



# CAMP KINTAIL COVID-19 UPDATE

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May 28, 2021

It is with deep sadness that we are announcing that Camp Kintail will not be offering overnight summer camp in 2021. This decision was not made lightly. It comes after months of research, planning, and prayer.

This decision may come as a surprise, after the premier announced that summer camps would be able to open this summer. After his announcement, draft guidelines for the safe operation of summer camp and then the Ontario Re-opening Roadmap were released. We undertook a careful review of the guidelines and were left with too many questions about the ability of a weekly camp to operate safely for our campers and staff. There is no word on when the final document will be complete. With the uncertain timeline of the Re-opening Roadmap, it is challenging to plan. While the COVID numbers are decreasing and vaccinations are increasing, many of our younger campers will not have access to a vaccine and our staff and older campers will only have one dose. The variants of concern continue to be a threat.

This announcement comes with disappointment from all of us here at Kintail – directors, staff, and board members. We know how much children need camp, a place of laughter and friendship, at this moment in time. But as always, the health and well-being of all our campers, staff, and guests must come first. Safety for our campers is paramount and we continue to be grateful for your trust in looking after your children.

This announcement is only about overnight summer camp. The Week or Weekend Away retreats, day camps, and the Leader in Training program are still scheduled to proceed. We will be adding five Week Away retreats to the schedule, and limited registration will open on Monday for these additional retreats. As we continue to monitor developments on regulation and re-opening, we may be able to add additional day camp options.

There is reason for hope. We are excited for campers to share Kintail with their parents this summer. We are looking forward to afternoons on the beach. We even hope that as the summer progresses, we will be able to worship in the chapel together. We anticipate an incredible summer camp season in 2022. While this summer will look different, we are grateful that we will be able to welcome guests for a time of retreat and renewal.

Peace,  
Rev. Theresa McDonald-Lee & Johnathon Lee  
Executive Directors