

March 16, 2020

Dear Seniors' College Members,

- **All Seniors' College Classes and Events Cancelled or Postponed**
- **All Membership Renewals Will Be Extended by One term**

Please read below for further details.

We want to inform you that the Seniors' College Board of Directors met today to decide how we as an organization should proceed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been, as we all know, a moving target. When the board meeting was called several days ago, COVID -19 had not yet been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. Indeed it seems that matters pertaining to the virus change hourly.

Many authoritative sources, including The World Health Organization, Canada Health, and locally, Dr. Robert Strang, the Chief Medical Officer of Health in Nova Scotia, have stated that there are interventions which, if taken early, can slow down the spread of the disease and create less pressure on what could be an over-burdened health system. Their recommendations include the cancellation of large public gatherings, and social distancing.

We know now that there at least three presumptive cases in Nova Scotia. We also know that seniors are more vulnerable and at greater risk of getting very sick.

In light of this information and in response to questions we have been asked by many of our members, volunteers and instructors, the Board has decided it was best to proceed cautiously. Therefore, with regret, we will be cancelling all Seniors' College events and classes for the next couple of months. Public Lectures scheduled to be held in the next several weeks will be cancelled. The Annual General Meeting will be postponed, probably till early fall. The Information Sessions scheduled for the week of March 23rd will be cancelled, and most regrettably, we feel it necessary to cancel the courses scheduled for the Spring term. We will also cancel the Meet and Greet gatherings scheduled for March, April and May.

As you know, membership to the Seniors' College is for a period of twelve months, and membership renewal can take place before any one of our three terms. Due to the cancellation of the Spring Term, the Board has decided to add on an additional term to everyone's membership. Therefore, if your membership is up for renewal in the Spring of 2020, your renewal will be moved forward to the Fall of 2020. Similarly, if your

membership is due for renewal in the Fall of 2020, it will be extended till the Winter 2021. Those whose membership is up for renewal in the Winter of 2021 will not have to renew until the Spring of 2021. Finally, to those of you who were going to renew their membership at the Information Session, you will not have to do so until the Fall of 2020.

We will update the website with any Seniors' College news, and we will be updating you by email or in a newsletter in late spring or early summer with our plans going forward. You will be able to contact the office as usual.

We hope you will all stay safe and remind you of the precautions we should all take. Along with avoiding non-essential traveling, avoiding large gatherings, and social distancing, we need to avoid contact with people who are sick, and wash our hands often with soap and water, or if not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Tips for avoiding COVID-19 and updates are available on several websites, such as:

[novascotia.ca](http://novascotia.ca)

[canada.ca](http://canada.ca)

[cbc.ca](http://cbc.ca)

Be well. We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Best regards,

Lois Block.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia