



## MEDIA RELEASE

### MHCA endorses Canada West Foundation report linking infrastructure investment to economic growth

(Winnipeg, MB - FEBRUARY 6, 2013) – The **Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA)** supports the findings of a Canada West Foundation (CWF) report which demonstrates that sustained and strategic public and private sector investment in infrastructure, fuels long-term economic growth. This in turn provides revenues to governments with which to fund our social and service priorities to maintain and enhance Canada's quality of life and standard of living.

"This report provides evidence that sustained and strategic infrastructure investment is essential to maintaining Canada's long-term economic growth and is critical to the quality of life enjoyed by Canadians," said Chris Lorenc, MHCA President.

The report: *At the Intersection: The Case for Sustained and Strategic Public Infrastructure Investment*, is the first of its kind in Canada. It provides recommendations to help governments harness infrastructure investment as a key element of their long-term economic growth plans.

The full CWF report can be downloaded in English and French from [www.mhca.mb.ca](http://www.mhca.mb.ca)

*At the Intersection* proposes five recommendations to help grow the economy and maintain our quality of life:

1. **Sustained and strategic investments** in Canada's public infrastructure should be continued.
2. Priority should be given to public infrastructure that **enhances economic performance**.
3. Governments should encourage **innovative approaches** to the design of public infrastructure.
4. Governments should not focus exclusively on new infrastructure and should give due consideration to **renewing existing public infrastructure**.
5. **Ongoing analysis and evaluation** of recent public infrastructure investments should be conducted and the lessons applied to future investments.

"Canada's governments must continue to prioritize core public infrastructure investment. The right plan will keep all orders of government working together, create jobs and build the conditions for new economic growth," said Lorenc.

The CWF report recommends Canada's need to invest in infrastructure assets which enable economic growth. Those include road, rail, air and marine systems that support trade and

economic activity. Local core infrastructure assets must also be a priority such as sewer and water systems to ensure the highest return on investment.

New development in Winnipeg is a prime example of the clear link between infrastructure investment and economic growth.

“IKEA would not be in Winnipeg if there was no investment in core infrastructure, namely street, sewer and water,” added Lorenc. “By investing in re-developing Kenaston Boulevard, along with sewer and water, Winnipeg opened the door to IKEA. That investment has created more than 300 jobs at IKEA plus jobs in tourism, hotel and entertainment. All of this helps to support the quality of life Winnipeggers have come to enjoy.”

Manitobans should remember their province is an important Canadian gateway to global trade, and strategic investment in infrastructure ensures it stays that way.

Manitobans should support key infrastructure investment projects including CentrePort Canada Way to help launch CentrePort Canada, Canada’s first inland port; the development of the Port of Churchill as Canada’s northern trade gateway; and major highways across Manitoba which help sustain Manitoba’s trade profile including, the Perimeter, Highway 75 south to the United States, the Headingly, St. Norbert and Emerson by-passes and the Emerson border crossing.

For more information about *At the Intersection: The Case for Sustained and Strategic Public Infrastructure Investment*, visit [www.cwf.ca](http://www.cwf.ca).

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