

May 1, 2020

Bernie Miller
Deputy Minister of the Department of Business
1660 Hollis Street, Suite 600
Halifax, NS B3J 1V7

Dear Bernie Miller,

The impact of COVID-19 on the construction industry, including construction contracts and contractors, is unprecedented. We are appreciative of the province of Nova Scotia's efforts to support industry by keeping us informed of ongoing updates and answering our members many concerns.

*I am writing to request the support from the Nova Scotia government to alleviate some of the financial pressure the industry is facing by creating an **Emergency COVID-19 Construction Cost and Reimbursement Program**. This support program is in alignment with the Canadian Construction Association's request of the federal government for the same ask.*

Industry is asking the province for extraordinary consideration to relieve some of the impacts of COVID-19 many local construction firms are facing to help ensure the industry has the capacity to maintain the vital work necessary for our economic continuity.

The construction industry in Nova Scotia employs more than 30,000 workers and generates close to \$6 billion in economic activity.

Many of our member firms have had their operations impacted by supply chain disruptions, staff shortages, increased cost of materials, significant productivity impacts, additional costs for PPE, cleaning, engineering solutions, etc., and much more. The industry needs fair consideration from the provincial government when these unprecedented circumstances have an impact on contractual agreements.

As such, CANS recommends that eligible costs be reimbursed up to 5% of the contract value as a starting point, subject to the program being adjusted as the duration and full impact of COVID-19 becomes clearer over time.

The health and safety of those 30,000 construction workers, their families and friends, and the communities we operate in throughout Nova Scotia are our top priorities. It is important that we continue to work together during this crisis.

Sincerely,



Duncan Williams, ICD.D
President & CEO, Construction Association of Nova Scotia