



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF BOILERMAKERS

boilermaker.ca

Arnie Stadnick, International Vice President

May 22, 2020

MEMO re: A GRADUAL RETURN TO WORK AND NORMALITY

Brothers and Sisters:

Since March, when the novel coronavirus swept across the globe, workers everywhere have felt the full force of its effects on our economy and our lives. All of our brothers and sisters are to be commended for the way they have weathered this unprecedented storm thus far.

Thankfully, better days are ahead of us, and there are indications that a gradual return to work will begin soon.

While it's clear that the work situation across Canada has been deeply affected, our Industrial Sector of Operations has been generally less impacted by the COVID-19 lockdowns than the Construction Sector, which has had to endure a heavier jolt. Some positive news is that CSO jobs are showing signs of coming back to life.

Due to varying governmental measures, both federal and provincial, we've learned that job opportunities will begin to open up sooner in western Canada, followed later by re-starts in the east. For this reason, we encourage all members to visit the IBB website at boilermaker.ca regularly and to pay attention to job opportunities as they are posted there. We also urge you to be prepared for travel as jobs open up region by region. Director of Health and Safety Jason McInnis will be updating locals across Canada with the most current information available at the time regarding the easing of restrictions.

As you can understand, it will not be quite the same world we knew before the health crisis. We'll face new challenges in keeping up our defences against the virus — for the sake of our families, our co-workers, and avoiding costly work stoppages. Please be extra careful with personal protective equipment and social distancing when you return to work, and adhere to any and all new precautionary measures.

There will be a variety of protocols at jobsites, camps, airports, etc. to address COVID-19 concerns. Airlines will very likely check passengers' temperatures and require face masks before allowing anyone to board. Be prepared for different rules and requirements in different provinces and different sites. Employers and contractors will be taking greater steps to disinfect and cleanse workplaces and camps. With our cooperation, we can keep these places virus-free.

Above all, be considerate, cautious, and accommodating to this temporary way of life. The danger of COVID-19 is still very real, but with calm and careful precautions, we'll avoid it and defeat it. As the saying goes, coined for today's changed world, "It's better to be patient than to *become* a patient."

As we slowly and steadily return to our work, please continue to take care of yourselves and your families. We've come a long way through this period of uncertainty and apprehension. Let's take mindful and measured steps as we make our way back to normality.

In solidarity and fraternally yours,

Arnie Stadnick
International Vice President