



**March 16, 2020**

Good morning,

I am sure you have been following the news and the latest developments with COVID-19.

The biggest development in the province, and more specifically here in Calgary, is that the first cases of community spread have occurred in our city. This prompted multiple actions to be taken both [municipally](#) and [provincially](#).

The biggest on the provincial scale is the cancellation of all school from K-12, all post-secondary and child care facilities effective immediately.

Here in the City of Calgary a local state of emergency was declared at 20:51 hrs on March 15, that has immediately ordered closed all City of Calgary recreation facilities, as well as city owned facilities managed by other groups (Seton and Rocky Ridge YMCA's, Vivo Place, Genesis Centre, Respol Centre etc. among others) in addition to all branches of the Calgary Public Library.

While there were no specific announcements related to community associations or social rec groups, the most relevant is the new maximum occupancies. Effective immediately, all businesses/facilities with an occupancy rating by the Calgary Fire Department must operate at 50% capacity to a maximum of 250. So, for example, a large CA with a building that is rated to hold 600 people may now only hold 250. A smaller facility rated to hold 150 people may now only hold 75. There are exemptions to this (offices and office buildings, shopping malls, big box stores, grocery stores, health care facilities and casinos), however none that would exempt community buildings. All of this could change quickly so we will try to keep you posted.

For all our members, I understand that you are concerned about loss of revenue and uncertainty this brings. I would urge you to think about how your resources can be stretched out over the next few weeks to few months to serve an emerging and urgent need around social isolation. There has never been a more important time to look out for friends, family and neighbours! This is where there is a significant role for community to play.

In the coming days, we would like to hear of your plans to support neighbours and those isolated. Perhaps we can share stories of inspiration or creative ideas to connect with each other.

At the Federation, it is our goal to continue to provide all of you support. Some of my staff will work remotely while others of us will rotate working from home and office. We will practice social distancing and are enabling technology to help us all stay connected to each other. We are a phone call or email away.

We all are in this together and we will do our best to update you as we hear information and to support you as we all face these uncertain times together.

