

## Contractors Commit to Safe Worksites

### NEWS

March 30, 2020

TORONTO – The Ontario General Contractors Association (OGCA) is working with government and industry partners to keep workers safe and ensure the industry can continue building during the COVID-19 pandemic. The OGCA's members are some of the safest contractors in Ontario and have been working safely throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

OGCA members have taken quick and aggressive measures to ensure all workers on project sites are protected from COVID-19. The organization has fully endorsed and adopted the new standards published by the Ministry of Labour and the Chief Prevention Officer. Construction sites should only remain operational so long as they stay safe.

In a special OGCA Board Meeting, contractors from across Ontario passed a motion with recommendations to ensure that this essential industry remains operational. COVID-19 has impacted the entire construction industry and has reduced the workforce with a significant supply chain disruption. Contractors are financially responsible for the inevitable delays this causes. Many companies will not survive unless owners waive the delay claims and contractors are allowed to apply Force Majeure under the *Emergency Management Act*.

Federal and Provincial financial relief packages have assisted the industry, but more is needed to ensure the financial survival of the entire construction supply chain post COVID-19. The longer the pandemic, the more companies throughout the construction supply chain are going to have significant financial trouble. Many small and medium-sized general contractors are not capitalized to survive the financial impact without implementing contractual relief.

"Ontario's construction industry wants to remain open for business. Now more than ever, our workforce is needed to continue growing the economy in this most difficult time," said Clive Thurston, President of the OGCA. "Safety is our top priority. I encourage all contractors and industry partners to adopt the Ministry of Labour Standards."

For more information about the OGCA and COVID-19, please visit: <https://ogca.ca/>

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