



## MEMO

To: All Ongwanada Staff

From: Lori Johnson

Date: January 17, 2025.

Re: Return to CPS Supports

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Hi All,

I am writing to you to share the wonderful news that the temporary measures that were put in place at our Crescent location and Napanee location of our Community Participation Support (CPS) areas, previously known as day programs, are now coming to a close. Our original target for return was mid to late February and we are pleased to announce that we are now actively planning for this return and will reopen on February 17, 2025.

Ongwanada, in addition to many other agencies and organizations across Ontario, have been struggling with staffing shortages for some time since the covid-19 pandemic.

In December of 2024, we reduced our numbers of participants at both the Crescent location and Napanee location by having individuals supported in any of Ongwanada's supportive group living homes (previously known as group homes) remain at home instead of travelling to the program areas. This temporary measure allowed the reassignment of several CPS staff, and helped us to get us through immediate staffing needs in the homes along with other measures put in place.

With staffing at a more stable point with more work still to be done, we recognize the vital importance of having our supported individuals return to their CPS services and supports. We know that our supported individuals, along with their families and our staff, will welcome this news and will be as excited about this as we are.

I would like to take this time to thank our supported individuals who have struggled with the temporary disruption in their services and supports. I would also like to thank all of the staff, especially those who were reassigned, family members and all of the planning team members of those we provide services and supports to, for working as part of a team to best support those whose lives were impacted by this temporary measure. May we all take a moment to remember and reflect on how privileged and lucky we are to work alongside the individuals that we do. I know I can speak for all our CPS teams when I say that we cannot wait to welcome everyone back, and look forward to the bright future ahead.

Thank you all,

Lori Johnson  
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