

SALN

Self Advocate Leadership Network

May 6, 2020

SALN COVID-19 News-sheet #7: The thank-you news-sheet

This News-sheet is a public document. Information, quotes, and questions are invited to be shared and included outside of SALN.

The majority of SALN members are part of provincial self-advocacy and advisory groups. SALN is aware and interested in the BC self-advocate movement. All SALN members are well established and recognizable. All SALN members are from leading groups in the movement.

SALN Mission Statement:

To promote a good life through positive and informed: actions, networking, and advocacy.

1. SALN would like to share the following:

- 1a. SALN has received local, provincial and national response to the SALN COVID-19 news-sheets, videos and podcast.
- 1b. SALN has received a full letter from Honorable Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, which includes comment, "It's great to hear that self-advocates are taking the time to spread these important messages during this time. The fair and equitable treatment of people with disabilities is a priority for the Province of British Columbia, and I would like to commend the work you are doing to raise awareness through your videos and newsletters."
- 1c. SALN is receiving answers to the questions on the news-sheets.

SALN Comment:

- **"SALN knows that SALN relies on allies and supporters to share the news-sheets, videos and podcast with people. SALN would like to thank the organizations, governments and advocates that are supporting and highlighting the self-advocate message during this crisis."**
- **"SALN would like to thank Honorable Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction for making sure the self-advocate voice is an included part of the BC COVID-19 response."**

Quotes from SALN members:

- **"It feels good. I am thankful to the Minister [Mr. Shane Simpson] for responding to us. I hope the news-sheets get out more often and to more places, to different communities. Our voices are being heard and taken seriously."**
- "I love how everything is going with the news sheets and how the government appreciates them."
- "These are the best things we have done. [You can see] with the response we are getting."
- "Thank you [Minister, Mr. Shane Simpson] for recognizing us."

SALN

Self Advocate Leadership Network

- “He [Minister, Mr. Shane Simpson] lets us know he appreciates the self-advocates. That he will take what we say and carry it forward.”
- “This to me is really good and I am quite impressed with the response we are getting.”
- “I love the new sheets. It is really cool we got a response from the Minister [Mr. Shane Simpson].”
- **“I think people are really realizing self-advocates have a lot to say. We are here and we are not going anywhere. It is really nice to be recognized, included and have people in government listening to us.”**
- **“It shows that we are respected and valued. And that our opinions matter.”**
- “By the government responding to us, it shows that we are in control of our own destiny which is unbelievable!”
- “We can keep getting the word out and sharing – we can get the information out to everybody to find out what is happening.”
- “We are working really well together.”
- “It is nice that we get our voice out there. It is very, very awesome.”

2. SALN comments are being shared internationally.

Comment from SALN:

- “SALN is honored and proud to have the self-advocate message being an international resource.”

Quotes from SALN members:

- **“We are saying stuff that is so important that it needs to be shared world-wide. I am honored and it is a privilege to be a part of it.”**
- “We are standing up for others and having a voice for others.”
- “I think we are doing so much work with this, our time and energy, into making a positive difference...not just at home but also out in society. We are going outside of the box and out of our comfort zone. It is unbelievable!”
- “People are trying their best. They can take our hopes and dreams into consideration.”
- “This is unbelievable that the world is actually listening to us over here in BC! Something I never ever expected. Hopefully, people are following our lead.”
- **“It is obviously showing what we are capable of. And that people around the world have the same kind of issues. We are contributing to the awareness.”**
- “It speaks a lot. It shows others are wanting to listen.”
- “This is getting our word out.”
- “It is very awesome. The world could be small but it’s not.”
- “It is absolutely fabulous! Just seeing our work go that far means a lot.”

SALN

Self Advocate Leadership Network

3. SALN Answers: Why does SALN do the news-sheets, videos, and podcasts?

Comment from SALN:

- SALN believes it is important that self-advocates taking the initiative in our lives to support ourselves and others during this crisis.”

Quotes from SALN members:

- “It is showing everyone that we have a voice worth listening to. Especially with the topsy turvy world right now.”
- **“It’s important to me because it gets our voices out and it’s important for people to hear what we say. It’s important to reach out and connect with people, especially at this time. This is just one more way for people to connect.”**
- “It lets people out there know what we are about. We are doing things and [this] keeps us in touch with the world, which is essential.”
- **“What we are doing is needed. We need to do this so self-advocates can have the opportunity to show case our strengths, abilities, wishes. We can help others in this way.”**
- “I like it when we make positive changes.”
- “With all the information that we have been discussing, we have managed to really hit home with our messages so far.”

Media Links:

- [SALN Podcast 1: #HowAreYouCoping](#)
- [SALN & SAS #HowAreYouCoping Video 01](#)
- [SALN & SAS #HowAreYouCoping Video 02](#)
- [Peace Arch News, Self-Advocates of Semiahmoo issue video appeals amid pandemic concerns: “5 videos highlighting the importance of actions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic”, March 24, 2020](#)

Please invite SALN to participate in creating and delivering solutions where it makes sense. SALN appreciates the support in sharing SALN content. To receive SALN content, email SALN support at sas@shsbc.ca. Response can be sent to SALN support, sas@shsbc.ca.