

September 24, 2020

Gary Pond, President
The Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command
Ontario Provincial Command Headquarters
89 Industrial Parkway North
Aurora, ON L4G 4C4

Dear President Pond:

Re: 2020 Poppy Campaign and Royal Canadian Legions within the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

I write to you with respect to the health and well-being of our honoured Royal Canadian Legion veterans, staff and volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) have begun consultations with local legion branches as to COVID-19 precautions with the 2020 Poppy Campaign. Accordingly, I wish to offer public health recommendations to all Royal Canadian Legion branches within SMDHU as follows:

- Volunteers, staff, veterans should not physically attend stores this year (including youth “taggers”) to provide poppies or tags directly to the public – we recommend that this activity of the poppy program should be discontinued this year due to COVID-19 in order to avoid direct contact with the public.
- Instead of direct person-to-person distribution, volunteers or staff can attend stores to drop off and refill poppy boxes at the stores -- this allows the poppy program to continue without the risk of personal exposure to the public
- Schools will be provided with boxes of poppies for distribution according to school or board policy

We are happy to discuss this further with you. Please contact Steven Rebellato, VP of Environmental Health at 1-877-721-7520, extension 7487 or via email at steven.rebellato@smdhu.org.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

CG:SR:cm

cc: Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health

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