



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: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Adrian Dix, MLA

Minister of Health
PO Box 9050
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W9E2

Re: Vaccine Prioritization for BC's Construction Workforce

Dear Minister Dix:

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 government 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 for your quick and diligent response in accessing vaccines for British Columbians.

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