



**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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Sent via email: [bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca)

**Dr. Bonnie Henry**  
Provincial Health Officer  
PO Box 9648  
1515 Blanshard Street  
Victoria BC V8W9P4

**Re: Vaccine Prioritization for BC's Construction Workforce**

Dear Dr. Henry:

This week, the first Pfizer coronavirus vaccines were delivered to Canada and British Columbia. With the roll out of the vaccines in the coming weeks, I am calling on the Provincial Health Office to ensure that priority be given to essential workers, and in particular, those in the construction industry.

I represent 4,000 members working in the piping trades in British Columbia. On their behalf, I would like to extend our congratulations to you for your diligent management of the COVID-19 pandemic in our province.

While many were able to shelter at home during the pandemic, members of our Local, who have been deemed essential workers, continued to provide critical services. They worked throughout the crisis, building, maintaining, servicing and modernizing long-term care facilities, hospitals, clinics and places of work for health care professionals. They have put their own health in jeopardy while working in high risk environments. Our work also spans across many other industries, and we have played a key role in ensuring our economy did not face complete disruption. Now that our country is facing active outbreaks in workplaces, construction, manufacturing and mining are among the hardest hit industries.

In an effort to protect and ensure our essential services are maintained, and to safeguard our most vulnerable workers, I urge you to prioritize COVID-19 vaccination for our construction workforce. We request confirmation and clarification of when our members who face considerable risks while continuing to maintain health facilities and sustain our economy, will be able to access the Coronavirus vaccine, with the expectation that they will be given top priority.

Sincerely,

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