This is a bi-weekly newsletter designed to create connections across the Long-Term Care and Assisted Living sector at Vancouver Coastal Health. It is an opportunity to share best practices and innovations, celebrate successes and get to know what our colleagues are doing at VCH, and beyond, to create the best possible experience for residents, families and staff at our homes. We want to build our COMMUNITY, so please share this newsletter widely and send us your stories!

"A meaningful life is composed of a series of meaningful moments. If this is what we want, then the ability to infuse each moment with meaning would seem to be a skill worth practicing."

~ Bill Crawford

The conversation starts with a pair of Fluevog shoes. I arrived at Richmond Lion's Manor and was greeted with "nice shoes, where did you get them?" from a care aide. I tell her that I bought them from the Fluevog store in Gastown. One resident says, "I used to go to the fishing store in Gastown." It was then that I noticed another resident (Mr. R.) sitting in a wheelchair nearby open his eyes. The care aide tells me that he used to be the head of Ocean and Fisheries here in Canada. So I start talking about fishing with him - how I used to go fishing with my grandmother, using a piece of bamboo and string with a hook and how I plan to take my daughter fishing. Mr. R. smiles and nods as I talk and though he can hardly move his arm, he tries to give me a thumbs up throughout our conversation. As I leave, I say to Mr. R., "You have beautiful, ocean blue eyes. If you keep your eyes open, you never know what you're going to catch! (wink! wink!)." He responds to me with a big smile. Knowing a person's history can make a big difference in the lives of our residents. Our conversation came out of one piece of knowledge that the care aide had about the resident's life. Sometimes, all it takes is a nice pair of shoes to bring that piece of information out.

~ Venus Villaos, Peer Care Aide, Long-Term Care & Assisted Living Professional Practice Team

"There are no strangers here; only friends you haven't yet met."

~ William Butler Yeats

Meet the Long-Term Care & Assisted Living Professional Practice Team

The Long-Term Care & Assisted Living Professional Practice Team is comprised of clinicians across various disciplines who are available to provide education and clinical support to homes within VCH. On the team are nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, peer care aides, nurses specializing in wound, ostomy and continence, a clinical nurse specialist, and nurse practitioners. If you have a question or would like more information about how the team can help, please contact Tenzin Yanki at tenzin.yanki@vch.ca.
**What Matters to Me: A Photo Project:** Central City Lodge is taking part in a pilot to understand what life is like through residents’ eyes. Some residents will get cameras to take photos of things that are meaningful to them in their day-to-day life. Students from the Emily Carr Health Design Lab will then interview the residents to understand more about the photos they took. Any homes interested in piloting this project can contact Sonia at sonia.hardern@vch.ca.

**Looking for Expertise!** Do you have an interest in Care Approaches for Supporting Residents Experiencing Responsive Behaviours in Long-Term Care? Would you like to help develop decision support tools and guidance for Care Approaches? If so, please email Sian Roberts at sian.roberts@vch.ca to let her know of your interest.

**Visitation Guidelines Translated:** VCH’s social visitation guidelines for long-term care and seniors’ assisted living facilities are now available in multiple languages including Chinese, Farsi, French, Korean, Punjabi and Tagalog. You can find the guidelines here: [http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/long-term-care-assisted-living](http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/long-term-care-assisted-living)

**Funding Opportunity!** Period 3 EquipCare BC Applications started April 1. All of BC’s over 8000 assisted living units and over 18,500 long-term care beds (except health authority owned and operated) are eligible for funding for infection control systems and products to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. More information can be found here: [https://bccare.ca/programs/equipcarebc/](https://bccare.ca/programs/equipcarebc/). If you would like some support with the application process, you can email Sonia at sonia.hardern@vch.ca.

**Connecting in COVID: Rethink and reprogram leisure in senior living:** You can watch the recording of this livestream event to get insights on how infection control during a pandemic can support culture change efforts. Information on a new resource to shift the programming mindset and promote spontaneous leisure are also discussed. Watch the recording at the following link: [https://youtu.be/BGh8DX4ysml](https://youtu.be/BGh8DX4ysml)

**Long Term Care Town Hall: Exploring well-being for all through culture change and innovation:** This moderated discussion with leading experts (including Andre Picard of the Globe and Mail) will take place on **May 6, 2021 from 3-4:30 p.m PST.** They will discuss the pressing need to change the system so that residents in LTC homes are safe, comfortable and live a dignified life. You can learn more about this event and register at this link: [https://www.catherinemckenney.ca/longtermcare_townhall](https://www.catherinemckenney.ca/longtermcare_townhall)
April 29th @ 11:00 a.m.
VCH Long-Term Care & Assisted Living Coordination Call

Have something you want to share? Submit your meaningful moments or story ideas to VCH-LTC-Connections@vch.ca

To unsubscribe from this email: VCH-LTC-Connections@vch.ca