



Boilermakers Local 128 Ontario

COVID-19 UPDATE

April 6th, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I trust that you and your families are maintaining the best you can during this very uncertain time. Our daily routines have certainly shifted to include a new set of priorities. However, I want to assure you that while you may not physically attend your local area hall, your area representatives are available via phone and e-mail. Our Reps along with our staff are working hard to carry on with union business during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

DISPATCH AND WORK REPORTS

Updated work reports can be found on our website under the Dispatch tab. If you get laid off and need to put your name back on an out-of-work list, please speak personally to your area representative.

Several construction sectors continue to be deemed essential, however not without some disruptions. As you know there are a lot of jobs and shutdowns that are either on hold or have been cancelled due to COVID-19. Rest assured that our Reps will continue to dispatch for any manpower requests that come in.

ENERGY SECTOR – OPG and BRUCE POWER

Due to COVID-19, the IBB and EPSCA have signed an emergency measure by way of a temporary Memorandum of Agreement. This full MOA can be viewed on our website.

The following explanation is taken from the MOA and will clarify Standoff while employed under the EPSCA Collective Agreement.

Standoff

When unable to proceed with work due to COVID-19 related issues or concerns, an Employer may elect to Standoff part or all of a crew.

On commencement of standoff, an employee will be issued a Record of Employment.

The Employer reserves the right to Standoff its employees without pay up to a maximum of fifteen (15) consecutive working days.

The appropriate subsistence allowance will be paid to an employee for the Standoff period where applicable as per the Collective Agreement.

If Standoff continues beyond fifteen (15) consecutive working days, an employee, at his/her option may elect to remain on Standoff for an additional forty (40) consecutive working days or be laid off.

Please note, while on a Standoff you are not eligible to post your name on any out-of-work list.

Security Clearances

The OPG and Bruce Power Security Clearance process and the associated timelines have been significantly impacted. The Security Clearance Office will only process electronic applications on a critical-needs basis at this time.

Health & Safety

The health and safety of our members on the job is a number one priority amid this COVID-19 Pandemic. We all play a part in ensuring that our we are safe in order to keep job sites open and our brothers and sisters safe.

There are now stringent safety protocols that contractors must adhere to on site in order to keep our members safe. If you find that your site is not adhering to the implemented government safety practices, please inform your steward and representative immediately.

All measures taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 should be done in compliance with requirements under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and associated regulations and public health directives issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Protecting yourself, your co-workers and your family

The COVID-19 virus is spread through close contact. To help prevent the spread, the following is a reminder. Please be diligent and follow the guidelines:

- Hand washing is the best practice, so do it often and with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if hand washing is not possible.
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve. Do the Dab! If you don't know the Dab, the kids will.
- If you use a tissue, discard immediately and wash your hands afterward.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid all contact with people who are sick.
- STAY HOME if you are sick!
- Avoid high-touch areas, where possible, or ensure you clean your hands after.
- Where possible, wear gloves when interacting with high-touch areas. Do not touch your face with gloved hands. Take care when removing gloves. Ensure you wash your hands after removing gloves.
- Wash your clothes as soon as you get home and shower.
- If you are ill: notify your supervisor and steward/rep immediately, complete the self-assessment and follow the instructions you get from the assessment.
<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/#q0>

APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING

CORE / Qualifications Extensions

Effective March 27, 2020 O. Reg. 297/13 is amended by O. Reg. 96/20 to temporarily extend the validity period of *Working at Heights* training for workers who successfully completed an approved *Working at Heights* training program between February 28, 2017 and August 31, 2017. The validity period for these workers is extended to four years from the current three.

Read the amended regulation at: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20096>

Existing CORE training:

There will be a six (6) month extension from April 1st if your cards are expiring in:

- *Confined Space Entry and Attendant*
- *Respiratory Fit Tests*

If you require any clarification you can reach our Trainers by email at the following:

Eddie Wall: ewall@ibblocal128.org and Dave Maddison: dmaddison@ibblocal128.org

Apprenticeship

At this time there is no return to school date for those in trade school. However, this is a good opportunity for you to continue to study and utilize any online activities available. If your Security Clearance is not up to date or you don't have one, this is the time to start the process.

Scholarship Competition Extension

The IBB Local 128 Scholarship Competition submission date has been extended until May 15th, 2020. If you have any questions or need more information please contact Pauline Fitzgerald at pauline@ibblocal128.org.

Monthly Union Meetings

As noted in my last update, due to the no-gathering, physical distancing government restrictions, our April 8th Union meeting has been cancelled. At this time, I cannot say for certain if our May meeting will be cancelled. However, I will inform you once a decision has been made.

Pension Health & Welfare Seminars

The Board of Trustees of your pension and health and welfare plans has postponed all previously scheduled seminar dates across the Province. You will be updated with the new schedule and dates once it is safe to meet and when the schedule is finalized.

If you have any questions please contact the Plan Administration Office by e-mail at education@boilermakersbenefits.ca or call toll free at 1-800-668-7547.



FSEAP counselling and referral service is available 24/7. Call direct to 1-866-990-1113.

Counselling Services Include:

- Marital / Relationship / Family / Personal Counseling
- Work-Related Counselling
- Financial/Retirement Counselling
- Stress Tests and Counselling
- Teen/Parent Hotline
- Eldercare Information
- Childcare Information
- Drug/Alcohol Counselling

Brothers and sisters, if you need assistance in anyway, please don't hesitate to reach out. Keep an eye on our website for updates and resources on the COVID-19 Pandemic.

I want to thank you for being on the front line as an essential service worker. Your dedication to getting the job done is appreciated and for that I want to say, thank you. Often times our trade has us working away from our families and loved ones. If you are currently at home with your spouse, your loved one, and/or your children, embrace this time. If you are on your own reach out to a brother or sister. If you know someone who is alone, reach out to them. Let them know we are a brother/sisterhood and we are here for one another. Above all else, please take care of your self. Remember that tough times don't last, but tough people do.

In solidarity. I am fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roy Grills".

ROY GRILLS

Business Manager / Secretary Treasurer
Boilermakers Local 128 Ontario

RG/pff

