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**Provincial Executive Committee Members, Past Provincial Presidents, Branch Executive Members, Legionnaires, Comrades All**

As the situation with COVID-19 continues it is clear that many Royal Canadian Legion Branches in Ontario are concerned with their long-term survival during this crisis within their communities.

We have sought some clarification with the AGCO and are able to confirm the following:

**USE OF LOTTERY FUNDS**

Attached is the link to the page on the AGCO website that talks about the flexibility for charitable gaming.

<https://www.agco.ca/blog/lottery/mar-2020/agco-update-options-charitable-lotteries-during-covid-19-pandemic>

Although the “use of current lottery proceeds” is not defined the AGCO has stated it can be easily inferred just as there is some flexibility on the Terms and Conditions for lottery licensing. The messaging the AGCO has been giving municipalities when they contact them is that 100% of lottery proceeds can be used for operational expenses during this difficult time. This would include using lottery proceeds for utilities like hydro, gas and water and rent payments as well.

Please note that you MUST keep excellent records of any use of these lottery proceeds during this time. These records will be required documentation during the Zone Commander/Deputy Zone Commander’s next Branch inspection. This is a temporary measure to assist your branch with operational expenses.

**ESSENTIAL SERVICE – FOOD**

We understand that Veterans and Seniors in the Community often look to The Royal Canadian Legion as an essential service in obtaining benevolent fund assistance and pension advocacy through the Branch Service Officer and Poppy Chairman. We also understand that some Branches wish to create meals (while maintaining social distancing) to be available for either pick up or delivery to Veterans, their dependents, seniors and the community at large. As The Royal Canadian Legion has always been the focal point of a community – now is not the time to turn our backs on essential services for those that can’t stand in long line-ups at the grocery store or who lack the energy to create meals.

The AGCO has agreed that Branches of The Royal Canadian Legion can provide take-out food (no liquor) while respecting social distancing to members of their community as long as they have ADVISED their PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT that they are abiding by all food handling and social distancing.

If you have any questions regarding either matter above, please follow the Chain of Command. Your District Commanders have been well advised.