



Construction & Design Alliance of Ontario

May 11, 2020

Honourable Rod Phillips
Minister of Finance
Chair, Jobs and Recovery Committee
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Cres
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Reference: Ontario's Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery - Opening of ICI Construction

Dear Minister Phillips:

We appreciate the work your government has done to methodically open up sectors of the industry, while ensuring the health and safety of Ontarians and workers.

Last year, the Ontario construction industry was responsible for 8% of the province's GDP - a figure that has grown each year. With 466,000 highly skilled employees, the province's economic recovery must include fully mobilizing the construction industry as soon as possible.

The closing of sectors of our industry resulted in 94,000 construction employees losing their livelihoods this April. The continued shutdown of many sites, including institutional, commercial and industrial (ICI) construction leaves most of these workers still waiting to return, and their companies at risk of financial loss and bankruptcy.

To that end, we believe it is time to fully reopen the Ontario construction industry. We also understand reopening all sites will only happen if we can demonstrate that we will contain the COVID-19 spread between our workers and the public.

It is important to recognize that the risk of COVID-19 spread between our workers and the public is extremely low, and we continuously improve our health and safety protocols to further minimize any potential spread within our worksites. New build construction is not public-facing. Only persons working or delivering to the site have access, which allows us to supervise and train all personnel to comply with Ministry of Labour guidelines and site-specific requirements. With a secure perimeter, proper sanitary procedures and established protocols, the risks of transmission on sites are minimized.

This process has been very successful. As of May 8, the WSIB has approved 331 COVID claims, however, not one single claim was observed from the construction rate groups.

The contractors that have remained operational have implemented containment and health practices that far exceed the Ministry of Labour's Guidelines. The industry has worked closely with the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) and the Chief Prevention Officer to establish best practices. This includes procedures for working inside the physical distancing

requirements that provides complete protection for the workers without the need for medical-grade PPE—saving this much-needed resource for frontline healthcare workers.

We have also implemented staggered shifts and other similar measures to ensure the health and safety of workers.

Given the extensive and comprehensive health and safety measures taken by industry and the nature of construction work, we believe that there remains no barrier to opening up the entire construction industry. We are committed to stopping the spread of COVID-19, while kick-starting our economy and bringing our employees back to work.

Sincerely,



Sandro Perruzza
Chair, Construction and Design Alliance of Ontario (CDAO)

CDAO Member Associations

Association of Registered
Interior Designers of Ontario
www.arido.ca

Concrete Ontario
www.rmcao.org

Consulting Engineers of Ontario
www.ceo.on.ca

Heavy Construction Association of
Toronto
www.hcat.ca

Mechanical Contractors Association
of Ontario
www.mcao.org

Ontario Association of Architects
www.oaa.on.ca

Ontario Association of Landscape
Architects
www.oala.ca

Ontario Electrical League
www.oel.org

Ontario General Contractors
Association
www.ogca.ca

Ontario Home Builders' Association
www.ohba.ca

Ontario Road Builders' Association
www.orba.org

Ontario Sewer & Watermain
Construction Association
www.oswca.org

Ontario Society of Professional
Engineers
www.ospe.on.ca

Residential Construction Council of
Ontario
www.rescon.com

Residential and Civil Construction
Alliance of Ontario
www.rccao.com

Surety Association of Canada
www.suretycanada.com