

SUPREME



COUNCIL, 33°

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

OF CANADA

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July 29, 2021

Valley Grand Secretaries/Registrars,

Dear Brethren

In my letter dated May 26, 2021, I advised you that, effective June 14, 2021, outdoor Scottish Rite social activities and events would be permitted provided that the three conditions set out in my letter were satisfied and complied with fully. I also indicated that the current suspension on all indoor in-person Scottish Rite meetings as well as all other indoor activities and events (other than by teleconference means) would continue at least until August 15, 2021, and that I would provide an update as circumstances warrant but at least by that date.

Over the past several months, we have seen real progress in overcoming the terrible Covid-19 pandemic and that progress seems to be continuing. Our population has stepped up for vaccinations and, by and large, most people are adhering to our government and public health directives and suggestions. Our medical and other front-line workers continue to work very hard to protect us all. As a result of all of these factors, we have experienced a significant decline in new cases and a gradual reopening in most areas of our country.

I am very cognizant that, although conditions vary from Province to Province within our country, there is a very positive trend overall. It also seems to me that the public health authorities of each Province and each provincial Grand Lodge are best able to assess the specific conditions and appropriate limitations most appropriate for their own Province.

In light of all of the above considerations, please be advised that, subject to the following, indoor Scottish Rite activities and events will be permitted effective August 15, 2021. It is imperative, however, that **prior to any indoor event or activity proceeding, all of the following conditions must first be met:**

- 1. All applicable legislative, municipal, and public health rules, limitations, directives, and guidelines must be fully satisfied and complied with; and**
- 2. All limitations, conditions, rules, and directives coming from the applicable Provincial Grand Lodge must be fully satisfied and complied with; and**
- 3. All limitations, conditions, rules, and guidelines imposed by the venue hosting such event must be fully satisfied and complied with.**

I stress the fact that any planned indoor Scottish Rite event and activity may proceed only if there is full compliance with all of the above conditions. These are the same conditions as were stipulated in my earlier letter for outdoor events and I again remind you that no such event or activity, indoor or outdoor, may proceed in the face of any applicable Provincial Grand Lodge directive to the contrary even if the other conditions are met.

I also state clearly that, simply by opening up this opportunity to resume meeting, I am not mandating that Valleys must resume their normal in-person schedule for meetings, even if their By-laws stipulate specific meeting dates.

On July 13th we distributed to our Valley Secretaries and Registrars suggested modifications as to the manner of portraying our obligatory degrees relevant to that Valley and Installations. This does not mean that a Valley must immediately commence in person meetings or presenting ritual. For now, over and above the mandatory three preconditions for meeting as stated above, Valleys need to feel comfortable and safe as they proceed. Always remember that the safety, health, and comfort level of our members are paramount. I anticipate that many Valleys will decide to proceed slowly at first and perhaps only business meetings, rehearsals, planning sessions, etc. will take place with actual ritual being deferred for now. Such an approach is quite permissible.

At this time, it is suggested that this communication be shared with all Scottish Rite members in your Valley.

As we move forward towards more normal times, I thank every brother for his cooperation, understanding, and patience during these past many months. Certainly, we are not all “in the clear” yet and we must realize that circumstances might change, and we may need to alter our approach to re-opening, perhaps on short notice. Nevertheless, I hope that this communication and decision will assist all of our Valleys as we all look to the future and begin to move back to meeting in person and experiencing once again the enjoyment of that all-important personal interaction amongst our brethren.

Thank you and I extend my best wishes to each of you.

Fraternally,



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