



NEWS RELEASE

Dec 6, 2016

EMERGENCY WEATHER NOTICE **Weather conditions may affect home health care service**

VICTORIA, BC –If Mother Nature hits southern Vancouver Island with the snow, ice or wind that Environment Canada has predicted for this week, weather and road conditions may prevent Beacon Community Service Home Support workers from reaching all clients.

The not-for-profit agency strongly encourages all clients to review their “back up” care plans – and also reminds family and community members to check on people who may require additional assistance during a weather event.

The not-for-profit agency usually delivers home health care support to more than 2600 people a day on behalf of the Island Health Authority.

Where service must be cancelled, effort will be made to inform affected clients by phone if possible. However, delays or unexpected cancellations without notice may be unavoidable, depending on the nature and location of weather-related issues.

A high volume of inquiries can also affect home support communications and scheduling systems. If at all possible, clients are therefore asked to avoid calling with weather-related service inquiries during, and in the immediate aftermath of, any weather event.

“We hope the ice, wind, and snow stay away,” said CEO Bob Boulter. “If they don’t, our staff may face challenging driving conditions that affect service delivery. If so, we really appreciate clients’ patience and understanding.

“And, as always, we encourage neighbours and others to keep an eye out. If you have elderly, ill or disabled family members or neighbours, please see if they’re doing okay. Maybe de-ice their walkway, and check if they’re warm and properly fed or if they need additional support to manage through nasty weather. ”

Beacon Community Services is a community-based, not-for-profit agency dedicated to helping people and improving lives in the Greater Victoria and Gulf Islands areas, including through programs and services in: Child, Youth and Family Services; Counselling and Mental Health Services; Employment and Training Programs; Affordable Housing, Assisted Living and Licenced Dementia Care; Adult/Senior’s Recreation Services; Volunteer Services; and Home Support Care.

More information about Beacon Community Services can be found at www.beaconcs.ca

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