



GROWING THE ECONOMY - JOB #1

The overall focus of MHCA advocacy has always been the proposition that '*growing the economy*,' as the enabler of everything else, should be the number one policy priority of every level of government.

In that context, **trade matters**. Trade is responsible for more than 60 per cent of Canada's annual gross domestic product; one in every five jobs is directly linked to exports. If the world suddenly stopped trading, 3.3 million jobs in Canada would vanish and the unemployment rate would jump to 25 per cent.

TRADE MATTERS TO MANITOBA

- It generates \$3.3 billion in annual payroll, or roughly 16 per cent of Manitoba's total payroll – more than healthcare;
- It engages more than 5,200 employers, generating employment to roughly 240,000 Manitobans;
- Highway #75 moves roughly \$19 billion of trade between Manitoba and the United States annually; and
- Those levels make Emerson the busiest Canada US border crossing by volume in western Canada.

We support Manitoba joining the New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA), but need more. Manitoba should not just be a member – it should be a leading member.

Collectively, we should champion through the NWP, a **Western & Northern Canada Trade Gateway & Corridor Initiative**, to expand Western Canada's global trade profile and directly benefit by economic growth.

Its strategy should recognize the 'bookend' trade gateway roles of the Rupert and Delta ports on the west coast and the Port of Churchill and CentrePort Canada in the east, linked by rail, road and air cumulatively connecting us to the world. Given that the federal government focus in the 2018-2020 budget includes nation-building trade gateways and corridors, we urge our government's timely engagement in this initiative.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS – SIX ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES

Our industry and the public, we anticipate, are buoyed by the commitment to invest no less than \$1 billion annually in strategic infrastructure and to harness trade to grow our economy. These are significant capital investment and leading edge policy commitments. The capital allocation in support of growth should be driven by *investment* and *leveraging* strategies, not spending. We propose that infrastructure investment budgets be guided by six supporting organizing principles, namely:

- **permanent program**, no less so than healthcare, education and social programs;
- primary focus should be to **grow the economy**;
- **embrace innovation** in all aspects including design, financing/funding, procurement, construction, maintenance and rehabilitation;
- embrace **partnerships with the private sector** - the engine of ingenuity;
- fund the program by **dedicated revenue streams** in support of its purposes; and
- ensure **annual transparent reviews** for accountability, adjustment and discipline to purpose.

The MHCA is pleased to be an annual co-sponsor of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce Annual Deputy Minister's Dinner. The event makes a meaningful and worthwhile contribution connecting Deputy & Assistant Deputy Ministers with business leaders, each keen to '*Growing Manitoba's Economy - Job #1*.'

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