



Infrastructure spending up \$80M -- 40% of PST hike: budget

By Bart Kives - Winnipeg Free Press (April 16, 2013)

Less than half of the cash the province expects to raise from a sales-tax hike this year will be spent on infrastructure, despite a pledge that every dollar will be spent on buildings, bridges and roads. The 2013 budget calls for the province to spend \$1.799 billion on infrastructure, up \$80 million from \$1.719 billion last year.

"These imperatives – the need to protect against future floods and to invest in critical infrastructure – must not be met at the cost of cutting core services," Struthers said in his budget speech. "So this year, we will introduce a time-limited, one-point increase in the provincial sales tax."

Speaking to reporters, Struthers promised all the money would go into infrastructure.

"Every dollar that goes into this plan will be spent on Manitoba's critical infrastructure needs," Struthers said.

He claimed the province is spending an additional \$400 million more on infrastructure this year. But a comparison of year-to-year budget numbers reveals the increase is, in fact, just \$80 million.

Those numbers also reveal the province does intend to spend more on health, housing and highway infrastructure this year. But it will spend less on universities, parks and floodway-and-water infrastructure.

Health infrastructure is the big winner, as spending on health facilities will rise \$100 million to \$350 million.

Spending on highways and winter roads will rise \$42 million to \$622 million. That rise is tempered by a reduced commitment to provincial highway maintenance, a budget item that will drop \$5 million to \$145 million.

Read the full article: <http://tinyurl.com/cgwoypp>

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The second annual MHCA EXPO another success!

Heavy Construction

EXPO BUILDING WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE



For EXPO 2013 photos, please visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ManitobaHeavy

The 2nd annual MHCA Heavy Construction EXPO has wrapped up for another year, with more courses and greater attendance. The 2013 three day event saw just under 800 heavy construction professionals participate in 70+ quality education courses. That's a ten percent increase from the inaugural EXPO. Additionally, EXPO provided Gold Seal Certification, human resource leadership, COR™ education and training certification, risk management and so much more!

According to Peter Paulic, Vice President and General Manager from Smook Contractors in Thompson, Manitoba he says EXPO allows him to get his staff trained without much disruption from his business. "You shut down for three days and you get all the training that you need in one place. As a northern company, EXPO provides our staff the opportunity to network with other contractors we normally would not see throughout the year. EXPO is a tremendous value."

EXPO is a conference about workforce excellence created by the heavy construction industry for the heavy construction industry. Glen Black, Director WORKSAFELY™ Education and Training, says EXPO is the result of continuous consultation with key stakeholders groups: "Those groups include the business owners, the safety practitioners, human resources

professionals within the industry, our safety partners that include regulators and the Workers Compensation Board (WCB). They all play a big role in the success of EXPO."

What makes EXPO such a popular event is that construction professionals get the opportunity to maximize their educational investment with interactive and current sessions, while suppliers get the chance to market their products and services directly to the heavy construction industry. New this year for the EXPO was the location. Conveniently located by the James Richardson International Airport in Winnipeg, the conference took place April 8 – 10 at the Victoria Inn.

EXPO is for everyone! From entry level to skilled labourer to equipment operator to front line supervisors and management professionals, EXPO has it all! After a successful second year, plans are already underway for EXPO 2014!

For more on EXPO, watch our promotional video featuring MHCA members on our YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/ManitobaHeavy

EXPO Media Day (April 9, 2013)

EXPO was also promoted heavily in the media. On Tuesday April 9 (EXPO Media Day), Winnipeg's three local morning news programs (CTV Morning News, Global Morning News and Breakfast Television) were "live" from Victoria Inn from 6 am – 9 am. In addition to promoting the EXPO, the heavy construction industry received significant promotion regarding career opportunities and commitment to safety. Here are a few links to the television segments:

<http://video.citytv.com/video/detail/2288863976001.000000/manitoba-heavy-construction-association-iii/>

<http://video.citytv.com/video/detail/2287839043001.000000/mb-heavy-construction-association-expo/>

<http://video.citytv.com/video/detail/2287961303001.000000/manitoba-heavy-construction-association-ii/>

<http://globalnews.ca/video/469212/ray-bisonette-nelson-river-construction>

Sam Katz Renews Call for Infrastructure Investment

Mayor Sam Katz renewed his call for additional investment in infrastructure last week, noting that Winnipeg is near the bottom of the list when comparing provincial capital grants to other large Canadian cities.

Winnipeg is in a constant struggle to maintain aging infrastructure, as many of its buildings and roads were built 40 to 60 years ago and are in need of renewal. Financial comparisons of eight Canadian cities show that only Regina and Saskatoon have lower per capita capital grants than Winnipeg.

"Everyone in Winnipeg knows that our roads, community centres, swimming pools and libraries need repair," said Mayor Katz. "If Winnipeg is to take its place as a modern, competitive city, we need infrastructure that supports both family life and business."

As the largest city in the province, with the majority of the provincial population, and many more Manitobans travelling to Winnipeg on a regular basis for business or pleasure, investment in the City of Winnipeg's infrastructure translates into a benefit for all Manitobans.

Winnipeg City Council has previously asked the Province of Manitoba to provide one point of the existing provincial sales tax (PST) over and above existing funding, which would be dedicated as a stable, reliable source of funding for municipal infrastructure. Winnipeg has also proposed a share of the fuel tax, a portion collected from motor vehicle registrations, or a percentage of the land transfer tax as potential revenue sources for municipal infrastructure.



MHCA Media Monitor



"Still A Global Breadbasket" BDC Canada - Peter G. Hall - (April 11, 2013)

"Have a rich, steady supply of food? Then you're in hot demand these days...."

Read the full article:

<http://www.edc.ca/EN/Knowledge-Centre/Subscriptions/Weekly-Commentary/Pages/global-breadbasket.aspx>



"Residential roads almost undriveable" - Winnipeg Sun (April 11, 2013)

"I've never seen Winnipeg's residential roads in worse shape than they are right now...."

Read the full article:

<http://www.winnipegsun.com/2013/04/11/residential-roads-almost-undriveable>



"Selinger exploits 'crisis'" - Winnipeg Free Press - Editorial (April 17, 2013)

"Politically naive governments cope with crisis. Savvy administrations see political opportunity when turbulence shakes the confidence of taxpayers....."

Read the full article:

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/editorials/selinger-exploits-crisis-203344091.html>

Biggest deficit is in infrastructure

Republished from the Winnipeg Free Press print edition April 12, 2013 A12

This endless winter is taking a toll. The population is cranky and the roads are opening up in the yearly unmasking of ruts, potholes and creases, swallowing front ends, rattling back ends and stretching nerve ends. Meanwhile, the provincial government tinkers away, leaving a mess for the next generation that will make today's controversy look like child's play. Will Finance Minister Stan Struthers show the government is serious about this problem on April 16 or will we continue to fiddle?

Depending on who is doing the estimating, the infrastructure deficit in Winnipeg alone is about \$7 billion. Add the rest of the province and it might be double that number. Even if it is half that, we are facing a monumental task.

The first piece of business is to recognize the issue for what it is: insufficient revenue in the system to make a significant difference. Severe belt-tightening, scrimping and layoffs, none of which any government is likely to do, would not crack the nut. Only new revenue dedicated to fixing the streets, water and sewer systems, bridges and culverts will be effective.

The Business Council of Manitoba has been advocating an increase of one percentage point in the provincial sales tax, dedicated to infrastructure only and time-limited, as the best route available. The tax increase would generate \$262 million a year, still not enough but better than any other alternative, such as raising the gas tax which generates a fraction of the revenue.

The balanced budget law, passed by the Filmon government and largely gutted by the NDP, still requires a province-wide referendum if any major tax rate, including the PST, goes up. The government is unlikely to amend that clause so a referendum would be necessary. That would be a good thing; let the people of Manitoba decide if they are prepared to pay one percentage point more on their consumption for the sake of the next generation. If the referendum fails the politicians can say they tried and the people have spoken. It would be refreshing if the official opposition gave the government some wiggle room here. It can do that by advocating a referendum and committing to honour the people's judgment either way.

There are two other options. The balanced budget law says no referendum is necessary if the total tax take does not go up. That means the Selinger government could reduce another tax by an equivalent sum to the rise in the PST; that

would satisfy the requirements of the law. The payroll tax is the worst tax of all, since it is a disincentive to investment and stifles job creation. This option is attractive for two reasons; it raises money for infrastructure while removing an irritant the business community has been complaining about for years. This is a classic win-win situation.

A third option would be to allow the municipalities to introduce a one-per cent infrastructure levy with similar restrictions that the business council is suggesting should apply to an increase in the sales tax. It amounts to the same infusion of new revenue without the referendum requirement. It would have to be applied uniformly across the province to avoid a patchwork and confusing taxing arrangement.

The business council is not alone in its advocacy of raising new revenue directed at the provincial infrastructure deficit. Mayors from cities and towns, other business groups and union leaders are becoming increasingly vocal as the problems deepen while solutions remain elusive.

This is not a problem the province can and should solve on its own. We need a comprehensive long-term plan that includes the federal government and the municipalities. In his last budget, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty committed the Canadian government to a renewal of the Building Canada Fund that will contribute billions of dollars over a period of several years; the City of Winnipeg announced in its last budget it will dedicate a one-per cent increase in property tax revenue to fixing the streets.

Now it is Mr. Struther's turn to come to the table. It is not enough to boast of generosity in transferring funds to the municipalities. It is not enough to tinker with modest measures that won't even keep up with growing demand. Now is the time for the government of Manitoba to identify the issue, quantify the magnitude of the problem and introduce meaningful policy that will tell our children we have responded to the challenge of leaving healthier communities behind.

Jim Carr is the president and CEO of the Business Council of Manitoba, a group of 71 CEOs of Manitoba's leading companies.

Manitoba's South European Employer Recruitment Initiative



Manitoba Immigration is in the midst of organizing a meeting for employers interested in joining the Province of Manitoba in Southern Europe (Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal) for a spring/summer employer fair.

If you are interested in attending this free information session on Wednesday April 24th at 1:30PM at Manitoba Immigration's office, please RSVP accordingly to:

Markus Chambers
Immigration Division | Manitoba Immigration & Multiculturalism
5th floor 213 Notre Dame Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1N3
204-945-7439 | office
204/948-2148 | fax
markus.chambers@gov.mb.ca

The Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program will support your recruitment efforts by providing representatives to participate in the employer fairs and by assisting employers to obtain Temporary Work Permits for the workers recruited. Employers will be responsible to pay their travel, accommodation and meals.

WHAT YOU MUST DO TO BECOME INVOLVED?

- advertise vacant positions in newspapers and websites
- complete employer registration for a WRAPA certificate
- complete foreign worker application form and submit to Service Canada

(* Please note that space is limited and employers will be selected on a first come first served basis)

Information Sessions for Manitoba Employers

In order to prepare you for this worker recruitment initiative, the information session will guide you through the following:

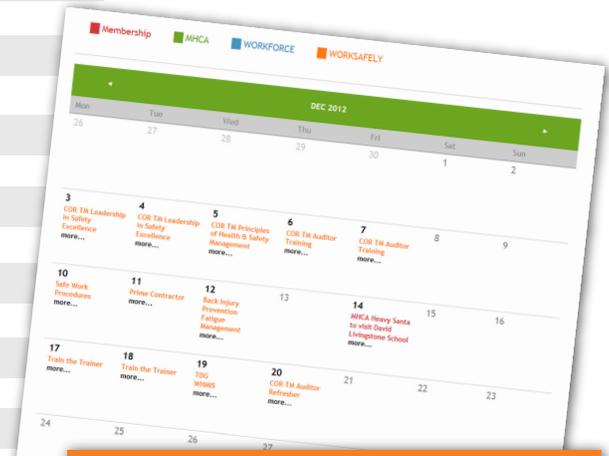
- the Job Fair registration process,
- what is required for the application for LMO's through Service Canada,
- what to expect at the Job Fair

Training Schedule

Winnipeg Schedule:

Construction Safety Excellence™

COR Leadership in Safety Excellence	April.15-16
COR Principles of Health & Safety Management	April.17
COR Auditor	April.18-19
First Aid 1- CPR	April.26
COR Leadership in Safety Excellence	April.29-30
COR Principles of Health & Safety Management	May.1
COR Auditor	May.2-3
Excavation & Trenching (1/2 day AM)	May.17
Flagperson (1/2 day PM)	May.17
Train the Trainer	May.21-22
WHMIS (1/2 day AM)	May.23
TDG (1/2 day PM)	May.23
COR Auditor Refresher (1/2 day AM)	May.24
COR Leadership in Safety Excellence	May.27-28
COR Principles of Health & Safety Management	May.29
COR Auditor	May.30-31
First Aid 1- CPR	May.31



FOR THE FULL CALENDAR
www.mcha.mb.ca/worksafely

To Register:
 Email: sarah@mhca.mb.ca
 OR Fax: 204-943-2279

For the most up to date training schedule for the coming months visit www.mhca.mb.ca/worksafely

A demonstration of strong
Safety Leadership



TO REGISTER:
worksafely@mhca.mb.ca



www.mhca.mb.ca/worksafely

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Have a story for us? We'd love to hear about it!

The MHCA is only successful thanks to our strong membership roster that continues to grow, and now we want to hear from you!

We want to hear about a success story and anything you want to share with us and the rest of the MHCA membership!

We'd like to hear from our members on things such as:

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- A New Exciting Construction Project your company is involved with
- A Recent Successful Completion of a Construction Project
- A success story or achievement for your company or staff member(s)

Feel free to submit your idea or story to media@mhca.mb.ca.

We will contact you for more information or details on your story, and then have it ready for a future issue of the Heavy News Weekly!

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LAST CALL FOR SENIOR PRACTITIONERS
Apply for Your Gold Seal Certified (GSC) Credential NOW

Until the end of 2013, construction management professionals who have over 15 years of experience as estimators, owner's project managers, project managers or superintendents and who meet the educational requirements can apply for a GSC as a Senior Practitioner without challenging the Gold Seal Certification exam.

Visit goldsealcertification.com/certification-gsc for details and to apply.

We've updated our logos and we hope you will, too!



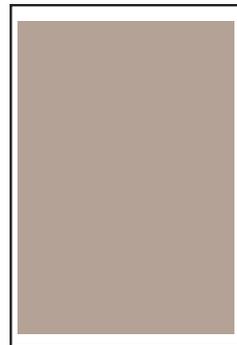
Last year, MHCA invested in a new brand identity that you see throughout *The Heavy News Weekly*. If you are a proud MHCA member and wish to download and use our NEW logos for your marketing initiatives, please visit:

www.mhca.mb.ca/media/logos

Advertise in *The Heavy News Weekly*

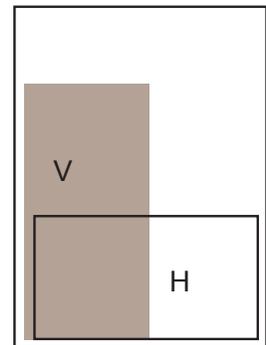
	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
Full Page	\$275	\$475
2/3 Page	\$195	\$385
Half Page	\$175	\$295
1/3 Page	\$150	\$250
1/4 Page	\$100	\$200

Full Page



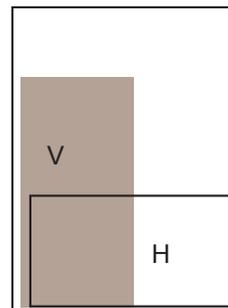
- Standard: 7" x 9 1/2"
- Bleed: 8 5/8" x 11 1/8"

2/3 page



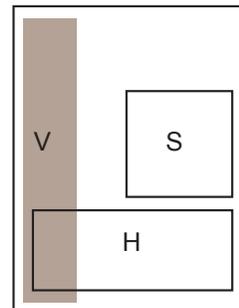
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- Horizontal (H) : 7 1/4" x 6 1/4"

Half page



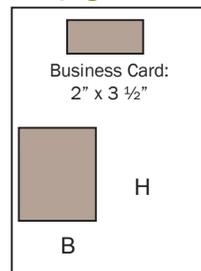
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- Horizontal (H) : 7" x 4 5/8"

1/3 page



- Vertical (V) : 2 1/8" x 9 1/2"
- Horizontal (H) : 7" x 3 1/4"
- Square (S) : 4 5/8" x 4 5/8"

1/4 page



- Vertical (V) : 3 5/8" x 4 5/8"
- Banner (B) : 7" x 2 1/8"
- Horizontal (H) : 4 5/8" x 3 3/8"

To place an ad or for more information, please contact:

media@mhca.mb.ca

204.947.1379

Groundbreaking



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