

# MANIT<sup>BA</sup>

NURSERY LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1755 Stn. Main, Winnipeg, MB. R3C 2Z9 Phone: 204-661-6397 [mbnla.com](http://mbnla.com)

March 27, 2020

Dear Sir or Madam

The Manitoba Nursery Landscape Association, MBNLA, is a provincial association dedicated to advancing the interests of horticulture and landscape professionals. MBNLA is a non-profit organization whose members are businesses and individuals committed to promoting awareness of environmental horticulture and upholding the highest standards of the nursery and landscape industry.

We are communicating with you today to assure you that landscape services are essential services and should continue during any emergency declaration or quarantine scenario. Landscape professionals are partners during this critical time in assisting in the protection of public health and public safety.

The ornamental horticulture profession is taking aggressive steps within our organizations to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Strong policies are in place to maintain social distancing with clients, the public, and within our teams. Due to our industry functions mainly outdoors the opportunity for us to come into contact with other individuals not briefed on appropriate safety protocols is greatly reduced.

Manitoba's nursery and landscape industry also provides regular income for our employees which would leave more subsidized funds available for other impacted sectors. In the event that our revenue season is suspended or delayed, we would like assurance that our seasonal staff that were expecting to return to work shortly, would have their Employment Insurance benefits extended accordingly.

That said, our province's greenhouse growers are already at full production based on the assumption that plants will be sold to landscapers, the public and retailers as one of the foundations of the landscape supply chain.

We are in this together, and the landscape industry stands with our public officials to flatten the curve of COVID-19 while continuing to perform those essential functions that are necessary within our communities throughout Manitoba.

Sincerely,

MBNLA Board of Directors  
Rob Officer, Executive Director  
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