

*Our Vision: A world that respects and embraces the dignity, inherent value and rights of all people.
Notre vision: Un monde qui respecte et accueille la dignité, la valeur inhérente et les droits de toutes les personnes.*

January 12, 2021

Dear Family and Friends,

Happy New Year!

The start of each year is a time to set new goals and always brings new hope that the new year will be better than the last. This year we are all united in one common goal, to put an end to this pandemic and get back to the simple pleasures in life that we will never again take for granted. Now more than ever, we have reason to be hopeful as the first phase of the vaccine rollout is underway.

Today, the Province issued a stay-at-home order to help reduce the spread of the virus while we wait for more people to be vaccinated. Effective Thursday January 14th, Ontario will enter into a second state of emergency.

[Ontario Declares Second Provincial Emergency to Address COVID-19 Crisis and Save Lives | Ontario Newsroom](#)

I know it is on all our minds, when will people supported and support workers be offered the vaccine? Although we have no specific details to share at this time, there is a lot of work happening behind the scenes to make sure this is done as quickly as possible. This is expected to be the largest and quickest vaccination roll-out in history. This is a tremendous undertaking not only for Ontario and Canada but for the entire world. The province has a plan to ensure those most vulnerable receive the vaccine first and the distribution of the vaccine is done in an efficient and fair process. Below is a link to some helpful resources regarding the implementation and safety of the vaccine.

[COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario | COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) in Ontario](#)

Fortunately, the developmental sector has a united voice in the form of a provincial network vaccine working group made up of other provincial partners, including Community Living Ontario. This network has been advocating for the developmental sector to have priority for the vaccine.

BCCL will continue to consult and seek direction from provincial partners, including Public Health and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services with regards to how and when the vaccine will be available for people supported and support workers.

As always, we are extremely grateful for your support and understanding during these challenging times. We wish you and your families all the best in 2021.

Thank you,

Anne-Marie Hawkins

Anne-Marie Hawkins
Executive Director
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