



Alberta Joint Industry Response Team

Representing the AEC Industry in Alberta during the COVID-19 Pandemic

TO: City of Edmonton, Pascale Ladouceur

DATE: March 23, 2020

Topic: City of Edmonton Response to COVID-19

PREAMBLE:

In response to the email received from Pascale last Monday (16th March), we would like to advise that the various associations and agencies listed in this communication have formed a joint response team to reply in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We would like to address current issues in a cohesive manner to keep communication to a single point of contact with the industry. This team will also begin to address long term risks and start on a recovery plan once the immediate and present danger to Albertan's is over. This is unprecedented for us all and we fully expect that actions will need respond to the current situation as it evolves.

CURRENT UPDATE:

- We are aware of very few construction site closures throughout Alberta. The significant ones appear to be projects at some active AHS hospital sites which have been shutdown to protect existing operations.
- Our initial understanding from the GoA is that compliance with the 50-person rule does not applying to construction sites but the ACA is seeking confirmation of this position.
- Discussions with the GoA sound favourable in that both the AI DM and Premier want to keep our industry moving forward and will be looking at projects that can be ramped up.
- In discussion with the GoA, the CEA discouraged P3 as an appropriate procurement methodology to allow rapid procurement and deployment of Alberta workers.

ACTIONS:

- In your email you asked: “...is ...there ... anything the City might be able to do to help industry?” We are pursuing several fronts and plan to meet regularly to develop a broader platform to address significant risks to the AEC and Owner community. As we do so and the situation evolves, we will all develop a better grasp of a wide range of issues. Here are some immediate comments:
 - The City's priority should be maintaining continuity of project work.
 - Construction sites should stay open with the construction contractors establishing and maintaining appropriate safety protocol in line with current public health recommendations.
 - We would suggest suspension of any further work/implementation of the Vender Performance assessment tool. CoE resources for this should be reallocated.
 - Bonding agencies are putting restrictions on lump sum bidding that contractors will be qualifying any bid. Pre-C-19 procurement and agreement terms could add significant exponential cost to manage risk and will need to be reconsidered.
 - Our team is discussing alternative approaches to procurement that would focus on reducing cost, accelerating the schedule and preserving quality amidst a likely significant regional, national and global supply chain collapse. Our concern is that traditional



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procurement methods and supply chain expectations will increase cost, time, reduce quality and be counter-productive to the spirit of stimulus. We would encourage the City to do the same.

- We would ask that the City actively maintain all forces that support the Development and Building Permit processes and streamline them wherever possible. This is critical to the continuity of work across our industries.
- Similarly, we would ask that the City actively maintain and support the inspections and field review process necessary to maintain continuity of construction through to occupancy.
- We would fully ask that the City adopt prompt pay procedures possible with the recognition that all our industries will be challenged maintain cash flow. One participant noted that a current proposal from the EPL is asking for a discount for prompt payment, rather than proposing to support industry by offering the same.

CLOSING:

Our members are working to implement new workplace protocols and strict safety measures. These actions are expensive but necessary. We ask that the City adopt a position of patience, support and respect as we all proceed into new territory. Your question to us is a great example of this attitude and we are very appreciative of your response.

We are working to communicate collectively to keep projects moving, maintaining productivity. We will develop our collective response mechanism but have worked together to provide this joint response quickly. For the moment, please reach out to Allan Partridge in reply.

Respectfully,

Alberta Joint Industry Response Team

Alberta Association of Architects (AAA) – Jan Pierzchajlo and Barbara Bruce
Alberta Construction Association (ACA) – Fred Vine & Ken Gibson
Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA)
Consulting Architects of Alberta (CAA) – Allan Partridge, Doug McConnell, Chris Filipowicz and Scott Fleming
Consulting Engineers of Alberta (CEA) – Derek Ciezki & Frank Prosperi-Porta
Calgary Construction Association (CGYCA) – Bill Black
Edmonton Construction Association (ECA) – Trevor Doucette & John McNicoll