

June 3, 2020

Right Honourable Justin P. J. Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2

Submitted Via Email: pm@pm.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Construction Sector Support for Temporary Sick Pay Coverage During COVID-19 Pandemic

We are writing to express our support for your intention to work with provincial governments to establish a temporary sick pay program for the duration of the COVID-19 period.

National and provincial construction and engineering associations have worked hard to keep people employed during the recent crisis wherever possible, subject to guidance by provincial health and safety authorities.

As leaders of Canada's construction industry, the safety and health of our workers is our number one priority. Throughout the recovery period, it is critically important to maintain public, business and employee confidence that worksites are safe. Further measures to address COVID-19 community and workplace transmission risks should include federal government-sponsored sick pay for employees who are required to self-isolate.

While some employees within our sector may be able to work from home, most construction workers do not have this option. In these circumstances, access to sick pay under the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and/or Employment Insurance (EI) program(s) should be available. Once public health and emergency orders are lifted, the temporary sick pay program should end. That said, program design should allow for quick reactivation in the event of future COVID-19 outbreaks where public health and emergency orders are issued.

Prime Minister, we appreciate your government's considerable efforts to support Canadians throughout the recent crisis. Further efforts to de-risk workplaces from COVID-19 exposure by providing temporary sick pay through CERB and/or EI is an important part of safely reopening the Canadian economy.

Thank you again for your recent commitment to work with Premiers on a temporary COVID-19 sick pay program, and for your ongoing support of Canadians during this unprecedented crisis.

Sincerely,



Canadian Construction Association
Association canadienne de la construction

Mary Van Buren
President & CEO



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERING COMPANIES | CANADA
ASSOCIATION DES FIRMES DE GÉNIE-CONSEIL | CANADA

John Gamble
President & CEO



Chris Gardner
President



Vancouver Regional Construction Association

Fiona Famulak
President



British Columbia Construction Association

Chris Atchison
President



Kelly Scott
President



BC CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYERS BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Ken McCormack
President & CEO



Paul de Jong
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Anne McMullin
President & CEO



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERING COMPANIES BRITISH COLUMBIA

Caroline Andrewes
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Council Of Construction Associations

Dave Baspaly
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CANADIAN HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Rory Kulmala
CEO




Kim Barbero
Manager

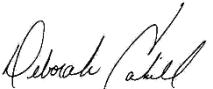



Bryan Wallner
CEO





Scott Wild
CEO

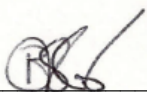



Deborah Cahill
President




Scott Bone
CEO

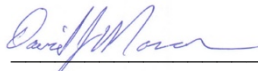



Bob Sloat
Regional Director,
Western Canada

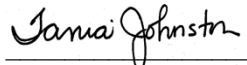



Ron Rapp
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President





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