

May 2020

## Report from the Quebec Provincial Command on the COVID-19 crisis - May 13, 2020

Comrades,

I would like to inform you of the progress on the COVID-19 crisis within Quebec Command. First, I would like to thank all the members who are making a remarkable effort to keep branches alive in this crisis. Do not give up and you can count on the support of Quebec Command as well as Dominion Command and your district commanders.

The Full Committee of Québec Command as well as that of Dominion Command regularly hold teleconferences on the evolution of the crisis and what decisions we will have to take to help our branches and members. Each district commander reported on the situation in their district for the committee to take action.

**Financial assistance program for Québec Command's branches** - Here is some data on the allocation of the emergency fund:

**Risk management** (close / not close depending on financial situation) - Based on the survey, emails received and reports from district commanders:

- a. Number of respondents - 105
- b. Immediate danger of closing (April / May / June) - 11
- c. Close Danger (July / August) - 16
- d. In 6 months (September) - 6
- e. In 1 year - 7
- f. No danger of closing - 65

**Emergency Fund Requests** - The COVID-19 Financial Aid Committee has carefully reviewed each request and determined whether a branch would receive funding for the months of April / May / June based on their expenses and the funds they have available. **Branches will be able to reapply in June 2020 to receive funding for the months of July and August 2020. They will have to provide an expense report for the month of July as well as the amounts in the bank on June 30, 2020.** We hope that most branches can reopen by September 2020 according to the deconfinement plan of the different levels of government:

- a. Applications received - 40
- b. Approved - 24

**Important note** - Branches requesting financing must also do their part before receiving aid from Quebec Command. Among the panoply of mitigation measures offered by the various levels of government, there are some branches that can apply for and receive, especially regarding the

replacement of lost wages, payment of rent and an interest-free loan. The national and provincial commands would **like to know which branches applied for which program and whether it was accepted or refused with the reasons for the refusal**. The Royal Canadian Legion has made and will make presentations to various levels of government for funding that is more applicable to the situation of non-profit organizations like the Legion and its branches. Before appearing before the various levels of government we must do our duty and have data that illustrates the unique situation of the Legion and its branches. Send the data of your proceedings to the Executive Director of Québec Command for compilation.

**Plan to reopen the branches of Quebec Command** - During the teleconference of the Full Committee of Québec Command held on May 9, 2020, we discussed the deconfinement of the regions and the reopening of the branches, here are some of the decisions taken:

- a. **Reopening of branches** - According to the deconfinement plan of the various levels of government regarding the reopening of bars, restaurants, and social gathering places. Clearly, this means reopening by region and according to the criteria of distancing established by these levels.
- b. **Québec Command reopening plan - 1st Vice-President Sylvain Hamel was appointed to establish a reopening plan which applies to all branches**. This plan must take into consideration the criteria for distancing imposed by the different levels of government, the number of volunteers available in each branch, as well as the mitigation measures offered by the different levels of government. For example, the City of Montreal is offering a subsidy for the purchase of plexiglass, masks, and cleaning material. Be aware that the branches will no longer be able to hold activities in the immediate future where members are packed like sardines, it will be necessary to have a respect for distancing. More activities, fewer people per activity.

I hope that this report on the situation on the COVI-19 crisis within Quebec Command is informative. **Remember, it is the duty of each branch to communicate with all its members each week to check if they are in good health and if they need help. Each district commander should ensure that this is done.**

In comradeship



Kenneth R. Ouellet, CD  
Provincial President  
Direction of Quebec  
Royal Canadian Legion