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April 14, 2020

RE: Suspension of Regular Programming for 2019/2020 Year

4-H Members, Families, & Friends,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of 4-H Nova Scotia to tell you about the discussions and the decisions we have made in response to COVID-19.

No one knows when this virus will stop being a threat to us all, but the experts are telling us that it will be months. In the meantime, the health and well-being of our youth, leaders, families, and employees remain our top priority.

After careful consideration, and with the full understanding of what it means to all of you, the 4-H Nova Scotia Board of Directors has made the decision to suspend all 4-H Nova Scotia regular programming for the remainder of the 2019 – 2020 4-H year.

This includes, but is not limited to, club, county, and project meetings and Achievement Days.

The Board of Directors wants to assure all members currently registered in any project(s) in the 4-H program that they will receive a 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Achievement Completion this year. Achievement certificates will be awarded to all members regardless of their ability to work with their animals, complete their hands-on projects, or participate in club public speaking events.

We know how committed each of you are to your 4-H work and we want you to have our full support in these extraordinary circumstances.

4-H Nova Scotia is currently developing online activities that our members can engage in in lieu of their standard project work. Once we have our online engagement complete, we will add more information to our website, www.4hnovascotia.ca, as well as to our social media platforms.

We are taking our members who do not have access to the internet into consideration as well. There will be materials available for printing and the 4-H Nova Scotia office is prepared to mail out packages to those in need.

The decision that the 4-H Board of Directors has taken means that all the remaining in-person events for the 2019 – 2020 4-H year are cancelled.

For an updated cancellation list of both 4-H Canada and 4-H Nova Scotia events please refer to our website.

We understand that the Board's decision will be unhappy news to our members, especially our seniors who are in their final year of 4-H and our older intermediate members who would have spent their last year as a camper this summer.

While we cannot give our senior members another final year, we want you to know that we will do our best to try to make this final year memorable in a unique way. If any senior members have an idea they would like to see us support provincially, please send them to c19@4hnovascotia.ca for consideration.

4-H Nova Scotia understands how important that final week of camp is to our campers who are aging out this year. We will do our best to accommodate those members next summer and provide the final camping year they were hoping for. Any members who have already registered and paid for Camp Rankin will be contacted and issued a refund for their payment.

The 4-H Nova Scotia office staff will continue to work, with as little interruption as possible, from the safety of their homes. The 4-H Nova Scotia office phone line, emails, and fax will continue to be monitored Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30am – 4:30pm.

I would like to host a Question and Answer (Q&A) session with all members, parents, and leaders who are interested on Sunday, April 19th, 2020 to answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding any of these changes – **more details to follow**.

Further communication relating to the COVID-19 situation will be sent from the 4-H Nova Scotia Board of Directors from c19@4hnovascotia.ca. Please monitor your email for further information and continue to check our website for up-to-date information at www.4hnovascotia.ca/covid-19-updates.

If you have any questions or concerns relating to the COVID-19 decision, please feel free to reach out via email to c19@4hnoascotia.ca or phone at 902-843-3990.

Yours in 4-H,



Scott Masters
President
4-H Nova Scotia Board of Directors