



*Elkford Women's Task
Force Society*

Statement Concerning COVID-19 and Service Delivery – March 25, 2020

I'd like to take this opportunity to address the impact of the COVID-19 health crisis on the programs and services provided by the Elkford Women's Task Force Society. The current situation is unlike anything we have ever experienced in our operating history. The COVID-19 health crisis emerged quickly and is rapidly changing. As always, our goal as a community service provider is to ensure the health and safety of those accessing our programs and services. Further, we have a responsibility to provide for the health and safety of all of our employees. For these reasons all of the services and programs that we offer are being impacted. Please know that the decisions being made with regard to programs and services are as a result of careful consideration.

The Elkford Play School has canceled classes for the remainder of the school year. Cancellation of classes is the only reasonable way to eliminate person to person contact as per public health guidelines. For parents that submitted post-dated cheques for April and May, your cheques will be destroyed. If fees were paid in full you will receive a refund for April and May fees. Looking to the future we are hoping to resume operation in September 2020. Online registration for the 2020-21 Program will be available online starting at 10:00am on April 6, 2020. The registration form and policy manual are available on our website www.ewtfs.ca. In the top right hand corner you will find a drop down box. Click on the Services drop down box and click on Elkford Play School. At the bottom of the page you will find a link to a fillable registration package. Please complete this and email it back to becky.andrusiak@gmail.com along with a photo of your child's care card and immunization records. The photo of the care card and immunization records are for new registrants only. Fees for our 3 year old class are \$85/month and for our 4 year old class are \$110/month. Post-dated cheques are due by August 1, 2020. Completion of all of the above will hold your spot on a first come first served basis.

All family programming at Elkford Early Years has been canceled indefinitely. This decision was made keeping the health and safety of our families and staff as a priority. We don't have a firm date to commence programming but are hopeful that the fall will bring better news. We will keep families posted as we know more or if there are changes. We are currently looking at alternative options to provide our families with resources and activities while practicing their physical distancing.

The Elk Valley PEACE program continues to provide services to children and youth experiencing violence in the home and/or a difficult parental separation. For the health and safety of clients and staff we will not provide person to person service. We are utilizing a number of technologies such as phone, text, Zoom and Facetime to provide service. Our counselors are available to connect with those needing service. PEACE is taking both parent referrals and referrals from community agencies during this time. Our referral form is available on our website www.ewtfs.ca . To access the PEACE referral form please click on the drop down box on the right hand side of the website. Click on the Services drop down box and then click on Elk Valley PEACE. The referral form is a fillable PDF on the bottom of the page. Complete the form and email it directly back to elkvalleypeaceprogram@gmail.com . Our counselors will be in touch as soon as possible.

Our Child & Youth Mental Health Outreach will continue to provide support to children and youth experiencing mild-moderate mental, emotional and behavioral difficulties and their families. For the health and safety of clients and staff we will not be providing person to person support. We will be using a number of technologies to provide services. The CYMH Outreach program is continuing to receive referrals during this time. Self-referrals and community referrals with the family's permission are accepted. The intake form can be found on our website www.ewtfs.ca . To access the CYMH Outreach referral form click on the drop down box on the right hand side of our web page. Click on the Services drop down box and then click on Child & Youth Mental Health Outreach. The referral form is a fillable PDF located on the bottom of the page. Complete the form and email it directly back to cymhoutreach@gmail.com . Our counselor will be in touch as soon as possible.

Elk Valley Safe Homes continues to provide services to women who are experiencing physical, emotional, verbal and sexual abuse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are still providing shelter, support, information, referrals and outreach services. We are trying to limit person to person contact to emergency situations only. These situations would include shelter services

and transportation. We are currently using phone, text and other technology to provide ongoing support to clients. To reach the Elk Valley Safe Homes please call 250.946.6004 or 1.800.200.3003. Our support staff is available to assist women needing us at any time.

The Elk Valley HPP Rental Assistance for women leaving violence is still available. We will continue to provide monthly rental subsidy for women that have left abusive relationships who are living in market rent housing. We are also able to provide one-time assistance of up to \$450 for women needing help with utility payment, damage deposit, furniture purchase or moving costs. To access our HPP Program please call 250.946.6004.

We understand that this is a very difficult time for many, particularly for many of the women, children and families that utilize our programs and services. Please know that we continue to be here for you. I am happy to provide more information or answer any questions regarding our programs and services at any time. Please do not hesitate to contact me at ewtf@telus.net or at 250.425.5125. Stay safe, wash your hands frequently and keep practicing your physical distancing.

Sincerely,

Kim Bauer, Executive Director
Elkford Women's Task Force Society