



CANADIAN WATER QUALITY ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LA QUALITÉ DE L'EAU

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Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

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Dear Minister Bains,

The Canadian Water Quality Association (CWQA) and its members would like to applaud the government's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and to provide recommendations to ensure that Canadians have access to safe, clean and reliable water supply for the duration of this crisis. Specifically, CWQA requests that officials at the federal, provincial and local levels of government designate and include water treatment professionals, manufacturers, deliverers and service providers of point of use and point of entry water treatment products and home and business delivered bottled water as '**essential**' due to the critical products and services they provide as well as their role in safeguarding Canadian's drinking water. For many citizens in Canada, whether rural, suburban or urban, such products and services are life sustaining, basic and fundamental which is the very essence of '**essential**'.

CWQA's vision is to support and grow the health, sustainability and credibility of the water quality industry in Canada. Our mission is to facilitate products and services designed to ensure sustainable water quality in homes and businesses to enhance and support lives, while maintaining core values and ethics. Our member companies are committed to ensuring that water delivered to consumers meets rigorous regulatory and third-party certification standards by using point of use or point of entry systems installed at a homeowner or business owner's property. For many Canadians, these products and services are a must have, like electricity and working plumbing. Our members have been extremely busy in the last few weeks with homeowners especially wanting to ensure that their equipment is working correctly or wanting to ensure that they have quality drinking water during this crisis.

As our country continues to work to halt the spread of COVID-19, provinces and local governments have given quarantine orders and mandatory business closures. These are important public health measures; however, it is important that these orders do not inadvertently slow the businesses and service providers that support the essential

infrastructure needed to successfully combat this pandemic. With so many people at home, this is especially critical for required home and business products and services that deliver life sustaining water to the home bound.

Many provincial and local governments have directed all 'non-essential' businesses to be closed. The CWQA views home delivery of bottled water along with water quality management (ie: filter changes for reverse osmosis) as an '**essential**' business, especially now with many people working from home with their children. Bottled water delivery and services the installation and maintenance of water treatment devices are critical to ensure the health of many Canadians. Imagine, the rural homeowner drawing water from a well that requires an ultraviolet system to deal with bacteria and their bulb requires replacement and their service providers are closed.

With so many stores running out of stock of certified water filters and replacements parts essential to the operation and maintenance of point of use and point of entry water treatment devices, many families now at home need these services and delivery operations to continue to ensure safe water for mixing of baby formula and in some cases home dialysis.

It is for these reasons that water treatment professionals, manufacturers, deliverers and service providers of point of use and point of entry water treatment products and home and business delivered bottled water are 'essential' and their associated employees are '**essential employees**'.

Thank you for all your effort to combat the coronavirus pandemic and support to Canadian families and businesses. We appreciate your leadership in an unprecedented time. CWQA is available as a resource to all interested parties to discuss the strategic importance of continuing, maintaining and delivering a safe, clean and reliable water supply.

If you have any questions or concerns, or ideas for further assistance, the CWQA and its members stand at the ready. Please feel free to contact at your convenience.

Sincerely,



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