

Seventh-day Adventist® Church

MARITIME CONFERENCE

**INTERNAL
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 30, 2020

“*'No weapon forged against you shall prosper & every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, & their righteousness is from Me,' says the Lord.*

~Isaiah 54:17

Dear Maritime Church & School Family,

These are times characterized by transitions and phases to a state of 'new normal'. As COVID-19 has placed our world in a global viral crisis, we are reminded of Christ's promise that through pestilence and disease He is our safeguard. We have been given a peace that passes all understanding and through these times, our church must exhibit a confident sense of assurance in an abundant life (Philippians 4:7; John 10:10). The news which I will convey in this letter may change, and as such, our family within the Maritime Conference will be kept updated with the most relevant information we have available as we navigate decisions that affect us all.

Church Building Closures

The Maritime Conference Board of Directors voted on April 29, 2020 to continue the closure of our church facilities until further notice. We are closely monitoring the three provincial government websites as restrictions are phased out in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, while Nova Scotia is maintaining their current State of Emergency. Please see the listing on the next page of specifications connected to the two provincial (NB & PEI) restriction release phases and outdoor religious requirements.

School Facility Closure

For our school, Sandy Lake Academy, the School Board has voted to keep the facility closed until May 19, 2020, in which a reassessment pursuant to provincial standards will take place. Online learning will continue being delivered. If there is continued closure beyond this point by the province, the Maritime Conference Board of Directors will assess this action.

We solicit your continued prayers as we vision together for the face of our church and school post-COVID-19. We pray for God's sight as we step forward into the 'new normal'.



**Teresa Ferreira, Executive Secretary
(Acting Interim President)**
Maritime Conference of the Seventh-day
Adventist Church Inc.

**GOD DOESN'T ALWAYS CHANGE
OUR SITUATION**

**BUT HE USES THE SITUATION
TO CHANGE US**



****for New Brunswick:***

Outdoor Religious Services

- Events held outdoors may be lower risk for transmission of respiratory illness than those held indoors due to higher ventilation. However, the best option to limit any risk of transmission would be to hold services virtually (e.g. “on line” or community TV), whenever possible.
- Individuals over the age of 60, and those with underlying medical conditions are encouraged to not attend social gatherings because they are at greater risk of developing severe disease, if they become infected.
- Religious ceremonies are limited to 50 vehicles (family units may travel in one vehicle) while participating in drive in style “church” (this includes both organizers and attendees).
- If the size of the parking lot permits, it should be set-up so that vehicles are parked in every other parking space.
- Services should be limited to 1 hour.
- Vehicles should be turned off to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning
- Activities that could contribute to the spread of COVID-19 such as handshakes and hugs are to be avoided. Instead use a wave.
- Microphones are not to be shared among staff.
- Access to the building is not to be open to the public, including washrooms.
- Advise the attendees prior to the service that all washrooms are unavailable.
- Singing should be avoided. Choose the use of a sound system to play music.
- The religious organization must have staff on hand to monitor the number of attendees entering the service.
- The service should have one entrance point and one exit point to help manage the flow of attendees.
- Avoid providing attendees with items that cannot be easily cleaned and sanitized such as books and programs. Such books and programs should not be shared between parishioners unless they can be thoroughly sanitized between uses.
- No food or beverages are to be provided on site. In the event of communion, those in attendance would be responsible to bring their own supplies.
- Religious organizations are encouraged to provide on-line options for the donation of gifts to the church.

*2-4 Weeks after April 24, 2020 (See Attached - NB Phases PDF)

for Prince Edward Island:

***Phase 1**

Re-introducing limited outdoor gatherings and non-contact outdoor recreational activities of no more than five individuals involving people from different households, while maintaining physical distance (e.g. deck and driveway visits, walks)

- Allow recreational activities including, for example:
 - Walking, hiking, cycling and motorcycling
 - Golf courses, driving ranges and shooting ranges
 - Current PEI residents going to their own seasonal properties on PEI
 - Recreational fishing, including inland and tidal water fisheries and all recreational shellfish
 - Marinas and yacht clubs
- Do not share food, plates or cutlery
- Do not share equipment among people from different households for recreational purposes

Re-opening select outdoor and construction services

- Services that will now be able to serve the public include, for example:



for Prince Edward Island:

***Phase 1 (May 1-May 22, 2020)**

- Landscaping, outdoor construction (e.g. decks, roofing, fencing), new construction including roads, and indoor projects as per physical distancing guidelines, watershed clean-up and stream maintenance, pool maintenance and construction, outdoor photography, etc.

Child care services

- Child care for essential service workers

Priority non-urgent health care services

- A phased approach of both a) certain elective surgeries and b) other priority services (e.g. cardiac supports, cancer screening, immunizations) identified and assessed as able to mitigate long term significant health impacts while maintaining capacity to treat COVID-19 patients
- Select health service providers, including, for example:
 - Physiotherapists, optometrists, opticians, chiropractors, foot care providers, occupational therapy, naturopaths
- Health care delivery to continue virtually where possible and feasible
- Personal protective equipment as recommended by point of care risk assessment and/or as recommended depending on your practice/location

Public services

- Priority public services

Education

- Home-based learning options, with some limited activities

Long-term care

- Visitor restrictions in place

*Faith-based communities not really addressed in the PEI Phases (See Attached - Renew PEI PDF)

Government of Nova Scotia:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

Government of New Brunswick:

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19.html>

Government of Prince Edward Island:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/covid-19>

All Updates:

www.maritimesda.com

