



'voice for the BC landscape horticulture industry'

Landscape Workers are Following PHO Regulations

April 2, 2020

On March 26, BC's Public Health Official (PHO) issued the following: "*The PHO has ordered some types businesses to close. **Any business or service that has not been ordered to close and is also not identified on the essential service list may stay open if they can adapt their services and workplace to the orders and recommendations of the PHO.***"

Why is our landscape company working?

- It is our job to ensure your plants are healthy and continue to thrive.
- A well-maintained landscape contributes to peoples' happiness and well-being, particularly important when people are isolated.
- Public safety is another aspect of our work; overgrown lawns and gardens provide cover for pests or vermin, as well as increase the crime rate.
- While the COVID-19 crisis continues, we need to continue to support actions to combat climate change by caring for trees and plants.

How are we complying with COVID-19 procedures?

- Workers are keeping the required physical distance and staying current with Provincial requirements with information provided by the BC Landscape & Nursery Association (BCLNA).
- Workers are avoiding contact with the public; please stay inside while we work. Please email or call us if you need to communicate with us.
- Physical distancing is being maintained by our crews onsite with separate vehicles for travelling. Tools, trucks, and hands are being sanitized on a regular basis.

Your BCLNA member landscaper will continue to provide pest management and plant health services, with safety measures in place as per Provincial regulations and Best Management Practices (BMP's). This is in addition to their regular plant maintenance practices.

The individual providing you with this letter works for a landscape company operating with BMP's and safety procedures in accordance with the most current PHO regulations.

If you have questions regarding this individual's activities, please contact company owner.

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LANDSCAPERS PROVIDE VALUABLE SERVICES

- ✓ **Landscapers are protectors of public health** performing essential treatments to lawns and green spaces to reduce the transmission of dangerous and deadly diseases through pests like mosquitoes, ticks e.g. (known vectors for disease transmission). Any significant disease transmission would add stress to the already burdened health care system.
- ✓ **Landscapers protect** municipal, commercial, and residential infrastructure and property and maintain **greenspaces that could otherwise jeopardize public safety**. Neglected fields and green spaces increase the chance of injuries. Crime rates are increased in areas where green spaces are not maintained.
- ✓ **Tree care and removal** is a critical function of our industry to avoid damaging homes and their families. Brush and dead shrubs need to be looked after to keep public and private pathways free from obstruction and potential risk.
- ✓ **Landscapers protect public safety** by providing Snow removal well into spring, Invasive species and provide maintenance and plant removal to assist in fire abatement.