



The Oakville, Milton and District Real Estate Board

Celebrating 65 years of REALTOR® service

Reminder: In-Person / Face To Face Meetings must cease if Real Estate is to keep “essential services” designation

April 3, 2020

OMDREB Members,

As the data continues to come in and COVID-19 continues to spread, we appreciate the efforts you are making to keep yourselves, your families, friends and clients safe. As REALTORS®, one of the most challenging aspects is open houses and showings during this time. We have watched as REALTORS® are adapting to this new reality by trading traditional practices for virtual practices. This is critical to preserve the ability of our industry to maintain its status as an essential service.

The provincial government has made reductions to their [list of essential workplaces](#). **Notably, the government has again deemed real estate an essential service. While that doesn't mean “business as usual” for the industry, the government has signalled that real estate trades may continue.** However, the province is now constantly re-evaluating that list and we must ensure that real estate remains an essential service for our Members and their clients.

To that note, we reiterate that Ontario remains under a state of emergency, and REALTORS® have a duty to follow the direction of health officials to eliminate direct physical interaction, or risk losing the “essential services” designation once the list is further reduced again.

At the beginning of the outbreak, OMDREB took the unprecedented position of suspending open houses and requesting that Members limit in-person showings to ones of necessity only. We ask that you continue to be diligent in your efforts to avoid contact with others. All other REALTOR® Association bodies - notably OREA, CREA, and RECO - have echoed the same sentiment that holding in-person meetings, open houses, or showings of any kind is irresponsible at this time. Embracing digital technology is essential in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission - **and now to keep real estate operating as an essential service.**

With real estate again deemed as an essential service, here are a few frequent questions and their answers from RECO:

Am I allowed to continue trading?

Yes, the government has sent a clear signal that real estate trading may continue. However, health and safety remain paramount. Health authorities have asked all Ontarians to eliminate in-person interactions. We strongly recommend that you work with your clients to find technological alternatives.

Am I allowed to take new listings?

Yes, you may enter into new listing agreements with sellers. However, you are under no obligation to do so. Before asking your client to sign a listing agreement, make sure they understand the services you are prepared to offer, and how those services will differ compared to what they might have expected from a typical trade prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For any inquiries, please contact:

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