



Government Relations Update March 20, 2020

- **ENGAGEMENT WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT:**
 - RESCON has been in constant communication with the Ministry Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) over the last several days, especially around permits and inspections.
 - We have shared with the government all information that we have on municipalities cutting back building services and have reiterated that the uncertainty around inspection and permits across the region may create detrimental impacts to industry.
 - We have worked with Minister's Office to ensure that Minister Clark is communicating with mayors across Ontario the importance of permits/inspections taking place and proposing alternatives to delivering these services remotely during these times.
 - RESCON's greatest asset to government, especially at this time, is our ability to gather information from the ground across the region and feed it to the Province. We have shared out municipal tracking sheet with them as well to give them a sense of what is happening across the GTHA.
 - We will continue to work with the Province on a directive or some sort of framework to address the permits and inspection issue. We will update members on our work regularly.

- **ENGAGEMENT WITH INDUSTRY**
 - RESCON is working with our industry partners including BILD, OHBA and OBOA to share information and push the advocacy efforts with government from multiple sources.
 - Toronto Region Board of Trade (TRBOT) has also reached out to get industry's perspective on the impacts of the City of Toronto's services closures, especially City Planning.
 - TRBOT have advised us that they will advocate and call on building permits office to reopen, with an emphasis on issuing occupancy permits and footing inspections for larger projects, and that documentation can take the place of progress inspections for the time being.

- **EMERGENCY LEGISLATION IN ONTARIO**
 - On Thursday, in an emergency sitting of the legislature, the Government of Ontario passed two pieces of legislation in connection with COVID19.
 - The bills passed with unanimous consent by only 26 MPPs in the house. The number of members participating reflected the social distancing edict. This was a first in Ontario's history.
 - More information about both these two bills can be found below and [here](#).



<i>Employment Standards Amendment Act (Infectious Disease Emergencies), 2020</i>	<i>Municipal Emergency Act, 2020</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides job protection leave for employees who are in isolation or quarantine due to COVID19, or those who need to be away from work to care for children because of school or day care closures or to care for relatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures that for the near future, the delivery of goods to Ontario’s businesses and consumers is not impacted by municipal noise bylaws.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These measures are retroactive to January 25, 2020, the date the first presumptive COVID19 case was confirmed in Ontario 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives municipalities the ability to fully conduct Council, local board and committee meetings electronically when faced with local and province-wide emergencies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legislation makes it clear that employees cannot be required to show sick notes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowers municipalities to respond quickly and continue to function when in-person meetings cannot be held, and council decisions need to be made."

- **FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE**

- On Wednesday, March 18th, the Prime Minister announced a new set of economic measures to help stabilize the economy during this challenging period.
- These measures, delivered as part of the Government of Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, will provide up to \$27 billion in direct support to Canadian workers and businesses and \$55 billion in tax deferrals.
- To read more about the stimulus package, you can [check out RESCON’s coverage](#) as well as the [latest government information on the package](#).

- **ONTARIO’S ECONOMIC STATEMENT**

- Earlier this week, Ontario’s Finance Minister, Rod Phillips, announced that given the fact that there have been revisions to the economic outlook and data that were used to develop the provincial budget, there would be no “budget” presented next week.
- Rather, given the dynamic situation, Minister Phillips will be presenting an economic and fiscal update on March 25th based on the best understanding of the current situation.
- The update will include:
 - Realistic 1-year outlook based on current projections;
 - Focus on municipalities, hospitals and schools; and
 - Increased resources for health care
- RESCON will cover extensively the release of the economic update and will provide you with updates on the fiscal situation as they become available.