



Honourable John Horgan

Premier of British Columbia

West Annex Parliament Buildings

Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4

premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier,

CPCI and our British Columbia members want to applaud you and your government for demonstrating solid leadership during this unprecedented health and economic crisis. We know you are considering what sectors are essential during this health and financial crisis and we want to make sure you hear from our sector that we believe we are an essential service in the Province. The cement and concrete sector are the backbone of all infrastructure in British Columbia and a critical and essential participant in British Columbia's economy.

Cement, concrete and aggregate producers are the largest suppliers of building materials in Canada. Almost nothing in British Columbia gets built without these essential materials. Even as the economy strains under the extreme measures governments are wisely enacting to prevent the spread of COVID-19, continued production of cement and concrete will position the province to dampen some of the economic impacts today and, even more importantly, be ready to supply the materials we will need to hasten a rapid economic recovery.

In addition to the 7 plants in British Columbia that are certified by the Canadian Precast Concrete Quality Assurance (CPCQA) Certification Program, our industry is also allied with two cement manufacturing facilities and over 108 ready-mix concrete facilities across the province, many of which are small to medium sized businesses. As an industry we feel it is critical to stay the course with existing infrastructure investments and to work with the province and municipalities to advance projects that can begin construction as soon as the health crisis subsides. With the retraction of consumer confidence and spending, the economy will have to rely more on public construction (shovels in the ground projects) to pull us out of this recession.

The precast concrete industry is committed to assisting the government in any way possible to ensure that our province's workers and residents are safe, our businesses return to profitability, and British Columbia's economy recovers quickly. **Today we want to reassure you that the health and safety of our employees and British Columbians they encounter during the COVID-19 crisis is top of mind.** CPCI members operate plant-based controlled manufacturing facilities, and we can't over-emphasize our commitment to ensuring that all our employees are safe at work and return home safely at night to their families. To this end, we are participating with our cement and concrete allies on a cement/concrete industry health and safety working

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group industry across Canada to align our health and safety procedures. We want to take the opportunity to highlight initiatives that we are taking immediately. While we have always made the health and safety of our employees a priority, **we are enhancing those measures so that they align with the most up to date COVID-19 related best practices as recommended by public health.**

Please see the attached document (*COVID-19 Best Practice Health and Safety Guidelines for Employees in the Cement and Concrete Industry*). This allied industry comprehensive publication is being distributed across all the companies in our sector, and provides detailed guidance for the operators of trucks, vehicles, heavy and mobile equipment, product installers and cement and concrete producers/manufacturing facilities. We are disseminating this information widely across British Columbia, to labour and trade groups, as well as to the construction industry we serve. We will be working closely with our representatives to ensure we are all collaborating in the interest of the health and safety of their members, our valued employees and their families.

Again, we thank you for your leadership during this extremely difficult time in British Columbia and respectfully request that you deem construction, including precast concrete manufacturing, as an essential service to the province. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have about how we are working during the COVID-19 crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Burak".

Robert Burak, P.Eng.
CPCI President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J Hall".

Brian J Hall, B. B. A., MBA
CPCI Managing Director

Cc: Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

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