

October 18, 2023

Announcement from Premier David Eby: Construction Sites with 25 or More People Must Have Flushable Toilets

During a speech at the BC Building Trades Constitutional Convention in Victoria on October 16th, Premier David Eby announced a requirement for workers to have access to a flushable toilet on construction sites with 25 or more people. This announcement by Premier David Eby is not a surprise and stems from a lobbying campaign called “Get Flushed” headed by the BC Building Trades. CLR has supported the BCBT in its call for improvements in washrooms on job sites, provided the requirements are reasonable and apply to all contractors equally to ensure the cost of complying with the requirements does not impact competitiveness. At the end of this bulletin, under the Resources section, we have listed a few of the many media outlets that have reported on the Premier’s announcement.

As of the publication date of this bulletin, we only know that Premier David Eby will make the flushable toilet requirement mandatory for construction sites with 25 or more people. Further, it remains unclear when the flushable toilet requirement will come into effect or how it will be regulated.

CLR will continue informing our member contractors of the new requirements as they become available.

At CLR, we support improvements to worksite facilities, and we support the BCBT advocacy efforts in this regard. Our position though comes with some caveats. Specifically, any requirements must be applied uniformly across the construction industry, ensuring equal application on all job sites, and equal enforcement by the regulatory authority on these sites. By being uniformly applied, these provisions should not impact the competitiveness of contractor bids on projects as the costs of compliance would be the same for all. Our support is also contingent on the availability of such facilities in the market for contractors to access. The current number of facilities to meet the demand is uncertain but understood to be insufficient to meet the needs of our industry under the expected requirements, so any regulatory decisions must consider an appropriate timeframe for implementation.

Contact [CLR staff](#) if you have any questions regarding the announcement from Premier David Eby.

Resources

David Carrigg. (2023, October 16). *Large B.C. construction sites must have flushable toilets, says Premier David Eby*. Vancouver Sun. <https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/large-b-c-construction-sites-must-have-flushable-toilets-says-premier-david-eby>

Chad Pawson and CBC News. (2023, October 17). *Construction sites in B.C. will be legally required to bring in flush toilets on job sites, premier says*. CBC News. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/construction-sites-toilets-1.6998273>

Pippa Norman. (2023, October 16). *Flush toilets to be legally required at large construction sites: premier*. CityNews. <https://vancouver.citynews.ca/2023/10/16/flush-toilets-mandatory-construction-sites/>