



Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan

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Dear Colleagues

RE: COVID-19

At a time when COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter is dominating the news cycles it easy to forget that in fact we have **two** health crises raging right now. The opioid epidemic has been further fueled by C-19 and heartbreakingly the number of overdose deaths occurring are on the increase. The BC Coroners Service has released some disturbing new numbers around drug overdose deaths. In May, the province recorded 170 fatal overdoses linked to illicit drug. This equates to almost 6 deaths DAILY!! That is the highest number recorded in a single month to date in BC, a 93-per-cent spike over the number of deaths in May 2019, and a 44-per-cent increase over April 2020. Furthermore, we must not forget that it is construction workers that are disproportionately affected by the epidemic and are disproportionately represented in the fatal overdoses. Please see the BC coroner's report here for more details:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/news/2020/2020pssg0028-000958.pdf>

I want to reassure the industry that CIRP continues to work with the industry and have done *throughout* the C-19 pandemic. We have seen an increase in the number of calls we are receiving and anecdotally there is much concern amongst our clients and the industry folk that call for services and information. We continue to provide all services including workshops via video conferencing platforms.

For now we continue to work remotely to ensure physical distancing without compromising the safety of clients and staff. Returning to in-office operations would require reducing appointments. This is not currently a viable option as we have for the first time in 4 years a significant waitlist of clients. Clients that are at high risk for overdose.

Remember we remain open Monday to Friday, 0930-1900hr daily. You can reach us as always at 1-888-521-8611 or 1-604-521-8611 or via our website www.constructionrehabplan.com. These are truly unprecedented times, and as always we must remain vigilant in taking care of ourselves and our industry both physical and emotionally, stay safe and well!

Sincerely,

Vicky Waldron, MSc (Hons) H.Psych
Executive Director, CIRP