

March 21, 2020

Dear APCO Canada members,

I am writing to you on behalf of the APCO Canada Board of Directors.

As you are all aware, Canada is now facing a rise of confirmed COVID-19 virus cases. We have not only been monitoring the direction being provided by all levels of government, but also monitoring how other emergency organizations are dealing with their 2020 conferences.

As a Board, we have been receiving continual updates from both our National Events Coordinator, and eVoque, our contracted Event Management Company. Earlier this week the Board met with eVoque for an update as to how our 2020 event is shaping up to be within the current event industry. After deliberations within the Board and understanding that our event is not scheduled until the fall, we have collectively agreed to continue moving ahead with our planned timeline for the event.

As you are all aware, this is a rapidly developing scenario that seems to change by the hour, not only within Canada, but on the world stage. With that being said, we will be constantly re-evaluating our event in a careful manner with our partners.

We recognize this situation is unprecedented in Canadian history, and that the future is still unknown as to the cessation of infections from COVID-19 in Canada.

We as a Board want to acknowledge all of you who are truly the, "*First, First Responders*" to any emergency that occurs within the communities you serve. We also need to remind you that while you are professionals and dedicated to the task at hand, you need to ensure that you are looking after yourself both physically and mentally.

Check in on your teammates, ensure they are okay with what we are facing, and above all, let your loved ones know how things are going with you in this time of need.

We will get through this uncertainty, and unknown by relying on both unity and hope as Canadians have always done!

We look forward to welcoming all our delegates, sponsors and vendors at the Delta Hotels Toronto Airport & Conference Centre from October 5-8, 2020!

In closing, please be safe, please be mindful of your well-being, your co-worker's well-being, practice social distancing if possible, and above all, draw close to your family and your loved ones.

Regards,

Jennifer Moreton
President, APCO Canada