



March 20, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Bldg, Queen's Park,
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Sent via email: Premier@Ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

On behalf of the Progressive Contractors Association of Canada (PCA), I want to thank you for all of your efforts in keeping Ontarians safe and supporting our provincial economy during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are here to work with you.

As an important part of that effort, I am formally requesting that you continue to balance the health and safety of Ontarians with the need to protect Ontario's economy by allowing Ontario's construction sites to continue to operate under protocols mandated by public health officials in order to protect public health.

At PCA, our member companies employ thousands of skilled workers across Canada represented by the CLAC labour union. Our membership is comprised of small, medium and large general contractors and sub-contractors involved in various types of construction including water and wastewater facilities, roads, bridges, schools, housing and long-term care facilities.

The safety of our members and their workers is vital. That's why our job sites have scaled back, putting measures in place to ensure workers keep a healthy distance and undertake additional safety and hygiene precautions, as directed by public health officials. PCA is producing a living best practices document that provides workplace design advice to our members, beyond current public health requirements. We continue to work with our members to introduce innovative working arrangements in order that we can continue to build Ontario's essential infrastructure.

We also advocate that in cases of continued construction activity any worker who is considered high-risk, is in regular contact with someone who is considered high-risk outside of the workplace or otherwise feels uncomfortable continuing to work shall be entitled to a job-protected leave.

Our member companies and their skilled workers want to work and work safely. We believe the industry will be in a stronger position to play a leading role in helping Ontario's economy recover through infrastructure stimulus, by remaining on the job.

However, if the construction industry is deemed to be a 'non-essential' industry, we recommend that your government retain the discretion to declare certain projects as essential work that must continue, such as critical energy and health infrastructure projects.

Your consideration in this important matter is greatly appreciated. As an industry, we are here to support your government during these exceptionally difficult times. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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Cc:

Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation
Hon. Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development
Hon. Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure
Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade