

Dear RSCDS Ottawa Branch Members,

As the health and wellness of our members is our priority, starting March 16 all Ottawa Branch dance classes and the March social are cancelled due to health concerns associated with the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Although the Public Health Agency of Canada has assessed the public health risk associated with COVID-19 as low for the general population in Canada, this could change rapidly. Furthermore, there is an increased risk for older adults, those with compromised immune systems and those with underlying medical conditions. In addition, current evidence suggests person-to-person spread is efficient when there is close contact - similar in nature to our dancing.

Health Canada has published a detailed article about the Coronavirus including information on how it is spread, how to prevent transmission, what to do if you think you may have been infected, and much more (<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>).

We will continue to monitor and follow updates and protocol suggested by the Ministry of Health, Ottawa Public Health, and other credible agencies before we consider starting dance classes again, including whether to carry on with the Ball.

Please watch for updates as we handle this issue together and keep our Branch and community as healthy as possible.

Todd Moxley
Chair RSCDS Ottawa Branch