



Proposed EI changes and MHCA's response

The federal government has announced details associated with proposed changes to the Employment Insurance (EI) program coming from Bill C-38, the budget implementation bill. Its changes could have a significant impact on the heavy construction industry. It appears the longer and more frequently someone is claiming employment insurance, the broader their job search will have to be and the lower the wages they must be willing to accept, according to proposed regulations outlined on May 24, 2012.

The government plans to reform EI that would change the definitions of "suitable work" and "reasonable efforts" at finding work, in an effort to strengthen the requirements for EI claimants. Under new regulations expected to be in place by early 2013, the new definition of suitable employment would be based on six criteria:

- Personal circumstances.
- Working conditions.
- Hours of work.
- Commuting time.
- Type of work.
- Hourly wage.

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Personal circumstances would include health conditions and family situations, and commuting time is acceptable if it's within one hour, possibly longer if longer commuting times are normal in a given community. The type of work and hourly wages considered suitable could change, depending on how long someone is claiming the benefit. The government intends to classify claimants in three categories:



Long-tenured workers who have paid into the EI program for seven of the past 10 years, and over the last five years have collected regular or fishing benefits for 35 weeks or less. After collecting EI benefits for 18 weeks, long-tenured workers, would be required to expand their job search to jobs considered similar to their previous employment and to accept wages at 80 per cent of their previous hourly wage.

Frequent claimants are those who have had three or more claims for a total of more than 60 weeks in the past five years. A frequent EI user, after receiving benefits for seven weeks, would be required to accept any work they are qualified to do and to accept wages starting at 70 per cent of their previous hourly wage.

Occasional claimants are all other claimants. An occasional user could limit their job search to their usual occupation and wage for the first six weeks. As more time goes by, they will also have to expand their search and be willing to accept work they are qualified to do while accepting a lower salary.

MHCA's Response to the proposed EI changes

The federal government's top two priorities are to grow the economy and reduce its operating costs. The fact the current federal government is looking at ways to trim its 'social budget costs' should come as no surprise. While it wants to trim costs, we want to keep truly seasonal employees in whom we have invested in benefiting from the EI program and returning to full employment in our industry, not lost elsewhere. The best social policy is a growing economy which provides sustainable jobs, thereby reducing reliance on social supports like EI.

What is fast becoming apparent are the erratic levels of public sector investment in infrastructure and mid-stream program changes. In the absence of predictable program levels, industry is unable to cost effectively prepare, adjust, train, develop, retain and recall a productive workforce. Moreover, the resulting inefficiencies create higher project costs to the public purse, a shorter construction season and higher reliance on EI programs.

The national government must understand the advantage and economic growth opportunity of a sustained, predictable, national infrastructure program, managed with early tendering as one of its delivery objectives, to support extending construction seasons and therefore annual periods of employment.

Short of laying asphalt and pouring concrete in road related works, with some obvious weather exceptions, a good portion of the heavy construction industry can be kept relatively busy for longer periods of the year. This creates an extended construction season, longer annual employment, higher earnings and therefore, in a growing number of circumstances, reduced and/or eliminated reliance on EI. This solutions based economic approach should be better appreciated by the federal government than any 'entitlement' based argument which they will repeatedly hear elsewhere.



Chris Lorenc, B.A, LL.B.,
President MHCA

MHCA participates in Career Expo

May 16, 2012

Red River Exhibition Place was a buzz with over 1,700 students from across Manitoba who came to participate in the fifth annual Manitoba Construction Career Expo. This interactive Career Expo is designed to encourage high school students to explore the endless career possibilities in the construction industry.

The Career Expo had over 30 interactive booths from roofing, concrete finishing, to mechanical work. Students had an opportunity to interact and ask questions from skilled professionals in all areas of construction.

The Manitoba Construction Career Expo provides an opportunity for construction associations to assemble with their member companies along with post secondary schools and government –affiliated programs for one main focus – to promote skilled trades in construction as a career choice.

Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) would like to thank Bob Gladden of Toromont CAT for donating the use of the grader simulator for the students and the 940E Loader for display purposes.



MHCA Welcomes a New Members !

Whitford Paving Ltd.

Mark Whitford
PO Box 969 Flin Flon, MB
R8A 1M7
Ph: (204) 687-5503

Fax: 204-687-3081
Email: whitfordpaving@hotmail.com
Additional Information: Municipal, residential commercial and industrial works; aggregate and paving works; excavation and trucking.

Western Asphalt Products

Dean Arnill
65 Limestone Road Brandon, MB
R7A 7L5
Ph: Coming soon !

Fax: 519-369-3547
Email: arnill@westernasphalt.ca
Additional Information: General supplier

Barkman's Cartage Ltd.

Jocie Barkman
Box 101, Kleefeld, MB
R0A 0V0
Ph: (204) 377-4981

Fax: (204) 377-4611
Email: barkmanscartage@mts.net
Additional Information: Supplies aggregate (sand, stone and gravel). Also supplies haul aggregate for a flat rate for companies such as Nelson River Construction.



SPRING MIXER

Wednesday June 13, 2012 | Assiniboia Downs
Reception – 5:30pm ▪ Dinner – 6:00pm ▪ Live Racing – 7:00pm

SEATING IS LIMITED. TO ORDER TICKETS, FAX FORM BACK TO 943-2279. **TICKETS: \$75.00 + GST.

Company: _____

Number of tickets (tables of 8): _____ Contact person: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Invoice: _____ Visa/MC/AMX #: _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

For more information please contact Christine at the MHCA office by phone: 947-1379, fax: 943-2279 or by email at christine@mhca.mb.ca

As per MHCA Board Policy, only registrations cancelled 72 hours prior to the commencement of this event will be refunded.



Groundbreaking 

Canadian Trade's Forgotten Parallel Universe

By Peter G. Hall, Vice-President and Chief Economist

News reports give lots of profile to Canada's trade with the rest of the world. Small wonder – trade is a huge part of the Canadian economy. Those reports typically focus on Canada-based activity. Far less press is given to the sizable Canadian economy that operates outside of our borders – the hidden jewel that is a critical piece of Canada's current and future international trade apparatus.

This less-visible trade is the international sales activities of the foreign operations of Canadian firms. In an increasingly globalized world, it makes sense to leverage international production facilities as a sales and distribution beachhead. It's part of a growing global game, and Canada is clearly a player.

How important is it? Foreign affiliate sales have steadily outgrown exports for a long time. During the past decade, offshore sales grew at almost twice the pace of exports. If foreign-based sales were tiny, that growth wedge wouldn't mean as much. But over the years, foreign affiliate sales have swelled, and recent growth was enough to nudge them above total exports for the first time in 2009.

Where are these foreign operations? Most are in the US, but that is changing. US-based sales declined annually by 0.4% between 2000 and 2009, eroding its share of the total from 65% to just over 50% of Canada's foreign-based sales. Sales growth from European operations was similarly modest. But over the same period, sales by affiliates in emerging markets rose 11% per annum, doubling the emerging market share of total offshore sales from 12% in 2000 to 24% in 2009.

A broad swath of Canadian industries is involved in foreign affiliate sales – but not all of them are seeing high growth. At just over 40%, the manufacturing sector accounts for the single largest slice of activity, but it has barely grown over the past decade. For many service industries, growth was equally sluggish, including professional services and the non-bank financial sector. High-growth categories include mining, oil and gas operations, other primary products, utilities and construction industries. Retailing activities abroad were the only service industry to post double-digit annual gains.

These broad trends are illuminating, leading to a few key observations. First, sales in the key US market are in trouble. No doubt this is in part due to economic hard times, but weakness also preceded recession, suggesting that other factors are at play. Second, the rising promise of Canada's emerging market sales suggests more focus on these international operations. Third, the increase in foreign affiliate sales reveals Canada's rising access to offshore labour. By 2009, Canadian sales operations abroad employed a million workers – a quarter of those in labour-rich emerging markets.

A final observation is that, in spite of how impressive the numbers seem, we are actually behind in the game. Our emerging-market-based sales may be rising 13% annually, but the market is rising 21% every year. Moreover, other developed nations are well ahead of Canada: the US and Japan boast foreign affiliate sales at three times their exports, and in the UK, it's a factor of five.

The bottom line? The economy operating outside Canada's borders is impressive, and it's creating extra productive capacity that Canada desperately needs. Foreign-based sales are a ticket to higher growth, they increase the scope of domestic firms – and there's a lot more room to grow.

This commentary is presented for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be a comprehensive or detailed statement on any subject and no representations or warranties, express or implied, are made as to its accuracy, timeliness or completeness. Nothing in this commentary is intended to provide financial, legal, accounting or tax advice nor should it be relied upon. Neither EDC nor the author is liable whatsoever for any loss or damage caused by, or resulting from, any use of or any inaccuracies, errors or omissions in the information provided.



The MHCA continues to be a dynamic 'groundbreaking' organization that adjusts, changes and shapes itself according to needs of our members, industry and external influences. Organizations that sense and anticipate change succeed, and those which don't, fail.

Following our inaugural Heavy Construction EXPO in March 2012, we have decided to further streamline internal responsibilities associated with education and training. Whether it is WORKSAFELY, Heavy Construction EXPO, Gold Seal Certification or vocational oriented, one person must lead and coordinate these endeavors. In that spirit, **Glen Black** will serve as Director WORKSAFELY, Education & Training.

*Events hosted by the MHCA are designed to support member social interchange, make connections, and provide for mix 'n mingle opportunities with key stakeholders with whom the MHCA regularly interacts. We host the Annual Spring Mixer in June, MHCA Golf Classic in August, Annual Meeting and Chairman's Gala in November and the MHCA Curling Bonspiel in January. Every four years we host the Western Canada Roadbuilder & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA) Conference. In addition, we host committee meetings, Breakfast with Leaders and other related events to support our members and industry. **Christine Miller**, our Events & Membership Manager, will focus her energies on all such events plus member support activities, and promote the value of membership to existing and potential members.*



Christine Miller
Events & Membership Manager

Christine will also play a supportive coordinating role in the annual Heavy Construction EXPO and associated education and training functions.

I look forward to their collective leadership, contributions and impact upon all MHCA initiatives. These changes are positive and reflect an appreciation that we continue to grow and respond to the needs of our members and the industry we serve and represent.



Glen Black
Director WORKSAFELY
Education & Training



Chris Lorenc, B.A, LL.B.,
President MHCA

Manitoba Government Tendering Policy COR™ / SECOR Certification for Bidders & Subcontractors Condition of Contract

Manitoba Government Tendering Policy [including Manitoba Infrastructure & Transportation (MIT)] requires COR™ or SECOR certification for bidders and subcontractors as a Condition of Contract.

Although phased in, by January 1, 2014, regardless of project value, all bidders and subcontractors (see defined below) will require a valid and current COR™ or SECOR Certification.

For Subcontractors

A 'subcontractor' is defined as a business entity with one or more employees engaged to perform work on a construction, maintenance or renovation project for the successful bidder.

For the purposes of completing the Bidder's Certification Form, "subcontractor" excludes:

- Suppliers delivering products but not directly participating in construction activities on the project site (i.e. supply only)
- Service providers not directly participating in construction activities on the project site
- Subcontractors who are an owner operator (without employees)

A bidder or subcontractor will be required to achieve WORKSAFELY™ COR™ or SECOR Certification to comply with the following implementation schedule for the Manitoba Government tendering policy:

- **As of January 1, 2012** on project values of \$150,000 and up (for MIT projects this applies to projects at \$100,000 and up), bidders must be COR™ or SECOR Certified and subcontractors must be COR™ or SECOR Certified or enrolled in the program.
- **As of January 1, 2013** on project values of \$100,000 and up, bidders must be COR™ or SECOR Certified and subcontractors must be COR™ or SECOR Certified or enrolled in the program.
- **As of January 1, 2014** regardless of project value, all bidders and subcontractors must have a valid and current COR™ or SECOR Certification.

The bidder must ensure its subcontractor(s) is COR™ or SECOR Certified or enrolled in the program as required by the above implementation schedule. The bidder must provide to the Government of Manitoba, a Bidder's Certification Form executed by the subcontractor before the subcontractor begins work on the Project.

NOTE: An 'owner operator' (without employees), when bidding on work, requires COR™ or SECOR Certification as per the above tendering policy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To register for COR™ or SECOR Certification, contact Sarah Higgins at the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) WORKSAFELY™ Program at 204-947-1379.

'WORKSAFELY™ Certification' for Owner Operator

An '**Owner Operator**' is defined as a business operation without any employees.

Under Manitoba Government Tendering Policy, Owner Operators who perform services as subcontractors are excluded from the COR™/SECOR Certification, Condition of Contract requirements.

However an Owner Operator (without employees) bidding work requires COR™ or SECOR Certification to comply with the Manitoba Government Tendering Policy.

WORKSAFELY™ Certification - What is it?

If an Owner Operator is not bidding work, the MHCA WORKSAFELY™ Program can provide training to achieve a voluntary WORKSAFELY™ Certification.

WORKSAFELY™ Certification requires 16 hours of safety training consisting of:

- Workplace Safety & Health Act & Regulations
- WHMIS
- Fatigue Management
- Traffic Control & Flag Person
- Personal Protective Clothing
- Vehicle Inspection and Load Securement
- Contractor Orientation

Vehicle decals



Hardhat decals



Its value is twofold:

- It provides COR™/SECOR certified companies documentation of the Owner Operator's training and understanding of the legal responsibilities under the Manitoba Workplace Safety & Health Act and Regulations including those areas covered by the Prime Contractor Orientation; and
- The WORKSAFELY™ Certification training will be credited towards COR™ or SECOR Certification.

For the above reasons, COR™/SECOR Certified contractors bidding work strongly encourage Owner Operators to achieve 'WORKSAFELY™ Certification' delivered by the MHCA WORKSAFELY™ Program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To register for WORKSAFELY™ Certification for Owner Operator, contact Sarah Higgins at the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) WORKSAFELY™ Program at 204-947-1379.

MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (MHCA) WORKSAFELY™ Program
Unit 3 – 1680 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3H 0Z2 www.mhca.mb.ca

Updated May 10, 2012



Certified Safety Program

Construction Safety Excellence™

WORKSAFELY MHCA

Construction Safety Excellence™

Training Schedule

Register by:

- » Email: safety@mhca.mb.ca
- » Fax: 204-943-2279

Cancellation Policy:

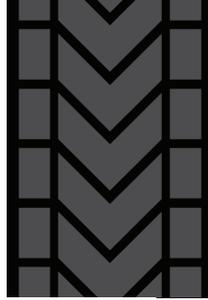
The *WORKSAFELY* policy states cancellation must be made at least two business days in advance, otherwise full course fee charge will apply.

MAY 2012	
May 1	Safe Work Procedures
May 2	Prime Contractor
May 3	Back Injury Prevention
May 3	Fatigue Management
May 4	Safety Administration (1/2 day AM)
May 4	Toolbox Talks (1/2 day PM)
May 14-15	COR™ Leadership
May 16	COR Principles
May 17-18	COR™ Auditor
May 25	First Aid 1 - CPR
May 28-29	Train the Trainer
May 30	WHMIS (1/2 day AM)/ TDG (1/2 day PM)
May 31	COR™ Auditor Refresher
May 31 (1-4:30pm)	Workplace Safety & Health Committee

JUNE 2012	
June 1	Excavating & Trenching (1/2 day AM)
June 1	Flagperson (1/2 day PM)
June 4-5	COR™ Leadership
June 6	COR Principles
June 7-8	COR™ Auditor
June 11	Safe Work Procedures
June 12	Prime Contractor
June 13	Back Injury Prevention
June 13	Fatigue Management
June 14	Toolbox Talks (1/2 day AM)
June 14	Safety Administrator (1/2 day PM)
June 18-19	Train the Trainer
June 20	WHMIS (1/2 day AM)/ TDG (1/2 day PM)
June 21	COR™ Auditor Refresher
June 22	Excavating & Trenching (1/2 day AM)
June 22	Flagperson (1/2 day PM)
June 29	First Aid I - CPR

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.



WEEKLY TENDERS



MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

Unit 3 -1680 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3G 0Z2 | Tel: (204) 947-1379 | Fax: (204) 943 -2279
The *Heavy News Weekly* is published every Thursday. Check our Website at www.mhca.mb.ca

MAY 24, 2012

MANITOBA INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION

www.gov.mb.ca/tgs/contracts/tenders/index.htm



C.O. X03620 – LOADING, HAULING AND DEPOSITING TRAFFIC GRAVEL

Location: Vicinity of Boissevain, Pilot Mound, Brandon and Minnedosa

Tender Availability: Currently available

Tender Due: 12:00 Noon, May 31, 2012

Owner: Infrastructure and Transportation

Phone: 726-6800

The work involves loading, hauling and depositing of traffic gravel (Supplied) on Provincial Roads in the Municipalities of Whitewater, Morton, Riverside, Turtle Mountain, Roblin, Argyle, Lorne and Louise.

TENDER NO. 6221 – MINOR STRUCTURE REHABILITATION

Location: Over Assiniboine River on PTH 1 (WBL), west of Brandon

Tender Availability: Currently available

Tender Due: 12:00 Noon, May 31, 2012

Owner: Infrastructure and Transportation

Phone: 945-3637

The work involves minor rehabilitation of the bridge over the Assiniboine River on Provincial Trunk Highway 1, 0.7 km South of Provincial Road 459, West of Brandon, located in SEC 27-10-20W in the Municipality of Whitehead, Bridge Site No. 2844-11.

TENDER NO. 6222 – GRANULAR BASE COURSE AND BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT

Location: PR 340, PR 453 to 9.1 km North of PR 453

Tender Availability: Currently available

Tender Due: 12:00 Noon, May 31, 2012

Owner: Infrastructure and Transportation

Phone: 945-3637

The work involves construction of a granular base course and bituminous pavement, on Provincial Road 340, from Provincial Road 453 to 9.1 km North of Provincial Road 453, for a total construction distance of approximately 9.1 km in the Municipalities of Cornwallis, South Cypress and Oakland. Major items of work include:

- 21 700 t of Bituminous Pavement, Class "B"
- 34 000 t of Granular Base Course, Class "A" (Modified)
- 16 850 t of Granular Base Course, Class "C" (Modified)

TENDER NO. 6223 – SHOO-FLY DETOUR

Location: PTH 12 at Rat River Diversion (Southeast of Zhoda)

Tender Availability: Currently available

Tender Due: 12:00 Noon, May 31, 2012

Owner: Infrastructure and Transportation

Phone: 945-3637

The work involves construction of a temporary Shoo-Fly detour involving granular base course and asphalt surface treatment on Provincial Trunk Highway 12 at the Rat River Diversion, located approximately 9 km southeast of Provincial Road 404 in the Municipality of Stuartburn. Major items of work include:

- 18 000 t of Granular Base Course, Class "C"
- 4 000 t of Granular Base Course, Class "A" (Modified)

C.O. X03622 – GUARDRAIL INSTALLATION

Location: Vicinity of Alexander

Tender Availability: Currently available

Tender Due: 12:00 Noon, May 31, 2012

Owner: Infrastructure and Transportation

Phone: 726-6800

The work involves installation of bridge end protection on Bridge Site 1027-00 (Assiniboine River) on PR 250, approximately 7.5 kms north of PTH 1 in the Rural Municipality of Daly.

C.O. X03620 – LOADING, HAULING AND DEPOSITING TRAFFIC GRAVEL

Location: Vicinity of Boissevain, Pilot Mound, Brandon & Minnedosa

Tender Availability: Currently available

Tender Due: 12:00 Noon, May 31, 2012

Owner: Infrastructure and Transportation

Phone: 726-6800

The work involves loading, hauling and depositing of traffic gravel (Supplied) on Provincial Roads in the Municipalities of Whitewater, Morton, Riverside, Turtle Mountain, Roblin, Argyle, Lorne and Louise.

C.O. X03621 – LOADING, HAULING AND DEPOSITING TRAFFIC GRAVEL

Location: Virden, Melita, Birtle and Russell

Tender Availability: Currently available

Tender Due: 12:00 Noon, June 1, 2012

Owner: Infrastructure and Transportation

Phone: 726-6800

The work involves loading, hauling and depositing of traffic gravel (Supplied) on Provincial Roads in the Municipalities of Woodworth, Sifton, Glenwood, Pipestone, Wallace, Albert, Arthur, Brenda, Cameron, Ellice, Russell, Birtle and Silver Creek.

TENDER NO. 6220 – STOCKPILING AGGREGATE

Location: Grand Rapids-The Pas-Cranberry Portage-Snow Lake Area

Tender Availability: Currently available

Tender Due: 12:00 Noon, June 5, 2012

Owner: Infrastructure and Transportation

Phone: 945-3637

The work involves supplying, crushing, loading, hauling and stockpiling aggregate for use on roads in Unorganized Territory. Major items of work include:

- 30 900 m3 of Stockpiling Traffic Gravel, Class “D” & “D” (Limestone) (EPP)
- 19 200 t of Stockpiling Aggregate for Bituminous Pavement Class “B” (Modified)

City of Winnipeg

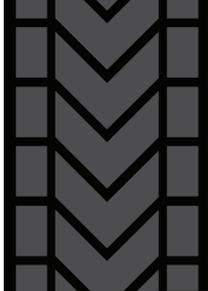
(As of May 24, 2012)

www.winnipeg.ca

No tenders this week

Flood Projects

No tenders this week



TENDER RESULTS

Other

M.W.S.B. No. 1080 – MINITONAS WASTEWATER LAGOON

Sealed tenders, will be received by the undersigned at The Manitoba Water Services Board, Imperial Square, 2022 Currie Blvd, Box 22080, Brandon, R7A 6Y9 up to 11:00 AM on June 1, 2012 for the following works:

Town and R.M. of Minitonas Wastewater Lagoon upgrading consisting of 32,300 cubic metres of excavation and embankment, 15,100 cubic metres of topsoil, stripping and stockpile, supply and installation of 31,900 square metres of a 30-mil PVC liner system, 9,700 cubic metres of liner cover material, supply and installation of a dewatering system and other appurtenances.

Phone: 726-6076

Tender documents may be obtained on or after May 17, 2012

M.W.S.B. 1079 – GRASS RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK WASTEWATER TREATMENT LAGOON

Sealed tenders, will be received by the undersigned at The Manitoba Water Services Board, Imperial Square, 2022 Currie Blvd, Box 22080, Brandon, R7A 6Y9 up to 11:00 AM on June 1, 2012 for the following works:

Work includes construction of the lagoon dikes, installation of an HDPE liner with sand bedding/cover and rip rap, installation of a degassing/dewatering system, construction of a truck turnaround and spillway, access road upgrading, perimeter and discharge ditching and fencing.

Phone: 726-6076

Tender documents may be obtained on or after May 22, 2012.

* INDICATES AN MHCA MEMBER COMPANY

To view the COR Certified Company List, visit our website at www.mhca.mb.ca

~ Indicates a WORKSAFELY "COR" Certified Company

MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION ■ 3 - 1680 Ellice Avenue ■ Winnipeg MB ■ R3G 0Z2

Tel: (204) 947-1379 ■ Fax: (204) 943-2279 ■ Email: brenda@mhca.mb.ca

MAY 24 2011

MANITOBA INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION

TENDER NO. 6219 – TWINNING, PR 221 (RENAMED PTH 190) CENTREPORT CANADA WAY (SUMMIT ROAD – OAKPOINT HIGHWAY)

CLOSING: MAY 15, 2012

RESULTS:

*MULDER CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS LTD.~	\$14,075,820.50
*BORLAND CONSTRUCTION INC.~	\$15,220,210.00
*TRI-CORE PROJECTS MB LTD.~	\$15,339,836.50
*MAPLE LEAF CONSTRUCTION LTD.~	\$16,482,307.80
*NELSON RIVER CONSTRUCTION LTD.~	\$16,572,302.00
*HUGH MUNRO CONSTRUCTION LTD.~	\$18,115,293.00

CITY OF WINNIPEG
(AS OF MAY 24, 2012)

NO RESULTS THIS WEEK