



*Local 230*

*Established in Victoria in 1902*

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## **Construction Work Must be Made Safer**

Due to COVID-19, construction workers throughout the country are deemed an “essential service,” and without any doubt, much of our work would be considered essential at all times, no matter the circumstances.

However, for far too long construction worker’s onsite sanitation has stooped to third world, filthy and unacceptable conditions. Construction workers are citizens with families, homes, kitchens and bathrooms like any of us, until they get to work. That’s when those conditions change dramatically for the worse. Portable toilets are the norm and are too often cleaned out on a weekly basis instead of multiple times a day. Imagine a gas station bathroom after a week without maintenance – that is what construction workers are forced to use. Almost every construction project ends with several finished bathrooms. These bathrooms need to begin as temporary use bathrooms with running water, soap, paper towels and flush toilets for the workers at these job sites.

If we are going to be deemed essential, it’s time we are considered “essential” for the benefits we provide to everyone else, the finished product of our work. We deserve the same level of respect and dignity that any other worker is afforded. Our municipal governments who sign off on permits need to be asking for a formal sanitation plan during the construction phase on all projects. The size of the project and number of workers onsite would dictate the sanitation needs of the site.

If for nothing else, construction sanitation must be a top priority to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases around our communities in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Philip M. Venoit  
Business Manager/  
Financial Secretary