

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

**ORDER OF THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND
SOLICITOR GENERAL**

Emergency Program Act

Ministerial Order No. M115

WHEREAS a declaration of a state of emergency throughout the whole of the Province of British Columbia was declared on March 18, 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS consumers have an expectation to be able to purchase essential goods and supplies at prices that are reasonable, given supply chain considerations;

AND WHEREAS section 10 (1) of the *Emergency Program Act* provides that I may do all acts and implement all procedures that I consider necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of any emergency or disaster;

I, Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, order that the attached Prohibition on Unconscionable Prices for Essential Goods and Supplies (COVID-19) Order is made.

April 17, 2020

Date



Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

(This part is for administrative purposes only and is not part of the Order.)

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section: Emergency Program Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 111, s. 10

Other: MO 73/2020; OIC 173/2020

PROHIBITION ON UNCONSCIONABLE PRICES FOR ESSENTIAL GOODS AND SUPPLIES (COVID-19) ORDER

Definitions

- 1** In this order:
 - “essential goods and supplies”** means any goods and supplies that are necessary for the health, safety and welfare of people, including, without limitation, the following:
 - (a) food, water and other beverages;
 - (b) fuel and gasoline;
 - (c) health care goods, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies;
 - (d) personal hygiene, sanitation and cleaning goods;
 - “unconscionable price”**, in relation to selling or offering to sell essential goods and supplies, means a price that grossly exceeds the price at which similar essential goods and supplies are available in similar transactions to similar consumers.

Application

- 2** This order applies during the period that starts on the date this order is made and ends on the date on which the last extension of the declaration of a state of emergency made March 18, 2020 under section 9 (1) of the *Emergency Program Act* expires or is cancelled.

Prohibition on unconscionable prices

- 3** A person must not sell or offer to sell essential goods and supplies in a retail environment at an unconscionable price.