



Carpenters' District Council of Ontario

United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America

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Tony Iannuzzi

Executive Secretary Treasurer

March 20, 2020

Mike Yorke

President

VIA FACSIMILE

The Honourable Doug Ford, MPP
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Room 281
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

The Honourable Monte McNaughton, MPP
Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development
400 University Avenue, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1T7

Dear Premier and Minister,

Re: COVID-19 and the Safety of All Construction Workers

As you know, despite your Government's declaration of a state of emergency, work in the construction industry continues in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We know you recognize that the health and safety of all construction workers attending at jobsites is of heightened importance during this health crisis. For our part, we have repeatedly reminded our members that their health and safety, and that of their families, comes first. We have also reminded them of the COVID-19 protocols apply equally to them, their fellow workers and the employers on all of their jobsites.

Despite the desire of our industry to keep working, in recent days our Union has become increasingly concerned about reports we are getting back from our members about the conditions they are facing on their jobsites. We are extremely alarmed at reports that many of the construction sites that our members are working at are not properly applying the directions and protocols concerning COVID-19, and particularly those concerning washing facilities and social distancing. This is obviously placing the safety and well-being of our members, and all of the construction workers on those sites, in jeopardy. These concerns are amplified by the fact that we now appear to be having trouble getting Ministry of Labour inspectors out to jobsites to deal with legitimate safety concerns.

The Carpenters Union is strongly urging you to take immediate action to enhance and enforce the working conditions at construction job sites across the Province. Clearly, if construction sites are not abiding by the recommended COVID-19 protocols, then the workplace is not safe for our members. Unless these issues are resolved on an urgent and expedited basis, it is our view that all work in our industry will inevitably come to a halt.

We want to work together with you and all of those involved in our industry to resolve these matters and we are therefore always ready to meet with you in an effort to make sure jobsites can continue to operate but only if they can do so in a safe manner during this crisis.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Iannuzzi
Executive Secretary Treasurer
Carpenters' District Council of Ontario

c.c. All CDCO Local Unions

www.thecarpentersunion.ca

