

April 5, 2020

The Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier
Dr. Brent Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
450 Broadway Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3C 4L6

Dear Premier and Dr Roussin,

RE: Guidelines for Mechanical Contractors during the current SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 Pandemic

Thank you for the exceptional leadership you and your teams are providing Manitobans during this tragic time. The Community has become reliant on the daily updates by Dr. Roussin and Ms Siragusa and find comfort in your concise, confident and candid messaging, Premier Pallister.

The reality of the Pandemic was heightened Friday with the announcement of the heartbreaking loss of a 2nd Manitoban. Our deepest sympathies are extended to their family. We are at a loss on how to express gratitude to the nurse who cared for the victim. She is a silent and unseen Hero.

Mechanical Contractors construct and provide the service for the Manitoba Built environment, including plumbing, wastewater, gas, ventilation, heating and cooling systems in Industrial, Commercial, Institutional and residential settings. Their work typically represents between 40%-60% of a construction project. The immediate goals of the association are to keep Mechanical Contractors working and their employees safe within the Public Health Order. Physical distancing within the work environment of Mechanical Contracting as well as many of the work settings surrounding plumbing and ventilation, find employees in high risk setting of community-based transmission of COVID-19.

On March 27th, MCAM requested the Emergency Measures Organization and related Ministers work directly with the Mechanical Contractors Association of Manitoba regarding Standards for and Consultation with Mechanical Contractors during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada engaged OHS Global, specialists in Industrial hygiene, Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) and Hazardous Materials (HazMat) to provide guidelines to Mechanical Contractors to mitigate the risk of community-based transmission of COVID-19.

On behalf of the MCAM Board of Directors, and in the Spirit of the Premier's message Thursday "...We face this Pandemic together and we are truly in this together....We will beat this thing together" I offer you the attached document; COVID-19 – Guidelines for the Mechanical Contracting Sector, for your consideration. You will also find attached to this email the credentials of OHS Global. Again, we extend our offer to provide Industry expertise should you incorporate in full or in part these Guidelines into a future Public Health Order.

On behalf of the Mechanical Contracting Industry we wish to emphasize we can continue to operate and contribute to Manitoba's economy in a way that protects our employees and the broader community by adopting and adhering to a public policy that has been developed with the help of infectious disease specialists. Please provide us this opportunity.

Yours Sincerely,

Ramona Coey
Executive Director



cc. The Honourable Cameron Friesen
The Honourable Ron Schuler
The Honourable Scott Fielding
The Honourable Ralf Eichler
The Honourable Reg Helwer
The Honourable Rochelle Squires