



April 10, 2020

Dear Section A and Section 1 Parents and Campers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family healthy and well. I am happy to see many Keewaydin folks are connecting with each other. In these difficult times, we need to feel connected more than ever! I am heartened by the Keewaydin spirit and tenacity of our community.

It is with a saddened heart that I inform you Keewaydin will not be able to welcome Bay Trippers to their final summer. This decision became clear due to decisions made by the Canadian government in the last few weeks.

I wish we had different news to share, but currently here is what we know:

1. Currently, all non-essential businesses in Ontario are closed, this includes summer camps.
2. The Canadian/US border is closed and only essential workers may cross.
3. Staff and Campers will not be able to enter Canada before June 30.

In addition, we are sensitive to the fact that indigenous communities, some of which we visit during the course of our trips, are at a greater risk for severe health consequences from COVID-19. I am anticipating that communities will continue to close their limits to non-residents.

In sum, the obstacles to running a Bay Trip~ the border closing causing weeks long delay of our planned timetable, the sensitivity towards the indigenous populations, and the uncertainty about being able to prevent the virus from occurring among members of the section group~ lead us to conclude that the responsible decision is to not run the Bay Trip this summer.



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We hope you would like to return in 2021 to complete your Bay Trip summer. We will be offering the same option for the other long trip campers. It is important to us that you have a chance to have the full Keewaydin summer and complete the journeys you've long been on together.

In addition, we are considering offering a possible 19-day trip to Bay Trip campers in the Lake Temagami region during the 2nd three-week session, July 20-August 11. There are a few variables to consider before we can commit to such an option, one of which is whether there is interest in such an option. If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible. Again, I want to emphasize that we cannot guarantee this option, but it is something we want to explore. I expect we would know whether this is possible within a month.

Though we won't be running the long trips or the 1st session program, we are still preparing to open camp from July 20 - August 11 for 2nd session campers. With all of this planning, we will remain cautiously optimistic for our 127th summer on Lake Temagami.

Regarding your tuition paid for 2020, please let us know what option you would like to choose:

1. Receive a refund for your tuition payment, less the \$500 deposit. The timing of your refund will depend on receipt of the loans we have applied for. As soon as we know when we will be able to send you a refund, we will let you know.
2. Donate a portion of your tuition (minus the \$500 deposit) to Keewaydin as a tax-deductible gift.
3. Hold your tuition as a credit for 2021.
4. Or choose a combination of the above- refund, donation, and/or credit.

I am thankful for the support we are receiving from our leadership staff, the Keewaydin Foundation Board, alumni, and parents as we respond to this crisis and make difficult decisions. We have an extraordinary team

working hard to further Keewaydin's mission. We are grateful for all of the understanding and goodwill in this community, as we all ride out this challenging time together. The journey to Hudson Bay will be waiting for you.

Quay Quay,

Emily Scholzel

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