



March 26, 2020

## **COVID-19 UPDATE: PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ESSENTIAL SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENT**

In [an announcement today](#) the Provincial Government exercised extraordinary powers under a state of provincial emergency in order to keep British Columbians safe, maintain essential goods and services, and support the Province's ongoing response to novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Included in this announcement is the definition of a list of essential services that may stay open if they can adapt their services and workplaces to the orders and recommendations of the Public Health Officer (PHO). Below are the essential services that directly pertain to the development and real estate industry:

- land registration services and real estate agent services;
- construction work, in accordance with PHO direction, construction firms, skilled trades and professionals, and construction and light industrial machinery and equipment rental;
- banks and their branches, credit unions and related financial institutions, as well as workers who support security and technical operations supporting financial institutions;
- building code enforcement, inspection of buildings, building sites and building systems by building officials and registered professionals (architects and engineers);
- professional services, including lawyers and paralegals, engineers, accountants, translators;
- child care services for those persons providing essential services;
- manufacturing of goods necessary for the continued and immediate operation of other essential infrastructure and businesses;
- gas stations, diesel, propane and heating fuel providers including providers of motor vehicle, aircraft and water/marine fuels, and providers of charging stations for electric vehicles;
- truck drivers who haul hazardous and waste materials to support critical infrastructure, capabilities, functions, and municipal and provincial services;
- services that facilitate the transportation of essential supplies, personnel and services, including port/waterfront operations, road, air and rail operations;
- facilities supporting interprovincial and intra-provincial delivery of goods, including truck scales, commercial vehicle inspection stations, brokerages, truck towing and repair services, commercial cardlock fuel providers, truck and rest stops;
- government-owned or leased buildings;
- workers who support the operation, inspection, and maintenance of essential public works facilities and operations;
- workers who support the inspection and maintenance for ongoing safety at industrial facilities;

- inspectors who ensure worksites are safe and health for workers, and who investigate serious workplace accidents;
- hotels and places of accommodation;
- vegetation management crews and traffic workers who support environmental remediation/monitoring and who respond to environmental emergencies;
- Businesses that support the safe operations of residences, essential businesses and facilities/buildings;
- businesses that support environmental management/monitoring and spill cleanup and response, including environmental consulting firms, professional engineers and geoscientists, septic haulers, well drillers, pesticides applicators and exterminators, management of industrial sewage/effluent (e.g., for mining operations) and environmental laboratories;
- capital markets, including the British Columbia Securities Commission, self-regulatory organizations, exchanges, clearing agencies and investment-fund dealers, advisers and managers;
- services related to bankruptcy/credit restructuring and non-bank sources of capital, cheque-cashing outlets, money sending and money remittance services, currency exchange services, pawn brokers;
- accounting, payroll, translation services, legal services and insurance providers; insurance assessment and adjudication providers;
- plumbers, electricians, elevator maintenance providers, exterminators, property management services, custodial/janitorial workers, cleaning services, fire safety and sprinkler systems, building systems maintenance and repair technicians, engineers, mechanics, smelters and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation and daily essential operation of residences and commercial buildings; and
- all government (local, regional, provincial) functions or services.

Any business or service that has not been ordered to close, and is also not identified on the essential service list, may stay open if it can adapt its services and workplace to the orders and recommendations of the PHO.

**For a full list of essential services please see the [government news release here](#) – under the drop-down menu titled: List of essential services in B.C. during COVID-19 pandemic.**

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns by contacting me at [AMcMullin@udi.org](mailto:AMcMullin@udi.org).

Thank you,



Anne McMullin, President & CEO, UDI