On April 3, 2020, the Government of Ontario announced an updated and more restrictive list of essential services in an effort to combat the spread of COVID-19. The updated order comes into effect on April 4, 2020 and 11:59pm.

With respect to construction, the updated essential services order provides that the following types of construction remain essential:

- Construction projects and services associated with the healthcare sector

- Critical public infrastructure projects, including transit, transportation, energy and projects related to the justice system.

- Critical industrial construction activities required for,
  - the maintenance and operations of petrochemical plants and refineries,
  - significant industrial petrochemical projects where preliminary work has already commenced,
  - industrial construction and modifications to existing industrial structures limited solely to work necessary for the production, maintenance, and/or enhancement of Personal Protective Equipment, medical devices (such as ventilators), and other identified products directly related to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Residential construction projects where,
  - a footing permit has been granted for single family, semi-detached and townhomes
  - an above grade structural permit has been granted for condominiums, mixed use and other buildings, or
  - the project involves renovations to residential properties and construction work was started before April 4, 2020.
• Construction and maintenance activities necessary to temporarily close construction sites that have paused or are not active and to ensure ongoing public safety.

All construction projects that fall outside of the above list are deemed non-essential and must be temporarily shut down. It is likely that a number of construction projects that were considered essential under the original order are now deemed non-essential and will be shut down. Each owner/contractor will be required to determine whether their construction project(s) are required to shut down under the updated order and should communicate this immediately to their employees.

If members have concerns with respect to an owner/contractor’s determination in this regard, the matter should be raised with their supervisor and, if necessary, they should contact a Business Representative for assistance. You can find all the Business Representative’s contact information in the Tradewind.

It should be noted that the updated order specifically confirms that maintenance, repair and property management services necessary to manage and maintain the safety, security, sanitation and essential operation of ICI and residential properties and buildings continues to be essential and remain open.

Members who are employed on constructions that have been temporarily shut down under the updated order should ensure they access all financial assistance programs that have been made available by the government in response to the COVID-19 crisis. More information in respect of these programs is contained on our website.

As always, please feel free to contact a Business Representative should you have any questions or concerns.

Fraternally,

Robert Brooker
Business Manager
United Association, Local 46