

## Joleen Kaminski

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**From:** CLRInfo  
**Sent:** April 3, 2020 6:07 PM  
**To:** Ken McCormack  
**Cc:** Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski  
**Subject:** COVID 19 Update: April 3

**Importance:** High

CLR Members,

Many of you will be very concerned that while trying to operate your business, some of your employees may contract the COVID-19 virus through no fault of your own. I know that the primary concern would be for your workers, but it is not lost on any of you that while doing your best to keep your business and the economy going, the unfortunate can happen. The result could have a negative impact on your business, and some of you may already be finding that the threat of liability against your business can have a significant effect on your insurance.

The government has recognized this issue and issued the following news release for businesses recognized as essential services like those in construction. It essentially says that so long as your business complies with orders from the provincial health officer and other authorities, your business cannot be held liable for damages caused by exposure to COVID-19 while continuing to operate.

Here is the link to the news release: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AG0029-000616>

Also this week, the provincial health officer (PHO) has issued guidelines for bylaw and compliance officers tasked with ensuring B.C. businesses and residents are complying with public health orders.

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/compliance\\_and\\_enforcement\\_guidance\\_march\\_31\\_2020.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/compliance_and_enforcement_guidance_march_31_2020.pdf)

The Ontario government announced changes today in its list of essential services. The changes included some construction activities which have been directed to cease by midnight tomorrow (April 4). As it stands now, there is no indication that the BC government will be changing its list of essential services as it applies to construction. Of course, that potential exists and is largely dependent on how well our industry follows the PHO guidelines for safe work sites.

The revised list of Ontario essential services can be found here: [https://www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces?utm\\_source=BC%20Construction%20Association&utm\\_campaign=4bac2ef217-BCCA\\_BRIEFING\\_MAY\\_2019\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_048e6515f7-4bac2ef217-103910409&mc\\_cid=4bac2ef217&mc\\_eid=121a240b97#section-10](https://www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces?utm_source=BC%20Construction%20Association&utm_campaign=4bac2ef217-BCCA_BRIEFING_MAY_2019_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_048e6515f7-4bac2ef217-103910409&mc_cid=4bac2ef217&mc_eid=121a240b97#section-10)

The CLR will continue to advocate on your behalf on all related issues, will monitor events during these difficult times, and will report updates to you as they are available.

Have a good weekend and stay well.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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