



Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada
in the Province of Ontario

Grand Master

Sept. 24, 2021

Brethren,

In the summer we had great hopes for a return to our labours in the fall. Since then vaccination rates have stagnated, the pandemic has reared its ugly head in Western Canada, and restrictions have not been lifted in Ontario. We do not know when the Province will move into its Exit Step. Our public health officials have consistently said that even those who are fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks, physically distance, and **LIMIT THEIR SOCIAL CONTACTS**.

Freemasons are committed to doing what is best for society and Grand Lodge has always kept the health and safety of our members at the forefront of our thoughts. Meeting in person is not essential to Masonry – we can stay connected in so many other ways, so we are extending the moratorium on in-person meetings. How long is up in the air, dependent on vaccination rates, level of infection in the community and government regulations.

For planning purposes we have now extended the moratorium on in-person Masonic gatherings, including memorial services, until January 1, 2022.

We continue to monitor all developments in health and safety regulations and if the situation changes before then, we will re-evaluate.

Outdoor social gatherings will still be allowed if they follow all the government regulations for Step 3, which include a written safety plan, signage about symptom screening, attendance lists for contact tracing, cleaning protocols, size limits and physical distancing. More if food is served.

A reminder that graveside services are not allowed by Grand Lodge.

Lodges and Districts are encouraged to continue to use available telecommunications technologies for education, social interaction, and, if needed, discussion of lodge business within the parameters that have been set up. If your lodge has not used these before, please contact your DDGM for details.

David J. Cameron
Grand Master