



CCA PRESS RELEASE ON COVID-19

Dear colleagues and members,

CCA issued the following press release today on COVID-19 calling on the federal government for action and information in specific areas that will support our industry and its workers. A copy of the letter sent to the Prime Minister is available at the bottom of this email.

Canada's construction industry is responding to COVID-19

OTTAWA, March 21, 2020 – The health, safety and well-being of our workers, their families and friends, and the communities we operate in is the top priority of the more than 20,000 member firms of the Canadian Construction Association (CCA). This has never been more true than it is right now.

The construction sector is also one of Canada's largest employers and a major contributor to the country's economic success. The industry, 70 per cent of which are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), employs more than 1.5 million Canadians and contributes 7 per cent of Canada's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The projects we deliver are fundamental to Canadians' quality of life and to the success of our country. In many cases, they support the delivery of essential services, including the clean water we drink, energy infrastructure and the power grid, critical transportation infrastructure, and the hospitals and other health care facilities where we receive care.

As part of normal business practice and operations, the construction

industry already has in place and implements highly disciplined health and safety protocols on construction sites and at manufacturing facilities. In the current environment, our members have significantly amplified these protocols and implemented new measures based on recommendations from governments and public health authorities.

At this time, the CCA recommends that construction and related manufacturing activities remain operational.

We will continue to actively evaluate this position as the COVID-19 situation evolves and in support of health and government directives.

On behalf of our members, the CCA urgently calls on the Government of Canada for the following actions and information.

- Specific details on how companies and individuals can access the financial relief announced by the Government of Canada. This is critical as it allows business owners to focus on health and safety without the pressing fear of business failure.
- Consistent guidelines and best practices from public health authorities across the country to ensure the health, safety and well-being of all workers on construction sites and at manufacturing facilities.
- A clear statement, supported by a commitment to future legislation, which addresses how the Government of Canada will treat delays, project disruptions and other COVID-19 related costs under federal contracts, as well as federal leadership in active dialogue with provincial authorities on a consistent approach to these issues.
- Prioritization of critical infrastructure and collaborative work with industry to prioritize allocation of essential resources, including

manufacturing capacity to provide needed materials and equipment.

- Instructions to Export Development Canada (EDC) and Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) to urgently engage with industry and the financial services sector to deploy additional domestic credit to mitigate the short-term financial impact of COVID-19 related project delays and costs.

This is a challenging time for all Canadians. The construction sector stands ready to support the Government of Canada as it manages the COVID-19 crisis. This includes re-directing efforts to higher priority projects like hospitals and/or if directed, an orderly and thoughtful stoppage of some or all work in consultation with the industry.

Letter to the Prime Minister re: COVID-19

If you have any questions or comments about this release, please contact our vice-president of public affairs, Rodrigue Gilbert, at rgilbert@cca-acc.com or 613-236-9455, ext. 432.

Best regards,



Mary Van Buren, MBA, CAE

President

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The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Re: COVID-19

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

The Canadian Construction Association (CCA) and our 20,000 member firms have long prioritized safety and the well-being of the industry – for our workers and for the public.

We also play an important role in generating jobs – 70 per cent of the industry are small to medium-sized firms and collectively employ 1.5 million Canadians, contributing 7 per cent of the GDP.

Many of the projects we deliver are essential to Canadian’s quality of life – the clean water we drink, energy infrastructure and the power grid, critical transportation infrastructure, and the hospitals and other health care facilities where we receive care. In many scenarios, construction is an essential service.

CCA recommends that construction and related manufacturing activity remain open.

The construction industry routinely conducts highly disciplined health and safety protocols on construction sites and manufacturing facilities. With existing processes, together with COVID-19 specific protocols and guidance from health authorities in place, our members believe it is in the best interests of Canada that construction continues, however we urgently call on the Government of Canada for:

1. Specific details around how companies and individuals can access the financial relief announced this week by the government – this is critical to provide assurance that business owners are not asked to decide between health and safety on one hand and a business failure on the other;
2. Consistent guidelines from the health authorities around best practices to keep workers safe and healthy on project sites;
3. A clear statement, supported by future legislation, addressing how the Government of Canada will treat delays, project disruptions and other COVID-19 related costs under the provisions of federal contracts, as well as leadership in dialogue with provincial authorities on developing a consistent approach on this issue;



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4. Prioritize critical infrastructure and work with industry to prioritize allocation of essential resources, including manufacturing capacity to provide materials and equipment needed; and
5. Instruct EDC and BDC to urgently engage with industry and the financial services industry to deploy additional domestic credit to mitigate the short-term financial impact of COVID-19 related delays and costs.

This is a challenging time for all Canadians and business and community leaders. Construction is incredibly diverse, and each project, business and region is unique. The industry is ready to support the Government of Canada as it manages the COVID-19 crisis, including re-directing efforts to higher priority projects like hospitals, or if directed, an orderly and thoughtful stoppage in consultation with the industry.

The Canadian Construction Association represents all aspects of the construction industry – trade contractors, general contractors, civil contractors and manufacturers, suppliers and service providers. We are uniquely able to reflect the industry from across the country, and I invite you to contact me directly when considering the impact of any government policies that may impact construction.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'mvanburen'.

Mary Van Buren
President

C.C.:

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Hon. Anita Anand, Minister, Public Services and Procurement Canada
Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance
Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities