

June 3, 2020

Right Honourable Justin P. J. Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2

Submitted Via Email: pm@pm.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Construction Sector Support for Temporary Sick Pay Coverage During COVID-19 Pandemic

We are writing to express our support for your intention to work with provincial governments to establish a temporary sick pay program for the duration of the COVID-19 period.

National and provincial construction and engineering associations have worked hard to keep people employed during the recent crisis wherever possible, subject to guidance by provincial health and safety authorities.

As leaders of Canada's construction industry, the safety and health of our workers is our number one priority. Throughout the recovery period, it is critically important to maintain public, business and employee confidence that worksites are safe. Further measures to address COVID-19 community and workplace transmission risks should include federal government-sponsored sick pay for employees who are required to self-isolate.

While some employees within our sector may be able to work from home, most construction workers do not have this option. In these circumstances, access to sick pay under the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and/or Employment Insurance (EI) program(s) should be available. Once public health and emergency orders are lifted, the temporary sick pay program should end. That said, program design should allow for quick reactivation in the event of future COVID-19 outbreaks where public health and emergency orders are issued.

Prime Minister, we appreciate your government's considerable efforts to support Canadians throughout the recent crisis. Further efforts to de-risk workplaces from COVID-19 exposure by providing temporary sick pay through CERB and/or EI is an important part of safely reopening the Canadian economy.

Thank you again for your recent commitment to work with Premiers on a temporary COVID-19 sick pay program, and for your ongoing support of Canadians during this unprecedented crisis.

Sincerely,



Canadian Construction Association
Association canadienne de la construction

Mary Van Buren
President & CEO



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERING COMPANIES | CANADA
ASSOCIATION DES FIRMES DE GÉNIE-CONSEIL | CANADA

John Gamble
President & CEO



Chris Gardner
President



Vancouver Regional Construction Association

Fiona Famulak
President



British Columbia Construction Association

Chris Atchison
President



Kelly Scott
President



BC CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYERS BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Ken McCormack
President & CEO



Paul de Jong
President



Anne McMullin
President & CEO



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERING COMPANIES BRITISH COLUMBIA

Caroline Andrewes
President & CEO



Council Of Construction Associations

Dave Baspaly
President & CEO



CANADIAN HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

Neil Moody
CEO




Rory Kulmala
CEO

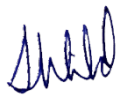


Kim Barbero
Manager





Bryan Wallner
CEO

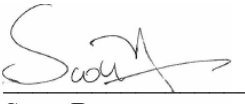



Scott Wild
CEO

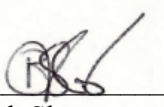



Deborah Cahill
President




Scott Bone
CEO

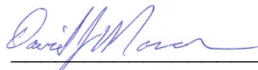



Bob Sloat
Regional Director,
Western Canada

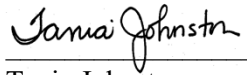



Ron Rapp
CEO




Dave Mason
President





Tania Johnston
CEO




Bob Brunet
Executive Director




Kim Barbero
CEO

CC:

Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Government of Canada

Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance, Government of Canada

Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Government of Canada

Honourable Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Official Opposition

Mr. Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the Federal New Democratic Party

Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister, Government of Canada

Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance, Government of Canada

Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, Government of Canada

Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia
Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier of Manitoba
Honourable Sandy Silver, Premier of Yukon
Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta
Honourable Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan
Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Francois Legault, Premier of Quebec
Honourable Blaine Higgs, Premier of New Brunswick
Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia
Honourable Dennis King, Premier of Prince Edward Island
Honourable Dwight Ball, Premier of Newfoundland
Honourable Caroline Cochrane, Premier of North West Territories
Honourable Joe Savikataaq, Premier of Nunavut