



March 31, 2020

Honourable Blaine Higgs
Chancery Place
P. O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Dear Premier,

CPCI and our New Brunswick members want to applaud you and your government for demonstrating solid leadership during this unprecedented health and economic crisis. 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 New Brunswick's economy recovers quickly.

We want to thank the government for recognizing construction as an essential service. A large part of our economic recovery from this crisis will be focused on the construction sector as an important driver of the overall economy. In addition to the plant in New Brunswick that is certified by the Canadian Precast Concrete Quality Assurance (CPCQA) Certification Program, our industry is also allied with cement manufacturing facilities and over 80 ready-mix concrete facilities across the Maritimes, 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.

Today we want to reassure you that the health and safety of our employees and New Brunswickers 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 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.**

Precast Concrete Builds On... Accelerated Building Construction (ABC)

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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 New Brunswick, 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, thank you for your leadership during this extremely difficult time in New Brunswick and 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: Honourable Bill Oliver, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure