



February 28th, 2024

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. As part of our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible care and support, I am writing to update you on an important development regarding the planned closure of the large congregate settings where your family members currently reside, and the transition to community-based living.

Over the past several months, there have been discussions and planning underway regarding the closure of these facilities, known as ARC/RRC (large facilities), and the transition to community-based settings. I understand that this may raise questions and concerns for you, and I want to assure you that our primary focus is on ensuring a smooth and successful transition that prioritizes the well-being and happiness of your loved ones.

The decision to transition to community-based living is based on a commitment to promoting independence, choice, and inclusion for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Research and experience have shown that community-based settings offer greater opportunities for social engagement, personal growth, and overall quality of life.

Here are some key updates and steps that will be taken as part of this transition process:

1. **Communication Plan:** The government and the Department of Community Services have developed a comprehensive communication plan to keep you informed every step of the way. This includes regular updates through letters, meetings, and our organization's website.
2. **Closure Plan:** A detailed plan for the closure of ARC/RRC facilities will be shared publicly before March 30th, 2024. This plan will outline the sequence of closures and provide information on the transition process. The closure of facilities is slated to happen by 2028. The Department of Community Services will provide a two-week lead-up period to CEOs of ARC/RRC's before the public announcement to ensure that families are fully informed and prepared.
3. **Webinars and In-Person Visits:** Following the public announcement, the ARC/RRC Closure Teams for the Department of Community Services will conduct webinars for families and hold in-person meetings with staff, families, and participants to address any questions or concerns.
4. **Support and Resources:** Breton Ability Centre is not closing. Our array of services will expand and reflect the needs of the individuals we currently support. Our team is committed to providing support and resources to assist with the transition and also after the transition. This includes assistance with housing arrangements, access to community services, and ongoing support for individuals and families. We understand the importance of adequate preparation.



We recognize that this transition may bring about mixed emotions, and we are here to support you every step of the way. Our goal is to ensure that your loved ones continue to receive the highest quality of care and support in their new community-based settings, and hopefully continue to be supported by the staff and programs at Breton Ability Centre.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at hsingh@cb--bac.ca. We are committed to open and transparent communication throughout this process.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership as we work together to create positive outcomes for your loved ones.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harman Singh", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Harman Singh
Chief Executive Officer