



May 11, 2020

Premier Doug Ford
Legislative Bldg. Rm 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: COVID-19 and Re-Starting the HVACR Sector

Thank you for your leadership and decisive action as we continue to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI) applauds you and your government's efforts and appreciates that your top priority – and ours – remains the health and well-being of Ontarians.

The Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI) is a non-profit national trade association representing over 1,150 member companies in the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) industry. Our members include manufacturers, wholesalers and contractors, with approximately 900 members conducting business in Ontario. Our members employ over 50,000 people in Canada and deliver more than \$7 billion annually to the Canadian economy.

As you know, the HVACR sector was deemed part of the network of essential services in Ontario. Our members continue to support the mechanical systems required to keep healthcare facilities, grocery stores and other essential services operating and to keep people comfortable and safe in their homes.

The indoor air quality of commercial and industrial buildings and residences has been never more important than now. With many Ontarians working from home and many more preparing to return to work, HRAI wants to re-emphasize the important role our members play in ensuring that the health, safety and comfort of Ontarians is protected.

As summer and the allergy season approaches and as self-isolation and working from home continues, cooling systems will also become increasingly important to Ontarians. This is always true as May turns into June, but may be even more pronounced in these unusual times due to the amount of time people are spending at home.

At the moment, HVAC contractors are apprehensive about permitted activities and are getting mixed signals from provincial authorities. Emergency services related to malfunctioning systems are clearly permitted under the current guidelines. Addressing customer needs for new or improved mechanical systems in homes is an area where there is still some uncertainty and clarification will be appreciated.

For these reasons, HRAI strongly urges you to allow HVAC contractors in Ontario to fully re-open their businesses in the next stage of re-opening the economy, so that they can responsibly serve the needs of their customers, most notably in the maintenance, servicing and installation of new heating, cooling and ventilation systems. Safety will remain a top priority. HRAI has been in regular contact with members and has been providing HVAC contractors with guidance to ensure they operate safely and following Ministry of Health guidelines to keep their employees and their customers safe.

HRAI would be pleased to discuss the specifics and implications of our recommendations with you and your ministerial colleagues (virtually of course) at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Sandy MacLeod
President & CEO

cc The Hon. Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development
The Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Government and Consumer Services
The Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction
Martin Luymes, VP, Government and Consumer Services, HRAI Canada
Dorothy McCabe, Government Relations Specialist – Ontario, HRAI Canada