



RESCON Members:

This update focuses on the province's announcement to reopen construction and also provides two health and safety updates.

As of May 19, all construction sites will be open in the province, including all servicing, excavation, and production-related activities in the residential sector. This is certainly good news for our industry and our members.

I am very proud of how our sector successfully navigated through the early stages of this pandemic. We led the early development and implementation of COVID-19 protocols for construction, which was a crucial element in most of the sector being designated as an essential workplace.

Also allowed to open are **retail services that are not in shopping malls and have separate street-front entrances**, with the following measures in place:

- space and layout to enable physical distancing;
- limiting the number of customers in the store at any one time;
- booking appointments;
- providing proper PPE for staff and customers (or requiring customers to provide);
- ensuring proper sanitization of the workplace; and
- a COVID-19 policy.

### **Municipal Building Department Services Update**

On Monday, May 11, 2020, Ontario Regulation 209/20 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20209>) was filed which amends certain provisions under the Ontario Building Code. This morning, an industry teleconference was hosted by the

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to review and clarify the changes relating to Ontario Regulation 209/20.

Under Ontario Regulation 209/20, the Ministry clarified that municipal building departments are required to adhere to the existing stipulated timelines pertaining to the review and issuance of building permits as well as requests for inspections. Furthermore, should the offices of the principal authority (municipality) not be open for the transaction of business with the public due to COVID-19, the existing stipulated timelines under the Building Code remain in effect. If the offices of the principal authority are not open, alternate arrangements must be made to facilitate the submission of building permit applications, such as e-permitting, email submissions or mail/courier.

Additional MOL resources are available [here](#) and [here](#).

We are not out of the woods yet by any means, but the fact that all elements of our industry can now get back to work bodes well for the future.

Premier Doug Ford pointed out yesterday during his daily press conference on the matter that the construction industry has done “an incredible job” and he looks forward to the industry to “set the gold standard.”

The Premier emphasized that he is “proud” of the construction industry and of the fact that construction work continued as an essential workplace during the shutdown.

The pace of adjustment during the COVID pandemic has been relentless for our industry. We can be proud of the fact that we led the way.

**Obviously, the health and safety of workers will be paramount as we move forward, and we will continue to remain vigilant and abide by provincial guidelines.**

The road ahead will not be without its challenges, but allowing all residential construction to proceed in Ontario as of next week will have a tremendously positive impact on the economic recovery. Hopefully we can get the economy firing on all cylinders as quickly and safely as possible.

For the government’s news release please [click here](#).

For the RESCON news release please [click here](#).

### **Health and Safety Update**

Please find attached two health and safety documents.

The first document, "[Construction's New Health and Safety Regime Flyer](#)," provides information on an upcoming ReNew Canada magazine webinar focused on Health and Safety in the Construction Industry and the Impact of COVID-19.

It is scheduled for **Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** and will run from **9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.** To register, please click on the attachment or email Fiona Nguyen at [Nguyen@rescon.com](mailto:Nguyen@rescon.com) for assistance. It will feature a panel with participation from LiUNA Local 183, the IHSA, and RESCON.

The second document, "[Virtual Learning](#)," is from the LiUNA Local 183 training centre. Effective May 14<sup>th</sup>, they have ramped up and accelerated online health and safety learning programs. If you have any health and safety needs please contact LiUNA or Andrew Pariser at [pariser@rescon.com](mailto:pariser@rescon.com) for assistance.

Sincerely,

Richard Lyall  
President