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**Date:** May 28, 2020 at 12:21:55 PM EDT

**To:** "Emmerson, Wayne" <[Wayne.Emmerson@york.ca](mailto:Wayne.Emmerson@york.ca)>, Regional Clerk  
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**Subject: BILD: COVID-19 Response and Recovery - Thank You**

Good afternoon Chairman Emmerson and Members of Regional Council,

Please find attached a letter from BILD and our York Chapter members outlining our gratitude to Council and staff for the ongoing leadership and business continuity that has come out of the Region throughout this COVID-19 disruption.

As referenced in the letter, we are your partners in prosperity and during these times – if there is anything we can do at BILD or with our members to be of service to you – we welcome that discussion.

Stay well,

**Victoria Mortelliti, B.URPL**

Planning Coordinator | Policy and Advocacy

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**BUILDING A GREATER GTA**  
Building Industry and Land  
Development Association

May 28, 2020

Chairman Wayne Emmerson and Members of Regional Council  
The Regional Municipality of York  
17250 Yonge Street  
Newmarket, ON  
L3Y 6Z1

Chair Emmerson and Members of Regional Council,

**RE: COVID-19 Response and Recovery – Thank You**

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*In York Region, the building and renovation industry provides over \$1.7 billion in investment value and employs over 51,000 people<sup>1</sup>. As a simple rule of thumb one crane in the sky is equal to 500 jobs. With approximately 1,500 member companies, BILD is the voice of the home building, land development and professional renovation industry in the Greater Toronto Area and Simcoe County. Residential Construction is a key economic driver to every community in Canada.*

As your community building partners, we would like to take this opportunity to thank York Regional Council and staff for the strong leadership and guidance that continues to be shown throughout this pandemic. We have a shared interest in keeping business moving by ensuring that development services continue to be carried out and York Region has been a great example of this best practice.

We would like to particularly acknowledge York Region's investment in YorkTrax. This asset has proven that the forward thinking and preparedness of the Region has been critical in providing business continuity during these most uncertain times. This push for business continuity has also been reflected through the hard-work of Regional Staff and their continued engagement with BILD and our members throughout this disruption. In this regard, we would like to thank Bruce Macgregor, CAO and Laura Mirabella, Commissioner of Finance-Regional Treasurer, together with her staff, Ed Hankins, Fabrizio Filippazzo and David Cohen. We would as well like to extend our appreciation to the Chief Planner Paul Freeman and members of his team including, Sandra Malcic and Paul Bottomley. Our continued discussions provide an ongoing channel of transparent communication that staff have established is of great significance to the industry. We applaud Council and Staff for taking the exemplary steps you have to ensure the safe and continued services for the benefit of the employees and the businesses of York Region.

We greatly respect your governance in keeping people safe, and this is our industry's first priority too. Construction sites have instituted various health and safety measures, such as splitting crews into staggered shifts, utilizing the extended start and closing times, only allowing one trade in an area at a time, limiting no more than 3 people in an open air hoists, and every construction site in Ontario that has 20 or more people has a joint health and safety committee – to ensure all employees have a voice.

BILD and its members want to be a part of the solutions during this difficult time. To assist our members and municipal partners, BILD has put together resources on all the latest information that directly affects the building, land development and professional renovation industry. This includes a [Status of Municipal Services Tracking List](#) and a [Municipal Meetings & Public Engagement Protocols](#). Both documents, which can also be found on the [BILD COVID-19](#) webpage, are updated on a regular basis as the situation continues to change and new information comes forward. This information sharing has been greatly valued by our membership and we hope it serves to be a resource to our municipal partners as well.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on 2018 Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Statistics Canada data

We hope that this situation will subside soon and that we have all done our part to flatten the curve. Our industry is facing unprecedented times and many of our members are concerned about existing and future projects, as well as the overall health of our industry. When the appropriate time comes, we will need to focus on our recovery efforts, and we are here to assist you in those conversations.

Again, thank you for your leadership during these trying times, we are your partners in prosperity and within this turmoil, if there is anything we can do at BILD or with our members to be of service to you, we welcome that discussion.

Stay safe and healthy,



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Mike McLean,  
BILD York Chapter Co-Chair



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Gabe DiMartino,  
BILD York Chapter Co-Chair

CC: Lina Bigioni, York Region  
Bruce Macgregor, York Region  
Laura Mirabella, York Region  
Paul Freeman, York Region  
BILD York Chapter Members