

Issue #15

THE ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY OF PETERBOROUGH

NEWSLETTER

June 2020

New Program!

Offering peer support to those who have experienced overdoses



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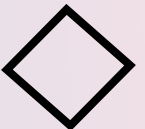
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JOIN THE MOVEMENT: FOLLOW US



Updates

COVID-19 Pandemic

Our office is still closed but we continue to provide the same supports remotely. Clients are welcome to access programming and counseling 1:1 over the phone. We can be reached remotely at the following numbers:

E Fry office: **705-749-6809** Toll Free: **800-820-7384** Text: **705-559-0763** SUAP Program: **705-808-5681**

Bail Verification and Supervision Program: Peterborough: **705-808-5680** Lindsay: **705-559-1225**

New Staff! *We went ahead and hired some new people. We would like to welcome:*



CASSY SCHUTZ

My name is Cassy Schutz and I have been apart of the Bail Verification and Supervision program since February of this year. My Bachelor of Psychology and Social Service/Mental Health diplomas sparked my passion of human rights and how it pertains to the justice system. I have experience working

with survivors of domestic violence, people experiencing homelessness, individuals released on federal parole, and more. I am now using that experience in my role with the BVSP. My experience with Elizabeth Fry has been rewarding so far and I admire the work that we do for people in our community.

SARAH LEWIS



Aaniin! Hello, my name is Sarah Lewis. I am an Ojibwe/Cree mother, social activist, local slam poet from Curve Lake First Nation, and now, your newest Bail Verification Program worker (Indigenous Specialization). As an Anishnaabe woman who has felt the impacts of colonization and the legacy of residential schools, my lived experiences have inspired me to create

change in the communities I live and work in. More importantly, I've recognized the resiliency and strength within those various communities, and have made it my commitment to further highlight those strengths and empower communities/individuals at their discretion. Most of my past work experience included creating, organizing and facilitating for culture and wellness based programs/workshops/events in Curve Lake and the urban Indigenous community in Nogojiwanong/Peterborough. I look forward to working with the Nogojiwanong community again, where I will work with and supervise Indigenous identified men and women in the bail program as well as assess for culturally suitable programs/resources that fit their needs. Chi Miigwetch!

COURTNEY VANSLAGEREN

I have almost 20 years of experience working in the Social Service Sector, supporting people throughout many different situations in their lives.

I have lived in the City of Kawartha Lakes for over 10 years and I am thrilled to now be a part of the Elizabeth Fry Team as the Bail Verification and Supervision Program Worker for Lindsay. I am a strong believer in promoting and advocating for social inclusion and broadening services for people facing barriers. Outside of work you can typically find me outdoors. I enjoy hiking, boating, and camping with family and friends. I also love music and live concerts.



CAEFS Memorial Bursary

The CAEFS Memorial Bursary is an annual bursary distributed by the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS) that seeks to provide support to criminalized women in reaching their educational and employment goals. Check out our [website](#) for more information and how to apply.



The Memorial Bursary is an annual bursary distributed by CAEFS that seeks to criminalized women in reaching their **educational and employment goals**.

Apply by
July 13th 2020

The bursary is open to women who are currently incarcerated, or who have been incarcerated in the past.

CAEFS awards **up to three bursaries of \$500.00 each** to each of the five regions in Canada (Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies, Pacific). The number of bursaries is subject to the availability of funds.

Contact us for more information or visit www.caefts.ca to apply

Great Canadian Giving Challenge



The Great Canadian Giving Challenge is back!

Charities across Canada are facing fundraising shortfalls and a number of operational challenges due to COVID-19 and the associated social distancing. To support charities like us, CanadaHelps has launched the sixth annual Great Canadian Giving Challenge with an increased grand prize.

This year we're asking donors to support our campaign of continuing to work to end the criminalization of women facing poverty, mental health, addiction, and domestic violence while also entering us for a chance to win the \$20,000 grand prize!

For the entire month of June, every \$1 donated to The Elizabeth Fry Society of Peterborough through www.givingchallenge.ca or www.canadahelps.org enters us a chance to win the grand prize.

Announcements



We are happy to announce that we were the recipients of grants from United Way and Community of Greater Peterborough Foundation. These grants will allow us to continue supporting our clients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

See left, Our Executive Director Debbie Carriere accepting a cheque while practicing social distancing

\$ 1.2 MILLION dollars in federal funding to support clients who have experienced overdoses!

Here is what, Chelsey, the Program Coordinator for our new Substance Use and Addiction Peer Support Program had to say:

“A Different Approach” is a new, innovative, 24/7 program provided by E Fry Peterborough that employs people with lived addiction experience to support

individuals who have experienced an opiate overdose, or are at risk of overdose due to a variety of factors including trauma, isolation, transportation, housing, and more. With the understanding that meaningful connection is the opposite of addiction, this program aims to move individuals using substances along the stages of change and continuum of care by meeting them where they are at in their use, and connecting them to peers who understand what they’re going through. Through the peers, individuals are able to better navigate systems and services that directly relate to their needs. Currently, we are operational through referrals by PRHC, and anticipate by the end of the summer, being able to provide services directly in the hospital to individuals who are accessing the emergency room. Other referrals in future will be received from emergency services (police, EMT), institutions, social service agencies, and individuals themselves.

Personally, I’m excited to be able to address gaps in services that have existed since the time I myself was using opiates. The ability to provide to service users what was so absent during my use is so humbling, and I look forward to learning from our service users what works and what doesn’t, and then moulding the program as we go along to fit their needs.



“Connection is the answer to addiction.”

-Debbie Carriere, Executive Director



Pictures provided by the Peterborough Examiner. You can read the published article [here](#).

A Different Approach- Substance Use and Addiction Peer Support Program

We are excited to launch a new program with funding received by Health Canada!

This program is a free 24/7 peer response program that provides support to individuals who use opiates in the Peterborough area-specifically those who have overdosed within the past year or are at risk of an overdose.

To download or print the program brochure, click [here](#).

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Referrals can come from the hospital, police service, emergency services, social service agencies or individuals themselves. A peer worker contacts the individual within 24 hours of the referral. The goal of this program is to meet people where they are at in their use, and provide appropriate support and referrals based on the individual’s self-identified needs.

PROGRAMS:

Harm Reduction: Providing harm reduction in the form of clean supplies, Naloxone kits, information on safer use, and referrals for further harm reduction support.

1:1 Support: This can include meeting with an individual in the community, attending appointments as a support, providing crisis support, creating a safety plan, completing assessments to identify needs/wants, and much more!

Value of Lived Experience: We believe that the power of lived experience through peer support is invaluable in being able to connect with, respond to, and support individuals experiencing substance use.

To make a referral or ask questions about this program, please contact Chelsey McGowan: Program Coordinator at [705-808-5681](tel:705-808-5681).

To learn more about Peer Support Programs please contact Samantha Clement: Peer Support Supervisor & Training Coordinator at [289-681-3593](tel:289-681-3593).

We are currently hiring Peer Support Workers for this program. Deadline to apply is July 8, 2020. Please visit our [website](#) for more info and how to apply.



The Elizabeth Fry Society of Peterborough acknowledges and supports the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Police violence against racialized individuals is an unfortunate reality in Canada. Members of the Indigenous and Black communities are more likely to be imprisoned. We would like to share article published by the Halifax Examiner, written by a group of prisoners regarding the #BlackLivesMatter movement as it pertains to prisons.

Black Lives Matter in prison, too

A group of federally incarcerated Black prisoners have written the following statement. It was read to El Jones, and has been slightly edited for length and clarity.

We have been watching the Black Lives Matters protests and the conversations about police violence. We have been taking part in our own conversations with prisoners of all races. We would like to share some of our conversations and conclusions with people outside prison.

The movement against police brutality is important, but it is also larger than that. We must also address injustice in the criminal justice system, in prisons, and at parole. At every stage of this system, Black people and Indigenous people are discriminated against. We have come to realize that all these systems are connected.

Just two days ago, on Friday, Rodney Levi was shot and killed by police a few kilometres from Miramichi, New Brunswick. Atlantic Institution, the maximum security prison for the Atlantic region, is located in Renous, close to Miramichi. In sending our condolences to Rodney Levi's family and friends, we also reflect on how many Indigenous men and women are held in federal prisons across this country.

Prisons are built in small rural towns. Recently, in a conversation with one of the workers, she told us she was in favour of the prison being built because it would offer jobs. When she was told about the conditions and that we do not have programs or any rehabilitation, she was shocked.

We want to send a message to people who believe that building a prison in their community will stimulate the economy. Prisons are not a retirement plan or social security. Putting money into prisons is not a solution to poverty or to any social problems. We ask people living in these communities to reject spending money to put more people, especially Black and Indigenous people, into prisons.

We have also learned that crime is at some of the lowest levels since 1969, and that crime is steadily dropping. How can crime be down, but we continue to incarcerate more and more people? We know that there is no connection between crime and funding prisons. Why are we building more prisons when reserves in this country don't even have clean water?

We have seen many videos in the last few weeks of police brutality. In these times where all the police are under the threat of being caught on video, there is no one to catch what happens to us on camera. The violence and abuse against us in prisons is still hidden. We have had guards use racial slurs. We have had guards use racial slurs to white prisoners thinking they would agree. We are pepper sprayed and restrained. We have seen and heard people beaten and even die.

When we are charged in the institution, we don't even have the right to a lawyer. We can be put into solitary confinement, transferred across the country away from our families and communities, and denied parole. There is no justice because no one can see, and no-one is there to defend us.

But even in the courts, where we had lawyers, we have experienced how racist the criminal

“ WE JOIN THE CALLS TO DEFUND THE POLICE, AND WE ALSO SAY IT IS TIME TO DEFUND THE PRISON. ”

justice system is. We are judged in front of all-white juries, the same people that may see videos of police shootings and defend the police. There is no prosecutorial oversight, and nobody to stop racist prosecutions. Even if we are in open court, nobody holds the prosecutors accountable for their behaviour. Many more of us simply take deals because we are threatened by higher sentences. It still feels like the 1920s in the courtroom.

All of this is supposed to happen so we can be rehabilitated. But has the public ever asked what prisoners are doing on a day-to-day basis? You might think that we are getting job training, or learning to deal with addictions or mental health problems. We are not. There is nothing to do in prison, and there are hardly any programs to help people. You might ask yourself then why we are spending so much money to keep people behind bars but doing nothing to fix any of the problems.

For Black people, parole is like a unicorn. We end up serving even longer sentences because we are judged by the colour of our skin. We are accused of being gang members. We are punished for talking together. Our visitors are accused of bringing in contraband, so we tell our mothers not to come and see us. Guards antagonize us and then discipline us when we respond. There are no programs made for us. And when we go in front of an all-white parole board, they

“ UNTIL BLACK PRISONER LIVES MATTER, CAN ANYONE BE FREE? ”

will not let us out.

Every day, we are seeing people in the streets protesting for Black and Indigenous lives. We want to thank everyone for being where we can not be, and fighting what we cannot fight for. We also know that after the protests, Black lives will still not matter in prison.

We join the calls to defund the police, and we also say it is time to defund the prison. Canadians should ask themselves why so many Black and Indigenous people are incarcerated. You should ask yourselves why your money is going to a system that doesn't work to solve crime. You should ask why a prison is being built in your community and whether it will actually make your life better.

We hope some of the experiences we have shared have made you think about some of the assumptions you might have about us, or about the idea that people get help in prison. We hope our words show you what you cannot see on video. We have heard people say until all Black lives matter, no one's life can matter. Until Black prisoner lives matter, can anyone be free?

Link to article can be found [here](#)

Hunger Strike at CECC

On June 15th prisoners at Central East Correctional Centre (CECC) in Lindsay, began a hunger strike to protest jail conditions.

100 prisoners are participating to bring awareness to the inhumane conditions in the prison. They have shared a list of demands including access to adequate nutrition, hygiene, and air quality.

We support the prisoners at CECC in their fight for humane living conditions. If you would like to support, email annessa@efryptbo.org for an advocacy letter that you can print and mail to the Superintendent to show your support of the prisoners in their fight for their human rights.

PRISONER RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

SOME OF THE DEMANDS INCLUDE:



Free, potable water. Currently a 500ml bottle of water costs \$1.20.



Clean laundry delivered twice per week, including socks, towels, etc.



More access to phones, as well as Skype calls with family members.



Unexpired, nutritious food options and better quality fruit.



Books from the outside. One copy of the Criminal Code per range.



Air filters to be cleaned once per month.



More access to personal hygiene tools like nail clippers.



Increased programming to help address needs.

We are looking for Board Members!

If you have a passion for ending the criminalization of women, and have strong leadership and governance experience, please get in touch with us! We would like to hear from you!

the Elizabeth Fry Society of Peterborough

JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are presently seeking individuals who are passionate in working to end the criminalization of women facing poverty, mental health, addiction, and domestic violence to join our board of directors. Board members possess strong governance and leadership experience, as well as a desire to support our agency and the work we do.

For more information, please contact info@efryptbo.org

You're invited!

Our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will take place on **Wednesday July 22, 2020** at **5 pm** online via ZOOM.

To register, please send an email to: info@efryptbo.org or try clicking [here](#).

A link will be sent out prior to the meeting.

All are welcome! We hope to see you there!

WE INVITE YOU TO OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY JULY
22 AT 5PM

Please note that this AGM will be recorded. The agenda, Zoom link, and additional information will be provided upon registration.

To register, please email info@efryptbo.org by July 20th.
All are welcome!



Placement Students: Join us in welcoming our placement students for this semester:



BETH:

Beth is excited to join the E Fry Ptbo team as a summer 2020 placement student. She comes to us from the Social Service Worker program at Durham College. Beth grew up in Peterborough and is happy to be back working in the community after more than a decade away. With her experience

helping fledgling organizations get off the ground, she'll be a great overall asset to the team. Beth looks forward to learning as much as possible in the coming months, and is eager to support our marginalized and criminalized community members through E Fry Ptbo.

MEAGAN

Meagan joins us as a student from the Durham College post graduate Addiction and Mental Health Counselling program. She has a background in Criminology and will be working on setting up an employment program for our clients.

Thank You

Volunteers are a driving force of our agency, we are so appreciative of everything our volunteers do for us at E Fry and we are always looking for more volunteers to assist with Bingo.

We also want to thank Delta Bingo for their continued support of local charities and our ongoing partnership.

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact the office at 705-749-6809 or email us at: info@efryptbo.org.



Donations to the Elizabeth Fry Society are so important and they help our team to continue doing the work we do.

There are several ways to donate. You can donate using the [Canada Helps link](#), complete the Form below and send us an e-transfer, or you can go old school and send us a cheque. All donations are greatly appreciated! E-Transfer details are: info@efryptbo.org. Please set the password to **efry150**.

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Please make cheques payable to Elizabeth Fry Society
150 King St. 4th Floor K9J 2R9 Peterborough, ON

Charity Number: 129863379 RR0001

JOIN THE MOVEMENT: FOLLOW US

