thinking about them. It also needs to be individualized."
- It is a confusing time for everybody. Teachers need to adjust teaching a bit. You can't expect parents to make kids do schoolwork for the same long hours as when at school. Being at home is a different environment. A lot of work is being put on the parents – even just a couple of hours of work a day is ok. People cannot have the same expectations of long hours of schoolwork. Schedules need to be flexible and not stress people out [both students and families].

3. Minister of Health, Adrian Dix Quote:

"I want to acknowledge all people with disabilities in the province so that they understand that services and supports will be there for them. And if they require acute care services related to COVID-19, that their concerns are of significant importance both to people who work with people with disabilities every day and to the health care system in what is in this difficult time and we are focused on their concerns!"

SALN Comment:

- "SALN recognizes the importance of Minister of Health, Adrian Dix acknowledging all people with disabilities."
- "SALN believes that it would be significant if Minister of Health, Adrian Dix shared a specific message for people with diversabilities."
- "When speaking about people with disabilities if you give examples of smaller groups like people who are deaf or sight impaired it makes the other groups feel left out. It is confusing and we don't know if you have forgotten about us."

Please invite SALN to participate in creating and delivering solutions where it makes sense. Response can be sent to SALN support, Jillian Glennie, at sas@shsbc.ca.