

Berkeley Castle Covid 19 - Tenant Update

#8 - May 4, 2020

Just over 8 weeks ago, we were all advised to “socially distance”, and almost 8 weeks ago, the Province of Ontario was declared to be in a state of emergency.

Building Management Update: At Berkeley Castle, we asked people coming into the building to wash their hands and posted a wide variety of relevant signage on doors, stairwells and in common areas. We quickly started a rigorous disinfection program. Now, with only a skeleton crew at the building, we are kept very busy. In the office, on top of all her regular work, Melody has been helping with your mail, accepting courier packages, and regularly checking inside suites for you. Our superintendents are diligently cleaning and disinfecting all common areas on a (more than) regular basis. Brian, our maintenance person, is making sure that the operational parts of the building are not neglected, and is tackling a long to-do list of small projects that are much easier to accomplish when no one else is around. We had contracted out brick repair work for another section of the building, and you saw scaffolding going up before the pandemic started. As a commercial building maintenance issue, this was deemed an essential service. We are proud to be providing a job site that far exceeds minimum health standards required at a “Covid” construction site. The construction workers feel safe coming to work here everyday. A small upside is that without having the same concerns about making noise as they normally would, this maintenance project is moving along faster than expected.

Government Funding: Many of our tenants are waiting for funding on a variety of government programs (such as CEWS [link](#)), or waiting for more information to become available on others (such as OCECRA [link](#)). The building owners and management are doing their best to help all of our tenants in any ways that we can.

With social distancing working, the curve is visibly flattening. In Ontario, some restrictions have been lifted, and businesses like garden centres and cottage marinas are going back to work today. For those who are isolating, it's getting to be emotionally harder and harder at this point, but we can all start to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

If you need a little bit of help in dealing with the difficulties and “new normal” of what is being thrown at us, Pluto the dog, our very own Canadian you tube sensation has delightful bits of advice for you ([link](#)) On a more serious note, social isolation can be the most difficult for people living alone. If you live alone, or know other people living alone, remember to reach out. CBC has also written great article on how to access free mental health and emotional support ([link](#)).

#8 - May 6, 2020

[BusinessTO News:](#) Framework to reopen Ontario and new support measures

As members of the local BIA, I receive this newsletter (see below) from the City of Toronto department of economic development. If your company doesn't already receive it, now might be a good time to subscribe. The city provides a lot of support for small businesses, and this newsletter will keep you informed. There is a place to subscribe at the bottom.

I am sending this today, rather than waiting for next weeks update, as there is a free webinar this evening that I think some of you will find valuable. You will have the opportunity to ask an accountant questions relating to the various financial support programs that are available. There is a link to register.