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 practice 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!

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**SHARING MEANINGFUL MOMENTS**

This photo was taken by a resident’s daughter during a FaceTime visit. Phyllis has a very large family who lives all over Canada, but because of the pandemic, they haven’t been able to visit. To see Phyllis’ big smile and her hands waving in the air in excitement while talking to her family is incredibly heartwarming. It is a reminder that even though we may not be able to see each other in person, there are still ways to socialize and be together in meaningful ways. As a recreation therapy professional, it has been wonderful to be a part of finding a way to connect residents with friends and family, including those who maybe weren’t able to visit pre-COVID-19.

~ Emily Wankling, Recreation Therapist, Evergreen House

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**GETTING TO KNOW OUR COMMUNITY**

“No one is an island; everyone is connected.”

~ William Butler Yeats

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**Meet Creekstone Care Centre**

**Creekstone Care Centre**, operated by Trellis Seniors Services Ltd. celebrated its opening with an official ribbon cutting on April 29th. Creekstone will be home to 180 seniors with the surroundings of North Shore nature. Led by Mary McDougall (President, Trellis Seniors Services), Ashleigh Walker-Moffitt (General Manager) and Vinita Goundar (Director of Care), pictured on the left, Creekstone’s belief is that together as a community, we can create joy in life and aging - by caring, connecting and celebrating. Congratulations to the team at Creekstone on this milestone and welcome to the Vancouver Coastal Health Community!

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**SHARING WHAT WE DO**

*May the 4th be with you!* Banfield Pavillion celebrated Star Wars Day with a costume party. Notable guests included Darth Vader, but even he couldn’t escape screening at the front door. Thank you for sharing pictures of your fun celebration!
World Hand Hygiene Day! May 5th was World Hand Hygiene Day, as identified by the World Health Organization in 2009. VCH Long-Term Care Infection Control Practitioners are designating the month of May as Hand Hygiene month. This year the focus is to achieve effective hand hygiene action at the point of care. As part of the Clean Your Hands Campaign, Infection Control Practitioners will be scheduling on-site visits to Contracted and Owned and Operated sites to review hand hygiene techniques with staff. Educational Opportunities are also available through the Learning Hub:

https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/8300/infection-prevention-and-control-practices-for-direct-clinical-care-providers

In the Media. An article was written in the North Shore News profiling Berkley Care Centre. The article, titled "What’s life like at an almost-fully vaccinated Vancouver care home," highlights some of the challenges that COVID-19 brought and what the new normal looks like. Congratulations to the team at Berkley on a lovely article. You can read it here: https://bit.ly/3gYaX4

Coming Soon: Community of Practice VCH is proposing the creation of a community of practice with a focus on long-term care. This CoP will be a place where point-of-care staff can build connections across the sector, share the wealth of knowledge and experience, showcase innovative practices that homes are proud of, promote best practice and latest research, explore areas of concern, find solutions together and receive education. Over the next few weeks, members of the core planning group will attend leadership and practice meetings across the sector to provide information and gather feedback. A survey has been developed to help understand the needs of point-of-care staff in both Long-Term Care and Assisted Living. Please complete the survey and share this link widely so that we can understand what would make the CoP most useful for the community:

https://surveys.vch.ca/Survey.aspx?s=362f18bbdf7249c3a38725ac4500a917

To request more information or a printable copy of the survey, please email: sian.roberts@vch.ca

Health Career Access Program (HCAP) HCAP is a Ministry of Health initiative that aims to reduce barriers to entry into health care careers. Applicants are given an opportunity to train to become a certified Health Care Aide (HCA) while receiving a guaranteed income. Tuition, books and course fees are also covered as part of the program. The program is 12-18 months long and includes online and in-person training, as well as placement into a new entry-level non-clinical support role for long-term care and assisted living - the Health Care Support Worker (HCSW). At graduation, HCSWs will have earned their HCA certificate and are required to give a minimum of 1 year of service back to the home. This program will lead to job-ready HCAs to fill current and anticipated staffing shortages.

Homes interested in joining can submit a request through the Ministry of Health website: https://hcapemployers.gov.bc.ca/

People interested in applying to be candidates, or wanting more information can send an email to VCHHCAPInquiries@vch.ca.

Health Care Assistant Recruitment Incentive The Ministry of Health has announced a recruitment incentive for Health Care Assistant graduates. Students who completed Health Care Assistant (HCA) Programs in BC and work for 12 months in Long-Term Care or Assisted Living are eligible for a one-time $5,000 recruitment
incentive. More details about this program can be found here: https://www.choose2care.ca/hca-recruitment-incentive/

Questions regarding eligibility or the application process can be emailed to: incentiveapplications@choose2care.ca

Share Your Voice! Help inform what aging and living well, beyond health considerations, looks like for 2S|LGBTQI seniors across Canada by participating in this National Seniors Study. Participants will take part in a 1-hour interview and will receive a $50 e-gift card as a sign of appreciation. To be eligible, you must: identify as Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and/or intersex (or anyone who identifies as a sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, sex characteristics minority), be 65+ years old and live in Canada. To register in the study and/or get more information, you can go to: https://egale.ca/egale-in-action/seniors-national-study/

Looking for Expertise! Are you a staff, resident or family member with 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.

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/. If you would like some support with the application process, you can email Sonia at sonia.hardern@vch.ca.

Shifting from an institutional to a social model of care. An inspiring article and 21-minute mini-documentary on the transformation of Ontario Peel Region’s dementia unit into a Butterfly Home.

https://projects.thestar.com/dementia-program/

May 10-16th
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Happy National Nursing Week!

May 13th @ 11:00 a.m.
Th
Long-Term Care & Assisted Living Coordination Call

May 31st @ 11:00 a.m.
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LTC+ Coaching Session: Reduction of Antipsychotics in LTC
Join here: https://bcpssqc.ca/event/may-coaching-session/

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