



## INFORMATION SHEET

### **TRANSITION OF HEADWAY SERVICES TO PARKINSON'S SOCIETY BRITISH COLUMBIA ("PSBC")**

#### **Get the Facts Before You Vote**

#### **Why is HeadWay proposing a transition of services to PSBC?**

Fundraising challenges and decreasing grant availability, combined with increasing costs, have resulted in HeadWay operating at a financial deficit for several years. A variety of creative and innovative strategies to address this situation have not reversed this trend. Operating at ongoing deficits is not sustainable and threatens our ability to offer our client support services, including our one-on-one counseling sessions and peer support groups. As the Board's mandate is to safeguard the delivery of our vital services, a thorough review process was undertaken to identify the options that would best ensure HeadWay services will continue for our clients.

What options were considered?

1. Make no change – this was seriously considered, however, history told us that income vs. expenditure (many efficiencies had been put in place to reduce costs) would likely result in HeadWay ceasing operations within 6-9 months.
2. Merge with Parkinson Wellness Project (PWP) – it was understood by the Board this would be a decision that would likely be most welcomed by the membership. However, after an objective review of PWP's service model and financials, it was deemed not to be the strongest option, particularly in terms of counseling service alignment.
3. Merge with Parkinson Society of BC - PSBC was seen as the strongest and most viable option. From a legal perspective, in order to accomplish a transition of Headway Services to PSBC, the most efficient mechanism is a dissolution of the society which involves making the necessary arrangements to ensure that PSBC acquires all of Headway's assets and liabilities which will allow them to continue Headway's services (the "Transition").

#### **Why Parkinson Society BC?**

1. PSBC's services align closely with HeadWay's. As a Provincial organization, they **provide an array of additional services** that HeadWay is not able to offer. The Transition will make it easier for clients to access a full range of services from one central organization. By joining a strong network, HeadWay clients will not only benefit from consistent service delivery, but also from being part of an organization that has the resources to invest in the community to further meet client needs.

2. **PSBC is highly experienced.** Established in 1969, PSBC has a 50-year history of delivering quality services. They support clients in Victoria and Vancouver Island, many HeadWay clients already benefit from PSBC services.
3. They have proven to the Board they are **financially secure**. Financial security means PSBC can commit to HeadWay services continuing uninterrupted, this being the most critical aspect of the merger.
4. PSBC has **approached HeadWay in the past** regarding a potential merger. They have a desire to expand their presence in Victoria and on the Island. They want to support our clients and view the Transition as the pathway to expand service offerings in Victoria with HeadWay's support.
5. PSBC has committed to continued investment in Victoria both financially and in personnel:
  - a. The **retention of the Parkinson's Client & Family Care Manager position**. This key role has been guaranteed by PSBC thus assuring the continuation of HeadWay's client services. Support will be provided by PSBC administrative staff.
  - b. **The current HeadWay staff will be supported** professionally and financially while they seek new opportunities with possible contract extensions (upon further review).
  - c. HeadWay name to be kept for a minimum period of **6-months** and the current office location will remain in place until the 2021 lease expires. At this point the location will be reviewed, as it is understood that having a physical presence on the Island is vital, but in a more accessible location.

#### **What will the Transition mean for me as a client?**

Clients will notice very little difference in day-to-day services. The good news is as PSBC invests in additional services; these will be made available to clients in Victoria and on the Island.