



ALBERTA ELKS ASSOCIATION

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April 17, 2020

To: Alberta Association Executive
Alberta Elks Foundation Executive
District Deputies
Association & Foundation Committees
Alberta Elks Association Lodges

Brothers and Sisters:

As we all know, that at this time when the world has gone into a tailspin from the Virus from hell and many communities are struggling to deal with the Covid 19, now is the time to move forward and do what the ELKS do best which is helping others in need.

In the letter sent out March 16, 2020, it was stated that we the Alberta Elks Association Executive would make a decision on the 2020 Conference by May 1, 2020. With receiving a letter from Grand Lodge stating they were pausing everything until next year, the Provincial Executive held a teleconference on April 15, 2020.

Note: Grand Lodge has postponed Convention until July 2021 to allow for Associations and Lodges to prepare for Convention business. Their Executive will remain in place for this year.

The following decisions were made:

1. Alberta Elks Association has **postponed the June 2 - 4, 2020 Provincial Conference in Whitehorse.**
2. Conference 2020 is tentatively rescheduled for **October 2 - 3, 2020 dependent on whether or not the Governments have relaxed the travel bans.**
3. Conference 2020 will be held in a central location in Alberta in hopes that this will allow as many members as possible to attend without having to travel by Air to Whitehorse. This is with the understanding that the health and safety of our membership is our top priority and whether the Government lifts restrictions on social gatherings.

4. By August 28, 2020, the Provincial Executive will confirm the dates and location of Provincial Conference 2020.

We would like to **THANK all the Members** of the Whitehorse Lodge. We sincerely appreciate all the time and effort they have invested in planning the 2020 Conference and it is with deep regret and sadness that we can't go. #elksproud.

As suggested by Grand Lodge, the Alberta Elks Association Executive have decided to remain in their current chairs until we are safely able to host a Conference. Should we be able to convene Conference, the intent will be to conduct our business, hold elections and installation over the two-day period.

To the District Deputies –

- if you have been able to host your spring meeting and have chosen a new District Deputy-Elect, please forward the information to our Association office. We will accept that nomination.
- If you have not had the chance to host your spring meeting but have an Assistant who is ready to move forward as District Deputy-Elect, please forward to our Association office
- If you have not had the chance to host your spring meeting but you are willing to stay in your position for another year, please confirm with our office.
- If you are able or unable to continue, please inform the Association office.

To the Committees –

- We ask that you let our Association office know if you are willing to stay on your committee continuing with the great work you have accomplished thus far. You are appreciated and we cannot function without your tireless work.
- If you feel you are unable to continue on your committee, please advise the office.
- Should you know of anyone in the Alberta Elks Association who wishes to serve on a committee, please advise the Association Office.

To the Lodges –

We know that times have changed. Your community is going to need you more than ever. With members' health and safety being our first priority, we also recognize that meetings may need to happen to serve your communities during this time of need.

Consider holding a virtual meeting using such websites as Zoom, Google Hangout meeting and Skype just to name a few. (*Excellent information on the website*).

In the efforts of moving forward to prepare for Provincial Conference in October and for the sense of normalcy, we ask that your Lodge submit your reports no later than **May 1, 2020**. All reports can be emailed to the Association office elks.secretary@abelks.org where they will be distributed to the proper Chairs.

For REPORTS that need to be done, please get them in as most Lodges would have completed them for their district meetings already. Please forward them to the District Deputies and to Lynda at the Association office **by May 1, 2020**.

Thanks for your patience as we work through the challenges we have never been forced to manage before. Thank you for all your hard work that you have done in your communities this year. Each of our communities will need non-profit organizations more than ever and we are confident that you are up to the task. We hope you and your families stay safe as this CO-VID 19 carries on.

Fraternally,

Darren Scott
Provincial President