



April 15, 2020

Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce
#21, 4802 50th Avenue,
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1C4

Re: Support for Businesses During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Mr. Syer and Mrs. Everett,

On behalf of the Northwest Territories & Nunavut Construction Association (NNCA) we are pleased to offer this letter of support for the recommendations put forward by the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce in your April 9, 2020 letters to the City of Yellowknife, Government of the Northwest Territories, and Government of Canada.

Construction is an important economic driver in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. This sector generates just over \$1 billion annually in GDP^{1,2} and employs over 2,000 residents^{3,4} across both territories. A strong construction industry will help maximize the North's post-pandemic economic recovery – creating jobs, completing critical infrastructure projects, and supporting the sector's many small business clients and suppliers.

The NNCA supports the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce's recommendations to help businesses weather the challenging times ahead. In particular, waiving the revenue loss requirement for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy will help construction companies access this program even though their revenues fluctuate from project to project throughout the year. Waiving WSCC premiums for 2020 will also free up additional cash flow for construction companies that continue to employ people across the North despite a slowdown in available work, supply chain disruptions, and additional costs related to COVID-19 safety measures.

It is critical that governments at all levels act quickly to retain business capacity in the North. Supporting these companies now will give them a chance to adapt to the challenges ahead and lead a strong post-pandemic economic recovery. The NNCA appreciates the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce's efforts to make this happen and we are pleased to support your recommendations.

Sincerely,

Duc Trinh
President
NWT & Nunavut Construction Association

Matt Belliveau
Executive Director
NWT & Nunavut Construction Association

¹ NWT 2018 GDP from Construction: \$359.6M (<https://www.statsnwt.ca/economy/gdp/>)

² Nunavut 2018 GDP from Construction: \$647.8M (<https://www.gov.nu.ca/executive-and-intergovernmental-affairs/information/economic-data>)

³ Nunavut 2019 employment from construction: 717 (<https://www.gov.nu.ca/executive-and-intergovernmental-affairs/information/labour-force-and-employment-data>)

⁴ NWT 2019 employment from construction: 1,300 (<https://www.statsnwt.ca/labour-income/labour-force-activity/>)