

## For Better Retirement Living



June 30, 2021

Dear family and friends of Augustine House,

These have been an unprecedented few days in British Columbia and at Augustine House. We hope that you have managed to stay hydrated and well. We have been working hard to ensure everyone, residents and staff, are able to stay healthy. As such, we are using heat mitigation strategies such as fans, cool drinks, and air conditioning devices strategically placed throughout the building. To protect residents, we have provided education to staff and are proactively monitoring for signs of heat-related conditions and mitigating their risk in the following ways:

- Ensuring that everyone has access to fluids to ensure regular hydration,
- Encouraging the use of cooling cloths,
- Closing blinds and encouraging residents to wear light-weight clothing
- Encouraging residents to congregate in cooler areas of the building.
- Taking temperatures twice a day. This is a Covid-19 precaution but also ensures every resident has direct interaction with a care staff member twice per day.

To prevent heat exhaustion among our staff, Fraser Health has temporarily relaxed staff mask and eye protection requirements due to the extreme heat. Once the heat warning has ended, Fraser Health will re-evaluate this requirement.

Yesterday afternoon Cathy Mason, our new Director of Care, Tim, and I delivered popsicles to all the suites in the building. As you can imagine, this was well received. It also gave Cathy an opportunity to have eyes on all the residents in the building and assess for risks related to the heat. Currently, Residents and staff are enjoying icecream floats. I would be hard pressed to think of a better way to ride out a heat wave.

We continue to be required to screen all non-residents entering the building. Please remember to make an appointment before coming to Augustine House. If the Visitation Monitor is not immediately available, please, either wait outside, or in the vestibule to ensure the Reception area does not become congested. Also, we hope you have a wonderful Canada Day!

Thank you for partnering with us to keep Augustine House a safe and healthy community,

Yours,

Jackie Reiners

Executive Director.