

SALN

Self Advocate Leadership Network

April 9, 2020

SALN COVID-19 News-sheet #2

1. SALN would like to share the following:

1. People with disabilities should not be in the same group as people who are homeless, have mental illness, misuse drugs and alcohol because their needs and supports are different.

- Quotes

- "This is not indicative of who we are. We do not fall into those groups (most of us are not homeless and use drugs). We are worried about the stigma and our reputations. We have different and specific support needs. Our needs are different always what people need in these other groups."
- "The government should not be putting people with disabilities in with drug and alcohol misuse abusers and homelessness. We need support with things like life skills, medical supports and other things that may be different."

2. SALN does not agree with any community living day programs staying open where people are attending in groups.

- Quotes

- "Human rights issue: this is against what the government is telling other people to do."
- "Everyone getting together in groups? I would feel not safe. What if somebody got sick?"
- "My concern is that if they are expecting people with disabilities to go to their day program and regular people are not supposed to go to work or be in groups. What an attitude! If people with disabilities get sick whatever/who cares– but other people without disabilities, they want to keep safer."
- "This is terrible! People with disabilities are not as valued as other people. This just proves it. I don't want to be a second-class citizen. I don't want anyone to be a second-class citizen."
- "Group day programs - they are not following the rules to be safe. To be if you are not following the rules, they should be charged/fined for it."
- "I am concerned for people who are going to these programs. People should not be forced they should have a choice not to have to go." (This is based on the assumption that some people would make people with disabilities who live with them go in against their choice.)

3. SALN feels that agencies can give 1:1, personalized and safe support.

4. It is critical that all resources and information are in plain language.

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5. Self-advocates still need information in plain language and one dedicated area to find it.
 - How to use online communication sites and apps like Zoom, HouseParty, Messenger etc
 - How to access EI. Who qualifies for EI?
6. SALN would like to reassure that we are all in this together. People with disabilities are not alone. Many people are unsure about what is happening. Things are changing every day.
7. SALN would like to ask people to stay connected. Call people. Face time.

2. SALN would like to be informed of the following:

1. SALN would like to know why the government has grouped people with disabilities with people who have shelter needs (people who do not have a home) and people who misuse substances (people who use drugs and the drug use is having a very negative effect on their body and/or life)?

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.