

March 27, 2020

The Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier  
Premier of Manitoba  
450 Broadway Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R3C 4L6

Dear Premier,

**RE: Standards for and Consultation with Mechanical Contractors during COVID-19**

Thank you for the exceptional leadership the Provincial Government is providing Manitobans throughout the rising concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your commitment to honest, concise messaging resonates.

*"Candor is better than mincing words; so, lets talk about some things that need to be talked about. Economic activity is vital; it's commerce, it's business, it's trade. It's vital because it creates jobs and employs people. It's vital because it pays our government's bills too and, it obviously plays a role in providing the services we all depend on...." Premier Brian Pallister*

The Mechanical Contractors Association of Manitoba has extended offers of Industry consultation and expert opinion to aid in identifying areas of risk and concise messaging for affected contractors. To date this has not been accepted, however, we have received notice maintenance services may be included on a provincial list of critical services. Allow us to use your words and the intention of them to support you; candor is what we are providing.

Mechanical contractors construct and provide the service for the Manitoba Built environment, including plumbing, wastewater, gas, ventilation, heating and cooling systems in Industrial, ICI and residential settings. Consistent with your statement above, the immediate goals of the association are to keep Mechanical Contractors working and their employees safe. Should Government need to restrict activities to the one true essential service of healthcare; Mechanical Contractors, as a critical aspect of the healthcare supply chain, must understand how to keep their employees safe.

Current Health advisory physical distancing restrictions are challenging in many of the work environments of Mechanical Contractors. Our National Association has engaged OHS Global, specialists in Industrial hygiene, Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) and Hazardous Materials (HazMat) to provide guidelines to Mechanical Contractors to mitigate the risk of community-based transmission of COVID-19. Prior to the Pandemic, OHS Global provided infection control training related to healthcare facilities and mechanical contract work, are a recommended provider by the Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society and are utilized in Manitoba.

We ask you direct the Emergency Measures Organization and related Ministers to work directly with the Mechanical Contractors Association regarding Standards for and Consultation with Mechanical Contractors during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The current level of consultation within the construction industry is not serving mechanical contractors. The Contractors who are most vulnerable through exposure to contaminated waste & ventilation, and who are vital to supporting the ongoing physical structure of the Healthcare system.

Yours Sincerely,

Ramona Coey  
Executive Director



cc. The Honourable Cameron Friesen  
The Honourable Ron Schuler  
The Honourable Scott Fielding  
The Honourable Ralf Eichler  
The Honourable Reg Helwer  
The Honourable Rochelle Squires