

April 7, 2020 – Dear Homeowner / Public,

As COVID-19 is affecting our lives and continues to evolve daily, it is imperative that landscapers implement safe operating procedures and **Best Management Practices** based on and compliant with **government guidelines**. The first priority is the **safety** of staff, clients and the community as a whole. As landscapers, we can help to maintain healthy gardens and look after the surrounding environment while providing mental health benefits for communities and sustainable jobs.

● **PLANTS are GOOD**
For your **WELL BEING!!**

● **HEALTHY PLANTS provide**
Healthy Living spaces for us!



Why are we out and about?

We need to ensure your plants are healthy and continue to thrive. A maintained landscape contributes to mental health benefits as well as public safety; should lawns and landscapes become overgrown they become fire hazards, may attract pests or vermin, and have negative effects on the mental well-being of residents. Unmaintained buildings may also experience an increase in crime, such as burglaries, further decreasing neighborhood safety and morale. Some landscapers can check on seniors (from a distance) and empty homes where owners can't be there due to travel or other restrictions. Landscape and lawn care companies play an important role in keeping healthy people employed and supporting the economy.

What do plants do?

Remember plants are an oxygen source, they provide a positive overall happiness in well-being. When you are outdoors (after we leave your yard) you expand your lungs, and your vision.

What are we doing?

- We are keeping the required distance and staying on top of regulations as much as we can.
- We are not having contact with the public, we will not be talking to you in person. We ask you to stay inside while we work. Please email or call us.
- Our teams are keeping away from one another. We don't travel to our job sites or eat together. We are sanitizing our tools, trucks, and hands regularly.

Landscape work, in most cases, is performed **outdoors in small teams**, or individually, with limited public contact, posing a lower risk of spreading COVID-19. Most landscape professionals are already aware of the potential spread in regards to plant pests and deal with it on a regular basis. Additional measures are implemented to ensure safety of workers, clients and community. Please ask us for details.



The individual providing you with this letter is employed by a landscape services company operating under Best Management Practices and safety procedures that are based on recommendation by Landscape Nova Scotia as well as Government guidelines. The activities this individual is performing are consistent with the guidelines established by the Government of Nova Scotia, including social distancing and other mitigation measures that have been established as part of the safe operating practices by this company.

It is important to be aware that non-essential services are still authorized to operate. LNS is working diligently to provide resources for members that will assist with safe operations, while also working to update the industry as information becomes available.

On March 24, the Government of Nova Scotia released the following: Essential service sectors in Nova Scotia, which are exempt from the five-person-or-fewer gathering rules, have been clarified and are:

- health
- food, agri-food and fisheries
- transportation, including trucking, rail and transit
- construction and manufacturing
- IT, telecommunications and critical infrastructure
- public services, such as fire, police and ambulances

-----**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.

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

at _____ (phone)

or _____ (email)