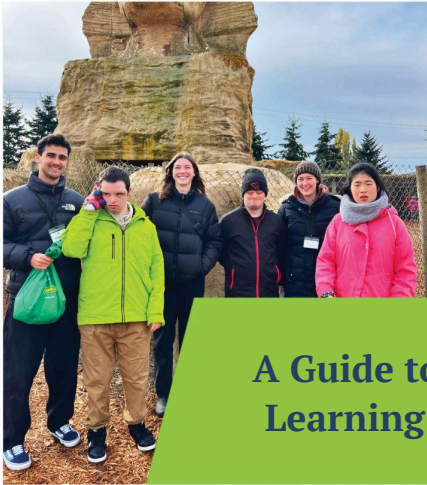


# Client Handbook 2025



## A Guide to our Community Inclusion, Learning and Employment Programs



Garth Homer  
SOCIETY

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# Introduction

## Gemma and Janie's story

There's lots to think about now that you've decided to join us at Garth Homer Society (GHS). You're probably wondering how you'll spend your days. Will you learn new things, meet friends, get out in the community or even find a job?

We understand that you and your family, friends and caregivers want to know what lies ahead which is why we've put together this handbook. It's full of information about our programs and the way things run at Garth Homer. The handbook has been provided to hundreds of people, like Gemma Kidd and her mother Janie, who have kindly shared what their first months at Garth Homer have been like. It's hoped that by sharing their story and advice, it'll help make your transition a little easier.



Gemma has been busy during her first six months at Garth Homer. She participates in the ArtWorks program two days a week, has been invited to participate in a play (taking her back to her high school drama roots), is considering the OPTIONS program as she loves volunteering, and has met with an employment counsellor. Gemma's goal is to find more programs suited to her interests and ultimately attend GHS five days a week. "It's really fun and I learn more things," she enthuses, adding increasing her independence and giving back to the community are equally important to her.

Her advice to those starting their Garth Homer journey is as heartfelt as it is encouraging. “Don’t give up, try your best and you’ll be fine. [Everyone] has your back,” she says, while acknowledging that some days will be better than others. “Sometimes people have hard times, I know how they feel, from my heart, and I give them a hug,” she empathizes. It’s why, in her own words, it’s so important to “take things slow” and “take your time” when settling in at Garth Homer.

From a parent’s perspective, Janie says setting priorities and asking questions, before making any decisions about programs and an individualized plan, is advised.

“What is most important — social skills or developing new skills? Going in with an idea of what you want and why, with the knowledge that [your loved one’s] situation is fluid, helps.” She is thankful that Garth Homer staff view decision-making as a collaborative process among clients, their supporters and staff. “You want somewhere where people are helped to self-direct their goal setting, while at the same time being allowed to be themselves,” she explains. She didn’t want Gemma limited to activities and experiences simply because that’s what everyone else in the group was doing. “I believe it’s important for preservation of cognitive abilities to have things that are appropriately challenging, without being stressful for the individual. Garth Homer gives that to Gemma.”

She stresses that intuition is also important, “As soon as we walked in [to ArtWorks], we had a good feeling. You need to rely on your gut instincts sometimes.” Janie says adding that Garth Homer allows participants to be themselves in their own unique and wonderful ways.

# This Handbook: Your Guide to GHS

## Why do we give you this handbook?

You're receiving this handbook so that you have the information you need to make decisions for yourself. It's also good for your family and caregiver to have in case you want help in making those decisions.

This handbook tells you about our services and lets you know what you can expect, to help you decide which programs could be the best fit for you.

Don't worry if, when you read the handbook you still have questions or concerns. We are here to help and will go through the handbook together if you decide Garth Homer is right for you.

**“When you have a child or an adult with autism or another developmental disability a lot of people don't know what to do and they will often just talk to us instead of her. The GHS saw her dignity and respected her as a capable human.”**

— Brenda Ksionzyks, mother of GHS client

# Chapter One: Welcome to the Garth Homer Community

Founded in 1979, the Garth Homer Society's mission has been to provide services and opportunities to help people, mostly over the age of 19, like you, make a life, a home and a place in the world where all belong.



We have over 220 people participating in 11 different communities and employment programs in the Greater Victoria area. If you participate in our programs, being at Garth Homer is your work and where you meet and socialize with friends. You'll get help to build your confidence, meet new people, learn about life, socialize, have a job, and be more independent.

Garth Homer Society has a total of ten unique programs, divided into two departments — Community Inclusion and Learning & Employment. Our programs are as diverse as the community members we serve are, and include art and music, life and technology skills development, volunteering and employment programs, plus outdoor and community activities. There's no one-size-fits-all at Garth Homer — our program opportunities are tailored to your needs and interests.

You will get an individualized plan, with the goal of providing lifelong support to your changing needs.

It's our job to work with you every day to help you be everything you want, to the very best of your ability, in ways that are as unique and wonderful as you! We help create a place where every day is a success story, everyone can show up as themselves and are accepted.

## We believe that everyone...



Has the right to participate fully in community



Gets to make informed choices about what happens in their lives



Has the right to individualized services



Deserves to feel valued for who they are

## GHS Hours: Community Inclusion

- **Administration Hours:** 8:30 am – 4:00 pm Monday to Friday
- **Day Service Hours:** 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Monday to Friday

### Locations

- **Garth Homer Centre:** 813 Darwin Ave
- **Geriatrics:** Pathways: 771 Vernon Ave

### Contact Us

- **Main office:** 250-475-2270
- **Attendance Line:** 250-475-2270 ext. 246
- **Email:** [ghsinquiries@garthhomersociety.org](mailto:ghsinquiries@garthhomersociety.org), respond during business hours

### Programs

- CAT
- Discovery
- MOZART
- COSMOS
- DREAMS
- STARR
- Pathways

#### Attendance Note

**If you are unable to attend your program, please call our 24-hour absentee attendance line before 7:30am the day you expect to be away.**

## GHS Hours: Learning & Employment

- **Administration Hours:** 8:30 am – 4:00 pm Monday to Friday
- **Day Service Hours:** 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Monday to Friday

***Note: Our employment service has flexible hours because our job coaches work when our clients work — which might include evenings and weekends.***

### Locations

- **Vancouver Island University Technology Park:**  
4464 Markham St
- **ArtWorks Art Studio:** 1910 Government St.

### Contact Us

- **Main Office:** 250-475-2270
- **ArtWorks:** 250-590-6114
- **OPTIONS:** 250-590-1186
- **Employment Services:** 778-265-9326
- **Email:** [ghsinquiries@garthhomersociety.org](mailto:ghsinquiries@garthhomersociety.org), respond during business hours

### Programs

- **ArtWorks**
- **Employment Services**
- **OPTIONS**

## We Are CARF Accredited

The Garth Homer Society is Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF Canada) Accredited. CARF is an independent, non-profit accreditor of health and human services. Being accredited means we have met standards for the quality of our services. CARF surveyors come to visit us every three years to make sure that we continue to provide quality services. Our most recent accreditation was received in 2024.



## Getting Started at GHS

You will be assigned a key worker or a job coach who will spend time getting to know you.

Within three to six months, your team coordinator will develop a personal plan with you. Most of our services call this plan an Individual Program Plan, or an IPP. Our Employment Service team calls this plan an Employment Plan. In your plan, we will document your personal goals. Our program will then support you to achieve those goals.

## Choosing Staff to Work With You

It is important to us that you feel comfortable with the staff working with you.

If you don't feel comfortable, then you or your family can speak to your team coordinator, manager or director. Our staff team will do what they can to make some changes for you.

## Chapter Two: Your Safety and Health

Keeping everyone safe is an important part of what we do in all our Garth Homer locations.

If there is an emergency, we help everyone know what to do and will keep everyone safe.

### **Fire and Earthquake**

If there is a fire or an earthquake, we will help you to leave the building or residence and meet everyone outside.

We practice going out of buildings (evacuating) so that you get to know what to do.

In a real fire or earthquake, firefighters and other emergency personnel will come and help us to get everyone out of the building safely.

### **Medical Emergency**

If you have a medical emergency:

- The first staff person on the scene will help you.
- Sometimes we will help you to go to a clinic.
- We may call an ambulance.
- And if needed, we will call your caregiver and/or family member.

## **First Aid**

All Garth Homer staff have First Aid training.

We have First Aid kits available in all:

- program areas
- vehicles used by our services

Staff also carry a First Aid kit when they go into the community with you.

## **Safety and Garth Homer Vehicles**

You may go out in a Garth Homer van or in a car owned by Garth Homer staff.

- All Garth Homer staff must have a driver's license.
- All vehicles are checked to make sure they are safe.
- Everyone wears a seat belt in our vehicles.

## **Your Safety in the Community**

Our staff know how to keep you safe in the community. We always carry a cell phone. If there is an emergency, they can call Garth Homer and ask for help.

### **Let Us Know if You Don't Feel Safe**

If you don't feel safe at Garth Homer Centre or while participating in a GHS program, please tell someone.

Staff know what to do if you say you are not feeling safe. They will help you.

Here are some things that you might not feel safe about:

- Something that someone does or says when you are out in community.
- Something in a program area or residence that makes you feel unsafe, such as broken glass or a broken chair.
- Something in the community that makes you feel unsafe, such as things that might make you trip or fall.

## **Your Health**

When you participate in any of our services, we find out what you need to keep healthy.

For example, we will ask about:

- the medications you take
- health concerns you may have
- health care procedures that you need addressed

We will ask you about other people who help with your health care such as your:

- doctor
- dentist
- physiotherapist, dietician or other health professionals

We keep this information in your files. We share this information with the staff on your team so that everyone knows how to keep you healthy.

## Illness

If you come to day service and it looks like you have a fever or a heavy cold, we will make arrangements for you to go home to get better. This way illness is not spread to others.

Sometimes we might ask for a note from your doctor saying you are well again and that it is okay for you to be back at Garth Homer.

## Universal Precautions

Universal precautions are what we do to help make sure everyone stays healthy.

To help keep people healthy:

- we encourage everyone to wash their hands
- we keep bathrooms and other surfaces clean
- staff will sometimes wear gloves

## Communicable Diseases

Communicable diseases are diseases that spread to others.

Scabies, head lice and impetigo are communicable diseases.

We will help people know what to do if they have a communicable disease, because we want to keep everyone healthy.

## Chapter Three: Your Rights

- Knowing and understanding your rights is very important to us.
- We tell you about your rights in this handbook.
- We will revisit your rights with you every year.

### **Your Rights as a Canadian and as a Citizen of B.C.**

In 1982, the government of Canada told everyone about their rights in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Here is some of what the *Charter* says about your rights. You have the right to:

- be treated the same as everyone else even if you have a disability
- choose your own religion
- vote
- learn

The Charter also tells you that if anyone takes away your rights, you can ask people to help you to make sure that your rights are respected.

In B.C., the B.C. Human Rights Code says that you:

- cannot be treated differently because you have a disability
- have the right to the same places as everyone else including restaurants, malls, buses, and schools
- have the right to get a job and get paid the same as everyone else

## Your Rights to Assistance in B.C.

Persons with disabilities who are 19 years or older in B.C. have the right to benefits and services.

### B.C. Disability Benefits

Depending on what you need, you are likely to get

- an allowance every month
- visits to a doctor, dentist or an eye doctor (medical coverage)
- a bus pass that costs you less

You can call B.C. Disability Benefits toll free 1 866-866-0800 or speak to your Facilitator at CLBC to learn more.

### Your Right to Make Choices

All people have the right to make choices.

We will give you information to help you make informed choices.

Sometimes you might make a choice that may not be safe for you. We will help you to look at that. Together we will talk about your safety and help you choose whether to do something or not.

### Your Right to Feeling Safe

Whenever you don't feel safe you have the right to tell someone.

Here are some things that you might not feel safe about:

- Something that someone did or said that made you feel unsafe either at Garth Homer or when you are out in community.

- Someone has said words that make you feel bad about yourself.
- Someone has done something that has physically hurt, or abused you.
- Someone has not taken good care of you.

At Garth Homer, staff will know what to do if you say you are not feeling safe. They will help you. They may also choose to get other people to help you, like the police, someone at CLBC or a counsellor.

## **Your Right to Choose Who Will Support You**

At Garth Homer different staff will provide you support. It is important to us that you are happy with the staff who provide you support.

If you are not happy or are uncomfortable with whoever is providing you support, talk to a Team Coordinator or a Manager. They will do whatever they can to make a change for you.

## **Your Rights to Confidentiality and Privacy**

At Garth Homer, we treat all information about you as private (or confidential).

Before you talk to anyone, you can tell them that what you are going to say is confidential. This means it won't be told to anyone else unless you say it can be.

There are some things that cannot be private or confidential. For example, if you say someone is touching you in a bad way, the person you tell has to tell CLBC and/or the police.

## How do we Keep Your Information Confidential?

We keep information written about you in a binder or a file in a locked place. Only the people who need to know about you have a key to get into those places.

We also keep some information about you on computers. Only the people who need to know about you can get into the computer.

The people who support you at Garth Homer need to know information about you so that they can do a good job. They are the only people who can look at your information.

## Getting Your Consent

If someone other than someone working with you asks to look at information about you, we will not give them that information until you tell us we can. We will ask for your written consent.

We will also get your consent if ever we want to use a photo of you, or something you said, in any information we share with the public such as in a newsletter or on our website.

You can withdraw your consent at any time.

## Your Right to Look at Information about You

You can look at the information about you at any time. Ask your Key Worker and they will go through your binder or your file with you.

## Your Rights When You Are Not Happy About Something

If you are not happy about something that was said or done at Garth Homer:

- First talk to the staff who works with you.
- If you are still not happy, talk to the Manager or Director of your program. Ask them to help you.
- If you are still not happy, you can go the Society's Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO will probably talk to everyone involved and he will make a decision about what to do. Once a decision is made, you will get something in writing from the CEO.

The GHS has a “no reprisal approach” to any complaint that you tell us about. That means that we will not hold anything you tell us against you and we will not in any way deny you services because of your complaint.

### If I am Still Unhappy, What Else Can I Do?

You can talk to the B.C. Advocate for Service Quality.

Cary Chiu is the current Advocate for Service Quality.

Her job is to listen to people with developmental disabilities in B.C. who are unhappy with their support and/or service. She will help you with whatever is making you unhappy.

### How Can I Talk to the B.C. Advocate?

- In Victoria you can call Enquiry BC at 250 387 6121 and ask them to connect you to the Advocate's office.
- Or you can call the Advocate's office in Vancouver at 1 604 775 1238

# Chapter Four: Planning Your Services with You

You play a very important role in planning the service that we provide you at Garth Homer. It is a big responsibility.

When you first come to Garth Homer, we will talk to you to find out what you expect of our services.

For example, we might ask:

- what opportunities do you want provided to you?
- how do you want to grow personally?
- what needs do you have that you want addressed?

Once we get a good idea of what you want, and how we can help, we will match you to a service that will do the best job of meeting your expectations.

The next step is planning your services with you.

Twice a year, we will ask you for input so that together we can develop your plan.

We will ask you questions, like:

- what do you want to do and where do you want to go?
- what help do you need to do what you want to do?
- what are you good at doing?
- are there things that are risky to your safety or health that we need to address?

Once we get your input, we will write up your plan in an *Individual Program Plan (IPP)* or an *Employment Services Plan*.

It is your key worker's (or job coach's) job to make sure that your plan is written and that you get to achieve the goals written in your plan.

We will review your plan with you as often as needed and:

- look at the progress made since your previous plan
- make sure that we are on track with helping you to achieve your goal(s)
- make any changes to your plan that you want or need.

We also check in with you every year to find out if:

- we are meeting your expectations
- we are helping you to achieve your goals
- and if you are satisfied with our services

**“I’m allowed to have my own flair.”**

— Gemma, ArtWorks client

# Chapter Five: Our Departments and Programs

The Garth Homer Society has a total of 10 programs between two departments: Community Inclusion & Learning & Employment.

In this chapter, we tell you:

- about each department
- what programs are in each department
- what each of our services does to meet the needs and expectations of the people who come (the scope of our service)
- what type of person fits best in this program (entry criteria)
- what people do in the program (activities)

# Community Inclusion

Discovering one's place in the world is challenging, but self-expression helps grow connection, communication, and physical skills, and new experiences. We will work with you to create a plan that is specific to you. Our community members enjoy a flexible daily schedule with different activities, outings, and community experiences.

In this section, you'll find information on:

- [Community Access Team \(CAT\)](#)
- [COSMOS](#)
- [Discovery](#)
- [DREAMS](#)
- [MOZART](#)
- [STARR](#)
- [Pathways \(Geriatric Service\)](#)

## Community Access Team

The people who come to the Community Access Team (CAT) want to develop social connections and feel valued for their contributions to the community. Everyone In CAT increases their independence through volunteering and participating in recreation activities.



### What do people do in CAT?

- Volunteer in a variety of places that include schools, senior centres, daycares, parks, and garden centres.
- Meet new people and build relationships.
- Do things that are useful to and valued by the community.
- Learn to take responsibility for tasks.

## Who is a good fit for CAT?

People who are a good fit for CAT:

- want to volunteer in their community and be valued for their contributions
- want to share their skills with others
- want to learn to complete tasks independently in community settings
- want to develop friendships and build connections

## COSMOS

COSMOS is a service for young adults who are on the autism spectrum and who need extra support.

COSMOS helps every participant to engage in daily life at a pace, and with activities and routines that are just right for them.



## What do people do in COSMOS?

- Outdoor activities — hiking, dog walking
- Healthy living activities — swimming, going to the gym, sports, going to the sensory room
- Community based volunteering
- Life skill development activities — baking, sign language
- Fun and leisure activities, including music

## Who is a good fit for COSMOS?

People who are a good fit for COSMOS:

- are on the autism spectrum and who need extra support
- may need help and encouragement to participate fully in daily activities
- may need help in the areas of communication and choice-making



## Discovery

Discovery supports people who want to connect with others and participate in their community. This active program offers many group activities in music, drama, and recreation. Clients might also choose to volunteer in their community.

### What do people do in Discovery?

- Engage in different activities including art, music, music therapy and drama
- Keep active with recreation activities like swimming and working out at the gym
- Volunteer in their community
- Make friends and build social connections



## Who is a good fit for Discovery?

People who are a good fit for Discovery:

- are comfortable in a group
- want to participate in community
- may need help and encouragement to participate fully in daily activities
- may need help in the areas of communication and choice-making

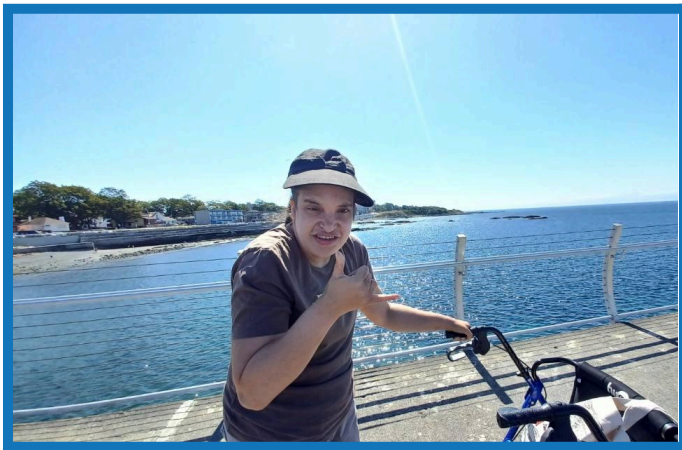


## DREAMS

In DREAMS, clients are encouraged to make choices and experience many opportunities in the community. DREAMS clients have more complex needs, so they are supported one-to-one. Activities are tailored to meet individual needs and interests and to increase independence by developing physical and social skills while maintaining physical health.

### What do people do in DREAMS?

- Experience community activities like: swimming, horseback riding, sailing, and visiting parks, gardens and beaches
- Increase independence through participation in activities related to daily living including: shopping, baking and meal preparation
- Develop friendships or social connections at the Garth Homer Centre and out in the community



## Who is a good fit for DREAMS?

People who are a good fit for DREAMS:

- need one-to-one support
- want to experience community
- want to increase their independence through participation in a wide range of activities
- want to experience social connections and are comfortable being in a group



## MOZART

Our newest program, MOZART, provides opportunities for those individuals with high support needs who require a transition into the GHS environment within a smaller program. The individualized, calm, quiet setting provides predictability and promotes the building of healthy supportive relationships while meeting the needs and interests of each person.

### What do people do in MOZART?

- Skills development — Communication, baking, music, technology
- Community based volunteering
- Community and in-house music options
- Focus on learning and growth at the pace of the individual



### Who is a good fit for MOZART?

People who are a good fit for MOZART like:

- individual program space within a shared area
- highly individualized flexibility in programming
- socialization within a safe, predictable program environment
- consistency in all supports
- high level of staff support

## STARR

STARR is for people who have high emotional and behavioural health needs. We work with professionals and others to develop individualized supports and interventions for STARR's clients. Once supports are in place, this active group of individuals experience community inclusion through volunteering and joining recreation and leisure activities. Everyone develops skills and social connections in a variety of community settings.



### What do people do in STARR?

- Volunteer in the community and go on outings like visiting gardens and beaches or joining seasonal activities
- Learn daily living skills
- Stay physically active by going to the gym or walking at a local park
- Learn to express the things that cause them to become upset or anxious

**“They genuinely love giving back to the community, they love to be part of the community, they like seeing how it makes people happy.”**

— STARR coordinator

## **Who is a good fit for STARR?**

People who are a good fit for STARR want to:

- learn life skills
- be included in their community
- develop social connections
- be part of a group
- feel safe and supported wherever they go and whatever they do

## **Pathways (Geriatrics Service)**

Pathways is for those people who are getting older and want to keep active. In this bright and accessible space, participants can engage with old and new friends, take part in community activities, and make choices on what they want to do.

## **What do people do in Pathways?**

- Volunteering
- Connect with friends

- Light physical activity such as chair exercises, walking or yoga
- Maintain daily living skills such as:
  - cooking and baking
  - playing cards or games
  - doing crafts such as knitting or crochet



### **Who is a good fit for Pathways?**

People who are a good fit for Pathways:

- are aging
- need a slower paced, more flexible service
- want to maintain, as much as possible, social connections, independence and community participation

# Learning and Employment

Everyone deserves a sense of purpose and value in society. Our Learning & Employment programs are designed to open up employment opportunities and increase independence. Working closely with local employers, community organizations, and educators, the programs promote inclusivity in hiring, post-secondary learning, and community involvement.

- [ArtWorks](#)
- [Employment Services](#)
- [OPTIONS](#)

## ArtWorks

ArtWorks supports people who want to develop their artistic abilities in a supported studio environment. People in ArtWorks can show and sell their work in public galleries in Victoria.

### What do people do in ArtWorks?

- Learn new art skills, like painting, drawing, and printmaking
- Make art to show and sell
- Learn about other artists
- Show their art in public galleries
- Attend art openings
- Visit studios, galleries and museums



## Who is a good fit for ArtWorks?

People who are a good fit for ArtWorks:

- want to develop skills through creating art
- want to show their art and be recognized and valued by their community as an artist
- have artistic ability that they want to develop
- can work on their own with a little help from staff

**“It’s my job to give [clients] all the ways they can explore their thoughts and feelings through art. My mission is to help them turn their truth and ideas into art.”**

— ArtWorks key worker

## Employment Services / PSI

Employment Services supports people to find and keep a job. Everyone gets to identify their skills and employment interests so that the best match is made. Once employed, everyone is provided the support and training they need to be successful at work. Clients work independently at paid jobs in the community either part-time or full-time.

### What activities take place in Employment Services?

In Employment Services, people:

- Discover their job-related skills and employment interests
- Find a job that matches their skills and interests in their community
- Receive the training they need to be successful at their job
- Work independently at a paid job in the community



## Who is a good fit for our Employment Service?

Our Employment Services is a good fit for those who:

- want to work in their community
- make finding and keeping a job a priority
- are already independent in several aspects of their daily living
- show they are willing and able to gain independence at their work site



## OPTIONS

OPTIONS is for people who want to learn. Everyone participates in activities that will help them to learn what they want so that they can more fully participate in their community including employment.

### **What do people do in OPTIONS?**

People in OPTIONS learn through participation in hands-on activities such as:

- Volunteering
- Dance and drama
- Photography
- Ceramics and art
- Horticulture



## Who is a good fit for OPTIONS?

People who are a good fit for OPTIONS have, or want to develop, specific learning goals like:

- actively engage in learning activities
- skills development
- developing social connections in community
- moving towards employment.



# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## **Q: How do I join GHS?**

Most people who come to Garth Homer are referred to us by Community Living BC (CLBC).

If you want to be referred to us by CLBC you need to be:

- an adult with a developmental disability
- eligible for services through CLBC
- referred to us by CLBC
- have personal goals that are a good fit with one of our services

Assuming that you agree that we have a service that is a good fit for you, and that funding for you is in place, you will start to receive our service. You or your family do not have to pay for our services.

If you are interested in our services, but do not receive support through CLBC, please reach out to us. We may still be able to help.

## **Q: GHS looks like it might be an option for me – what happens next?**

We want to meet with you, and if appropriate, your family member, caregiver or advocate.

We will:

- give you information about our services including our acceptance rules

- tell you about whether there is room (capacity) in our services and/or we will work with CLBC to see if they have funding for you to come to us
- talk to you to learn more about what you want from our service
- help you decide if one of our services is a good fit for what you are looking for
- follow-up with CLBC to ensure the funding is in place or arrange for you to visit our program(s) so that you can see what we offer for yourselves.

## **Q: Once I am enrolled, what if I want to move from one GHS service to a different one?**

You can ask to move from one GHS service to another at any time.

First, we want to talk to you. We will tell you about the new service to help you find out if it is a good match for you and your goals.

If it is a good fit, we will tell you about whether there is room in the service and/or we will work with CLBC, or other sources to see if there's funding available for you to change to this service.

If it is decided that the program is not a good fit, we will write the reasons down and share them with you.

## **Q: What if I am not a good match for GHS programs?**

If at any point it is decided that you are not eligible for our service, or that our service is not a good fit for you, we will talk to you about the reasons.

If you want, we will communicate to you those reasons in writing. If you decide that our programs are not a fit for you, or if there is not funding available from CLBC or other sources, we will provide whatever help we can to get you referred somewhere else.

## **Q: What if I want to leave a Garth Homer program?**

People may choose to leave our programs for a lot of different reasons. Before someone leaves our services, we will:

- see if there are any changes we can make any so that you might choose to stay at the GHS
- tell you the reasons why some people leave GHS (these are called exit criteria)

Here are some of the reasons that you might choose to leave our services:

- our program is no longer a match for what you want or need
- you or others in your support group want to go to a different service
- even when we try to make special accommodations at Garth Homer, they may not be enough to address your health and safety needs and/or the other needs that you have
- your health might change a lot, possibly due to aging or other conditions
- you might move away

If you think you need to leave our services, come and talk to us so that we can help you decide what is best for you.

**“If you go into the building, you see the looks on faces. People are happy. They’re having fun.”**

— Karen Jensen, mother of GHS client



**Garth Homer**  
**SOCIETY**

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