



**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

8 June 2021

Brothren,

On Thursday, 3 June 2021 your Grand Line officers as well as the Grand Secretary met with representatives of our Provincial Health Communities. The purpose of the meeting was to seek clarification of wording outlined in the Provincial Health Officer's "BC's Restart" four-step re-opening plan, and to determine our course of action moving forward. I am pleased to advise you we have determined our course of action modelling the four-step plan.

Please note, the Yukon Territory has its own Health Authority and guidelines and we will discuss their reopening under separate meetings and communicate.

Step 1 became effective 25 May 2021. For Freemasonry it means masks are mandatory, with physical distancing at indoor, seated organized events of up to ten people. The term "seated" becomes the operative direction and as a result we have determined lodges under our jurisdiction will remain closed.

Step 2 is tentatively effective 15 June 2021. Masks remain mandatory, and indoor, seated organized events may occur with up to fifty participants. With only 16 days between Step 2 and Step 3 we have determined that lodges in our jurisdiction will remain closed during Step 2.

Step 3 is scheduled to take effect on 1 July 2021. This is the phase where we can begin reopening outdoor lodge activities. Masks are recommended, but there must be careful social contact, there is an increase in outdoor participants and the lodge must have an updated safety plan. The Grand Line officers have determined there there will be no tyled meetings or events. For example, lodges could hold barbecues and other outdoor social events and outdoor practices in a secure environment, provided the Provincial Health Officer's orders are adhered to and the lodge has its own up-to-date safety plan in place and posted. *This means no outdoor degrees (see Step 4), election of officers, votes or ballots and Boards of Installed Masters.*

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"Improvise, adapt, and overcome"

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Step 4 is scheduled to take effect on 7 September 2021. At this time, *tyled* lodge communications and meetings may begin; *both indoors and outdoors*.

To reiterate, provided there are no changes to the PHO's directions and dates specified for each step of the reopening plan, on 7 September 2021 *tyled* communications and meetings may recommence.

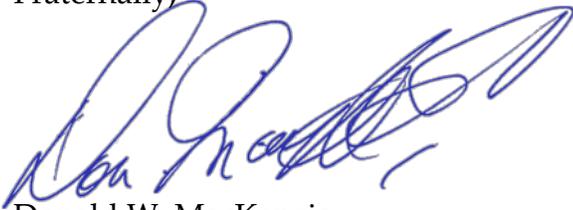
We realize many lodges will be eager to hold meetings for the election of officers and to install those officers as soon as possible. We ask that you make yourself fully familiar with the *Constitution* sections: C4 Craft Lodge, R15 Craft Lodges, R18 Craft Lodge Communication, and all of the sub-sections regarding regular and emergent communications, and to request and receive dispensation as required. Dispensation fees are waived for the month of September.

Brethren, this has been a long ordeal and there are only two more months to wait and thus ensure the safety of each other.

We look forward to seeing you in person in Step 4.

On behalf of the Grand Line and all of the Grand Lodge officers, thank you for your patience and support.

Faternally,



Donald W. MacKenzie
Grand Master

/twm

by email