

May 14, 2020

John Landry
Executive Director
Construction Association of New Brunswick
59 Avonlea Court
Fredericton, NB E3C 1N8

Dear Mr. Landry:

Thank you for your letter and for taking the time to share your comments and concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on the construction industry in New Brunswick.

The economic impacts created by the COVID-19 pandemic is unlike anything we have witnessed before and we are acting with urgency to be responsive to the needs of New Brunswick's major employers – including the construction industry.

As you may be aware, the Government of New Brunswick has put in place a range of immediate financial supports designed to complement national economic-relief measures. This includes working capital loans totalling \$50 million to support small, medium and large employers respond to the challenges associated with COVID-19. A guide of provincial and federal relief measures can be found by visiting www.gnb.ca/coronavirus and following the links to 'New Brunswick's Response.'

On March 16, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure's building's division postponed all posted tenders. In mid-April, the department reinstated those tenders and issued addenda to address challenges with tendering as a result of COVID-19. Two new school projects were also among the tenders. The addenda issued for these two major projects extended the completion dates to account for the impacts of COVID-19 and associated productivity losses.

For the capital improvement projects involving school facilities, contractors can now enter schools early due to school closures, which would negate the need for extensions for those projects. With respect to additional costs, the current WorkSafeNB requirements related to COVID-19 are well documented. Therefore, the additional health & safety precautions, consequential costs and losses in productivity can be determined and included with bids. This has been reflected in the addenda.

Projects that were awarded and ongoing effective March 16, 2020, will be assessed on an individual basis and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure will work with individual contractors to establish what their claims are and work to resolve them.



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As we move forward, flexibility and agility will be required. Public Health requirements may change as this emergency evolves. Should these changing conditions result in additional costs which could not have been foreseen at the time of bidding, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure will evaluate these additional costs.

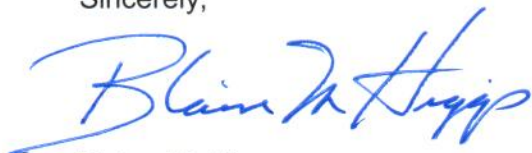
The Government of New Brunswick is working proactively to support the phased reopening of our businesses. The province moved to an Orange alert level on Friday, May 8, 2020. This level balances the reopening of businesses and activities while working to prevent a resurgence of transmission. More information about what is permitted, and guidelines for safe operation, during this phase is outlined at www.gnb.ca/coronavirus and by choosing "NB's Recovery plan."

Recovery will require a strategic approach and continuing to mitigate risks through evidence-based decision making and sound planning. I encourage your members to stay informed and continue to follow the latest guidance from Public Health and WorkSafeNB.

We also recognize specific sectors will have unique needs and operational requirements as we move into this new recovery phase. Sector-specific engagement sessions on recovery are being organized to enable access to experts and provide clarification on reopening requirements. I understand an engagement session was scheduled on May 8 with members of your organization.

Thank you for your continued cooperation. We are stronger when we work together. The high degree of compliance from individuals and organizations is helping to flatten the curve in New Brunswick. Staying the course will safeguard our citizens and support our long-term economic recovery.

Sincerely,



Blaine M. Higgs

- c.c. Honourable Mary Wilson, Minister, Economic Development and Small Business
Honourable Bill Oliver, Minister, Transportation and Infrastructure
Mr. John P. Logan, Deputy Minister, Transportation and Infrastructure
Ms. Sadie Perron, Deputy Minister, Economic Development and Small Business, Interim
CEO Opportunities NB