



UNITED ASSOCIATION
of Journeymen & Apprentices of the
PLUMBING & PIPEFITTING
Industry of the United States and Canada
Local Union 170 – Affiliated with AFL-CIO-CFL

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Dear Sisters & Brothers:

It has been three weeks since our first communication regarding COVID-19. In that time our lives have completely changed, and we are slowly adapting to our new “normal” which includes social and physical distancing. While this is necessary to ensure that we stop the spread of COVID-19 to our family, friends and community, in no way is this a natural way of life. While we must keep our physical distance, I encourage you to continue to **CONNECT** with us during this challenging time. Reach out to us by phone, email, on social media or through our Members Assistance Line 778-658-0819. We are onsite and available to help out.

Essential Service – What Does this Mean?

Some members have been asking what this term means with respect to our work. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our provincial health officer and government have determined what constitutes an “essential service” and have defined it as services which people rely upon in their daily lives. The work of our members is included in the “essential services” list. This is different from what is designated an essential service under B.C.’s Labour Relations Code, which requires certain sectors to still provide a basic level of service if they take job action during a labour dispute.

Wage Supports – EI Benefits & CERB

We have been getting questions regarding EI and the new Canada Employment Response Benefit (CERB). It is definitely confusing and more so due to the fact that the details of CERB are still evolving. We have developed the attached information sheet which includes links to the various benefits available. If you continue to have questions, please call our office and we will try our best to assist you.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1q9q1EaWvCNsg7JRW1rWXm9HpSSp7H4QV>

Guidelines to Protect Workers Related to COVID-19 in Plumbing and HVAC Systems

Last month, the UA issued **Guidelines to Protect Workers Related to Coronavirus in Plumbing and HVAC Systems**. While much of the information related to US standards, Nina Hansen, Executive Director of BCWITT was kind enough to update the document to our local health and safety standards and laws. Included you will find important information about biohazards, sanitary drainage and vent systems which our members may be interested in. The Guidelines can be found by following this link.

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1GVn3_9C5lo0XKsaba3vZ-7XbTMoV16sR

Guidance provided to Industrial camps during COVID-19

The Province has provided guidelines for industrial work camps to support their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is the link to access that document:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19-guidelines-industrial-camps.pdf>

Welder Logbook Continuity

We received this update from Technical Safety BC through UAPICBC regarding Welder Logbook Certifications:

If a welder is out of compliance with their weld process, i.e. PWP 7 (SMAW Process) & PWP 10 (GTAW Process) then contractor's weld procedure / qualifier that the welder has to do prior to welding on production or in-service lines, will then bring the welder's logbook into compliance as per ASME Section 9 requirements, as long as it is documented in the logbook and the weld procedure from the contractor is registered with TSBC. The signing of the logbook can be done at the end of the project/contract, by the contractor or QC on site. This is a clarification from Technical Safety BC bulletin that was issued on Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

Local 170 Pension Plan

The Trustees of the Pension Plan met today to get an update on the status of the Local 170 Pension plan given the recent market upheaval due to COVID-19. In the interest of keeping you updated on all the aspects of your membership here at 170, the Trustees have issued a letter which summarizes the report we received from the plan actuaries and managers. The letter can be found at the following link:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=11_y2bVaSzORFXkpxJFbpcAL4koNTxBPi

As your Business Manager & Financial Secretary, I couldn't be more pleased than to hear from our consultants that our diversified investment strategy has allowed the Plan to weather the current market volatility.

I want to thank all our members who are participating in our Friday noon shout out – taking a moment to raise their tools in recognition of the Building Trades members who continue to work through this pandemic. We will continue to acknowledge our members every Friday at noon in the coming weeks, so please join in and send us your photos and/or share to social media. The services our members provide are essential and it is our membership who will help restart our province once we get through this crisis. I wish all our members and their families a good weekend and we will update you as we gain new and pertinent information.

Fraternally,



A.D. Al Phillips, RSE
Business Manager & Financial Secretary