

## Construction Should Reopen on Expiration of Stay-At-Home Order May 20<sup>th</sup>

May 11, 2021

Hon Monte McNaughton  
Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development  
400 University Avenue  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
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Dear Minister,

I am writing you today to add the voice of the Ontario Construction Consortium (OCC) to those of other construction organizations in the province to call for a reopening of all construction after the current stay-at-home order expires on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Much of the province's construction industry has been shut down as part of a package of measures to control the spread of COVID 19. OCC supports any and all measures that will bring an end to the pandemic. But the construction sector has not been a significant source of virus spread. Construction has one of the best safety records of any industry.

A recent snapshot of 10,000 Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) claims related to COVID 19 since the pandemic began showed that fewer than 200 of those cases originated on construction sites. Construction has probably the best health and safety record during the pandemic of any sector in the economy.

Construction contractors have gone to great expense providing personal protective equipment, improved washroom facilities and running water on sites. Contractors and workers have gone to extraordinary lengths to work safely.

The construction industry contributed 8% of Canada's GDP and employed more than 1.2 million people across the country in 2019. Construction can be a leading force in the revival of our economy.

That begins with allowing all construction to resume as soon as possible.

We hope, Minister, that you will give this urgent consideration as the government contemplates the possible extension of restrictions in the coming days.

Yours truly,

Phil Gillies  
Executive Director  
Ontario Construction Consortium

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