



## Office of the Grand Exalted Ruler

Dear Elks of Canada members,

Greetings!! I hope everyone is working hard to better our communities we serve while having fun in your respected Lodges across the Order. I wanted to give an update on work being done within the past couple of months. At the start of my term of office, I named five key areas of focus that should have a positive impact on our success moving forward. They are to improve member communication and engagement, cost containment, promotion of success within the Order, increase membership and Grand Lodge Committee structure.

At our first meeting of the Grand Executive in September, the Grand Executive spent a day considering each of these focus areas and collectively brainstormed various actions and activities that could be used by the National Grand Lodge Committees to have the greatest impact on the Order. The Grand Executive then took those ideas and rated them as long-term, medium-term, or short-term action items that our committees could consider. In addition, the Grand Executive found a primary goal for each National Committee to focus on this term.

The intent of this process is to set up an ongoing formal structure of National Committee focus and priorities that will support the strategic plan approved by the membership at National Convention. While each Committee continues to advance their respective mandates, they are also now developing a Committee Terms of Reference (TOR). The TOR document will allow each committee to name the duties and responsibilities, accountability as well as a structured operational work plan to guide their work moving forward. The draft TOR and the work plan of each Committee will be presented to the Grand Executive, where the plan will be discussed, amendments made as necessary and approvals to go ahead will be given to the Committee.

The Committees will be presenting their individual TOR's and operational work plan to the Grand Executive within the next few weeks for review and adoption. This will give the Grand Lodge Committees the opportunity to launch in early January, starting their valuable work for the betterment of the Order. Exciting times ahead!

The Committees are expected to follow their work plan and report back to the Grand Executive at least monthly with updates and a progress report that will be communicated to the membership from time to time or whenever a significant milestone has been achieved.



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Of note is the ongoing process being developed to ensure that the National Committees of Grand Lodge are going to continue their work from year to year and follow the approved work plan as adapted from time to time to meet their priorities.

I look forward to reviewing the work plans with the Grand Executive and the Committees. I will be giving an update in January on the progress.

Kindest regards,

D.E. (Don) Gillis  
National President/Grand Exalted Ruler  
Elks of Canada  
*"Serve with Pride"*