

April 22, 2020

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen's Park Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

RE: 'Good Samaritan' liability legislation related to the COVID-19 pandemic

Dear Premier Ford,

Thank you for your continued leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the situation evolves, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) is receiving concerns from the business community and communicating them to all levels of government.

The COVID-19 pandemic has inspired countless Ontario companies to turn their resources toward offering services and/or producing products that support our fight against the virus, including personal protective equipment, ventilators, and testing kits. These companies are answering the government's call and demonstrating #OntarioSpirit. Given that the need for such products and services arose quite suddenly, there was little time to assess any potential legal risks. Unfortunately, these 'Good Samaritan' firms may now or in the future be exposed to litigation, imperiling their businesses in an already challenging economic environment.

The government of British Columbia has already taken action to protect such firms with a Ministerial order; however, it is limited to businesses offering services. The OCC would like to express our support for a similar Ministerial order to be enacted in this province, but one that also protects any business that supports the pandemic emergency effort and develops products to protect people from COVID-19. Specifically, immunity should be extended to those operations that are either transitioning their operations or adapting their operations for COVID-related products. The goal of such an order should be to protect these companies and ensure their good work is neither discouraged nor punished.

Public health and safety are priorities for all Ontario organizations. We will continue to monitor and assess new developments pertaining to COVID-19 closely and work with our members, partners, and all levels of government to provide support to Ontario communities.

Sincerely,



Rocco Rossi
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce