



January 2019

Dear Camper Families,

Since our last update, we have taken some big steps forward in how we are REIMAGINING the future of Easter Seals BC/Yukon and the British Columbia Society for Children with Disabilities (Society).

Your child's needs, and your family's needs, have and will continue to be at the forefront of our planning.

Over the last number of months, many families have shared their concerns about support for their child now, and as they grow older. We have listened and heard story after story about "aging out of care," and believe we can play a bigger role in supporting your child throughout their lifetime. Our plans for the future include new ways that we can support your family, and build a more financially secure future for the Society. How? Please see below.

OUR EXCITING FUTURE AND VISION - REIMAGINE: Enabling Abilities for Life!

Our plan looks to reimagine our camps into **community hubs** that will still offer **summer camps** for kids of diverse abilities AND may also offer potential new programs for **skills and employment development, mixed housing, social enterprises, and so much more.**

Over the next 10 years it is the Society's goal to reimagine our current facilities into year-round **community hubs**. This is about building on our legacy of helping your child, supporting your child as he/she ages, and making the best use of our camp facilities.

By changing and expanding the way we use each of our real estate sites through new programs and services, we can attract new and different partners as well as sources of income, funding, and capital - which is the funding we need to keep the Society operating.

To reimagine our facilities, the Society will launch A \$50 MILLION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN to:

1. **Build a new Shawnigan Lake Camp(us) for year-round use** - The goal is to develop the site over several years and turn it into a year-round community hub while retaining the site for our cherished summer camps for kids. In 2019, Camp Shawnigan Lake will open for summer camp in August.
2. **Upgrade Winfield Camp(us) for year-round use** - The goal is to upgrade the site over several years-and turn it into a year-round community hub while retaining the site for our cherished summer camp for kids. In 2019, Camp Winfield will offer summer camp in July and the Society will work with the community and municipality to begin planning its upgrade.
3. **Camp Squamish** - Due to zoning restrictions within the Agricultural Land Reserve, the vision for a Squamish is uncertain. The Society's Board is considering all options and due to this uncertainty and funding shortfalls, the summer camp program will be suspended for 2019.



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4. **Build a new Urban Campus** – Looking to the future, the Society is considering the consolidation of its programming into one site in the Lower Mainland. Over the next 10 years, supported by a capital campaign, it is the Society's goal to reimagine and redevelop its Lower Mainland facilities.

2019 SUMMER CAMPS

For 2019, our summer camp will operate at Winfield in July and at Shawnigan Lake in August. Also, in 2019, we will launch a new summer Urban Activity Program for youth and young adults with diverse abilities in the Lower Mainland. Registration and information on these three camp options will be posted on our website by February 2019. Visit our website to learn more.

FIND OUT MORE

Later in January, we will hold **Community Meetings** and hope you will attend to learn more about our plans and to provide your input and ideas.

Please register to attend a meeting: www.eastersealsbcy.ca/communitymeeting

January 26, 2019: Victoria, Saanich Commonwealth Place, 1.30-3.30pm

January 27, 2019: Camp Winfield, 2.00-4.00pm

January 30, 2019: Burnaby, Shadbolt Center for the Arts, 6.30-8.30pm

If you cannot attend, or would like more information sent directly to you, please contact reimagine@eastersealsbcy.ca. We will also continue to send out information through letters, newsletters and on the website.

We know that everyone benefits from a community in which all persons are accepted, able to participate, make a contribution and have a role regardless of their abilities.

Sincerely,



Charlene Krepiakovich
President & CEO



Tracy Lakeman
Board Chair

Easter Seals BC/Yukon
BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities