

## PRESS RELEASE

# BUILDING TRADE UNION MEMBERS DONATE EXTRA MASKS TO SUPPORT FRONTLINE WORKERS AGAINST COVID-19

**March 30, 2020** – Canada is facing an unprecedented time with the spread of COVID-19 putting extreme strains on our healthcare system and supplies. Canada's Building Trades Unions has announced a partnership with Canada's Federation of Nurses Unions to donate extra N-95 respirator masks and other protective equipment to nurses who remain on the front line to protect all of us from the spread of COVID-19.

"Canada's Building Trades Union has always fought for and championed the health and safety of our members and their families," said Robert Kucheran, Chairman, Canada's Building Trades Unions. "We want to do our part, to support the crucial work of our front-line health care workers who are putting their own health at risk, to protect all of us. Given the shortage of health supplies we are experiencing across this country, we are asking our contractors and training centres to donate any extra N-95 respirators, face shields, goggles and other health supplies, not needed to protect our Building Trades members currently working, to hospitals in our local communities, and commend the Local Unions and Contractors already stepping up."

"CBTU members and families have always been strong partners in building up Canada's economy. Today, you are not only showing that you are real health and safety champions but you are showing compassion to close to one million health care workers who need to put safety first to save lives. On behalf of Canada's nurses, I truly thank you," said Linda Silas, President, Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions.

To donate, work with your local Building Trades Council or local health care centre to coordinate distribution of the masks.

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## About CBTU

Canada's Building Trades Unions is an alliance of 15 international unions in the construction, maintenance and fabrication industries that collectively represent over half a million skilled trades workers in Canada. Each year, our unions and our signatory contractor partners invest over \$300 million in private sector money to fund and operate over 175 apprenticeship training and education facilities across Canada that produce the safest, most highly trained and productive skilled craft workers found anywhere in the world. Canada's Building Trades Unions represent members who work in more than 60



different trades and occupations, and generate 14 per cent of Canada's GDP. For more information, go to [www.buildingtrades.ca](http://www.buildingtrades.ca)

## **About CFNU**

The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU) is Canada's largest nurses' organization, representing nearly 200,000 nurses and student nurses, and advocating on key health priorities and federal engagement in public health care. For more information, go to [nursesunions.ca](http://nursesunions.ca)