



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