

# Family Services of Peel

## Quarterly Newsletter

### February 2017



TRANSFORMING LIVES IN PEEL

IN THIS ISSUE

## Black History Month

The commemoration of Black History Month dates back to 1926, when Harvard-educated African American historian Carter G. Woodson proposed setting aside a time devoted to honour the accomplishments of African Americans and to heighten awareness of Black history in the United States. This led to the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926. Celebrations of Black history began in Canada also shortly thereafter. During the early 1970s, the week became known as Black History Week. It was expanded into Black History Month in 1976.

In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada following a motion introduced by the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine. The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons.

In February 2008, Senator Donald Oliver, the first Black man appointed to the Senate, introduced the Motion to Recognize Contributions of Black Canadians and February as Black History

Month. It received unanimous approval and was adopted on March 4, 2008. The adoption of this motion completed Canada's parliamentary position on Black History Month.

Two prominent women started the challenging journey to bring about a change, both in Canada and in the United States... Viola Desmond and Rosa Parks. Both violated a law and were sentenced, but if they hadn't stood up against an unjust law then the movement would not have kick-started.

**Viola Davis Desmond** (1914–1965) was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She was an African-Canadian who ran her own beauty parlor and beauty college in Halifax. On November 8, 1946, while waiting for her car to be repaired, she decided to go see a movie in the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow. She refused to sit in the balcony area, which was designated exclusively for Blacks. Instead, she sat on the ground floor and was forcibly removed and arrested.

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### 2017 Tax-Filing Season

The CRA has made many important changes and improvements to services, benefits, and credits for Canadians.

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### 2017 Social Care Award

Family Services of Peel has been awarded Best Community Support Services Centre – Mississauga.

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## A Message from the Executive Director

The Family and Children's Service Act, 1990 provided the standards regarding how we conducted our business, and it referenced how we captured our session notes, the issue of confidentiality, and other clinical related items.

Recently, the Act was repealed and replaced with the **Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004, S.O. 2004, c3 (PHIPA)**. Under this act, we are considered "health care practitioners", which means:

- a) A person who is a member within the meaning of the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 and who provides health care.
- b) A person who is a member of the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers, and who provides health care.



"Health care" means any observation, examination, assessment, care, service or procedure that is done for a health-related purpose that,

- a) Is carried out or provided to diagnose, treat or maintain an

individual's physical or mental condition.

Many of the regulations addressed in the Family and Children's Service Act, 1990 are covered with the PHIPA of 2004.

As professionals, our staff will make themselves familiar with the Act, which provides the guidelines for their profession.

## In our Clients' Words...

Shehzad:

I was feeling lost after graduation, then you reached out to me. YOP has proven to be a valuable experience so far, and I only have you to thank - I feel much more hopeful now with the prospect of meaningful employment. Thank you for the work that you do. Wishing you the best this holiday season, and may the coming year bring you lots of love & fulfillment.

Sincerely,  
Audrey.

Dear Shehzad,

We would like to extend a warm, heartfelt Thank you to you for bringing the FAST program to our School.

Your ongoing support and perseverance are greatly appreciated by all of us here at Olive Grove School.

The FAST Program has been a tremendous success for our school & our families. Please accept this as a token of appreciation for all your support and initiative in making this amazing program a reality for our school and our families.

# What's new for the 2017 tax-filing season?

For this tax-filing season, many important changes and improvements were made to services, benefits, and credits for Canadians. Here's what you need to know...

## New and improved benefits and credits

**Canada child benefit (CCB)** – The CCB is a tax-free monthly payment made to eligible families to help them with the cost of raising children under the age of 18. The CCB might include the child disability benefit and any related provincial and territorial programs. It replaces the Canada child tax benefit, national child benefit supplement and the universal child care benefit.

**Eligible educator school supply tax credit** – Eligible educators may be able to claim a 15% refundable tax credit based on up to \$1,000 of eligible teaching supplies bought during the tax year.

## New Services

**Express NOA** – This new service delivers an instant assessment result message and provides a notice of assessment directly into the certified tax software the next day. To use the service, you must be registered for online mail and file electronically using a certified tax software.

**Account alerts** – As a fraud prevention measure, this new service notifies you by email when an address has changed, banking information for direct deposit has changed, or if mail sent to you by the Canada Revenue Agency was returned. You may register for this service through My Account or MyCRA mobile app.

**Link between My Account and My Service Canada Account** – You can now access these two accounts through a single sign-in session.

**MyBenefits CRA mobile app** – You can use the CRA's new web-based mobile app to securely view your next benefit

payment dates and amounts, the status of your CCB application, update your marital status, and change information about children in your care.

## Enhanced Services

**Online mail** – This service provides you with the option to sign up to receive certain CRA correspondence in your secure CRA My Account instead of by paper mail. Throughout 2016 additional types of correspondence were added to the online mail service, including benefit notices and slips, and instalment reminders.

**Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)** – The CVITP helps Canadians with modest income and a simple tax situation by preparing their tax returns free of charge. This year, we are recruiting more organizations and volunteers to help expand the program in more communities. Now more Canadians than ever can receive help to do their taxes and ensure they are receiving the credits and benefits they are eligible for.

**Auto-fill my return** – Enhancements to this service include extended log-in sessions so you can stay logged into the service for a longer period than before, more tax slips, and the use of the service for previous-year returns.

**MyCRA mobile app** – The MyCRA mobile app now allows you to update your marital status and sign up for account alerts.

## Other Changes

**Income splitting tax credit** – The family tax cut has been eliminated for the 2016 year and future tax years. However, if you are receiving a pension, you may be able to split your eligible pension income with your spouse or common-law partner to reduce your taxes.

**Children's fitness tax credit** – For 2016, the maximum eligible fees in the year is reduced from \$1,000 to \$500, but the

additional amount of \$500 for children eligible for the disability tax credit has not changed. Therefore the maximum credit is reduced to \$75 (\$150 for a child eligible for the disability tax credit).

**Children's arts tax credit** – For 2016, the maximum eligible fees in the year is reduced from \$500 to \$250, but the additional amount of \$500 for children eligible for the disability tax credit will not change. Therefore the maximum credit is reduced to \$37.50 (\$112.50 for a child eligible for the disability tax credit).

**Home accessibility tax credit (HATC)** – For 2016 and subsequent tax years, you can claim a non-refundable tax credit for eligible expenses incurred for work performed or goods acquired for a qualifying renovation of an eligible dwelling of a qualifying individual.

**Reporting the sale of your principal residence** – Starting with the 2016 tax year, you are required to report basic information (date of acquisition, proceeds of disposition (e.g. sale) and address) on your tax return when you sell your principal residence to claim the full principal residence exemption. You do not have to pay tax on any capital gain when you sell your house if it was your principal residence for all the years you owned it and you did not use any part of it to earn income.

*Article from the Canada Revenue Agency's Tax Tips e-Newsletter*

## FREE COMMUNITY TAX CLINIC

Family Services of Peel will be providing FREE Community Tax Clinic services on select days in March and April for individuals/families with a modest income and a simple tax situation.

Stay tuned for more information on our website and social media pages.

## Marijoy's Food Blog

If you're an app-ie (appetizer) person like myself, **Earls Kitchen + Bar** offers great appetizers and comfort food. A short distance from Family Services of Peel's head office, Earls is located at the main entrance of the Square One Shopping Centre. It has a sleek and classy ambiance that is wonderful for lunch with colleagues or for an after-shift treat with your partner, friends or co-workers.

From the many options of appetizers and dishes on their menu, the prawn Dynamite Roll, Warm Spinach + Three Cheese Dip (and artichokes), and



the Santa Fe Chicken Salad are my favourite dishes.

I usually wouldn't suggest ordering sushi from a restaurant that doesn't typically serve this Japanese delight, however, the prawn **Dynamite Roll** is quite tasty. The fresh mango and avocado, spicy mayonnaise, and other delectable ingredients make it both delicious and satisfying.

As for their famous starter, the crunchy and lightly toasted bread dipped in their **Warm Spinach + Three Cheese Dip** is just to die for. The different textures and flavours in your

mouth makes you crave this dip over and over again.

Salads are not usually the most appetizing choice on a menu, however, the **Santa Fe Chicken Salad** is a leafy goodness that can change your opinion. This delicious and hearty dish includes mixed greens, blackened chicken, tortilla chips, black beans, corn, avocado, dates, and feta cheese, topped with a flavourful peanut lime vinaigrette.

If you haven't tried these dishes already then head on over to Earls. Happy Eating!

*Marijoy is an employee at Family Services of Peel and an avid "foodie"*

## Black History Month (Continued from Page 1)

Viola was found guilty of not paying the one-cent difference in tax on the balcony ticket. She was sentenced to 30 days in jail and paid a \$26 fine. The trial mainly focused on the issue of tax evasion and not on the discriminatory practices of the theatre. Dissatisfied with the verdict, the Nova Scotia Association for the Advancement of Coloured People took the case to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. The conviction was upheld.



*Shehzad pictured with the Honourable Jean Augustine*

On April 15, 2010, the province of Nova Scotia granted an official apology and a free pardon to Viola. Lieutenant-Governor Mayann Francis, the first Black person to serve as the Queen's representative in the province of Nova Scotia, presided over a ceremony in Halifax and exercised the Royal Prerogative of Mercy to grant a free pardon to her. In 2016, Finance Minister Bill Morneau and the Bank of Canada governor Stephen Poloz announced that Viola will appear on the \$10 bill, making her the first Canadian woman to be featured on a Canadian banknote.

Rosa Louise McCauley Parks (1913–2005) was an American civil rights activist, whom the United States Congress called "the first lady of civil rights" and "the mother of the freedom movement". On December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks refused to obey bus driver James F. Blake's order to give up her seat in the colored section to a white passenger,

after the white section was filled. Parks was not the first person to resist bus segregation. Others had taken similar steps, including Bayard Rustin in 1942, Irene Morgan in 1946, Sarah Louise Keys in 1952, and the members of the ultimately successful *Browder v. Gayle* 1956 lawsuit (Claudette Colvin, Aurelia Browder, Susie McDonald, and Mary Louise Smith) who were arrested in Montgomery for not giving up their bus seats months before Parks. NAACP organizers believed that Rosa was the best candidate for seeing through a court challenge after her arrest for civil disobedience in violating Alabama's segregation laws, although eventually her case became bogged down in the state courts while the *Browder v. Gayle* case succeeded.

*Article submitted by Shehzad, Program Manager at Family Services of Peel*

# Celebrating Diversity

At Family Services of Peel, we recently installed a glass whiteboard in the reception area of our Mississauga head office, and in the computer lab at our employment services office. The goal is to encourage our clients and staff to write any comments (both positive and negative) related to the posted topic. This initiative was implemented in early February and so far, we've had positive feedback.



## Monthly Observances

In recognition of our diverse clients and staff, Family Services of Peel will be celebrating the following monthly observances via articles, videos, information sheets, and of course, our glass whiteboards.

### January

Disabilities Awareness Month  
7<sup>th</sup> – Christmas (Christian Orthodox)

### February

Black History Month  
14<sup>th</sup> – Valentine's Day

### March

Violence Prevention Month  
8<sup>th</sup> – International Women's Day  
13<sup>th</sup> – Holi (Hindu)

20<sup>th</sup> – Naw Ruz (Zoroastrian)  
21<sup>st</sup> – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

### April

Seniors Month  
10<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> – Pesach (Jewish)  
14<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday (Christian)  
16<sup>th</sup> – Easter (Christian)  
17<sup>th</sup> – Easter Monday  
24<sup>th</sup> – Holocaust Remembrance Day

## 2017 Social Care Award

The 2017 Social Care Awards, sponsored by the Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association, have been designed to give recognition to the individuals, teams and companies responsible for showing the highest level of care, compassion and courage in one of the most important, yet challenging industries. Family Services of Peel is pleased to announce that the agency was awarded **Best Community Support Services**

## New \$10 bill on the horizon

In December 2016, the federal government announced that the \$10 bill featuring Viola Desmond will make its debut in 2018, when she becomes the first Canadian woman to be celebrated on the face of her country's currency.



## WHAT'S NEW AT FAMILY SERVICES OF PEEL

### Job and Information Fair

Family Services of Peel's Employment Ontario office is hosting its first Job and Information Fair in the community, which will be held on **Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**, from 1:00pm to 5:00pm, at the Carmen Corbasson Community Centre – Petrescue Halls. Skilled speakers on entrepreneurship, apprenticeship, and project management will be at the event, as well as employers who are seeking to hire individuals on-the-spot, and community partners providing their support.

### F&ST Training

Families and Schools Together Phase I training was held at Family Services of Peel's Mississauga head office on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The following schools have been certified and will be running a cycle in March/April:

- Clark Boulevard Public School
- Fernforest Public School
- Marvin Heights Public School
- Olive Grove School

### Congratulations!

Congratulations to Marijoy Malabanar, who recently accepted the position of Partner Assault Response Program Facilitator.

# Mission, Vision, Values and Contact Information

<b>Mission Statement</b>	Through leadership, collaboration and innovation, we support families and individuals in Peel to transform their lives.
<b>Vision Statement</b>	Transforming Lives in Peel
<b>Values</b>	<p>Responsiveness          Excellence, Leadership, Innovation          Service Accessibility and Inclusion          Partnership and Collaboration          Engaging Community          Client Driven          Transparency</p>
<b>Intake Department</b>	905-453-5775
<b>E-Mail</b>	<a href="mailto:fsp@fspeel.org">fsp@fspeel.org</a>
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.fspeel.org">www.fspeel.org</a>
	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Family-Services-of-Peel-163434633676036/">https://www.facebook.com/Family-Services-of-Peel-163434633676036/</a>
	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/family-services-of-peel">https://www.linkedin.com/company/family-services-of-peel</a>
	<a href="https://twitter.com/fspeelca">https://twitter.com/fspeelca</a>

## FAMILY SERVICES of PEEL Quarterly Newsletter

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### Employment Services Office

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### Brampton Office

60 West Drive, Suite 209  
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### Malton Office

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