

SUPREME



COUNCIL, 33°

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

OF CANADA

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER
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May 26, 2021

Dear Brethren

Within a very few weeks, Canadians will celebrate Canada Day. Although our celebrations no doubt will, of necessity, be low key and perhaps more quiet than usual, there can be no doubt that we all are blessed to live in this country of ours and to enjoy its prosperity and its many freedoms. How fortunate we are to live in Canada, to enjoy our peaceful society, where health care is open to all, and where our lives are so privileged compared to so many others in less fortunate areas around the world.

And now, after so many months of waiting, we begin to see real progress in overcoming the terrible Covid-19 pandemic that has gripped not only Canada, but all countries. Certainly, the past sixteen months have been difficult and very sad and even now, as we are encouraged in hearing the overall new case numbers coming down and the number of administered vaccinations going up, we continue to see many local “hot spots” and spikes flaring up with consequential demands on our health care system and its dedicated personnel. For all of us, these serve as warnings that we are not yet free and clear, nor can we make a sudden return to the normal that we all long to see. This is not the time for us to undo the sacrifices and hard work by our health care providers and other front-line workers to whom we owe so much and who continue to labour tirelessly and with dedication to protect us all. Many such heroes are found within our membership and the families of our members. To all those working on our behalf, we join in sending our sincere thanks and prayers for their safety.

Serving as your Sovereign Grand Commander has provided me with a Canada wide perspective on the impact these challenging times have imposed on our members and families, and I want all of you to know how proud I am of the way in which Scottish Rite masons, and indeed all masons, in Canada have respected and honoured the advice, guidance, restrictions, and limitations imposed by our political and medical leaders. The high degree of compliance, together with the many demonstrations of compassion and true brotherhood, have been and continue to be an inspiration to me and a testament to the worthiness of our fraternity.

In my letter to you back on January 8, 2021 I extended the period of suspension of in person Scottish Rite activities until at least June 30, 2021. Now, as we approach that date, it seems clear that, although the current outlook seems brighter than it was even a few weeks ago, we need to stay the course on our indoor activities and remain focussed on the health, safety, and well-being of our members. Accordingly, I am extending 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) until at least August 15, 2021. We will revisit this as circumstances may warrant but, for now, that is where we stand for indoor events and activities.

Traditionally, many Valleys hold outdoor activities during the summer months. Recognizing the progress that has been made against the spread of Covid-19 and the ever-increasing numbers of vaccinations taking place, provided that the following conditions are satisfied, outdoor Scottish Rite social activities and events will be permitted effective June 14, 2021. It is imperative, however, that prior to any outdoor event or activity proceeding all of the following conditions first must 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 outdoor Scottish Rite event and activity must proceed only if there is full compliance with all of the above conditions. In particular, please bear in mind that no such event or activity can proceed in the face of any applicable Provincial Grand Lodge directive to the contrary even if the other conditions are met.

Depending on the course of events in the coming weeks, it may be necessary to alter (perhaps on short notice) this permission regarding outdoor events and activities, but I appreciate that such events and activities require advance planning, and so I wanted all of you to be aware of this opportunity as early as possible.

Finally, as many of our Constituent Bodies and Valleys continue to enjoy and expand our bonds of brotherhood through Zoom and other “virtual” means, let us all remember the importance of our Craft Lodge involvements and continue to encourage each other to maintain, to the extent permitted, our engagement within our Craft Lodges, which are, of course, the one and only source for our new Scottish Rite masons.

I wish each and every one of you a safe, happy, and healthy summer.

Yours fraternally,,



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