



**504 Blatchford Field
Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron
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27 August 2020

To Cadets, Parents and Guardians:

The safety and security of all who participate in the Cadet Program is always our top priority. It seems possible that the COVID-19 pandemic could last 18 months or longer. As a result, this virus will likely continue to be a significant factor affecting all aspects of daily life for the Canadian public. A return to normalcy is not forecasted any time soon, and we need to prepare for a new normal with respect to the immediate future.

Therefore, the Commander of the National Cadet and Junior Canadian Rangers Support Group has made the decision to delay the start-up of limited in-person cadet activities until at least 1 October, 2020. This was not an easy decision, nor was it made in isolation. It ensures that we have proper measures in place for the safety and security of everyone who participates in our programs and will ensure that the Cadet and JCR programs do not become a vector to spread the COVID-19 virus.

In early September, we will reach out to you with further information about the fall start-up plans at 504 Squadron. At this time, we are planning to launch our weekly training program on Wednesday, 7 October, 2020. This weekly training program will be very flexible in nature and a number of options will be available to cadets to conduct their training. We are also planning to host an Awards Ceremony on the afternoon of Saturday, 3 October, 2020 – to complete the end of the last training year. The Awards Ceremony will recognize our retiring cadets as well as cadet completion of training levels, promotions and awards that are normally presented at the end of the training year. The Awards Ceremony will follow COVID protocols and further details will be provided in our next communication. For senior cadets, Level 5 and up, we will be conducting some virtual planning sessions with our senior cadets as part of our preparation to launch our training program in October.

504 Squadron will be doing a modified recruiting process by providing program information on our website along with enrolment documentation. We will be accepting applications for new cadets weekly, starting Wednesday, September 2, 2020 between the hours of 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm. No formal recruitment presentation will be

conducted and training activities for new cadets will also start in October alongside all other training levels at the Squadron.

Although the fall of 2020 will not roll out the same way it has in prior years, we remain committed to ensuring that the Cadet Program continues to provide safe and unique experiences for youth within our community. We appreciate your patience as we continue to plan and prepare to start the training year. Again, we will be providing detailed information soon regarding the upcoming training year.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Lust', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Mark Lust
Captain
Commanding Officer