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NTCCC Applauds Federal Initiative to Establish COVID-19 Response Construction Sector Advisory Group

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The National Trade Contractors Council of Canada (NTCCC) is thanking the federal government for establishing a joint government-industry advisory group to deal with construction sector challenges in light of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Trade contractors are facing multiple challenges in light of this pandemic," said Sandra Skivsky, Chair of NTCCC. "Provinces are addressing the sector differently, and new developments are happening by the hour, but we hope this group will be able to work through common issues like cash flow and contract terms. The federal government can set the standard for provinces to mirror."

In Ontario, B.C. and Saskatchewan, all construction has been identified as an essential service. In Quebec, there are more restrictions but service work and completely critical infrastructure is still a priority for the government. Other provinces are expected to follow-suit as the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise from coast-to-coast.

"Job sites are facing many challenges due to COVID-19, and in many cases, suppliers or permitting offices have slowed down significantly which is putting pressure on meeting milestones and completing projects," added Skivsky. "What we're hoping to achieve is clear direction that provides support for health and safety on job sites, addresses cash flow concerns, and mitigates contract concerns to avoid litigation months down the line, so that construction can effectively respond to Canada's economic recovery efforts when the time comes."

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The National Trade Contractors Coalition of Canada (NTCCC) was established in 2004 to provide an organized forum for Canada's national trade organizations to share information, resources, and to collaborate on issues that are of common interest all. The membership is currently comprised of: Canadian Roofing Contractors Association, Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association, Canadian Masonry Contractors Association, Canadian Electrical Contractors Association, Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada, Interior Systems Contractors Association, Thermal Insulation Association of Canada, Heating Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Institute of Canada-Contractors Division, Sheet-Metal Contractors Association, and the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction.

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