



# CAMP WABIKON

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Dear Wabikon Staff, CITs, campers, families and friends,

The last few months have been challenging, to say the least. Adjusting to changes and a physically distanced lifestyle has been scary, exhausting, frustrating, and at times extremely disappointing. We have, however, also seen how the power of positivity and kindness can strengthen communities. How creativity and ingenuity can bring us together and help us grow in new ways. Perhaps now more than ever we draw on our camp experiences to comfort us, keep us smiling and help us move forward. We know that the familiarity of camp has been a beacon of hope for so many and we have been reminded how lucky and privileged we are to have the opportunity of summer camp.

The logistics involved in offering the incredible Wabikon experience that our staff, CITs, campers and families appreciate and expect means that a decision about camp this summer must be made. We cannot wait any longer. We have explored every reasonable possibility and option presented to us and waited patiently for some "good news" and a positive answer to our guiding question:

"Can we keep our staff, CITs, campers and families **safe**  
while offering them the incredible Wabikon experience they deserve?"

Sadly, the answer is NO. Safety is our top priority. There are too many known and unknown risks for Wabikon to responsibly operate this summer. In addition to the fact that there is simply no way to ensure COVID-19 would not make its way to Wabikon, all of the current health and safety directives issued by provincial and local governments present us with a long list of insurmountable obstacles.

**As such, we have made the extremely difficult decision  
to cancel ALL Camp Wabikon sessions for summer 2020.**

The beauty of Wabikon is that it brings together youth from all over the world and provides a safe space for them to engage and grow in a highly interactive environment.

This was to be the Bernardo family's 40th summer welcoming campers, CITs and Staff to Camp Wabikon. Whether this was to be your first summer with us, or a return to your home away from home, we share your disappointment and feel your frustration for this lost experience. It is time to draw strength from each other and our mutual love and enthusiasm for camp as we navigate the new reality of a summer apart.

Full refunds for all Summer 2020 registrations will be issued in the coming weeks. This will occur automatically so there is no need to contact us regarding finances unless you wish to make other arrangements.

Our wish is that every one of you remains safe and well as we continue to adjust to life during a global pandemic. Our hope is that we will be able to be together again in 2021. Thank you for your love, understanding and patience. A 'Frequently Asked Questions' page will be available on our website shortly, which strives to address the most common questions we have been receiving and provide clarity surrounding our decisions. We look forward to staying in touch and keeping our Wabikon Family connected.

Our best wishes to you always,

The Bernardo Family



"An International, Co-Ed, Overnight Camp for Youth ages 6 - 17"

Summer Address: 2430 T234 Lake Temagami, Temagami, Ontario P0H 2H0, Canada

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