



## Mayor Sam Katz's remarks on Bill 20: The Manitoba Building and Renewal Funding and Fiscal Management Act

**On Tuesday, July 2, 2013 Mayor Sam Katz presented to the Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development on Bill 20: The Manitoba Building and Renewal Funding and Fiscal Management Act.**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

As all of you know, municipalities are struggling to find the dollars to repair crumbling infrastructure.

Here in Manitoba, 20 mayors, councillors and Reeves have come together to call for a long-term solution to the infrastructure crisis. Civic leaders are united like never before, as towns and cities across Manitoba struggle to repair 60 to 100 year-old infrastructure.

We tend to talk about infrastructure when it begins to fail us. A sink-hole appears in a roadway, a water main breaks, or structures have to be closed for safety reasons.

I've noticed however, that Winnipeggers pay regular attention to infrastructure. In fact, the number one civic issue for Winnipeggers is fixing our streets.

About 20 per cent of our local streets are in poor condition.

Some of you may have noticed one or two of them on your way here today. These streets require major rehabilitation or reconstruction. Another 15 per cent are in fair condition and require preventative maintenance.

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It's clear that something must be done. The City of Winnipeg is doing something. This year, we began implementing a long-term plan to repair our local streets, sidewalks and back lanes.

In 2013, City Council introduced a one per cent property tax increase to be dedicated entirely to local streets.

As you all know, for the first year of the plan, the Province of Manitoba is matching our efforts. Seven million dollars from the \$277 million in revenue earned from the PST increase will go towards Winnipeg streets.

That's a good thing – but it's not a long-term plan – and it represents only three per cent of the new revenue coming from the PST increase. All other Manitoba municipalities will share another three per cent of the new revenue for road repairs and projects across the province. Much of the PST increase will go to provincial infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals.

I believe that Manitoba families and Manitoba businesses expect our infrastructure to allow them to get from Point A to Point B safely, and within a reasonable amount of time.

Without functioning infrastructure, Manitoba's economy will stop growing. We will find that we are unable to attract new investors. Families will lose patience with their governments, both civic and provincial. We all see the problem. Now we need to get to the business of finding a solution.

All levels of government have an obligation to take municipal infrastructure seriously.

As Mayor, I understand fiscal challenges and the difficulty of balancing the books. Costs go up, and revenues don't keep up. Unlike the Province of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg and all Manitoba municipalities are required to bring forward a balanced budget each and every year. Each and every year, it is a real challenge.

The tax and fee increases implemented by the Manitoba Government over the last two years total nearly half-a-billion dollars.

For municipalities, sources of revenue are limited. Property taxes remain the single largest source of revenue.

A one per cent property tax increase represents \$4.5 million in revenue for the City of Winnipeg. By 2019, the City of

Winnipeg infrastructure deficit is expected to reach more than \$7 billion dollars.

As you can see, there is absolutely no way for municipalities to climb out of this infrastructure deficit relying on property taxes alone.

But, the City of Winnipeg's inability to pay is not the strongest argument for the Manitoba Government to implement a strategic plan for municipal infrastructure.

The strongest argument is that public infrastructure is fundamental to our prosperity and our quality of life. That's why it's time to stop dealing with the municipal infrastructure crisis on a piecemeal basis and develop a comprehensive strategy.

Investments in infrastructure strengthen the economy and create jobs for Manitobans.

You've heard me say many times before that for every tax dollar collected in Winnipeg, 65 cents goes to the provincial government, 27 cents to the federal government and 8 cents to the municipal government.

The Manitoba Government still has an opportunity to act as a leader: to implement a long-term strategic plan, with an ongoing, predictable source of revenue devoted entirely to municipal infrastructure.

As you can appreciate, one of the greatest challenges in municipal government is trying to plan ahead without knowing whether partnership funding will be available.

A stable, ongoing source of funding would allow municipalities to set priorities, plan ahead, and reduce costs by acting strategically.

Continued on page 4.....



**Groundbreaker** - MHCA's new quarterly magazine was recently shipped to our members and key stakeholders.

You can view the magazine online now by clicking the link below!

<http://tinyurl.com/c5v74ek>



**SAFE  
WORK**

**S** SPOT THE HAZARD  
**A** ASSESS THE RISK  
**F** FIND A SAFER WAY  
**E** EVERYDAY

NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 3, 2013**

## **Safe Working Procedures Critical During Hot Summer Months**

As seasonal heat waves continue, it becomes increasingly important for outdoor workers to take precautions against the heat.

The effects of working in extreme heat can range from general discomfort to heat stress. General discomfort can result from elevated daytime temperatures, making non-air conditioned buildings hot and uncomfortable. Some steps that can be taken to reduce discomfort when working indoors or outdoors during periods of peak temperatures include:

- using fans indoors
- wearing lightweight, light colored, loose-fitting clothing
- taking rest breaks and drinking cool beverages
- permitting less physically demanding activities during peak temperature periods and
- scheduling hot jobs during cooler times of day.

In more serious conditions, heat stress can occur, which is the body's inability to control its internal temperature. Symptoms include **heat illness**, such as a headache, dizziness, upset stomach or vomiting; **heat exhaustion**, such as feeling tired or weak, having moist skin or a rapid, weak pulse; or, in its most serious form, **heat stroke**, which can result in hot dry skin, a rapid, strong pulse, mental confusion, unconsciousness, seizures or convulsions.

To prevent heat stress, you should:

- monitor yourself and co-workers
- take rest breaks and drink when you are thirsty
- wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing
- work in the shade and away from other heat sources and
- build up tolerance to high temperatures.

If you or a co-worker is experiencing heat stress, you should:

- move the worker to a cool, shaded area
- loosen or remove heavy clothing
- provide cool drinking water and
- call 911 immediately.



**SAFE  
WORK**



Employers are encouraged to work with their safety and health committees, worker representatives or workers to prepare a Hot Weather Plan and determine work procedures appropriate for periods of elevated temperatures.

For further details, refer to the Safe Work Guideline for Thermal Stress <http://safemanitoba.com/uploads/guidelines/thermalstress.pdf> and Safe Work Tips on Heat Stress <http://safemanitoba.com/uploads/bulletins/heatstress.pdf>

Manitoba Health also has some additional information about working in the heat at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/heatrating.html>

More information is available by contacting Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health at 204-945-3744, or by visiting [www.safemanitoba.com](http://www.safemanitoba.com).

**SAFE: Spot the hazard. Assess the risk. Find a safer way. Everyday.**

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For more information contact:

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Director of Communications  
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(204) 954-4113  
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NEWS RELEASE

## Mayor Sam Katz's remarks on Bill 20, continued from page 2 .....

Planning ahead allows all levels of government to make the best use of taxpayer dollars.

While it's great the Manitoba Government now has resources to take part in the Building Canada Fund, many mayors and reeves are asking how they will find the one-third contribution necessary to participate in this program.

I hope you can see that when we talk about municipal infrastructure, what we're really talking about is the future prosperity of Manitoba.

If you, as legislators, don't take steps to solve Manitoba's infrastructure crisis – not on a piecemeal basis, but in a comprehensive, strategic fashion – then it's all Manitobans who will pay the price.

The PST hike is already implemented. Given this reality, I recommend three courses of action:

1) Ensure that spending from the one per cent PST is completely transparent. Hold yourselves to account and show Manitobans where every nickel is spent.

2) Exempt municipalities from paying PST. The PST increase will cost the City of Winnipeg an additional \$1.4 million each year. A complete PST rebate would provide \$17 million to municipalities that could be reinvested and dedicated towards infrastructure. The City of Winnipeg, along with the AMM, has been calling for the Province of Manitoba to rebate the PST to municipalities since May 2011.

3) Encourage the Premier and members of his government to meet with Manitoba mayors and reeves to discuss infrastructure and work towards long-term solutions.

Work with us to improve the state of our roads, bridges, sewers and community infrastructure. The entire province will benefit from a clear vision and a sustained effort to improve municipal infrastructure for the next generation of Manitobans.

Thank you.

**To read more submissions on Bill 20, please visit:**

**[http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/hansard/2nd-40th/committee\\_calendar.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/hansard/2nd-40th/committee_calendar.html)**

## 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, a great photograph or a fantastic video or 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](mailto: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!



# Annual Golf Classic

Wednesday August 14, 2013 | Elmhurst & Pine Ridge Golf Courses

**REGISTRATION FEE - \$225.00 / person + gst**

**10:30am** – registration desk opens

**12:00 noon** – shot gun start

*Four Person Texas Scramble includes:*

Green Fees & Motorized Cart

An Assortment of Spectacular Contests

Fabulous Steak Dinner

Bus shuttle between courses

before/after dinner

**Member Company**

Invoiced for to \_\_\_\_\_

Team Capt \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Other Golfers \_\_\_\_\_

**Golf registration is SOLD OUT!**

If you have NOT submitted your golfers names, please send them to

Christine Miller: [christine@mhca.mb.ca](mailto:christine@mhca.mb.ca) or 204.947.1379

Visa / MC / AMX # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Only (\$50.00 / person all inclusive) \_\_\_\_\_

Invoice Tournament Fees: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit registrations ASAP by:

**FAX: (204) 943-2279 | Email: [christine@mhca.mb.ca](mailto:christine@mhca.mb.ca)**

**REMINDER:**

The MHCA Events Committee will settle course placement by draw on August 7, 2013. All golfers will be notified by fax or email (if you provide one on the registration form) about course location on **August 8, 2013**. **All team captains are responsible for notifying the rest of their team of course placement.**

Use this form to enter as many golfers as you wish. If you are not registering a full team, the extra spaces will be filled by the tournament organizers. As per MHCA Board Policy, only registrations cancelled at least 72 hours prior to the commencement of this event will be refunded.

# Training Schedule

## Winnipeg Schedule:

*Construction Safety Excellence™*

COR Leadership in Safety Excellence	July 8-9
COR Principles of Health & Safety Management	July 10
COR Auditor	July 11-12
Traffic Control Coordinator	July 15-16
Train the Trainer	July 17-18
Flagperson (1/2 day AM)	July 19
Train the Trainer HEOT	July 22-23
COR Auditor Refresher (1/2 day AM)	July 26
COR Leadership in Safety Excellence	July 29-30
COR Principles of Health & Safety Management	July 31
COR Auditor	August 1-2
WHMIS (1/2 day AM)	August 7
TDG (1/2 day PM)	August 7
Flagperson (1/2 day AM)	August 8
COR Auditor Refresher (1/2 day AM)	August 9
Traffic Control Coordinator	August 19-20
Train the Trainer	August 21-22
COR Leadership in Safety Excellence	August 26-27
COR Principles of Health & Safety Management	August 28
COR Auditor	August 29-30



**FOR THE FULL CALENDAR**  
[www.mhca.mb.ca/worksafely](http://www.mhca.mb.ca/worksafely)

To Register:  
 Email: [sarah@mhca.mb.ca](mailto:sarah@mhca.mb.ca)  
 OR Fax: 204-943-2279

# BRANDON, MB WE ARE TRAINING IN YOUR REGION!

We are holding training in Brandon at the Civic Service Complex,  
 900 Richmond Avenue, July 16th - 18th, 2013

Train the trainer	July 16th & 17th	8:30a.m - 4:30p.m
Flag Person	July 18th	8:30a.m - 12:00p.m

## REGISTER TODAY - SPOTS ARE LIMITED!

For any other training requests and to register please contact: Sarah Higgins at [sarah@mhca.mb.ca](mailto:sarah@mhca.mb.ca)

*Construction Safety Excellence™*

Please note that a minimum of 6 students is required to hold the training. WORKSAFELY™ policy states cancellation must be made at least twobusiness days in advance otherwise full course fee charge will apply.



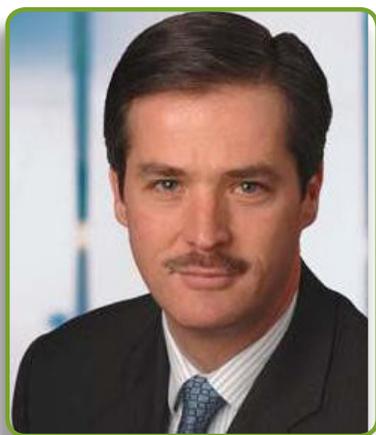
ph: 204.947.1379 fx: 204.943.2279  
[www.mhca.mb.ca](http://www.mhca.mb.ca)



**MANITOBA HEAVY  
 CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION**

## Missing: The Productivity 'Pop'

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



Peter G. Hall



### Is the world still waiting for a critical precursor to the next global growth cycle?

Labour market woes are likely to loom large in the historical chronicle of the current period. Choose any developed country, and its story reads the same: protracted high unemployment, significant hidden unemployment and underemployment. True, employment is always a lagging indicator of the economic cycle, but today's lags are fast becoming legend. In some cases, unemployment is still rising almost five years after the onset of crisis. Will employment ever turn around, and if so, when?

Unemployment rates usually peak first and plunge fastest in the US. Not this time. Unemployment hit double-digits in October, 2009, and made little significant progress until early 2012. In Europe, Germany stands alone with an unemployment rate that has declined steadily since mid-2009. The UK rate did not peak until November, 2011, and has since only edged down marginally. For the EA-17 as a whole, rates have yet to peak. Then, for each country and region, there are the folks the surveys miss – discouraged workers who have left the labour force, and the underemployed. Small wonder confidence remains low. Is there any way out?

A key development in economic cycles is the usual catalyst for job recovery: the 'productivity pop'. Typically, output rises, and until they are convinced that it's the real thing, firms and industries delay the hiring process. Instead, they get all they can out of current workers, machinery, buildings and their own ingenuity, and then, as orders swamp these initiatives, they go out and hire. But what they realize in the interval is a significant increase in productivity that is actually an

economy-wide event.

This 'productivity pop' has been obvious across countries in the post-recession periods of all recent cycles. This time is a bit different. There was a discernible pop in 2010 in a number of countries, but it ended pretty quickly, and it certainly failed to initiate a strong run of hiring. Why? Well, growth at that time was heavily influenced by public stimulus programs. As such, the job growth was targeted, primarily affecting the parts of the economy touched by stimulus. Second, the stimulus programs were temporary, hardly inspiring permanent hiring. Third, the world economy was plagued by unplanned interruptions, which created additional reticence to hire.

Since that initial flash, productivity growth has been fairly muted, riding the ups and downs of world growth that have been all too frequent in the past three years. As such, we haven't seen a sustained wave of hiring reminiscent of a true recovery period. Rather, public sector austerity has suppressed growth across OECD nations, and the job market remains in 'wait-and-see' mode. Can we expect a productivity pop this time around that will eventually initiate a return to a recovery-wave of hiring?

Low growth is making this elusive, and prospects for a growth surge in Europe, Japan and most of the rest of the OECD are thin. The only anomaly is the US economy. Underlying growth – that is, economic activity net of public austerity – is actually clocking in at a recovery-style pace somewhere between 4 and 5 per cent, after accounting for inflation. Given recent hiring numbers, there may well be a productivity pop in the works already, but one that overall numbers are masking. If so, a wave of recovery-style hiring may not be far off – an event that would be a needed upside surprise for a world still convinced that job markets are going to be very weak for a long time to come.

The bottom line?

Hiring – the bane of the current economic malaise – needs a signal from the productivity numbers to get going. That may already be in the works in the US. If so, and the effects begin to spread elsewhere, we may be lamenting labour shortages sooner than we now expect.

*Groundbreaking*



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