



BONSOR 55+ SOCIETY

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To all Bonsor 55+ Groups and Members,

At the Board meeting last Friday we were informed by the City staff that the Bonsor 55+ Centre will reopen on September 7th, 2021, with groups able to restart with their pre COVID numbers, providing they have a safety plan in place and have been trained in implementing it. This is obviously fantastic news and we are very thankful to the City for getting us to this point. Should things change regarding Provincial Health orders, this could change, but for now we will proceed with our plans to get groups back up and running, and members participating in activities. Initially the 55+ Building will operate Monday-Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm. As more staff are hired, and if things continue to improve, we will hopefully get back to full pre COVID hours.

A number of things need to be in place before a group can return to their regular programming so I want to highlight those for everyone, and cover some basic things we can, and cannot do, once our programs are running. Groups should not feel the need to have everything in place by September 7th. Work at your own pace and start when your group feels comfortable. We know of groups who want to begin in September, others are planning for an October start, and another in November.

Each group must submit a Health and Safety plan to the Board of Directors and the City (an easy to fill in spreadsheet has been created which can be forwarded to your group when you are ready). If you send this to your liaison they will forward it for you. Once the safety plan is approved, your executive and volunteers will meet with a member of the board to make sure everyone knows how to implement the plan to keep everyone safe. This meeting and training will take less than 30 minutes. The safety plan will include things such as: how many people are you comfortable with attending at one time, how will you record who attends, what to do if someone is sick etc. Samples of acceptable plans already submitted can be shared with you if you want. The plan will be simple and easy to create. Your liaison can help you.

Some things we can and cannot do:

- We CANNOT ask someone if they are vaccinated or exclude them from a program if they are not
- We CANNOT do temperature checks
- We CANNOT require people to wear masks – we CAN recommend it
- We CAN ask people to stay home if they are feeling ill, and to follow the same COVID expectations set out by Dr. Henry and Provincial Health Orders
- We CAN set the number of people we have attend at one time – each group can set the number their members feel comfortable with

As always, if you have any questions please connect with your liaison or drop me an email and I will help if I can.

Ernie Kashima

Bonsor 55+ Society President