



Prevention
Education
Advocacy
Counselling
Empowerment

March 30th, 2020

Re: HSWC PEACE Counselling services continue

Dear SD48 School Principals, Teachers and Staff,

I am sure that you have heard in the news, during times of a community emergency or disaster such as what we are experiencing now with the COVID 19 pandemic, gendered violence, violence/high conflict in the home, and child abuse rates increase. Now more than ever it is important to be connecting with our children and youth as we navigate through these challenging times. With no school and physical isolation many children and youth will not be seen by anyone outside the home. If you know of any families that may need some extra support or even just to have someone to connect with during this time please pass on our contact information or ask if they would like a PEACE Counsellor to reach out to them. We are able to connect with any youth you would consider a mature minor without parental/guardian consent if that is preferable.

PEACE Counsellors are still providing counselling services and parent support to families during this difficult time in the Sea to Sky Corridor. We are continuing to see children and families as well as accepting new referrals. Counselling and parent support is going to look a little different; we are going to be connecting over the phone, by email and/or by an on-line format.

For those of you who are not familiar with the PEACE program, it is a Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General funded program across BC. The PEACE Counselling program is offered through the Howe Sound Women's Centre by certified counsellors. Our program strives to provide service to children and their families who have experienced family conflict and/or violence in the home including through separation and divorce. In a safe, nurturing environment we help children cope with family conflict and violence; promote problem solving; model healthy expression of feelings; and help children define personal boundaries for emotional strength and safety. We believe that getting this support will help children and youth to navigate challenging events that have happened in their life as well as help them through this challenging time where they may not have a lot of contact with others.

During this time of uncertainty, it is important that support for our children, youth and families continues as we navigate how to move forward through these challenging times. The PEACE

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PO Box 2052 Squamish, BC V8B 0B4
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Whistler Women's Centre
1519 Spring Creek Drive
Whistler, BC V0N 1B1
T: 604-962-8711

www.hswc.ca

program staff are working to be available in creative ways that meet the needs of each individual while keeping everyone safe.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me by phone 604.892.4546 or by email cpm@hswc.ca.

Hope that you are all staying well and healthy.

Sincerely,



Shana Murray
Community Program Director
Howe Sound Women's Centre Society

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