

September 29th, 2012

Dear Association members and families living with Prader-Willi Syndrome in British Columbia:

As fall arrives we are once again preparing for our upcoming BCPWSA Fall Conference. The conference will take place on **Saturday, October 13th, 2012 at the YWCA Hotel located on 733 Beatty Street, Vancouver B.C.** The address and directions to the hotel are attached below.

For this conference, we are excited to welcome back Claudette Sandecki as our key presenter. Claudette is director for Arbour Consulting and has much experience with proactive behaviour management strategies and Prader-Willi Syndrome. Her presentation is a continuation of: "Positive Behaviour Support for People with Prader-Willi Syndrome" with the incorporation of practical strategies. Cindy Armstrong, former president of the BCPWSA, is presenting on "Transitioning Youth". Her son, Robbie, has recently left secondary school and transitioned into adulthood with PWS. She has come to share her experience and useful advice she wishes she would have known when beginning this important journey.

Coffee, tea and lunch are included in this conference. Parking suggestions are also included below. To ensure we have enough food/coffee/tea for our attendees, **please email (prior to October 9th), the number of people attending** from your family/association. This year we are only sending out electronic communications. If you know of a family or person living with Prader-Willi Syndrome who may not be connected to our association, please pass on this information.

We are also offering a day of activities and workshops to any person with PWS who is 14 years old or older. Complimentary preregistered child care is available to any child with PWS who is 0 to 6 years of age. These activities have been successful in the past with preregistration so we can anticipate supplies and staffing needed. **Please email me if you have a teenager/adult attending these sessions.** If you are going to use the complimentary childcare for your child with PWS who is aged between 0 and 6 years of age, see the attached waiver. **Please email to reserve a childcare spot and bring the completed waiver with you to the childcare site.** (Preregistration in these sessions should be emailed prior to October 9th.) Childcare will be in the King Suite at the Sandman Hotel at 180 West Georgia Street. This is just around the corner from the conference venue at the YWCA Hotel. At this time, the room number is not known so we will contact you on Friday when we can confirm the room number. Please call Heather at 604-339-9718 if you are unsure. The room is reserved under Cheryl Gagne.

At this conference, we will also have our annual general meeting. If you have items you would like to add to the agenda, please email me them prior to Tuesday, October 9th. We look forward to seeing you again. This is a great opportunity to connect with others who are also living with someone with PWS.

Sincerely,

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Fall conference is \$15 per person to members in good standing.
(Members who paid their family membership by Dec. 31st 2011)

Fall conference is \$40 per person for non-members.

Directions to YWCA Hotel:

YWCA Hotel is located 733 Beatty Street, 1 block south of Georgia St. The skytrain is a great way to come, you can Park and Ride at a number of stations. Take either the Expo or Millenium Line. The stop is Stadium/Chinatown. Exit the Beatty Street exit, turn left and walk south towards BC Place/Georgia Street. YWCA is located 1.5 blocks south of the skytrain station. The conference is on the main floor, just left of the entrance.

<http://www.ywcahotel.com/>

Parking

There are a number of options for parking. The YWCA has spots, but priority is to hotel guests. Cost \$15

Just next to the YWCA there is a lot with an advertised weekend day rate of \$6.50

The day of the conference is an "event day" at BC Place and many nearby lots jack up the price to \$20 on event days so beware. However, if you are willing to walk a few blocks, there are many lots that have very reasonable weekend day rates. We have used a particular lot that is under the Future Shop/Winners Building on Robson Street and it is \$4.50 for all day until 6pm. Directions to this lot: Coming from the YWCA Hotel, head down Robson Street. Just before Granville there is an alley on the right. Parking underneath the Future Shop building. About a 10 minute walk.

Transit is \$2.50 on weekends, all zones

The British Columbia Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (BCPWSA) has a strong, supportive, knowledgeable group of family members who want to make a difference in the life of their child living with PWS. The organization is dedicated to the sharing of experiences in how to cope with the syndrome. We are available for support, education and advocacy.