

SUPREME



COUNCIL, 33°

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

OF CANADA

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER
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My Brethren

I am sure that, like me, you also feel that it has been an eternity since we have been able to meet in person, enjoy our unique fellowship, and participate in those Scottish Rite activities that we all love so much. It was March 13th that the Covid-19 pandemic forced us to suspend all our in-person activities. It is my sincere hope that by doing so we have preserved good health and safety for each of you, your families, and friends.

Now, as we enter the summer months and celebrate Canada Day, the Covid-19 pandemic continues to hold most of the world in its grip and, while hopeful signs of easing are evident in some countries and especially in some areas of Canada, we must continue our efforts to follow the advice and recommendations of our public health authorities and further be guided by simple common sense. Hopefully, by doing so, we will be in a much better situation in the fall when we customarily would resume our formal activities after the summer months. Having said that, of course, we cannot predict the future and simply must maintain our guard and protect our health and safety for so long as is necessary.

I share the disappointment felt by all of you as we have cancelled one event after another. I recognize the planning and effort that go into these special times and then the heartbreak that flows from their cancellations. Nevertheless, several Valleys have adopted Zoom, Webex, Skype, and similar programmes to hold various virtual events such as business meetings, education nights, social get togethers, and even a virtual Bar B Que. It has been a joy for me to be able to participate in some of these and I commend these Valleys for their ability to make the best out of a bad situation.

The implications arising out of the pandemic extend beyond physical health. Many in our communities are experiencing economic hardship, loneliness, high stress, and much anxiety. I urge each of you to be on watch for those around you who may be in difficulty and, where appropriate, to bring such cases to the attention of your Valley Almoner and, if such needs are beyond the capability of the Valley, to notify our Supreme Council office in the hope that we can communicate with other Valleys who might be able to assist.

Finally, my brethren, despite all that seems so troublesome in our world today, we are entering the Canadian summer season. It is a time for relaxing, enjoying fine weather, and recharging

our batteries. I wish you all the best, good health, and safety as we join in the hope for and look forward to the resumption of our normal way of life-a life filled with brotherhood, camaraderie, and good work.

Be kind to yourselves and stay safe.

Fraternally and sincerely,

  

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