



**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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April 7, 2021

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

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

**Re: Vaccine Prioritization for Essential Workers - Construction Workforce**

Dear Dr. Henry,

I am writing to you on behalf of the membership of the United Association Local 170; a BC craft union representing plumbers, pipefitters, sprinkler fitters, service technicians and welders. I would like to thank you for your prompt replies to our previous letters where we continue to advocate for our membership in BC's vaccination rollout.

We are pleased with the recent decision to prioritize workers at Industrial sites and essential workers, in tandem with your age focussed prioritization strategy. This will go a long way in keeping workers and the communities they are working in safe. I do however want to bring to your attention the current dynamic at a lot of the industrial sites in the Interior and Northern Health regions including LNG Canada (in Kitimat) and Coastal Gaslink Pipeline, where some of our members have already received their vaccine. A large percentage of workers at these camps (in some camps more than 50%) are from out of province. While I understand the strategy is to protect those on site and those in the surrounding communities, vaccines that were intended for British Columbia residents are in fact now being administered to residents of other provinces. Given this unavoidable situation, it would seem appropriate that our supply of vaccines be supplemented by vaccines from other provinces in order to ascertain that every British Columbian is rightly given priority for the vaccines intended for our province.

In addition to workers at industrial jobsites, it is imperative that all our members, deemed essential by the federal and provincial governments, are prioritized for vaccination. With our case numbers rising due to the variants and younger people getting severe symptoms, those most at risk are the same COVID exposed workers who we have depended upon for our essential services for over a year. They must be prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination to ensure their safety and the safety of those they come into contact with on a daily basis.

I urge you to review and act on this information on behalf of our essential workers who put their health and that of their families on the line every day while sustaining our economy.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Honourable Adrian Dix, BC Minister of Health  
cc: National Advisory Committee on Immunization