



Dear Employees, Clients, Partners, and Suppliers:

As many of you already know, The Ontario government recently introduced loosened restrictions to construction projects throughout Ontario. The government is expanding essential construction to allow below-grade multi-unit residential construction projects like apartments and condominiums to begin and other existing above-grade projects to continue.

This decision allows for the resumption of below-grade construction. Below-grade construction is construction activity that occurs below ground level to put in place the foundation and systems that support a high-rise building. This includes excavation, temporary shoring, pilings, servicing as required, concrete forming, reinforcing and pouring, ground improvement and many other tasks.

A safe working environment is made possible during below-grade construction by limiting the number of trades on the worksite and by practicing physical distancing. As with previous expansions to the emergency orders for construction, all work must be carried out in compliance with the Ministry of Labour's Guidelines for Construction Site Health and Safety during COVID-19. It's the responsibility of all of us in the industry to meet or exceed these requirements.

As a result of these positive changes, activity on many of our pending projects has restarted. Additionally, we continue to be 100% operational in terms of reviewing our client's challenging soil projects, preparing proposals, preparing shop drawings for future projects, and answering any questions our current or potential clients have.

The safety of our workers, our clients' and the public as a whole remains our top priority. As such, all of us at GeoSolv are in full support of the government's efforts to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our province and our country.

Health Canada recommends that you follow the below guidelines:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
- Where you cannot wash with water and soap, use hand sanitizer, rub vigorously and let it dry on your hands
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your sleeve, not your hands
- Practice physical distancing—maintain a 2m separation from others
- Any person experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms should not report to work and should notify their immediate supervisor by phone.

Health Canada also has a rich resource section relating to COVID-19, which can be found [here](#).

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and follow the advice of industry and government officials. Stay in touch via phone or the internet with your friends and loved ones. Isolation is not natural for most, and it's important to check in frequently with those you are close to. Thank you to everyone who is practicing safe work and safe living during these challenging times and to first responders and frontline workers who are keeping us healthy and fed.

*Mark Tigchelaar*

**Mark Tigchelaar, P. Eng**  
President  
GeoSolv Design/Build