



## **Announcement: Status of Our Programs & Services**

In keeping with the measures being taken to slow the spread of COVID-19, our office remains closed and our work from home protocols as of Tuesday March 18, 2020 will continue until further notice. We continue to follow Toronto Public Health and Ministry of Health for best practices and updates.

E Fry Toronto's institutional in-reach efforts at the Grand Valley Institution for Women and Vanier Centre for Women, group counselling sessions, workshops and community services remain suspended to keep our clients, volunteers and staff safe. This decision was not made lightly and we understand the impact this has had on the women accessing our services.

Though our office is closed, our Phyllis Haslam Residence remains fully operational as well as our Talk & Listen line. Our residential program is an essential service that keeps women out of prison and in the community. We cannot thank our residential staff enough for their commitment and dedication during these times. Our volunteer-run Talk & Listen line (1-855-924-3708) continues to operate Monday to Friday 9:30am to 4:30pm.

To ensure that our clients needs are met and to mitigate some of the hardship this pandemic is causing, our counselling team continues to be available to their clients via phone, email and Zoom, providing services and supports remotely. Similarly, employment coordinators continue to provide services through Zoom video conferencing, phone calls and frequent email updates. We are pleased to share that our employment skills program My Start Up has successfully transitioned to a virtual platform to engage a new cohort of participants. Exit Doors Here continues to accept referrals, process intakes and is also providing services remotely through phone and email.

If you need to access any of our services or have questions please visit our website, click 'About' then ['Our Team'](#) to find the contact information for the appropriate program staff.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide ongoing updates.

Click [here](#) to view an important message from our Executive Director, Kelly Potvin who urges the government to include the voices of incarcerated women in the conversation about COVID-19.

Stay healthy and safe!

Warm regards,

Elizabeth Fry Toronto