



**MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE  
of ANCIENT, FREE *and* ACCEPTED MASONS of  
BRITISH COLUMBIA *and* YUKON**

*Office of the Grand Master*  
M.W. Bro. Donald W. MacKenzie

15 January 2021

My Brothers,

With 2020 behind us we look forward to re-establishing our lodge meetings. Unfortunately the information to date does not indicate we will be able to do so early in 2021. Nevertheless the Grand Line is diligently working towards when and how lodges will be able to resume their meetings and communications, and we are exploring options for holding Grand Lodge.

We believe that when we are able to resume our labours it will be each lodge's Worshipful Master who will be entrusted to issue their notice and summons *when* it safe to do so by that District's Provincial Health Authority. The Worshipful Master is responsible to ensure all of the health and safety provincial and local regulations are met. This approach means lodges will in all likelihood resume meetings at different times. It may also mean that inter-district visitation will be restricted until all provincial authorities allow face-to-face meetings. This latter restriction will have a major impact in holding our Grand Lodge communication in June 2021.

As you are aware, the original planning for our annual communication, scheduled to be held in Victoria at the Convention Centre, was cancelled due to COVID-19. It will be a challenge to make arrangements to hold our annual communication, however if we are allowed to proceed it may be scaled back to address what is absolutely necessary for the good of the Craft—a stark contrast from what was originally planned. To this end, I believe our jurisdiction should be prepared to hold our annual communication, and have directed planning for a modified event.

There is of course another possibility: not being able to convene Grand Lodge in accordance with our *Constitution and Regulations*. This would come with its own concerns and problems. I asked myself this question, "What would happen if this was 17 June 2021 and a decision was not made to hold an annual communication?" "Could we hold an emergent communication?"

I sought opinion from the Constitution Committee regarding compliance with our *Constitution and Regulations* as well as the authority which rests with a Grand Master should travel and in-person events remain restricted. I am pleased that the Committee chairman and co-chairman responded with a comprehensive overview on the same day as my request for their opinion.

1/2

*"Improvise, adapt, and overcome"*

8555 Government St, Burnaby, BC V3N 4S9 Canada  
t: +1-604-736-8941 | e: grand\_lodge@freemasonry.bcy.ca

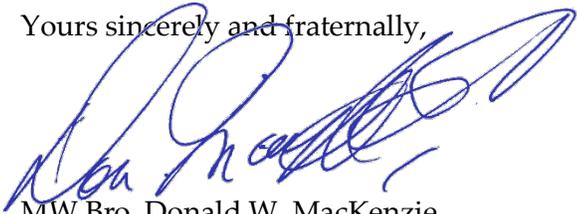
In both situations, the current Grand Line and appointed officers would continue until the annual communication could safely, legally (following Provincial Health Officer's orders) and constitutionally, proceed. The bottom line for me is this, I believe the decision will be made for us by our provincial authorities, as we are not driving this bus. The Grand Line is prepared to make the decision on or before 12 March 2021, to either hold a communication on 18-19 June 2021 or extend the current term. The reason for this is, if we are going to be able to hold our annual communication in June 2021, we will need to prepare and distribute ballots for the office of Junior Grand Warden.

In the meantime, we are going to adapt to the current restrictions and hold virtual official visits with our District Deputy Grand Masters and for the Grand Master. A temporary process is now in the virtual hands of the DDGMs and Grand Line. As this is being written, there are five Virtual Grand Master Official Visits scheduled and others are in the process. As well, there are many DDGM virtual official visits being planned. Interesting times and experiences. I hope to see you at one or more of these virtual meetings.

So, what else could we do in the mean time? We could take time each day to review our ritual and in particular the ritual associated to our immediate office and the roles we promised to fulfill for degrees. Collectively we would be able to resume the labours in our lodges and also ensure crisp ritual and ceremony. Perhaps as important, to demonstrate to ourselves the pandemic and social restrictions did not break our spirit or change our philosophy. Freemasonry is not a place; it is the individual, indomitable internal light we nurture and carry every minute of every day.

Thank you, my brothers.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,



MW Bro. Donald W. MacKenzie  
*Grand Master*

*by email*