November 19, 2020

Dear Members of the Southern Alberta Area of Cocaine Anonymous,

As you are all no doubt aware, we are going through extremely challenging times right now. The conditions under which we are all living under are frightening, uncertain, and chaotic. Fear of economic uncertainty, the physical and mental health of our family and friends, and all with no end in sight has placed many of our members in a state of fear. No one seems to have any answers to this uncertainty. While this pandemic is outside of our control, our collective response as a fellowship is not.

As such, at the Area business meeting of November 14, 2020, a lengthy discussion took place regarding how best to handle ourselves in these most difficult times. The long-term health of us as individuals, as well as our collective fellowship were considered. After much debate, a motion was put forth to continue and renew the decision to halt all in-person activities of the Southern Alberta Area. Again, after careful consideration, the motion passed by an overwhelming majority.

What this means is that until further notice, there will be no in-person gatherings on behalf of the Southern Alberta Area. No committees, sub-committees, entertainment events, or gatherings for any purpose are to take place at area level.

Your Area body is aware of the drastic nature of this decision, and it was not taken lightly. Several hours were devoted to the discussion of this issue. We want to make clear that this decision does not affect any of our Districts or Groups. The SABA body does not have any authority over any other entity, nor do we wish to try and dictate what other levels of C.A. will do. Groups may continue to meet at the discretion of the group conscience, as allowed by both their landlord/meeting room agreement, or as directed from our Provincial Health Department. According to the current guidelines from the Province of Alberta, recovery meetings fall outside of any bans on gathering, providing all health measures are taken. Please continue to participate in your recovery as you see fit, either in person or via web-based meetings.

Regretfully, the Area’s decision does include a halt and the removal of all posts for in person events from the Facebook page. To facilitate and maintain this, there will be no posting of any event other than regular recovery meetings and the business meetings thereof. This is to protect the Area from any complications that may arise should the event be linked to a possible outbreak, or should it somehow get out as public knowledge that we continue to gather socially. Our 10th Tradition tells us to steer clear of public controversy, Tradition 4 advises to always take great care that no action could affect other groups or C.A. as a whole.

We do wish to convey our deepest desire that all our members and service bodies will continue to consider all of our 12 Traditions in their decisions regarding the handling of the pandemic. At present, some groups have already made the decision to once again halt all in-person meetings and have returned solely to the online virtual world to continue meeting. Should your group continue to hold in person meetings, it is our sincere hope that all Provincial and Municipal Health Regulations are being followed. The possible ramifications to our beloved Fellowship are great should our desire to gather and share in fellowship and brotherly love outweigh caution, common sense, and following the legal health regulations of Lawful Authority.

If you wish to take part in this or future discussions as to our Area welfare, you are welcome to attend our next Area meeting, which will be held via Zoom on January 17, 2021. Details will be posted on the Area Facebook group.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Area Chair, Area Vice Chair, or any of our World Delegates. We hope you stay safe and sane.

In Love & Service,

Your SABA Service Body