

BILD Members,

Today, the Premier and the Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable Monte McNaughton, announced that effective immediately, the province has issued O.Reg.130/20 and O.Reg.131/20 which **suspend construction related noise by-laws across the province.**

The Regulations effectively **permit construction noise between the hours of 6am and 10pm for the next 18 months,** and prevent the creation of any by-laws that prohibit or regulate noise by taking away the power to pass them.

As related to municipalities across the province:

For the purposes of section 451.1 of the Act, a municipality does not have power to prohibit and regulate with respect to noise made in connection with the following:

1. Construction projects and services in a municipality associated with the healthcare sector, including new facilities, expansions, renovations and conversion of spaces that could be repurposed for health care space, at any time of the day or night.

2. Any other construction activity in a municipality between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

The full Regulation can be accessed here: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20131>

With similar language, the Regulation specific to the City of Toronto and the *City of Toronto Act* can be accessed here: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20130>

The Minister's full announcement can be accessed here:

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/ontario-accelerates-essential-construction-projects-during-covid-19.html>

Aside from the construction noise elements, please note the following:

Extending hours for essential construction will also give worksite managers more flexibility to stagger shifts, limit the number of people in one place, and take reasonable precautions to keep workers safe and healthy under the recent [guidelines](#) issued by Ontario's Chief Prevention Officer for construction sites.

Ontario is also making essential workplaces across the province safer during the COVID-19 pandemic by:

- *Redeploying more than 30 employment standards officers to help businesses understand and comply with health and safety requirements;*
- *Working with health and safety associations to deploy up to 30 specialists to support employers and workers in the field;*
- *Issuing health and safety guidance notes to support specific sectors;*
- *Doubling the capacity of Ontario's Health and Safety Call Centre from 25 to 50 phonelines;*
- *Providing job-protected leave under the Employment Standards Act for workers who need to self-isolate or care for a loved one because of COVID-19;*
- *Issuing a call to recently-retired inspectors who may be able and willing to return to their positions;*
- *Providing compliance assistance and enforcing the emergency orders issued under the Emergency Measures and Civil Protection Act.*

BILD will continue to work with OHBA on similar provincial advocacy efforts, and we will continue to update the membership with new information as it becomes available.