



Legion and Impact of Coronavirus COVID-19 #4

As an update, the following is a summary of reports received at Legion HQ of how COVID-19 has impacted the organization in the various Commands and Special Sections. The Public Health Agency of Canada, together with the public health authorities at all levels of government, provide necessary guidance on preparedness and response measures as the situation evolves.

NL Command

- The annual Beaumont-Hamel Pilgrimage to France scheduled for late-June / early July is cancelled.

NS-NU Command

- Minimal staffing at the Command office with restricted entry to outsiders; other staff is working remotely
- NS/NU Command President has directed that all Branches follow health authority and all levels of government directives. The majority of Branches in NS and NU have made the decision to close until further notice.

NB Command

- All District/Provincial Sports are postponed until further notice
- Face to Face meetings/gatherings are to be pushed ahead to at least June for reassessment
- The April SEO/PEC will be conducted by teleconference
- The Provincial President is recommending branches close; to date, 26/70 branches have decided to shut down completely

QC Command

- On 15 March, Quebec Premier Francois Legault requested all non-essential businesses within the province to close indefinitely. This includes bars, a ban all events within the province, and a request that all individuals over 70 years of age stay home. As a result, all Legion branches in QC Command have closed for an indeterminate period.

ON Command

- This morning, Premier Doug Ford issued a State of Emergency in ON. He has ordered the closure of all facilities providing indoor recreation programs, all public libraries, all private schools, all licensed childcare centres, all theatres, cinemas and concert venues and all bars and restaurants except to provide takeout food and delivery. This is effective immediately.

- Although Ontario Command cannot mandate a branch to close, Provincial President Garry Pond has encouraged all Legion Branches in Ontario to close effective immediately.
- To enable a branch to continue supporting Veterans/Widows and the greater community, he has suggested a “buddy” system be implemented so that anyone over the age of 60 (the age group most impacted by COVID-19) has a conduit from self-isolation and to also check on any members that may require medicine or food.

AB-NT Command

- All Sports Championships for 2020 are cancelled
- The AB-NT L.A. Command has postponed their June Convention until at least September 2020
- The Alberta government has not dictated the closure of bars and restaurants at this time

OSI Special Section

- All VetBuild and Buddy Check Coffee activities are postponed
- Mental Health First Aid courses planned for March and April are cancelled

Europe Zone – Germany

- The government in North Rhein Westfalia has directed that all places of public gathering, including bars and restaurants, are closed until further notice

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