



GIBSONS BRANCH 109 Tel: 604-886-2411

May 2020

To our Members, Guests, Staff and Associates:

Update on our situation for reopening.

First of all we have missed you all but you have never been far from our thoughts especially those who have suffered loss or been unable to visit family and friends in hospital or care facilities. We hope you have all stayed safe and well.

This has been a long haul for us, no social interaction with our friends and for some of us, no family on the Coast. This particularly hits those who are alone, and it has been a stressful and emotional time for many.

We are now looking forward to reopening. It is anticipated that we will have everything in place and open on Thursday May 28th at noon. Capacity for our establishment is 50. Days will start with shorter shifts, which will translate into finishing every day at 7:30 pm. and at this time we will be open for 7 days a week. This situation will be revisited as time goes on. Meat Draws will commence in a different format starting on Saturday June 13th and Sunday June 14th. There will be no Trivia for the moment because of physical distancing and the distribution of tickets. We are working on a safe way for Meat Draw ticket distribution.

We are doing everything in our power to ensure that those who visit our Legion are safe from harm and that our staff also remains safe too. We have been following guidelines as presented to us by WorkSafe BC and The Public Health Authority. Plexiglass has been installed at the bar, sanitizers are there for your use as you enter, sanitizing will be done every two hours or, as patrons leave the table and chairs, they will be sanitized for the next person. We have already thoroughly sanitized and cleaned throughout the building and will be completing our plan. The protocols will be in place and posted on our Website and Facebook and everywhere throughout the Legion. There is an ENTRY ONLY front door and EXIT will be from the current Fire Exit Door – all will be signposted. Markers for lineup will be on the floor as we have now become accustomed to in all stores recently. If you wish to wear masks in our establishment you are welcome to do so. Hand washing, as ever, is the recommended way to go. Signs will also be posted for this.

Financially our situation has become a major concern in the Branch. We have been closed for 11 weeks with no income and we still have bills, Town of Gibsons Water and Sewer

\$4400 for six months, Town of Gibsons Taxes \$1200 a month, BC Hydro \$2250 for two months, leasing agreements on equipment, etc. We cancelled as many as we could and negotiated others however, we did not qualify for the Govt. Loan because we have to pay it back and we were not sure we could make the monthly payments in time to qualify for the up to \$10,000 back. Our staff were laid off, Randy, Joe and Tyrell. Brynn and Karen are in full time employment elsewhere, Rhiannon is on medical leave and Lori is on layoff from another company.

Volunteers are needed to help us with sanitizing during the day – a two hour shift would be ideal starting from 12:00 p.m. but we do need to schedule so any help anyone can give is greatly appreciated. Please call 604-886-2411.

Kitchen will be manned by volunteers initially when we start up as we cannot afford to pay wages. Food Safe certification is ideal but we do have people here with certificates willing to assist.

And on the financial situation : It would be greatly appreciated if those of you who would like to make a donation to our General Funds do so as the funds are very much depleted. We have already had people step up and pay for some of the expenses involved with purchasing additional sanitizing equipment which will be a necessity for us moving forward for some time to come. Anything to help us get over this difficult time we have found ourselves in through no fault of our own would be so appreciated. We are planning fundraising events, like a bottle drive on May 31st drop off at the side Hall door from Noon – 4:00 p.m. and a Tailgate Sale in our parking lot on Saturday June 13th from 10:00 – 2:00 p.m. We all have lots of stuff. Haven't we all spent our time cleaning out! We will also have tables where all funds will go to the Legion if you would like to donate good quality items. Let us hope for good weather as it is outdoors.

We absolutely need all your help if we want to make sure this Legion becomes the social hub it has been in the past and remains so.

Please come in and support us we will do our utmost to keep you safe - your safety and the safety of our staff is top priority.

We miss you. Be kind to each other, life has become too precious not to appreciate our friends and colleagues.

Looking forward to welcoming you back.

Wilma Jones, President and the Executive of Branch 109