



CDAO Statement Regarding Changes to the Essential Workplaces List

Toronto, ON
April 3, 2020.

Through discussions held with officials from the Ontario Government, and confirmed this afternoon by Premier Ford, the CDAO was informed of a significant reduction to the Essential Workplaces list. While many projects will continue as normal, the reduction will nonetheless result in the closure of many construction workplaces, especially those in the commercial construction sector. Further, construction related environmental projects will also be shut down effective Saturday, April 4th, 2020 at midnight.

Please see the Ontario Government website for the full reformed list:
[List of Essential Workplaces](#).

“Every person living and working in Ontario acknowledges the seriousness of COVID-19, especially given the dire predictions highlighted in the infection and mortality modelling charts released today,” said CDAO Chair Sandro Perruzza, who is also the CEO of the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers.

“Given the enhanced H&S protocols developed by CDAO members and adopted by the Government of Ontario, we are disappointed to hear that more construction sites will be closing. However, as an industry, we support the actions taken to reduce the transmission and spread of the COVID-19 virus and will continue to work with this government to minimize the effects of any future outbreaks or reoccurrences.”

For projects that will be continuing, we impress upon the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development to maintain high levels of oversight and inspections so that our skilled trades and professionals on site continue to be protected. We are glad that Premier Ford recognizes the importance of continuing projects that are building valuable public infrastructure so badly needed in this province. Investing in infrastructure is vital not only to support our communities against COVID-19 but also to support Ontario’s economic recovery.

CDAO Vice Chair Andy Manahan, Executive Director of the Residential & Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario, added that “the Ontario government had to make a tough decision as the COVID-19 situation worsens. We commend Premier Ford and his team for recognizing that critical infrastructure projects must proceed.”

CDAO will continue to work with the Government of Ontario by recommending effective policies that will enable us to build an Ontario that serves the needs of our communities now and in the future. As the voice of the Construction and Design sectors in Ontario, we have the knowledge, experience and conviction to moving past this crisis in a collaborative and constructive fashion.

For further information, please contact:

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