

Residential builders donate personal protective equipment to schools, groups and charities

Ontario Construction News staff writer

The Residential Construction Council of Ontario (RESCON) says it is donating personal protective equipment (PPE) to four Ontario community groups and local charities.

“RESCON members build the houses and condos where Ontarians create community and communities,” said RESCON president Richard Lyall. “COVID-19 impacts all Ontarians and it is very meaningful for us to give back to community groups.

“The construction industry has shown leadership in the creation of COVID-19 protocols and protecting workers. With this second wave of the pandemic upon us, our industry wanted to give back to schools, those who are without homes, and the community at large by providing the necessary PPE such as masks and hand sanitizer to help keep students safe.”

Representatives of RESCON joined Labour, Training and Skills Development Minister Monte McNaughton and Mississauga East-Cooksville MPP Kaleed Rasheed at an event last Thursday (Nov. 12) at the Muslim Association of Canada’s Olive Grove School in Mississauga to make a donation of PPE equipment.

RESCON is donating a total of \$40,000 of PPE to:

- Muslim Association of Canada
- St. Clare’s Multifaith Housing Society
- United Jewish Appeal
- Edvance

RESCON’s board of directors continues to support COVID-19 efforts across the province and in the fight against the pandemic. The economic recovery of the province depends on having a healthy Ontario.

RESCON led the way earlier this year in developing and implementing COVID-19 protocols for residential construction sites when the pandemic first struck. The residential construction sector was the first in Ontario to produce sector-specific guidance documents to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on worksites. The guidance documents were approved by labour and management and served as a blueprint for the de-

velopment of the province’s 170 sector-specific guidance resources.

“The groundwork laid by construction contributed to the industry doing well in dealing with COVID-19 across Ontario and that is why we want to give back to Ontario communities,” said Lyall. “RESCON will continue to prioritize the health and safety of workers and work with industry and government to ensure that appropriate measures are being taken on construction sites.”

RESCON is hoping that other organizations in Ontario will also step up and donate PPE to schools, community groups and charities. We chose to make the donations to schools because they are essential places of learning and growth for children.

“The Muslim Association of Canada has been working closely with the province of Ontario and Minister Monte McNaughton to ensure students and staff in our independent schools are safe during these difficult times through many advanced protective measures,” said Olive Grove School principal Abdulatif Babak. “We are very grateful to RESCON for their leadership in the community and this significant donation to our school.”

“I want to thank RESCON for going above and beyond during COVID-19 in supporting the Mississauga community and particularly schools, including MAC’s Olive Grove School,” said MPP Rasheed. “RESCON’s generosity is truly reflective of Premier Doug Ford’s Ontario spirit. Thank you to Minister Monte McNaughton for bridging support between our local companies and our communities to make sure everyone is protected through this pandemic.”

“St. Clare’s has great admiration for our staff who arrive every day at work ready to work for our tenants in these challenging circumstances,” said Andrea Adams, executive director of St. Clare’s.

“We are grateful to RESCON for helping us show our respect to those staff by donating PPE to help keep them safe while they work. We are working together to keep people housed and healthy to the best of our abilities.”



RESCON president Richard Lyall speaks at an event Nov. 12 where the organization donated PPE to the Muslim Association of Canada and Olive Grove School in Mississauga. Labour, Training and Skills Development Minister Monte McNaughton also attended.

Pinewood starts work on multi-stage Toronto studio expansion



Ontario Construction News staff writer

Pinewood Toronto Studios says that major construction has begun on its multi-stage expansion of more than 200,000 sq. ft. (18,580 sq. m.) of new sound stage and support space.

The five-acre new build will better meet the growing roster of domestic and international film and television clients in Toronto, bringing the production facility to a total of over 525,000 sq. ft., the studio says in a statement.

DataBid.com reports HOK Architects Corporation (HOK Inc.) has designed the structure developed by Castlepoint Numa and Pinewood Group.

The expansion features five new sound stages totaling 102,000 sq. ft., 58,000 sq. ft. of additional office and support space, and 15,000 sq. ft.

dedicated to a mill shop and workshop space in addition to a new 25,000 sq. ft. workshop added in 2019.

Upon completion, the structure will house 16 sound stages, along with offices that can continue to house multiple productions at a time, and dedicated workshop spaces.

“We’re excited to invest in the future of our vibrant creative industry and are targeting completion in early 2022,” Nanci MacLean, president, Pinewood Toronto Studios and vice-president, Bell Media Studios, said in a statement. “Already Canada’s best-in-class film and television studio, today’s construction update reinforces Pinewood Toronto Studios’ commitment to serving the needs of the most innovative content creators in the world.”

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