

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

March 30, 2020

RE: COVID-19 and the Mechanical Contracting Sector

To the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau,

On behalf of 1,000 member firms in the Canadian mechanical contracting sector, the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada (MCAC) remains supportive of the measures taken to date to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of all Canadians remains paramount to our membership.

In addition to new-build construction, the mechanical contracting industry provides service and repair for building systems across Canada; the plumbing, gas, ventilation, heating and cooling systems for the Canadian built environment. In times of crisis, this role is even more pronounced, as these core building systems are fundamental to a healthy living environment for all Canadians and provide a critical service to our healthcare system.

As with all industries across Canada, the COVID-19 pandemic is having a disruptive effect on Canada's mechanical contracting sector. Given the important work our members undertake, we are committed to ensuring our workplaces and work sites remain safe for employees, customers, partners and workers. We have appreciated the many resources made available by public health authorities to date, but note that our members and their employees are faced with challenges on a regular basis to balance safe work protocols alongside the need to undertake work deemed vital for Canadians. At the same time, our members are facing delays on projects, or unable to take on projects due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you can appreciate, there are significant or even disastrous consequences as a result. It is critical that the COVID-19 pandemic be recognized as outside of the control of contractors, and that any delays or damages are not placed squarely on the shoulders of our members.

As a national association, we are asking the federal and provincial governments to present a united message with respect to the mechanical contracting industry, and that:

1. Provincial and national health authorities work closely with subtrade associations across Canada to help establish and enforce clear health and safety protocols in the context of COVID-19.
2. Governments recognize the COVID-19 pandemic as an event outside the control of contractors, and that any delays as a result be regarded as such.

3. The federal government support the mechanical contracting sector to ensure financial support for those construction firms affected by the closure of construction sites and any project delays as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. and that,
4. Any accountability on the part of the contractor firm for COVID-19-related claims be removed.

As Canada's largest trade contractor association, we would like to once again reiterate our support of the efforts being taken to protect Canadians and Canadian businesses. We remain committed to supporting our members in the best way possible during this tumultuous time, and to working with all levels of government to ensure the essential work provided by our members can be maintained both now and into the future.

If we can provide any additional clarity on these issues, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We would be pleased to host a teleconference to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely,



Dave Holek
President and Chair
Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada