

SUPREME



COUNCIL, 33°

## *Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*

OF CANADA

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Dear Brethren,

As I compose this letter to you, we are approaching our national Thanksgiving Day - a day when we reflect on and give thanks for our many blessings. One month later we will observe Remembrance Day - a day when we reflect on and remember those who sacrificed everything so that we may enjoy and preserve those many blessings that we have today.

Indeed, for most of us, we are truly blessed. Yet, while we clearly are among the most fortunate people in the world, the Covid-19 pandemic continues to hold us in its grip and, just as was the case this time last year, many among us remain isolated, endure and face illness and hardship, and mourn the loss of loved ones. Yes, most of us are stepping up gladly to receive our vaccinations, and most of us faithfully comply with the public health directives and suggestions as issued; but, without a doubt, life is not the same as was the case in our normal, pre-pandemic world.

By now we are accustomed to the fact that in-person meetings simply cannot take place for most of us. Deliberately we have tied the issue of reopening to our Federal and various Provincial Public Health authorities and to our Provincial Grand Lodges. I recognize that circumstances vary from Province to Province and accordingly I place great stock in the decisions made by each of our Provincial Grand Lodges and their ability to assess accurately the local conditions. As our country moves forward out of this pandemic, it may be that some Provinces reach a level of safety more quickly than others. By strictly observing the three criteria that I distributed earlier in my letters to you on May 26<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>, I am confident that we can protect the safety and well-being of our brethren without unduly holding back those Provinces who are in a position to ease back into meeting safely and comfortably.

To all of you, I thank you for your patience, understanding, and concern. We all cherish the concept of brotherly love. Without a doubt the concern that I have observed among our brethren for the health, safety, and well-being of each other and the cooperation, adjustments, and acceptance of inconvenience, cheerfully displayed, brother to brother, leaves no doubt that for Scottish Rite masons, brotherly love is indeed alive and well.

At our recent Executive Annual Session, conducted through Zoom on September 15<sup>th</sup>, we elected 45 candidates to receive the degree of Honorary Inspector-General, 33°, at our

upcoming Full Annual Session to be held in Saskatoon in September 2022. Due to our inability to hold the Full Annual Session in Hamilton in September 2020, we still have 92 brethren previously elected and who are waiting patiently to be coroneted as Honorary Inspectors-General, 33°. Together, this group of 137 outstanding Scottish Rite masons bodes well for the future leadership of our Scottish Rite. Add to this, the ongoing and uninterrupted good work of our Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation, the fact that many of our Constituent Bodies are developing a waiting list of candidates eager to begin their Scottish Rite journey, and also those hard-working brethren and Valleys that so successfully present regular, interesting, and informative Zoom meetings right across our country, and we clearly see that Scottish Rite is not merely sleeping through the pandemic but rather it continues to thrive and advance.

To all of you, I share your frustration in not getting back to normal; but, I take joy in the belief that when the proper time arrives, our “normal” will be better than ever.

Take care brethren, stay safe, stay well, and continue to look out for each other. I wish you all a happy and healthy autumn season.

Yours fraternally,

  

Ill. Bro. Robert S. Whitmore, 33°  
Sovereign Grand Commander