

Program Announcement -

Program Changes to Food for Life and Holistic Engagement

March 13th, 2017

Dear PWA Clients, Volunteers and Community Partners,

Due to changes in our funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), PWA has to make changes to our Food for Life and Holistic Engagements programs and staff.

The funding we've received from PHAC for these programs over the past 5 years ends March 31st, 2017. To limit the impact on clients and volunteers, PWA will keep core services of these programs, but will need to end some services and two staff positions. The core services we are keeping include:

- **Haircuts, Expressive Arts, theatre access and vitamins** which will be moved to the Therapeutic Care program and overseen by Chris Godi, Therapeutic Care Coordinator;
- **Food for Life** which will be moved to Treatment Access and overseen by Llewellyn Goddard, Treatment Access Liaison;
- **Intake and Service Access** will be moved to Rachel Dickson, Interim Service Access Manager.

The services that will end include: creative writing, Facilitator's training, food workshops and Positive Life training. The two staff positions that will end are the Food Programs Liaison held by Roy Schuurhuis and the Holistic Engagement Coordinator held by Nick Papadogiannis. All of these changes will be in effect starting April 1st, 2017.

PWA has to make these changes because our funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is changing. We had hoped to continue receiving funding from PHAC after March 2017 for these programs, but in 2016 we learned that PHAC changed its funding guidelines and food programs no longer qualified. We learned that we did not receive funding for Holistic Engagement, but instead for our Dreaming & Opportunities and PHA Engagement programs.

I want to acknowledge and express my gratitude for the many successes of these programs, staff and peers over the past 5 years. The Food Programs Liaison position brought a much higher level of support to people accessing PWA's food programs, connected people just released from hospital with needed weekly meals, and organized fantastic workshops. I want to say a special thank you to Roy Schuurhuis for all his wonderful client care and service, and to Andrew and Dwight, our two wonderful peers who organized fun and engaging workshops.

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Equally, the Holistic Engagement program brought dynamic and exciting training opportunities to PWA – opportunities for clients and volunteers to explore, reflect, connect and learn from each other. Some of the most notably trainings offered included Positive Life, Expressive Arts, Facilitator’s training and Connections. I want to say a special thank you to Nick Papadogiannis for his great client engagement and facilitation, and to Andrew, Donovan and Steve, our wonderful peer facilitators.

PWA stands committed to our services and to our community. While we say good-bye to some services and staff positions, we will continue to maintain the core services they offered, and carry with us the achievements and learnings we’ve gained.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at either (416) 506-1400 ext. 204 or spaddock@pwatoronto.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Paddock', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Suzanne Paddock
Interim Executive Director