



Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners

Guidelines for Cottage Owners When Going To Cottage Country during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

The Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners (MACO) is deeply appreciative of the work of our local Emergency Management Coordinators in each municipality of Manitoba during this pandemic for gathering facts and providing information to local residents and cottagers.

The time for talking is over. The time for action is now for following the provincial guidelines including the time spent at your Manitoba cottage.

The provincial government has started the required planning to slowly introduce the Restoration of Safe Services in Manitoba as a gradual Phased in Approach for Restoring Services and the Economy.

The two PDF documents described in the link are also attached in this email. The following link has two PDF documents that provide a roadmap for restoring the economy; follow the link at <http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/index.html>.

The first document provides a description of the planning work that is required for Emergency Management and it has considerable background material. This link for phase one has 34 pages and is a road map for restoring safe services, see https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/2020_2021/restoring-safe-services.pdf.

The second document is the phase two document with 21 pages and provides information in a Response Plan on how to implement the plan; https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/2020_2021/restoring-safe-services-phase-2.pdf. Put this plan into practice at the cottage. This document provides a step by step guide for your activities in cottage country.

Our main message is that MACO **will not discourage** cottagers from using their cottages during the summer months.

MACO recognises that people have been under social distancing restrictions for about two months and they are eager to go to cottage country and the beaches, where there is more freedom for summer activities. While at the cottage and the beaches, cottage owners and beach visitors are still responsible to observe social distances that have been in place for the last two months at their usual residence. We have seen too many examples from other countries of disregard for the simple precaution of maintaining

social distances. If there are any questions please contact MACO or your local Emergency Management Coordinator when in cottage country.

On another issue, the Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg (CSLW) is a collaboration of communities in the South Basin of Lake Winnipeg. They include individual citizens, Cottage Associations from the east and west sides of Lake Winnipeg, Rural Municipality representatives and MACO. They are all advocating for improving the health of Lake Winnipeg. Lake Winnipeg has many issues with blue-green algae and Zebra mussels being of most concern. For more information on algae blooms, current beach conditions and advisories, or to report an algae bloom: visit manitoba.ca/beaches or call 204-945-0002.

Provincial water specialists will test lake water from Monday to Friday if an algae bloom is reported.

See the following link: <https://www.lakewinnipegfoundation.org/news/provincial-infrastructure-funding-prioritize-winnipeg-sewage-treatment>.

On the first weekend of the fishing season the following was observed on the Winnipeg River waterfront where the MACO president has his residence <https://photos.app.goo.gl/u3wiipfx3YZANTWR7>. Through the branches of a small tree is a boat with two people fishing.

Sincerely,



Gus Wruck, President

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