

RCAF Association chartered-Wings, those being the community-based organizations consisting only of RCAF Association members, are now re-opening, as stay-at-home measures are being relaxed to varying degrees across Canada.

In response, the National Executive Council encourages RCAF Association members to re-engage with their fellow members and re-start ongoing plans for celebrating the RCAF centenary in April 2024.

Please continue to monitor local, community, district and regional health authorities who retain the responsibility for adjusting re-opening plans as warranted by the spread of the virus. Meanwhile, it would appear all of our supported communities are moving into “Stage 3” or “Phase 3” or whatever phase now permits more and more indoor activities, relatively larger and larger gatherings, while emphasising the continuing importance of social distancing and the wearing of masks.

Our commemorative-heritage, youth and advocacy missions remain important. For example, the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain will be marked this September – our counterparts in the Royal Air Forces Association (RAF A) in the UK are working diligently on organizing a “Tea” in every community where RAF Association members gather. The idea stems



from the number 80 or “eighty” with emphasis on the “tea” (see image). Perhaps your Wing might like to also arrange for a similar “High-Tea” in keeping with the finest traditions with which many are familiar.

When it comes to the provincially-incorporated, small-business-licensed, hospitality-service-oriented organizations also known as “Wings” and to which many of our RCAF Association-chartered members may also belong, please note the NEC is mandated to distinguish between such businesses and the RCAF Association’s chartered

Wings; specifically, the decisions made by business leaders regarding hospitality-focused activities, and related social openings actually lay outside the scope of the RCAF Association constitution. Consequently, the business leaders of such organizations are best advised to consult regional, community and local health and municipal authorities as to the extent of your re-opening and the scope of activities envisaged. Social distancing and the wearing of masks are still some of the best means of protecting ourselves, our friends and our loved ones – especially those susceptible to the more serious afflictions that come with the virus.

It's not quite the return to “business as usual” we may have been hoping for, but it is the beginning of a return in the face of ongoing challenges. A little over one hundred years ago, our communities and country went through similar challenges with the influenza – we can get through this together – just as our ancestors did so very long ago. Remember, we just happen to thrive in adverse conditions, as our RCAF motto promotes – *Per Ardua Ad Astra*.

If you have any questions or ideas to share, please send them to contact@airforce.ca and we will be pleased to keep everyone “in the loop.”

A message from the National Executive Council

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