



## Latest Manitoba Labour Market Bulletin Highlights Many Heavy Construction Projects

By Jason Rosin, MHCA Manager of Communications

The Labour Market Bulletin is produced monthly by economists and labour market analysts employed by Service Canada in the Western Canada and Territories Region. The aim of the report is to highlight many areas of activity in the Province in all facets of industry.

In the latest report, there are several highlighted heavy construction projects, which show how strong our industry continues to be in light of economic issues in North America.

Some highlighted projects include:

» **Lake St. Martin – Construction of emergency channel:** The Province of Manitoba has begun work on a \$100 million emergency channel designed to lower water levels in Lake Manitoba. The 25 foot deep channel will extend eight kilometres between Lake St. Martin and Big Buffalo Lake, where it will flow naturally into the Dauphin River and then Lake Winnipeg. Government officials are concerned that if the high water levels are not reduced before next spring, residents could experience more flooding in 2012. The project, which is employing 150 workers, is planned for completion by November 1, 2011.

» **Development at the Port of Churchill:** Nunavut Connections, a joint venture between Omnitrax Canada and some Inuit partners, has been established. The venture's goal is to better position Churchill to compete with northern supply-chain services that currently operate out of Montreal. The enterprise will employ 12 people and will initially offer stevedoring services in Churchill for freight headed to the Kivalliq region of eastern Nunavut. Churchill is the main northern terminus of a mid-continent trade corridor for goods moving further north into Nunavut, and this joint venture is an important element of the overall business strategy of CentrePort Canada in Winnipeg.

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Weather helps construction of lake outlet (continued from page 1)

- » **Selkirk Interlake Area - \$78 million for highway construction:** The Government of Manitoba has announced plans to spend \$78 million for the renewal of Highway 6 and an additional \$33 million for Highways 7, 8 and 9. The work will take place from 2011 to 2015, creating jobs for truck drivers, heavy equipment operators and construction labourers.
- » **Winnipeg Convention Centre expansion:** Construction tenders have been issued for an estimated \$180 million expansion to the Winnipeg Convention Centre. The 250,000 square foot expansion project will begin this fall and is expected to be completed by 2015. The changes will help the centre remain competitive across the country and prevent the potential loss of hotel and convention business.

This confirms that our industry continues to remain strong, and the momentum continues year by year!

For a complete look at the Manitoba LMI report, visit our website at [www.mhca.mb.ca](http://www.mhca.mb.ca) under *Industry News*.

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## The MHCA Welcomes Another New Member!

### Major Excavation/Cartage Ltd.

John Major  
3094 Assiniboine Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB

Ph: (204) 918-4333  
Fx: (204) 837-1667  
Email: [major\\_excavation-cartage@mymts.net](mailto:major_excavation-cartage@mymts.net)  
Additional Information: Provides excavation and transporting services within the construction industry.

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## EQUIPMENT RENTAL RATES — USE THEM!

The MHCA is the only publisher of equipment rental rates in Manitoba. Adjusted annually to reflect the cost of owning and operating equipment, this reference tool is published in the MHCA Annual Directory. It is there for industry use to ensure proper return on your capital investment.

Need the most current Hourly Equipment Rental rates? They are there for you to use in the 2011 MHCA Directory!

Contact Jason Rosin at 947-1379 or [jason@mhca.mb.ca](mailto:jason@mhca.mb.ca) for any questions or to order additional copies.



# 128 municipalities on board

## *Aging water and sewer lines breaking budgets across Manitoba*

August 23, 2011 – The Association of Manitoba Municipalities’ (AMM) ‘Putting Communities First” campaign is now in full swing with 128, or 65% of Manitoba’s municipalities having passed resolutions in support of the movement. The resolutions call on all parties to commit, if elected, a portion of existing PST revenue to repairing and upgrading the infrastructure in Manitoba communities.

Streets and roads continue to be high priorities in 55 per cent of communities and 50 per cent have water and wastewater projects requiring attention. That figure is evenly split between water and sewer mains and water and wastewater treatment facilities.

Designed to send a strong message to all parties in the days leading up to the October 4 provincial election, the campaign also kicked off a tour last week that saw AMM President, Doug Dobrowolski, meet with elected officials, community leaders and candidates in Dauphin, Gimli and Brandon. The purpose of the President’s Tour is to hear the most pressing infrastructure issues across Manitoba and deliver the message to all parties that Manitoba’s communities need help.

‘Gimli is facing a huge expense for infrastructure—water line replacement alone is a \$10 million job,” said Dobrowolski. ‘These lines were installed in the 1950s and they are costing the town \$100,000 a year just in repairs. The Public Works staff told us they recently responded to eight water main breaks in just one day. Gimli also still owes almost \$8 million on their sewage treatment facility that will mature in 2032. Where is a community of 5,000 people supposed to find the money for these things?’ he questioned.

Brandon faces similar issues, as 20% of its water mains are over a century old. The City estimates it needs \$165 million just to fix its hard infrastructure. That figure doesn’t include needed new infrastructure.

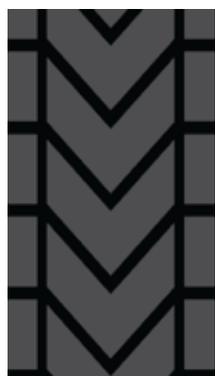
As for Dauphin, the area’s roads are in need of serious repair, but even more pressing is the issue of connectivity, with cellular service and high speed internet topping the list of concerns.

Dobrowolski will wrap up the tour this week by visiting Portage la Prairie on Thursday and Lorette on Friday.

View submitted resolutions: <http://www.amm.mb.ca/campaigncentre/about.cfm>

Read recaps of the AMM President’s Tour: <http://www.amm.mb.ca/blog/?cat=10>

Visit the AMM Campaign Centre: <http://www.amm.mb.ca/campaigncentre/>



### **UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS :**

Education Training & Gold Seal Program Sub committee | Tuesday, August 9 | 1:00 – 4:30

Membership | Tuesday, August 16 | 12:00 noon

Aggregate | Tuesday, September 6 | 12:00 noon

Education Training & Gold Seal Full Committee | Thursday, September 8 | 8:00am

Note: All Meetings to be held at our new office at Unit 3 -1680 Ellice Avenue



MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND TRANSPORTATION

Room 203  
Legislative Building  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA  
R3C 0V8

Chris Lorenc, President  
Manitoba Heavy Construction Association  
1236 Ellice Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R3G 0E7

AUG 05 2011

Dear Mr. Lorenc:

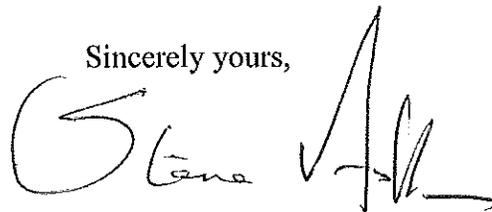
On behalf of the people of Manitoba, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association's membership for your exceptional efforts and enthusiastic response in the battle against unprecedented flooding along the Assiniboine River this year.

In handling this exceptional task and working so closely with Provincial staff to stem the rising waters threatening communities, your membership displayed dedication and professionalism of the highest calibre. It is pleasing to see that Manitoba's long tradition of rising to exceptional challenges and natural disasters is alive within the Association.

As you know, post flood recovery efforts are now underway and we will be relying on the industry for continued support and cooperation during the restoration of Manitoba's infrastructure. There is considerable work to be done in order to restore the damage of this year's unprecedented flooding.

I sincerely commend the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association and its membership for your invaluable assistance and service to Manitoba.

Sincerely yours,



Steve Ashton  
Minister

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

March 20-22, 2012

The Winnipeg Convention Centre



## Heavy Construction Education Expo: Building WORKFORCE Excellence

The MHCA will launch and host an annual three day Heavy Construction Education & Training Expo: Building WORKFORCE Excellence, March 20-22, 2012, at the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

The Expo will be the heavy construction industry focused venue to help attract new, train, educate and retain existing workers.

### Objectives include:

- » Reach out to new markets to attract, train and retain new workers for the heavy construction industry
- » Support the development, promotion and access by the heavy construction industry to skilled labourer, heavy equipment operator, construction management, Certificate of Recognition (COR™) / SECOR safety training, Gold Seal Certification (construction management) and related vocational training
- » Provide an education and training forum for industry that strengthens the level, skills and knowledge of its workforce through a graduated and structured approach
- » Partner with vocational training providers and others in support of the objectives

WATCH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS EVENT COMING SOON!



WORKSAFELY MHCA

Unit 3 - 1680 Ellice Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0Z2  
[www.mhca.mb.ca](http://www.mhca.mb.ca)

WORKFORCE MHCA

## Oil Overreaction?

*By Peter Hall, Vice-President and Chief Economist of Export Development Canada*

High oil prices seem to have become a fact of life. Many have grudgingly advised that we had better get used to it, and move on. Analysis repeatedly cites insatiable emerging market demand and limited accessible supplies as key factors. It's tough, if not impossible to refute these arguments, but similar reasoning in the early 1970s led to wacky forecasts. Are today's triple-digit projections reasonable?

A strange fact of modern analysis is that familiarity can breed complacency. If a price, or any other data point persists for awhile, sometimes months, weeks, or even days, it seems to be quickly embraced as the new reality, one of the family. Until the next shift, that is. A quick update of the analysis, and we have yet another new reality. Over the past 20 years or more, this has been repeated, both on upside and downside movements for a variety of economic indicators.

Crude oil prices have shown that they can drift from fundamentals for awhile and convince even seasoned, specialized analysts that the world has indeed changed, redefining fundamental levels. Witness the price plunge to \$10 per barrel in late 1998, when respected analysts pondered the industry's future when prices reached \$5 per barrel. Laughable now, but serious chatter then. Ten years later it was the polar opposite: predictions of \$200-plus oil and the end of globalisation.

What can we make of this? History shows that out-of-range prices actually set in motion their own undoing. Simple demand and supply fundamentals kick in, moving prices back toward reality. If prices are too low, overconsumption creates supply pressures, driving prices up. High prices undermine the economy, slowing aggregate demand, and prices generally follow. Are these forces currently at work?

Apparently so. Recent triple-digit crude prices occurred in a context of weak world demand, low confidence and inventories at 20-year highs. Persistence and a pervasive belief in constrained long-run fundamentals seemed to convince markets that pricing was reasonable, in spite of the soft near-term conditions. In contrast, analysts are now acknowledging that high prices have undermined economic

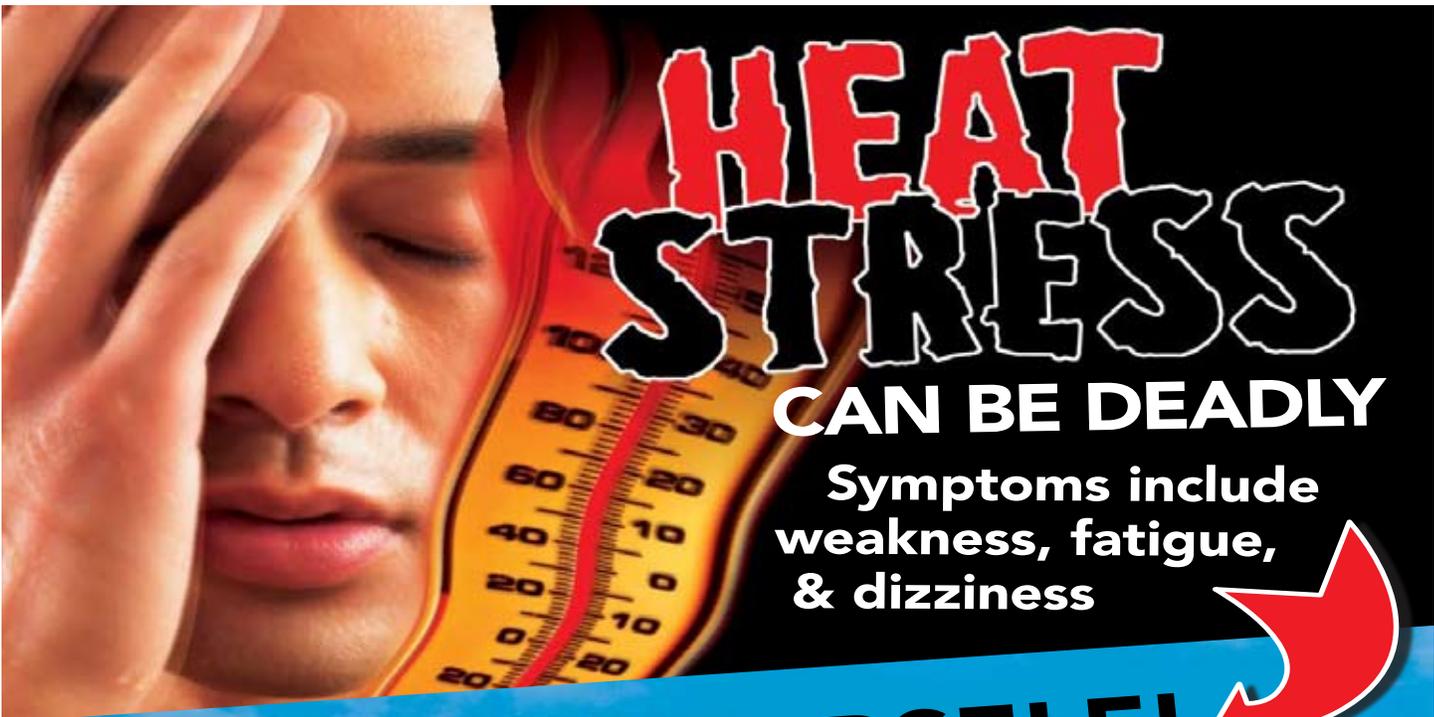


momentum, and in response are recoiling.

The International Energy Agency agrees. Its monthly report, released last week, describes slower-than-expected growth of world oil demand, citing the dual and related effects of high crude prices and weakened global growth. True, prices were pushed higher by Mideast political turmoil, which temporarily constrained supplies. But prices had been riding higher in advance of the turmoil.

The nascent price plunge that has taken WTI crude to the \$80 range suggests an overdue reality-check. Excessive stranded liquidity in the world market likely fed price increases for some time, creating a sustained speculation that suggested to market watchers a new fundamental level. The current disruption is a challenge to that notion. It is possible that, while the broader market is likely overreacting to various fears, oil markets are being jolted back to more reasonable metrics.

The bottom line? Now is a noisy time for markets, and it is difficult for any analyst to sort out or define what is reasonable. But when the present decibel count drops, don't be surprised if crude oil prices settle at new, lower levels.



# HEAT STRESS

**CAN BE DEADLY**

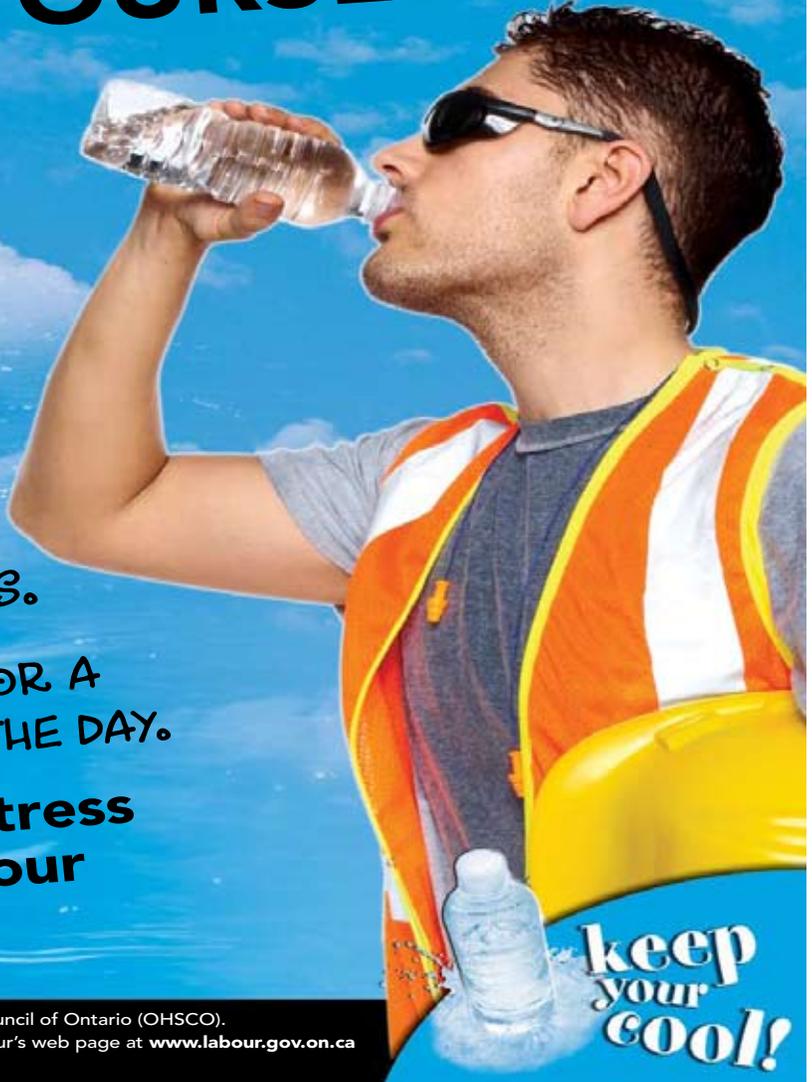
Symptoms include weakness, fatigue, & dizziness



## PROTECT YOURSELF!

- DRINK WATER.
- WEAR LIGHT, LOOSE CLOTHING.
- SCHEDULE MORE FREQUENT BREAKS.
- USE SUNSCREEN & KEEP YOUR HEAD COVERED OUTDOORS.
- SCHEDULE WORK FOR A COOLER PART OF THE DAY.

**Report heat stress concerns to your supervisor!**



**keep your cool!**

Developed by members of the Occupational Health and Safety Council of Ontario (OHSCO).  
For additional information on heat stress, visit the Ministry of Labour's web page at [www.labour.gov.on.ca](http://www.labour.gov.on.ca)  
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## Construction Safety Excellence™

# As Hot Summer Weather Continues, Remember to Guard Your Employees from the Heat

## Heat Stress

Heat stress, or heat exhaustion, is when the body cannot keep blood flowing to both the skin and its vital organs to cool them down. Signs and symptoms of heat stress are:

- Clammy, moist skin
- Sweating
- Normal or slightly high temperature
- Weakness or faintness
- Headache
- Breathlessness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Difficulty continuing work

To treat heat stress, get medical aid and cool down by moving to a shaded area, loosening clothes, and drinking cool water. People suffering from heat stress may feel better shortly after moving to a cooler area, however it takes at least 30 minutes for the body to cool down effectively. Be sure to treat heat stress immediately, or it may develop into heat stroke.



## Heat Stroke

Heat stroke is heat stress that has developed into a medical emergency and can be fatal. The body has used up all water and salt, it can no longer cool itself. The body's temperature rises to harmful levels. Signs and symptoms of heat stroke are:

- Hot, dry skin, due to the body losing its ability to sweat
- High body temperatures - 40°C or more
- Confusion and irrational behavior
- Convulsions
- Unconsciousness

If a co-worker shows symptoms of heat stroke, call the local emergency number immediately. Take aggressive steps to cool the person down, such as immersing in a tub of cool water, spraying with a hose, or wrapping them in cool, wet sheets and fanning rapidly. If the worker is unconscious, do not try to force them to drink water.

**For more information on heat stress or heat stroke, contact the MHCA Safety Advisors at 204-947-1379**

# WORKSAFELY MHCA

## Construction Safety Excellence™

### Training Schedule



**Register by:**

- » Email: Denine Rodrigues at [safety@mhca.mb.ca](mailto:safety@mhca.mb.ca)
- » Fax: 204-943-2279

**Cancellation Policy:**

The *WORKSAFELY* policy states cancellation must be made at least two business days in advance, otherwise full course fee charge will apply.

SEPTEMBER 2011	
September 12	COR™ Leadership
September 14	COR™ Principles
September 15	COR™ Auditor
September 19	Train the Trainer
September 21	WHMIS (1/2 day AM)/ TDG (1/2 Day PM)
September 22	COR™ Auditor Refresher (1/2 day AM)
September 23	Excavating & Trenching (1/2 day AM)
September 23	Flagperson (1/2 day PM)

COR™ TRAINING — Flin Flon	
August 29-30	COR™ Leadership
August 31	COR™ Principles
September 1-2	COR™ Auditor
WHMIS and TDG training may be held in the evening	

OCTOBER 2011	
October 3-4	COR™ Leadership
October 5	COR™ Principles
October 6-7	COR™ Auditor
October 11	Safe Work Procedures
October 12	Prime Contractor
October 13	Back Injury Prevention (1/2 day AM)
October 13	Fatigue Management (1/2 day PM)
October 14	Safety Administration (1/2 day AM)
October 14	Toolbox Talks
October 17-18	Train the Trainer
October 19	WHMIS (1/2 day AM)/ TDG (1/2 day PM)
October 20	COR™ Auditor Refresher (1/2 day AM)
October 21	Excavating & Trenching (1/2 day AM)
October 21	Flagperson (1/2 day PM)

**REMINDER:**  
*WORKSAFELY* requires at least six people registered to deliver the course.

Customized training is available for your specific requirements.  
 Call the *WORKSAFELY* Office at (204) 947-1379 for more information.