

Confused yet? Overwhelmed?

Ontario's **Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act** is not new legislation. It has been around for more than a decade (finally fully enacted in 2006), and was preceded by other legislation intended to give broad powers to government during periods of dire emergency. But it was not until this year – literally, at no time before this year – that **Emergency Orders** have been issued. And this year has seen a lot of them.

Emergency Orders – Overview

Since the **Declaration of Emergency (Ont. Reg. 50/20)** issued on March 18, 2020 (extended by **Ont. Reg. 105/20**, and later by [an order extending the emergency](#) to May 12, 2020) and up to the date of the latest update of this memo (**April 25, 2020**) there have been about forty emergency orders (including amendments) issued under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. This is your erstwhile overview of them all. A number of relevant new regulations made under other statutes are also included.

ONTARIO REGULATION 51/20 - CLOSURES

This order was made under subsection 7.0.2 (4) of the Act, which grants Cabinet the authority to make orders to implement emergency plans, restrict travel, cause evacuations, set up shelters and hospitals, close any institution or establishment, destroy, remove or procure property, conscript qualified individuals to provide service, obtain information, or “taking such other actions or [implement] such other measures” as Cabinet “considers necessary in order to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of the emergency.” Such orders remain in place until revoked by the same authority.

Ont. Reg. 51/20 ordered the closure of a wide variety of facilities and institutions, including places providing indoor recreation, libraries, private schools, child care facilities, bars, restaurants, theatres and concert venues, effective from March 17, 2020, until March 31, 2020. Modifications were made to this order by **Ont. Reg. 78/20** and **Ont. Reg. 155/20**, providing for some exceptions to the closure of child care facilities, including an exemption for facilities providing child care to a specified list of emergency workers (such as police, fire fighters, probation officers, medical professionals, medical supply manufacturers, people working in drinking- or waste-water facilities etc.). **Ont. Reg. 100/20** declared that this order would remain in place indefinitely, and restricted the number of persons entitled to be in an exempted child care facility to 50. **Ont. Regs. 106/20, 138/20** and **165/20** extended the effective period for this order and many others, now ending on May 6, 2020.

ONTARIO REGULATION 52/20 - GATHERINGS

This second order, also made under subsection 7.0.2 (4) of the Act, was issued simultaneously with Ont. Reg. 51/20, and prohibited public events of more than 50 people, including worship services. On March 28, **Ont. Reg. 99/20** was issued reducing the permitted size of gathering to 5 people, and expanding the effect of the order to include any social gathering, including events in private homes, as well as public events (such as parades) and religious services. Exceptions were specified for gatherings of “members of a single household” (note, this exemption is for *households*, not *families*; family members who reside separately would not be considered members of the same household) and for funerals provided no more than 10 persons are in attendance.

ONTARIO REGULATION 66/20 - INFECTIOUS DISEASE EMERGENCY LEAVE

While these emergency orders have been enacted, the government of Ontario has also made numerous regulatory changes under other legislation. Often, these appear to be designed to facilitate the purposes of the emergency orders, even if the changes appear as permanent additions to or deletions from existing regulations. One of interest is this regulation made under the *Employment Standards Act, 2000*, adding disease caused by a novel coronavirus, such as SARS, MERS and COVID-19, to the list of infectious diseases justifying emergency leave without pay.

ONTARIO REGULATION 68/20 – CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER’S DIRECTIONS (RETIREMENT HOMES)

This regulation made under the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010*, requires reasonable compliance with directions and recommendations given to retirement homes by Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer.

ONTARIO REGULATION 73/20 – LIMITATIONS AND DEADLINES IN PROCEEDINGS

This order created quite a buzz in the condominium community, and a great deal of uncertainty about the status of condominium lien proceedings, essentially freezing all limitation periods and all deadlines

relating to a “proceeding” or “intended proceeding” in “any statute, regulation, rule, by-law or order of the Government of Ontario.” (There emerged no absolute consensus among condominium lawyers as to whether this actually impacts deadlines associated with lien notice and registration periods set out in the *Condominium Act, 1998*, other than the perspective that, out of an abundance of caution, such deadlines should be treated as still in effect.) **Ont. Regs. 137/20** and **149/20** suspend the operation of this order with respect to various planning and construction related laws and statutes.

ONTARIO REGULATION 74/20 – HEALTH CARE WORKERS

This order permits certain health service providers (including public or private hospitals, and psychiatric facilities) to ignore many regular terms of employment (such as schedules, assignments, vacations, etc.), including those set out in collective agreements (including suspending grievance processes), in order to deploy staff to help prevent or alleviate an outbreak of COVID-19 for patients.

ONTARIO REGULATION 75/20 – DRINKING WATER AND SEWAGE SYSTEMS

Amongst other things, this order expands and suspends restrictions on certifications for the operation of drinking water and sewage systems, and grants broad authority to their operators to handle the deployment of staff despite any otherwise applicable terms of employment, including collective agreements, in order to ensure their safe and continued operation despite the pandemic outbreak.

ONTARIO REGULATION 76/20 – ELECTRONIC SERVICE

Under this order, documents to be served on the Crown (i.e., any MP, the Attorney General, the Children’s Lawyer, the Public Guardian and Trustee, and the Director of the Family Responsibility Office) may be served electronically, other than in respect of criminal proceedings.

ONTARIO REGULATION 77/20 – LONG-TERM CARE HOME WORKERS

The kind of authority granted to hospitals, etc., under Ont. Reg. 74/20, is in this order also given to the operators of long-term care homes, whether run by a municipality or other organization or person. **Ont. Reg. 147/20** made a minor amendment to ensure this order is consistent with Ont. Reg. 146/20 (mentioned below). It can also be noted that **Ont. Reg. 72/20** also made various complementary changes under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007*, addressing qualifications for and regulation of employees during a pandemic.

ONTARIO REGULATION 79/20 – LONG-TERM CARE HOME WORKERS

This regulation under the *Legislation Act, 2006*, permits electronic filing of regulatory changes, reflecting an unsurprising desire to enact greater efficiency in the process during a period of social- and physical-distancing, but not just for these times.

ONTARIO REGULATION 80/20 – ELECTRICITY PRICING FOR RPP CONSUMERS

For consumers whose costs of electricity are controlled by a Regulated Price Plan (in place in Ontario since 2005), all rates referred to in the plan are set at 10.1 cents per kilowatt hour. This will not affect the cost of hydro for condominiums or other consumers that have opted to pay “spot pricing” or are enrolled in a retailer contract rather than being subject to a Regulated Price Plan.

ONTARIO REGULATION 82/20 – CLOSURE OF NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES

Another regulation that caused a lot of buzz in the twitter-verse was this one, which identified a list of “essential businesses” that are permitted to stay open, while all other businesses are required to be closed (subject to temporary access required by law, for inspections, maintenance or security purposes, or to access matters or materials that cannot be dealt with remotely). The list of essential businesses (which was revised somewhat under **Ont. Regs. 119/20, 136/20, and 153/20**) is very broad, so not as many workplaces are under mandatory shut-down as could be, though many voluntarily remain closed to maintain social or physical distancing, for the safety of clients, customers and staff. For condominiums, most of their service providers, including condominium managers, are entitled to continue working. An interesting note is that the latest addition to the list of essential businesses is campsites, provided they are fully equipped with utility services, close all potentially shared services, are for use by only trailers and RV’s, and are only provided for people who do not have any other residence in Canada. I.e., trailer parks.

Although many people have found some pleasure in working from home or being forced to spend more time with family, this order also serves to underscore the economic harm, including market and job insecurity, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ONTARIO REGULATION 83/20 – LONG-TERM CARE HOME RESIDENTS

Made under the *Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007*, this regulation permits the discharge of residents where requested by their care-givers on account of a pandemic, and also addresses matters relating to the admission of long-term care residents to hospital. In addition, there are provisions to expedite admission to long-term care during a pandemic where hospitals experience “severe capacity pressures”.

ONTARIO REGULATIONS 88/20 & 90/20 – TIME PERIODS UNDER HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT

These two regulations provide for the extension of time periods for applying for new licenses and renewals of accessible parking permits.

ONTARIO REGULATION 89/20 – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Under this regulation, Ministry of Transportation officers are granted police-like powers to do such things as direct traffic and close highways. The order also provides for the creation of emergency parking locations (provided the location is not a residential or farm property) and authorizes the Ministry to assign duties to its officers without regard to existing employment contracts, policies or collective agreements.

ONTARIO REGULATION 92/20 – SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

By this regulation under the *Supply Chain Management Act (Government, Broader Public Sector and Health Sector Entities), 2019*, the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services is designated as the supply chain management entity in respect of government entities and broader public sector entities for the purpose of responding to COVID-19 and any issues related to the response to and recovery from it, and the Ministry of Health is granted the same role in relation to health sector entities. Basically, this is the “putting the government in charge” regulation.

ONTARIO REGULATION 95/20 – LONG-TERM CARE HOMES

This order relieves long term care home operators of a significant array of duties, including the duties to report changes to residents’ care plans, engage in as frequent care conferences and patient examinations, or to report complaints other than “critical incidents” and other reports considered mandatory under relevant legislation. The order does not make care homes a ‘free for all’ and does continue to require attention to the safety, well-being and consent of residents. The intention is to provide flexibility to the homes to address the needs of residents on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. Given, however, that families are now unable to as easily, if at all, visit their relatives who reside in such facilities, and the susceptibility of such facilities to outbreak, it is easy to imagine there is great concern amongst them that operations are proceeding in the best and most safe manners, despite such flexibility and relaxation of reporting and other bureaucratic requirements.

ONTARIO REGULATION 98/20 – PRICE GOUGING

We probably all remember Premier Ford expressing his disgust and contempt for companies and individuals seeking to set extraordinarily high prices on important commodities (during the outbreak) such as hand sanitizer. The order contained in Ont. Reg. 98/20 was the response to that. It prohibits “unconscionable” pricing of a range of goods deemed “necessary”, including protective masks and gloves, non-prescription medications that treat COVID-19 symptoms, disinfectant agents, and personal hygiene products (including soap and toilet paper).

ONTARIO REGULATION 104/20 – OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL AMENITIES

Consistent with the earlier closure of facilities providing indoor recreational facilities, this order closed outdoor ones – parks, sports fields, dog parks, picnic sites, etc. – until further notice. Under **Ont. Regs. 143/20** and **165/20** the effective date for this order was extended to May 6. However, on April 25, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health announced that this date would be further extended to May 31.

ONTARIO REGULATION 107/20 – CORPORATION MEETINGS

This order extends or suspends requirements for corporations subject to the *Corporations Act* and *Business Corporations Act*, to hold annual general meetings, and permits directors to hold meetings by teleconference or electronic means. This order did not include condominium corporations, though most condominiums, as advised by their legal counsel, are foregoing meetings or finding alternative means of holding them. It is possible that the government opted to leave condominiums out of this order since they already have capacity to authorize remote methods of meeting by by-law; however, not all corporations have done so.

On April 24, 2020, an **Order in Council** (the regulation number was not yet assigned at the time of publishing this version of the memo) was passed amending this order by making further changes to the provisions of the *Corporations Act* and *Business Corporations Act*, adding substantial details with respect to what is provided to shareholders or members, and the means of voting, and also making changes to the *Co-operative Corporations Act* and the *Condominium Act, 1998*.

For co-operative corporations (including non-profit housing co-operatives), these changes mean that regardless of whether the corporation’s governing documents allow it, member meetings may be held by telephonic or electronic means. A member *either voting in or linking to* the meeting is deemed to be present at the meeting. The order provides that “telephonic or electronic means” means “telephone calls or messages, facsimile messages, electronic mail, transmission of data or information through automated touch-tone telephone systems, transmission of data or information through computer networks, any other similar means or any other prescribed means,” however, the order also states that for the purposes

of members or owners meetings, the means used for the meeting must provide that all attendees are able to hear each other. The order provides further directions relating to board meetings by telephonic or other means, the information to be laid before members at its annual meeting, and the method of election.

For condominium corporations, the changes impact methods of meeting, the contents, timing and service of a notice of a meeting, the timing of annual general meetings. For a detailed discussion of these changes, see our other Good Advice memo, linked [here](#).

ONTARIO REGULATION 114/20 – ENFORCEMENT OF ORDERS

By this order, the police and other provincial offenses officers have authority to obtain the name, birthdate and address of any person reasonably believed to have committed an offense under section 7.0.11 of the Act by failing to comply with, or interfering with or obstructing anyone in the performance of a duty under, an emergency order issued under the Act. The potential consequence of such non-compliance or interference for most people is a fine of up to \$100,000 or imprisonment for up to one year. A director of a corporation is liable to a fine of up to \$500,000, and a corporation may be fined up to ten million dollars. Each day on which non-compliance occurs is considered a separate offense.

ONTARIO REGULATION 115/20 – EXEMPTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Relying on the regulatory authority under the *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993*, this regulation exempts new legislative proposals from Part II of that Act, which provides for public participation in government decision-making. It also exempts ministries from the requirement to take “every reasonable step to ensure that the ministry statement of environmental values is considered whenever decisions that might significantly affect the environment are made in the ministry”.

ONTARIO REGULATION 116/20 – BOARDS OF HEALTH

This order gives the same kind of authority over staffing matters to municipal boards of health as were given to hospitals under Ont. Reg. 74/20.

ONTARIO REGULATION 118/20 – RETIREMENT HOMES

Similar to the preceding order and the several prior ones respecting health care facilities, this order grants authority for the operators of licensed retirement homes to flexibly manage staffing, including foregoing “screening processes,” such as police record checks, for workers, for the sake of preventing or alleviating an outbreak of COVID-19 within the facility. This order is subject to Ont. Reg. 157/20, which requires that workers can only be employed at a single retirement home.

ONTARIO REGULATION 120/20 – ACCESS TO INFORMATION

This order grants authority to police, fire protection officers, paramedics and some others to obtain information about the identity and infection status of a person with respect to COVID-19, from medical officers and laboratories that have that information. The Ministry of Health is also granted authority to collect, use and disclose such information (to the said authorized persons) “as may be necessary in order to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of the emergency.”

ONTARIO REGULATION 121/20 – AGENCIES SUPPORTING ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

This order, again, falls in line with Ont. Regs. 74/20, 75/20, 77/20, 116/20 and 118/20, now granting similar rights and authority over the conditions and requirements of employment to the operators of service agencies providing support to adults with development disabilities, and includes the right to alter their residential arrangements “to ensure the health and safety of persons receiving service.”

ONTARIO REGULATION 128/20 – CANNABIS

When the government narrowed its list of essential businesses, cannabis retailers were suddenly required to close. The stores are to remain closed to customers, but this order allows delivery and pick-up of cannabis products under certain conditions, including that the location for pick-up must be outdoors, near the store, and based on pre-payment for an order. The purchaser is also required to provide an accepted form of ID and must be the person who placed the order.

ONTARIO REGULATION 129/20 – SIGNING WILLS AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Welcome news for many solicitors, this regulation suspends the usual legal requirement for the grantor/testator and witnesses to the signing of a power of attorney or will to be all present in the same place during signing. The witnesses can observe the testator signing with the use of audio-visual equipment, provided at least one witness is a licensed lawyer or paralegal. The audio-visual equipment must allow all participants to see, hear and communicate with each other in real time.

Under **Ont. Reg. 164/20**, this order was amended to accommodate execution in counterparts (avoiding the necessity of spending time distributing the original signed copy around to make sure everyone’s signature is on the same document) and permits minor, non-substantive differences in the various signed copies (such as might arise from printing on different machines or through different programs).

ONTARIO REGULATIONS 130/20 & 131/20 – CONSTRUCTION NOISE

These two regulations, issued on April 7 (the date we prepared the original version of this memo), were not made under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, though they likely could have been, and have a related purpose. Ont. Reg. 130/20 prohibits the City of Toronto from regulating noise in relation to construction projects and services in the City associated with the healthcare sector at any time of day or night, and any other construction activity provided that activity only occurs between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Ont. Reg. 131/20 establishes the same prohibitions for the rest of the province. On the day these regulations were introduced, Premier Ford stated, "During this escalating crisis, we are taking immediate steps to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place, particularly to properly care for those with severe COVID-19 symptoms and other patients who require critical care. That's why we're extending construction hours to allow us to build essential infrastructure faster." It may be noted that **Ont. Regs. 70/20** and **71/20** also permanently restricted the ability of a municipality to prohibit and regulate noise made in connection with the delivery of goods in a municipality.

ONTARIO REGULATION 132/20 – POLICE USE OF FORCE

With surprisingly little fanfare – in fact, with no public notice of which we are aware – on April 8, 2020, this order was issued to provide greater authority to chiefs of police throughout the province to authorize use of force and use of guns by any police officer, First Nations constable, or special constable, provided the person being authorized has completed the usual training within the 24-month period prior to the authorization being given.

ONTARIO REGULATION 139/20 – CHILD CARE FEES

Child care services that are not permitted to stay open under Ont. Reg. 82/20 (the emergency order to close non-essential businesses) cannot charge fees and cannot penalize anyone who has not paid fees during the period of closure. Child care services that are permitted to operate can only charge fees if actually providing child care.

ONTARIO REGULATION 140/20 – HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS AND RETIREMENT HOMES

This order seeks to pave the way for people to be, in effect, hospitalized within their retirement home without that impacting the status of the retirement home as a retirement home (e.g., it doesn't suddenly become a hospital), and without changing legal status in relation to the type of businesses they are, or in terms of their staff. Providing hospital type services in a retirement home does not reduce the retirement home's duties for the safety and security of their residents.

ONTARIO REGULATION 141/20 – CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TEMPORARY HEALTH SERVICES SITES

Months behind China, which reportedly erected a new hospital in a week when responding at the start of the COVID-19 crisis, this order reduces some of the red tape involved in getting a new, but temporary, health or residential facility constructed on an urgent basis (starting from April 10, 2020). Architectural and engineering oversight are both still required, the chief building office of the applicable municipally must have received their designs and reports, and the constructed property is still subject to inspection before occupancy. Note, a related regulation – **Ont. Reg. 144/20** – exempts these temporary structures from the application of certain articles of the Fire Code under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*.

Unless developed truly as temporary facilities, with no intended future uses being considered, one has to wonder what will happen to these buildings later, or what hoops owners might have to go through to prove they are good to go for future conversion to other, more permanent uses.

ONTARIO REGULATION 142/20 – NO CAMPING

Under this order, camping on public lands is prohibited, except where the camping is protected as an Aboriginal treaty right, is essential for the operation of a business that is not ordered closed under Ont. Reg. 82/20, or is otherwise permitted by written authorization. The order does not prohibit walking through public lands or other permitted (non-camping) uses.

ONTARIO REGULATION 145/20 – SERVICES DEALING WITH VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

As with other orders that allow variations in management of staff – altering assignments, work places, vacation schedules, etc. – without regard for collective or individual employment agreements, this order acknowledges the increasing concern that domestic violence and other kinds of abuse have escalated as a result of social isolation measures, and provides for flexible work arrangements for government funded facilities that provide residential and crisis line services for women subject to violence and human trafficking.

ONTARIO REGULATION 146/20 – LONG TERM CARE HOMES – SINGLE PLACE OF WORK

Under this order, workers in Long Term Care facilities are required to be restricted to working in just one facility, and by midnight between April 21 and April 22, the employee must inform their employers if they have work in other facilities, and the employer must ensure that they do not (even if the facility is owned and operated by the same employer).

ONTARIO REGULATION 149/20 – SPECIAL RULES

Primarily, this regulation is intended to give municipalities control over the timing of development and development-related applications and processes.

Made under the *Planning Act* (by virtue of the regulatory authority granted by the *Coronavirus Support and Protection Act, 2020*) rather than the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, it provides that emergency orders under s. 7.1(2) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (orders that suspend and can substitute the operations of statutes, regulations or other law) made after April 15, 2020, and Ont. Reg. 73/20 (the emergency order affecting limitations and other statutory deadlines), have no effect on the provisions of the *Planning Act*, its regulations, or section 114 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. The order sets out special rules relating to notices required to be given under certain sections of the *Planning Act*, including notices of decision by committees of adjustment.

The order further provides that the period of the COVID-19 emergency does not impact various deadlines or time-periods set out in the *Planning Act*, and grants that if the period of time in question ended on or after March 17 and before April 15, the time period is deemed not to have ended.

ONTARIO REGULATION 150/20 – AUTO INSURANCE REBATES

This regulation under the *Insurance Act* permits providers of automobile insurance to issue rebates on account of the COVID-19 emergency, without it being deemed an unfair or deceptive practice.

ONTARIO REGULATION 154/20 – DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARDS

Continuing the most common theme of the orders – that of giving power to certain kinds of employers to alter work terms of their employees in order to manage or prevent outbreaks of COVID-19 – this order provides that power to the District Social Services Administration Boards, which manage social services programs such as affordable housing, Ontario Works income support, child care subsidies and women’s shelters.

ONTARIO REGULATION 156/20 – SERVICE PROVIDER ORGANIZATIONS

Related to the order immediately above, under this order contracted service provider organizations that provide health care and related social services, such as meals, transportation, caregiver support, “friendly visiting”, security checks, and the like – but excluding personal support, homemaking and certain other community services – are entitled to accept requests from, and provide services to, a local health integration network (as defined in the *Local Health System Integration Act, 2006*) even if any law would ordinarily prohibit it in the proposed setting. Employees of such organizations are entitled to refuse to provide the requested services.

ONTARIO REGULATION 157/20 – EMPLOYEES OF MUNICIPALITIES

For all municipal employees who provide certain “critical services” defined in order, the municipality is entitled making staffing and employment arrangements (again, along the lines of prior emergency orders in other employment contexts) to help prevent an outbreak of COVID-19. “Critical services” includes such things as provision of drinking water, waste management, maintenance of long-term care facilities, public transportation, child care, homeless shelters and public health services. However, this order does not apply to firefighters, paramedics and other ambulance workers, the employees of drinking- or waste-water facilities, long term care home employees or persons employed as a board of health (covered by previous orders).

ONTARIO REGULATION 158/20 – RETIREMENT HOMES – SINGLE PLACE OF WORK

Matching the earlier order set out in Ont. Reg. 146/20, regarding workers in Long Term Care facilities, this order requires that employees in retirement homes are required to be restricted to working in just one facility, and that by midnight between April 21 and April 22, the employee must inform their employers if they have work in other facilities, and the employer must ensure that they do not (even if the facility is owned and operated by the same employer). The order takes precedence over Ont. Reg. 118/20, which granted power to manage employment arrangements.

ONTARIO REGULATION 159/20 – AMBULANCE WORKERS

This regulation, made under the *Ambulance Act*, entitles operators of ambulances (on land) to employee people as advanced emergency medical care assistants who do not meet all usual educational requirements, during the period of the COVID-19 emergency.

ONTARIO REGULATION 160/20 – RETIREMENT HOMES – SINGLE PLACE OF WORK

Another new regulation not made under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, this regulation temporarily (till June 30, 2020) suspends restrictions on weight loads on vehicles under the *Ontario Highway Traffic Act* in certain places and for certain types of load, including medical supplies, safety and sanitation equipment, food, paper products for emergency restocking at stores, fuel, equipment for construction of temporary housing and quarantine facilities, and farm products.

ONTARIO REGULATION 163/20 – MENTAL HEALTH AGENCIES

The theme of giving power to employers to alter work terms of their employees in order to manager or prevent outbreaks of COVID-19 continues, as this order addresses the employment redeployment needs of government funded, not-for-profit organizations that provide community mental health and addictions services. For-profit agencies, and any agencies that do not rely on funding from the Ministry of Health or from a Local Health Integration Network, cannot rely on the provisions of this order.

Although its peak might have been reached, it remains plausible that the state of emergency due to COVID-19 will continue for not just a few more weeks but months. There will undoubtedly be more orders to come. We'll continue to make the effort to update this memo regularly. In the meantime, if you have questions about how any of these orders specifically affect you or your interests, you should speak with us or other qualified legal counsel.

Note: Not every relevant regulation under a statute other than the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act is covered here, such as the several that extend expiry dates or other deadlines for specific businesses and licenses, and the several altering zoning regulations for a number of municipalities, all of which are important for some purposes but of less general interest than the ones we have included.

Parting thoughts...

While we can recognize, and trust, that the reactions of our government to the COVID-19 pandemic, and each emergency order issued under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, are well-intentioned, strive to protect the most vulnerable among us, and are reasonably measured, the content of these various orders should also give us pause for serious reflection.

These orders are a reminder that many of the things we take for granted as “rights” (such as the terms of our employment, collective agreements, mobility in and outside of our homes, and so forth) are, in fact, privileges granted at the discretion, or largesse, of the state. If nothing else, this reflection should stir in us appreciation for the liberties that we commonly enjoy, and motivate our commitment to preserve and protect those liberties during times when we are not under threat of looming tragedy, such as a pandemic or war.

Particularly, we should be moved to appreciation for and support of the democratic traditions and institutions that allow us to seek to put in the offices of greatest authority and trust, people who we believe will conduct themselves with consistent good faith and honesty, and never seek to abuse the extraordinary powers that are, in fact, available to them.