

25 May 2020



To all families, service users and students enrolled in Mothercraft programs:

I hope this letter finds everyone well and safely enjoying the lovely weather. As you likely know, on May 12th the government extended the provincial state of emergency to June 2nd. Subsequent to this announcement, Mothercraft received a memo from the Ministry of Education extending their closure order for child care centres and EarlyON programs, to May 29th. It is possible these orders will be extended again and we should see those announcements in the media toward the end of the week or over the weekend. As things stand right now, Ontario remains at phase 1 of its re-opening framework and it is unclear when we will move to phase 2 (click [here](#) to find out more). We will be sure to advise you as we hear more.

We continue to work on the development of our return-to-service plans so we can be ready to gradually re-open at least some of our programs once we are allowed to do so. Many of our services will be required to follow specific government and public health directives in order to resume operations. We expect this to take place over an extended period of time, with very low numbers to begin, and that it could take months before we are able to fully resume all operations. We know that the City of Toronto – one of Mothercraft funders/regulators – is working on a framework to help service providers figure out how to do that equitably, taking into account family or individual circumstances that may need to be prioritized. Once we receive that information, we will incorporate it into our plans and communicate this to all of you.

We know that there will be many restrictions and protocols required for services to resume and locations to re-open. These will also be communicated to all of our service users and students in advance so you know what to expect from us and what we will require of you when we welcome you back to our locations. In the meantime, staff continue to deliver virtual programming and provide information to all of our service users and students. Please be in touch with program managers to provide feedback about how we can support you and your family through this difficult period. They are also happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have if they can, or to forward your questions on to their Director if they are not able to answer.

As a reminder, there are many resources available in my previous communications, including links to information about COVID as well as other community supports that may be helpful to you and your family, on the Mothercraft website (www.mothercraft.ca). I wish you and your family continued good health.

Sincerely,

Michele Lupa
Executive Director

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