

April 5, 2020

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

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

**RE: Construction Projects of National Importance Vital to COVID-19 Response in Canada**

I am writing to express the support of the National Trade Contractors Council of Canada (NTCCC) for the continued operation of construction projects of national importance during Canada's COVID-19 response.

Your government has taken important steps to deliver a rapid response to a crisis from both a safety and financial perspectives. The implication of keeping everyone safe requires Canadians to isolate themselves for the common good. It also means workplaces must provide a much higher health and safety standard to those whose work is considered essential. As a result, the construction industry is hard hit on many aspects such as; reduced workforce, higher costs for implementing safety measures, reduced productivity. In order to keep working there needs to be relief from these costs that were not foreseen by anyone. However, opportunities remain to ensure progress on major projects of national importance that are critical to the well-being and safety of Canadians, such as those in the health/research sector, defense and security and those that have national significance such as the work on Parliament Hill, as long as we keep on-site people safe.

What is equally important to keeping any construction active during these times is assurance of financial support to account for the conditions faced by trade contractors and their workers. In the course of construction, disruption and delays add costs for every party throughout the construction chain, which is ultimately borne, in the case of federal projects, by tax payers. Many Canadians do not see the burden that it also places on contractors, their workers, and suppliers. These impacts range from minor annoyances to catastrophic losses that lead to layoffs, shutdowns, and bankruptcies. We know that your government understands this reality, and it will be of utmost importance to have these financial supports announced now.

Trade contractors have costs that cannot be deferred, especially when it comes to their workers and many will not be able to sustain working over the next few weeks without these issues being addressed. NTCCC recommends financial relief from costs precipitated by Covid-19 such as loss of productivity, schedule disruptions, safety measures, etc., and relief from delay claims where those delays are related to this virus.

Our organization is in on-going discussions with the General Contractors Alliance of Canada and the Canadian Construction Association to deliver a united voice on the importance of financial relief for the sector. We are also collaborating to provide useful recommendations to Minister Anand and her colleagues on appropriate measures to provide leniency in contract terms that will allow needed flexibility for firms to navigate the pandemic.

NTCCC looks forward to working closely with you to ensure the sector continues to drive economic and employment growth, especially during the economic restart we will all need in the months ahead.

Sincerely,



Sandra Skivsky  
Chair, NTCCC

Cc: The Hon. Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement  
The Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure  
Mr. Steven MacKinnon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Services and Procurement