

It is with a heavy heart
that I write to inform you
that we will not be able to run
overnight camps this summer.

June 1, 2020

I have been hoping for weeks that I would not end up writing this update.

As you know, after the province declared a public health emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak we temporarily closed camp in March. Since closing we have monitored the status of this emergency and have complied with the province's restrictions on businesses and gatherings.

Praying that we would be able to reopen in time for summer we have also been working hard to be ready to welcome you and your family back to camp.

Following the announcement of *Alberta's Relaunch Strategy* we took the month of May to review a number of approved guidelines for reopening similar businesses to determine whether we could safely run overnight camps. As we have reviewed these guidelines we have been concerned. **The health and safety of our campers, counselors, and guests is always of highest priority to us.**

We have also been collaborating with other camps and corresponding with the provincial government to determine what guidelines might be required for reopening overnight camps and when camps will be permitted to reopen. At this time the operation of overnight camps continues to be prohibited and a date for reopening has not been set. **Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you that we will not run overnight camps this summer.**

I want you to know how much we are going to miss you this summer. We will be praying for you. We know this is disappointing. We have all been so excited for camp this summer.

We will keep you informed of any changes or alternative camp programs we might be able to offer this summer. We are still exploring a few options we might be able to run. We should know by the middle of this month if we are going to be able to offer any of these experiences.

Regarding your registration, I would ask you to consider choosing one of these two options:

- 1. Refund of registration fee.**
- 2. Donate part or all of registration fee to camp.**

The registration refund/donation form can be completed online at campcaroline.ab.ca/registration.

Please respond with your choice by June 10.

Refunds will be processed in the order in which we receive refund requests. Our goal is to have all refunds processed by June 30. If you need us to process your refund sooner, please contact us.

We will provide a charitable receipt for all donations over \$20. Camp Caroline is a registered charity. Our registration number is 730885886 RR 0001.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Closing the camp and cancelling camps, retreats, and rentals this spring and summer translates into an income loss of almost \$1,000,000. At this time I am also estimating this loss could increase to \$1,200,000 by the end of the year if fall retreats and rentals are impacted by the outbreak.

By God's provision and protection we have a reserve of funds on hand. These funds are helping us maintain cash flow and manage costs. As I shared in my previous update we have been able to eliminate many operational costs but certainly not all. Even with camp closed there are ongoing costs. Immediately after closing I worked with the team to adjust planned spending to manage essential costs and avoid non-essential ones. I temporarily laid off 18 of 30 members of our year-round staff team and have taken advantage of available financial aid provided by the Canadian government to continue employing the remaining members of our staff team.

Last week we received notice that our claim with our insurer for loss of income due to this emergency was approved. While the coverage for loss of income had a limit and our claim exceeded the limit we have been approved for the maximum amount provided in our policy.

Based on decreased income we will need \$400,000 to address adjusted operational costs. Continued use of our reserve funds and the financial aid provided by the Canadian government will be critical in the months ahead but we cannot solely rely on these funds and aid. Currently we are taking steps to secure financing in the event additional funding is required.

Financial gifts received this spring will help the ministry continue managing ongoing costs and be prepared to reopen when this emergency is over.

Would you consider making a financial gift to support the camp? You can give online at campcaroline.ab.ca/donation. Until we are able to reopen, we are asking you to consider directing gifts to the *General Fund* to allow us to maintain appropriate cash flow and manage ongoing costs.

In this incredible season, we remain committed to keeping you updated on how we are proceeding. You can stay up-to-date on our COVID-19 response by visiting us online at campcaroline.ab.ca/covid-19-response or contacting me directly at ben@campcaroline.ab.ca.

While disappointed, our confidence is in God. God is bigger than this. We know He will continue to transform the hearts of those who look to Him, no matter what the circumstances.

On behalf of our staff team and Board of Directors, thank you for your patience and support this spring. We have greatly appreciated your grace and understanding as we have navigated this outbreak.



Warmly,



Ben Trites
Executive Director, Camp Caroline


**camp
caroline**


Box 250

Caroline, AB T0M 0M0

t. (403) 722-3939 | f. (403) 722-3980 | e. office@campcaroline.ab.ca

Visit us online at campcaroline.ab.ca

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