



March 21, 2020

The Honourable Brian Pallister
Premier of Manitoba
204 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Premier Pallister,

Re: COVID-19 and the Role of the HVACR Sector

Your government is taking important steps to protect public health and safety in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your leadership and decisive action under the challenging and unprecedented circumstances of these times. The Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI) applauds these efforts.

HRAI is a non-profit national trade association of manufacturers, wholesalers and contractors in the Canadian heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) industry. In these stressful times, we are especially proud of the role our members play in ensuring that ventilation, refrigeration indoor comfort systems and controls operate effectively in hospitals and health care settings, in food processing, storage and preservation and in residential and commercial heating and cooling applications. These companies, and their dedicated employees, perform critical services, especially now.

Supporting our nation's front-line healthcare professionals is paramount during this pandemic. While restrictions on many other types of economic activity may be warranted in the interest of public safety during these unusual times, HRAI is urging governments to ensure that the technicians and service people who support the refrigeration and clean air systems in health care settings are able to continue to provide their essential services during this crisis.

Our industry is vital not only to the proper functioning of health care facilities, but also grocery stores and the supply chains that support the safe delivery of food and other perishable products. Further, in situations where people are urged to stay at home, the need to repair and maintain furnaces, boilers, heat pumps, water heating and cooling systems must be protected, to ensure Canadians remain comfortable and safe in their home environments as they practice social distancing.

Particularly during this time of self-isolation, quarantining and increased hospitalization, it is critical that the HVACR sector is able to operate effectively to ensure the safety and well-being of people, particularly in residential and institutional settings.

HRAI would be pleased to meet with you as needed (virtually of course) to discuss in more detail the specifics and implications of our recommendations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Sandy MacLeod
President & CEO

cc Hon. Cameron Friesen, Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living
Nate Clark, Chief of Staff to the Minister
HRAI Board of Directors
Martin Luymes, HRAI VP Government and Stakeholder Relations