

ALBERTA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION

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AHEIA Facilities are closed until further notice

It is with great disappointment and a heavy heart that I must make the decision to add to the closures previously announced at our Calgary and Edmonton facilities and extend the closure to our entire operations including the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence and the Calgary Firearms Centre.

We have been proactive and have been doing our part to limit the spread of COVID-19 as much as possible. Our offices have been closed for nearly two weeks and we have been operating in a virtual environment and staffing our centres with skeleton crews, but closed for public access.

Clearly these are difficult times and as a result of the press release that has been sent out by Premier Kenney, that effective today, March 27, the definitions regarding public gatherings, our facilities and services must close:

"To protect the health and safety of Albertans, mass gatherings will be limited to 15 people and more restrictions will be placed on available services. As a result of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, attendance at certain businesses and organizations across the province will be prohibited effective immediately."

While we understand that this is disheartening, we wholeheartedly support the decision and will be following the advice and restrictions placed by our Provincial leaders today as being in all of our best interest.

We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone for their kind wishes, numerous emails, social posts and heartfelt comments that we have received. We believe that we will come out the other end of this stronger and more convicted to continue to make wildlife and wild places a part of all Albertans value systems. As soon as the current health and safety risk posed by COVID-19 has subsided, we will be back at our tasks full throttle. In the meantime we will honor and concede the direction of the Health officials and the Province. We encourage all of our volunteers, instructors and customers to do your part to ensure we can work to "flatten the curve" and defeat this pandemic. Albertans are strong and capable and will endure but we must take this seriously.

If you have any questions about the closure, please direct them to me, Bob Gruszecki, President AHEIA at robert_gruszecki@ezpost.com or 403-650-2923. Please also watch our social media and web site for additional announcements. We will continue to do our part to provide quality on-line certificate training while we find ourselves self-isolating and social distancing during this serious public health threat. Please protect yourself and others! Thank you for your understanding at this time.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Gruszecki President AHEIA

Working to Conserve Alberta's Wilderness Resources through Education and Communication