

COVID-19
Ontario to Close Non-Essential Businesses

Update: March 25, 2020

To further contain the spread of COVID-19, yesterday afternoon the Ontario Government announced it will order the **mandatory closure of all non-essential workplaces effective as of Tuesday, March 24th at 11:59 p.m.** This closure will be in effect for 14 days with the possibility of extending the order as the situation evolves.

Businesses permitted to remain open can be found [here](#). This list of businesses is broken out into categories (see below) followed by further descriptions. It is important to read the descriptions carefully because many contain important qualifiers. In some cases, the descriptions are clear. In other cases they are not clear, and there may be some confusion whether a business is or is not essential for the purposes of this government directive.

If you are unsure whether your business is essential, contact your Sherrard Kuzz LLP lawyer or info@sherrardkuzz.com with the re line: COVID-19 and we will connect you to one of our lawyers. Another possible source of clarification is your organization's industry association (if one exists). As well, the Ontario Government has published this number 1-888-444-3659.

Categories of Essential Business (also refer to the descriptions and qualifiers in the above link)

- Supply chains
- Retail and wholesaling of select types of items
- Food services and accommodations
- Institutional, residential, commercial and industrial maintenance
- Telecommunications and IT infrastructure/service providers
- Transportation
- Manufacturing and production
- Agriculture and food production
- Construction
- Financial activities
- Resources
- Environmental services
- Utilities and community services

- Communications industries
- Research
- Health care and seniors care and social services
- Justice sector
- “Other businesses” (miscellaneous)
- Business regulators and inspectors

Sherrard Kuzz LLP will continue to monitor this situation and keep our readers apprised.

Meanwhile, if you have questions, please contact your Sherrard Kuzz LLP lawyer, or our firm at info@sherrardkuzz.com with the re line: COVID-19. We'll respond promptly.

*The information contained in this article is provided for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal or other professional advice, nor does accessing this information create a lawyer-client relationship. This article is current as of **March 24 2020** and applies only to Ontario, Canada, or such other laws of Canada as expressly indicated. Information about the law is checked for legal accuracy as at the date the presentation/article is prepared, but may become outdated as laws or policies change. For clarification or for legal or other professional assistance please contact Sherrard Kuzz LLP.*

