



Date: **Tuesday, April 3, 2020**

From: **Craig Bromell, President of The Building Union of Canada (BUC)**

Dear Members,

On April 3, 2020 the Ontario Provincial Government updated their list of Essential Services and Workplaces. Below is the list of construction projects and services that the Province has declared as essential:

1. Construction projects and services associated with the healthcare sector, including new facilities, expansions, renovations and conversion of spaces that could be repurposed for health care space.
2. Construction projects and services required to ensure safe and reliable operations of, or to provide new capacity in, critical provincial infrastructure, including transit, transportation, energy and justice sectors beyond the day-to-day maintenance.
3. Critical industrial construction activities required for,
 - a. the maintenance and operations of petrochemical plants and refineries;
 - b. significant industrial petrochemical projects where preliminary work has already commenced;
 - c. industrial construction and modifications to existing industrial structures limited solely to work necessary for the production, maintenance, and/or enhancement of Personal Protective Equipment, medical devices (such as ventilators), and other identified products directly related to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Residential construction projects where,
 - a. a footing permit has been granted for single family, semi-detached and townhomes;
 - b. an above grade structural permit has been granted for condominiums, mixed use and other buildings; or

- c. the project involves renovations to residential properties and construction work was started before April 4, 2020.
5. Construction and maintenance activities necessary to temporarily close construction sites that have paused or are not active and to ensure ongoing public safety.
6. Businesses that deliver or support the delivery of services including:
 - a. Sewage treatment and disposal;
 - b. Critical infrastructure repair and maintenance including roads, dams, bridges etc.

To be clear, although the Ontario Government stated these projects and services are essential, **your health and safety and the health and safety of your families are still the greatest priority**. Therefore, if you are being asked or required to work in conditions which you think may be unsafe, because of COVID – 19 or for any other reason, **we are urging you to:**

- **stop work;**
- **get yourself to a safe place;**
- **tell your immediate supervisor that you have stopped work for safety reasons as per the OHSA;**
- **Phone your BUC Representative right away.**

YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY IS ALWAYS FIRST!

Fraternally Yours,
Craig Bromell
President, The Building Union of Canada (BUC)