



MEMBER BULLETIN

April 3, 2020

UPDATE – Province Removes Workplaces from Essential Workplace List

On Friday, April 3, the Government of Ontario reduced the size of its essential workplaces list by almost 50%, ordering the mandatory closure of additional non-essential workplaces in the province to fight the spread of the COVID19. Several sectors in the construction industry are now required to close; however, it is our understanding that **the sewer and watermain construction sector remains on the essential work list and, thus, remains open.**

Premier Ford specifically referenced the sector in his address, when responding to a question about the construction workforce. The reference is noted at the 25:40 mark from today's news conference, which can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQHbEVzd6Tk>

The full list of essential workplaces can be found at the following link: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces>. The sewer and watermain construction sector is defined under the *Community Services* subheading. The language, as it appears, is very similar to the previous (March 24th) Essential Workplaces List, which allowed the sector to continue working.

Language in the April 3 Essential Workplace List	Language in the March 24 Essential Workplace List
<p><i>Community Services:</i></p> <p>34. Businesses that deliver or support the delivery of services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Sewage treatment and disposal.iii. Potable drinking water.iv. Critical infrastructure repair and maintenance including roads, dams, bridges etc.	<p><i>Utilities and Community Services:</i></p> <p>41. Utilities, and Businesses that support the provision of utilities and community services, including by providing products, materials and services needed for the delivery of utilities and community services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. ...Waste/Sewage Treatment and Disposal...b. Potable drinking water;e. road construction and maintenance;



GTSWCA

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We are still trying to identify the impact on the 'greenfield' construction sites. This work falls under a different section of the list, specifically under the **Construction** sub-heading, number 30, which reads:

Residential construction projects where,

- i. a footing permit has been granted for single family, semi-detached and townhomes*
- ii. an above grade structural permit has been granted for condominiums, mixed use and other buildings, or*
- iii. the project involves renovations to residential properties and construction work was started before April 4, 2020.*

For infrastructure/site servicing work on these project sites, we believe that this work must cease.

This bulletin has been vetted by legal counsel for accuracy.

If you have any questions, please contact Patrick McManus (905-629-7766 ext. 222 or patrick.mcmanus@oswca.org).