

6 April 2020

Dear people we support and families,

Last week, we were still awaiting results for a staff member being tested for COVID-19. We're grateful to report that those tests have returned negative. At present, four staff and one person we support have been tested, with all results returning negative for COVID-19.

As of this morning, another person we support and a staff member have been advised by medical professionals to be tested for COVID-19. These new tests are not connected with each other, nor with any of those previously tested. We will inform once we receive results. Also, we will continue to directly inform those who may be impacted.

We also received some good news from the Government of Ontario.

Over the weekend, they announced a \$40 million COVID-19 Residential Relief Fund. This fund allows organizations like ours to apply for funding to help offset costs related to additional staff and compensation (e.g. overtime), personal protective equipment, additional cleaning costs and more.

They also announced an Order affecting service agencies. This order offered the reasonable ability for organizations like CLGW to make important decisions without negatively affecting their Collective Bargaining Agreement with their union (should they have one). CLGW has a great working relationship with our union, CUPE. While many of these new privileges were already agreed upon with the union, we're grateful that this Order offers more flexibility in these times of need.

At the heart of both announcements, is the assurance that the people we support will receive the support they need during this pandemic.

To ensure the health and wellbeing of the people we support, we have suspended van and car rides. While there are exceptions (i.e. a necessary medical appointment), this preventative measure will help limit potential COVID-19 contact points.

You also may have seen our [Re-connecting Families](#) fundraiser.

As of this morning, we had raised \$5,137 of our \$12,147 goal, through our website and on Facebook. That's a fantastic start! These funds will go directly to purchasing 35 tablets, to be distributed to our residential locations. We have also had a few generous folks offer gently used tablets and devices – thank you!

If you'd like to help us get to our goal, here's what you can do:

1. Share the Re-connecting Families fundraiser on your social media:
  - a. Like our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CLGuelphWell/>
  - b. Share the [Pinned Post](#) on your social media channels and with family and friends
    - i. If you choose to share why this is important to the work you do, please do

not include any confidential information about the people you support

2. Share via email, text, or in conversation with others:
  - a. Direct people you know who might want to help to <https://clgw.ca/donate>
    - i. All details related to the Re-Connecting Families fundraiser are available there
3. If you have the means, please consider giving through one of the two donation channels

Thank you so much to all who have already supported. We have generously received donations from 29 different people - some of which are families and staff, and some from new friends to CLGW!

We will continue to keep you informed of any new developments, and you can read the latest at: [clgw.ca/covid19](https://clgw.ca/covid19)

Gratefully,

  
**Laura Hanley**  
Executive Director

  
**Gerry Walsh**  
Board President