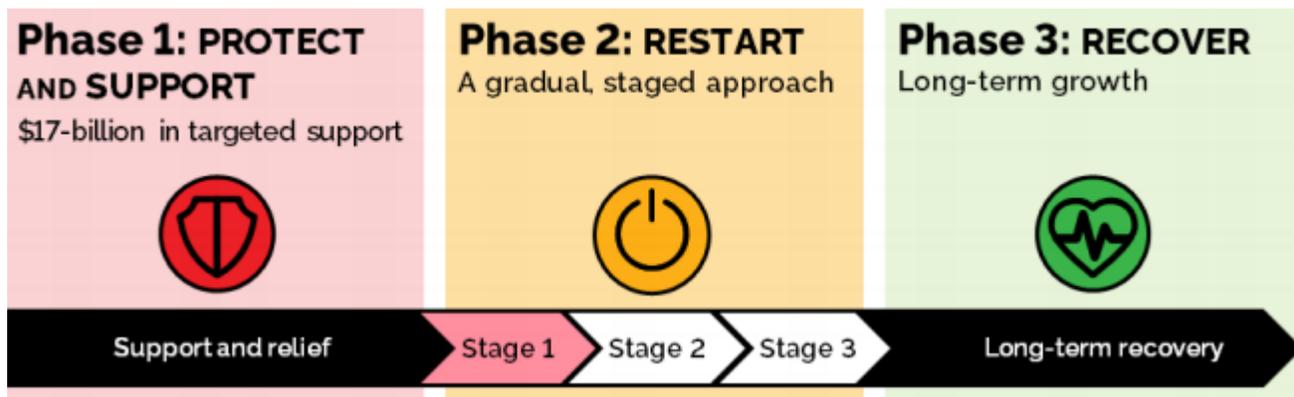


## Ontario Announces Stage 1 of Reopening our Province

The government of Ontario has significantly expanded the list of businesses that can soon reopen as part of Stage 1 of the province's plan to restart the economy. Today's announcement included the reopening of the **entire construction industry**, which can resume full operations as of **Tuesday, May 19, 2020**.

The workplaces opening as part of this stage are well-positioned to implement workplace health and safety measures, maintain physical distancing and limit gatherings. Sector-specific workplace safety guidelines are available on the government [website](#) and should be reviewed before reopening. Today's exciting news comes with some words of caution; businesses should only open if they are prepared to uphold the recommended safety measures to limit the spread of the virus and feel that they are able to operate responsibly. The framework for reopening the province will only progress if key public health indicators continue to show improvement in our fight against COVID-19.

Ontario will continue to proceed with caution as we work towards the next stages in the gradual reopening process, based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts. As outlined in the [Framework for Reopening our Province Stage 1](#) keeping workplaces, staff and the general public safe is the primary focus. The framework provides businesses owners, managers, and employees with the information they need to reopen safely in this new environment and ensure that the reopening of Ontario's economy is a success.



Key workplace safety considerations include:

- Minimizing the risk of the spread of COVID-19 in each workplace.
- The ability to conduct business remotely.
- The ability to adjust business practices to ensure physical distancing, enhanced hygiene, additional cleaning/disinfecting, monitoring of sick workers, and use of personal protective equipment, if necessary.
- The ability to clean workplaces, which may require restrictions on space available to employees and customers (e.g., curbside pick-up, closing sections).

As work resumes on sites across the province, we will continue to monitor the situation and work with our members to share best practices and address new safety concerns related to COVID-19. The ready mixed concrete industry must adjust to a new normal as we work together to rebuild the Ontario economy. More than ever employee, customer and community safety must remain at the forefront of our daily operations and business practices. Concrete Ontario would like to thank all our members for their continued input and support during these challenging times. 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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