



Use Of Poppy Funds for Sustainability - Branch Operations

We all know that our Branches in Ontario, as well as those around the country, are suffering due to closures! At this time, and it is early in our fight against COVID-19, there is absolutely NO authority or provision to use "POPPY, or any other TRUST" funds, for anything other than what they are so designed.

Below is an e-mail from our Provincial Poppy Chairman Brian Harris that I believe needs immediate distribution to all of our Ontario Command Branches and members. Our Executive Director will ensure this goes to all members of PEC today! Provincial Chairman are requested to forward to all their Committee members.

There have been many queries from Branch Executive members asking if Poppy funds could be made available for Branch operations. Simple answer Comrades is there is no such provision!

Please note that our web site under Member Resources/Media / Newsletter (link below) has a wealth of information about COVID-19 and the most recent Legion News and press releases are posted there. I recommend you check this site regularly for updates.

<https://www.on.legion.ca/member-resources/media>

Stay safe Comrades

Garry Pond
President
The Royal Canadian Legion
Ontario Provincial Command



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Good morning comrades.

There are no provisions in the poppy manual that would allow for an emergency or temporary use of Poppy Trust Funds for subject purpose. Under no circumstances is this to be allowed. The public has donated these funds in Trust, and our Trust will be maintained. I would like to add, now is the time to step up our activities as an organization. Our service officers are required even more right now. Veterans and their dependents are or will be struggling, that is what these funds are intended. We must be even more vigilant in regards to care and comfort of our homeless Veterans, they too are at risk, and out there on their own. Now is not the time to not lessen our efforts, it's time to step up and do our duty.

The assumption of a Branch president or executive that they will not be able to pay any bill or invoice is based on panic or lack of information. Municipalities, and cities along with their utility partners are putting provisions in place all over Ontario. Panic is not what is needed now, worry is based on a lack of facts. I suggest that all branches reach out to their utilities and vendors and get the facts. The Province and Federal governments have put measures in place for small business and non for profits. Some of these have already been passed down to you and some we do not know all the details yet, but they will be forthcoming. I suggest that all branches contact their municipalities or provincial member of parliament. Check on-line for the Government of Canada or Ontario for their economic response to the Covid-19 crisis. Also for updates to COVID-19 see the Ontario Command web page under Member Resources/media/newsletter at the link shown <https://www.on.legion.ca/member-resources/media>

The Covid-19 pandemic is a situation like we have never faced before, it could not be planned for, however we must react rationally and and appropriately. The closure of our branches is unfortunate, but it is and was, the correct response. I support the decisions and recommendations of our Dominion and Provincial Executives.

We will get through this together, we must get through this together. Let's all take care of our families, neighbors and comrades. For goodness sake let's take care of our Veterans and their dependents, especially those who are in need and vulnerable.

In comradeship, and with absolute faith in all Legionnaires,

Brian Harris
Vice President Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command
Provincial Poppy Chair