



Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command
The Royal Canadian Legion

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All Branch Mail Out #35

Date: May 22, 2020

TO: NS/NU Branches
NS/NU Executive Council
NS/NU Zone Commanders
NS/NU Past Presidents
NS/NU Command Staff

From: Comrade Marion Fryday-Cook
President
NS/NU Command, RCL

Subject: Branch Operations

Message: Please see letter below.



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Comrades:

As we try to navigate through these trying times, Branches need to be aware that the Government of Nova Scotia and the Territorial Government of Nunavut will make the ultimate decision as to when branches can reopen. It is not as simple as asking "When can we reopen?" Each of our branches are unique in that we are all involved with different aspects of the way we fund within our branches. Some branches have bars, VLT's, bingos, breakfasts, hall rentals, etc, that keep our branches running on a day to day basis. This virus, from all reports, will be around for years and Legions need to plan for the new normal.

The government of NS has only just begun to hold stakeholder's meetings and we will send out more information as it becomes available to us. To date, the Executive Director participated in one stakeholder's conference with Dr. Strang involving the gaming sector. There was much talk around basic needs such as signage, sanitization, safety of staff, and physical distancing but as of yet no concrete direction from Public Health or government on a strategic plan applicable to RCL Branch operations. On Monday, May 25, the Executive Director and I will participate in a conference with Dr. Strang with stakeholders involved in the communities, culture and recreation sector.

It is expected, as has been announced publicly, that following the consultation process, announcements on the re-opening of business in N.S. will be made.

Command will provide information to all Branches, in as broad of scope as possible, when it is confident that the information is accurate and that measures are appropriate to the multi functionality of our Branches.

It will be useful in the coming days, to prepare our premises for personal sanitation requirements, the disinfection of surfaces, the creation of barriers where required physical distancing can not be observed and educational signage and effective methods to provide information to members and guests.

I understand the drive and urgency to reopen, to keep our branches afloat and that everyone is anxious to have a little bit of normalcy in their lives, but the way forward for all of us is not going to be back to normal.

The safety of our members, staff and the general public must be uppermost in our minds. Keep in mind that only if patrons are confident of their safety will they return to our Branches.

Keeping ourselves safe and healthy is paramount to being able to support our veterans and their families to the best of our ability.

Be safe and be smart.

Yours in Comradeship

Marion Fryday-Cook
President
Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command
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