

Cuts for Parkinson's support wrong

By Kirsty Williams, Times Colonist March 10, 2010

Further to the discussion about the withdrawal of VIHA's funding for the Victoria Epilepsy and Parkinson's Centre, the following statement has been distributed by newsletter to members of the centre:

"Some of you may have seen several letters in the Victoria Times Colonist regarding a VIHA cut to the centre for its Parkinson's services, including a letter from Victoria Epilepsy and Parkinson's Centre Feb. 24 and guest commentary from one of our long-time members on March 4.

In a followup letter published on March 5, Leighanne McKenzie from VIHA responded that Victoria Epilepsy and Parkinson's Centre had been paid the \$28,700 grant.

"We want to clarify that VIHA's recent payment was for work done by VEPC for fiscal year 2009/10 which ends March 31, 2010. We have been notified by telephone that the grant is unlikely to be provided in fiscal year 2010/11 which begins April 1."

I am one of those members. It seems to me that this action by VIHA is somewhat like kicking a man who is already on the ground.

This is a group of people whose lives are fraught with daily struggles, and they need all the help that they can get. Having Parkinson's disease challenges each one of us to face each day with a smile.

Shame on VIHA for withdrawing this small amount of money from this deserving centre and the people they serve.

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