

Ontario Allowing Select Businesses to Reopen

As we start to see a decrease in COVID-19 cases, the Ontario government is allowing certain businesses and workplaces to reopen **as long as they comply with strict public health guidelines and are able to operate safely during the continued outbreak**. Those permitted to reopen include seasonal businesses and some additional construction projects. Given the Province's announcement these businesses will be able to begin operations on **Monday, May 4th, 2020**.

In reviewing the province's list of [Businesses Allowed to Reopen Under Strict Safety Guidelines](#), these are the main items that pertain to our industry.

Businesses allowed to reopen include:

- Lawn care and landscaping;
- Additional essential construction projects that include:
 - Shipping and logistics;
 - Broadband, telecommunications, and digital infrastructure;
 - Any other project that supports the improved delivery of goods and services;
 - Municipal projects;
 - Colleges and universities;
 - Child care centers;
 - Schools; and
 - Site preparation, excavation, and servicing for institutional, commercial, industrial and residential development.

As part of the first step in the Province's three phase plan to reopen following the extended shutdown, the government has created [sector-specific labour guidelines](#) that businesses will need to follow in order to operate. The businesses currently allowed to reopen must be able to physically distance their staff and customers, put in physical barriers, provide contact free services and/or work outside where they are isolated. These guidelines are designed to protect workers, customers and the general public from the spread of COVID-19 (the construction specific portion of these guidelines can be found [here](#)).

We will continue to closely monitor the situation and provide updates as the Province continues to work towards reopening. Please join us for our conference calls with our Regional Industry Councils (RICs) to discuss the specific challenges that exist in the various regions around the province, and the steps that the industry can take together to ensure that concrete construction continues to be conducted safely and in accordance with government regulations.

Everyone stay healthy and safe!

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