



CANADIAN CAMPING
AND RV COUNCIL
CONSEIL CANADIEN DU
CAMPING ET DU VR

April 30, 2020

The Honourable Dwight Ball
The Office of the Premier
Confederation Building, East Block
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
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Dear Mr. Premier,

The COVID-19 crisis has been unprecedented and devastating and the Association of Atlantic RV Parks and Campgrounds and its Newfoundland and Labrador Private Campground Owners would like to take this opportunity to extend our deep appreciation for your efforts undertaken thus far to ensure that the citizens of our Province remain safe and healthy.

We are aware of the announcement made by the Province yesterday and your outline to re-open our businesses in a Alert Level 5 Stage approach. We take this opportunity to send you this urgent letter on behalf of our members now that the Province has indicated that our Campgrounds would only be allowed to open during Stage 3 for day use only and Stage 2 for overnight stays.

In a Economic Study conducted by the Canadian Camping and RV Industry in 2015, we found that on average Newfoundland and Labrador Private Campgrounds are only open and generating revenue for 124 days a year that would have to be sufficient to handle the operating expenses (especially land debt payments) for the entire year.

In short, while the fixed debt repayments will remain, the pandemic and late opening of our businesses announced yesterday in the Province will eliminate income generating days that we will not be able to recoup and we will undoubtedly see many of our Private Campgrounds owners without sufficient income to pay their debt and many will be forced to cease operations.

The Association of Atlantic RV Parks and Campgrounds is dedicated to providing a safe and secure camping experience and we have been working diligently with the Canadian Camping and RV Council and our members to put together health and safety guidelines that the Province of Newfoundland could use as a reference when discussing policy that would permit Private Campgrounds to open in **Alert Level 4** instead of the proposed later schedule.

We are confident that our campgrounds and their consumers will follow these recommended guidelines which would allow our campers to continue to isolate while able to enjoy the outdoors and maintaining social distance measures under the following guidelines:

- ✓ **A minimum distance of 30 feet should be maintained between campsite occupants**
- ✓ **Restrict access to campsites with self-contained RVs or Cabins that have a water supply, holding tanks and personal washroom facilities for Newfoundland and Labrador residents only.**
- ✓ **All shared washroom facilities, including showers should remain closed; Launder facilities are allowed to open provided that social distancing and frequent sanitation practices are followed**
- ✓ **No Group, Tent or Cabin Camping (other than above) should be allowed**
- ✓ **Playground Equipment should be removed, rendered inoperable or have its use clearly indicated as prohibited**
- ✓ **Campers should be responsible for placing their own garbage into a commercial dumpster provided by Campground Management**
- ✓ **Recreation Halls, Volleyball Courts, etc. remain closed**
- ✓ **Swimming Pools, Spas and Beaches are closed; however boats may be launched as long as physical distancing requirements are strictly observed.**
- ✓ **All food and beverage services are suspended, except curbside pick-up or delivery**
- ✓ **Campground must do everything possible to offer camper contact free registration and check out options.**
- ✓ **Clients would have to sign a waiver to follow Health Order Guidelines and risk removal from the campground if there is a violation**
- ✓ **RV Park and Campground entrance should be secured by a physical barrier or attendant to restrict access to grounds whenever possible**

- ✓ Campers should be provided with appropriate information about the Campground's rules and prevention measures during check-in and signage throughout the premises
- ✓ Campground providing regular communication on the Corona Virus and Campground policies and updates on your website and social media channels
- ✓ There should be a no-visitor policy put in place
- ✓ Social distancing of a minimum of 6 feet of all occupants

The RV and Camping Industry in Newfoundland and Labrador is an integral component in our tourism and generates significantly to the economy across Canada and especially in our Province.

We have been successful recommending proper health and safety guidelines to allow for Private Campgrounds to open in: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and we fully expect the other Provinces to announce that we will be allowed to open no later than June 1st of this year.

Our Private Campgrounds risk the prospect of closing entirely if our season is delayed, so given the alternative, we are fully committed to following these policies and firmly believe that we can modify our business model **to ensure that the health and safety of our workers and campers are maintained.**

We would like to thank you again for your efforts to combat COVID-19 and we are ready to work with the appropriate agencies to establish guidelines for our safe and healthy operation.

Sincerely,



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