



**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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WorkSafe BC Board of Directors

Dear Jeff Parr and the WorkSafeBC Board of Directors:

**Re: BC Building Trades Report on Washroom Facilities in the Construction Industry**

I am writing to you in my capacity as Business Manager & Financial Secretary of the United Association Local 170; a BC craft union representing plumbers, pipefitters, sprinklerfitters, service technicians and welders. While I also concurrently serve as president of the BC Building Trades, the organization which recently commissioned and submitted the attached report: ***Report on Washroom Facilities in the Construction Industry***, I felt it necessary to speak to this important topic on behalf of our Local 170 membership.

The unsanitary and primitive conditions of unplumbed washroom facilities, accurately described in the report, are the norm for most construction jobsites, and the reality faced by our members on a daily basis. This disparity is further heightened for our members, by the very fact that our plumbing profession is predicated on delivering clean water and removing waste in order to protect the health and safety of the public. Human hygiene and the elimination of communicable disease has been credited to advances made in plumbing throughout history, and our membership continues to pride itself on maintaining the highest standards in the industry when it comes to providing clean safe drinking water and proper sanitation. This is our work and purpose.

So, it is unconceivable that the current day norms for worksite plumbing and sanitation, norms that have been advanced by our very membership, are neither available nor considered affordable for our construction workforce. As outlined in the report, it is entirely feasible for most construction worksites (economically and otherwise) to provide facilities connected to mains, water and drainage systems, or at the very least to have portable trailered plumbed washrooms. We have a highly skilled membership, ready to do the work! It is high time our construction workers are afforded properly plumbed sanitation facilities, an undisputed, basic expectation for workers on any other worksite.

We fully support and endorse the findings and recommendations of the ***Report on Washroom Facilities in the Construction Industry*** and request that WorkSafeBC strengthen and enforce current legislation which has permitted unplumbed washrooms on construction sites to become the rule, rather than the exception.

Sincerely,

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