



## Groundbreaking

### Harper Government's Improvements to Foreign Trade Zones Helping Canadian Businesses Compete Globally: Started with CentrePort Canada; Vancouver, August 29, 2013

The Honourable Kevin Sorenson, Minister of State (Finance), announced measures that will improve Canada's marketing of its foreign trade zone (FTZ) programs to attract international investment and will reduce red tape and costs for Canadian businesses, allowing them to compete globally.

The announcement follows on commitments in Economic Action Plan 2013 to grow trade and investment in Canada by strengthening Canada's FTZ advantage. Canada's FTZ programming provides duty and tax exemptions so that businesses nationwide can reduce trading costs.

Informed by stakeholder advice, Economic Action Plan 2013 delivers a package of measures to reduce red tape, cut costs, improve access to existing programs and promote Canada's FTZ advantage, including:

- Eliminating the annual registration fee for the Custom Bonded Warehouse Program, Canada's most-used FTZ program;
- Simplifying the application process to access Canada's FTZ programs;
- Introducing service standards for application processing times;
- Accepting requests for new "FTZ Point" single windows to enhance delivery of FTZ programs at strategic locations in Canada; and

- Launching a five-year, \$5-million program to market Canada's FTZ advantage and attract foreign investment to strategic locations across Canada.

#### In this edition...

<b>Harper Government's Improvements to Foreign Trade Zones</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Busting through the concrete ceiling</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>COR™ Training in Winnipeg</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Prices a Telling Pulse Check</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Weekly Tenders (MHCA members only)</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Tender Results(MHCA members only)</b>	<b>11</b>

# 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:

- 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!



## 2013 MHCA Membership & Services Directory available!



Released annually in spring, the MHCA Annual Directory is the exclusive Equipment Rental Rates Guide in Manitoba. Its 'yellow pages' list companies by areas of service. The 2013 Directory was mailed to MHCA members at the beginning of May.

Non-members can purchase this year's directory by contacting Brenda at 204.947.1379 or [brenda@mhca.mb.ca](mailto:brenda@mhca.mb.ca)

Public and private sector project owners extensively use the Directory to locate and contact needed suppliers of services, including contractors, materials, equipment, aggregates, oils, design, and engineering — to name a few.

# Busting through the concrete ceiling



By REMO ZACCAGNA Business Reporter *The Chronicle Herald* August 23, 2013

More than 40 years ago, Melanie Foster's mother became one of the first Canadian women to work in a nickel mine, in Thompson, Man. Decades later, Foster is blazing a trail of her own in Halifax, working as a journeyman subcontractor on everything from interior systems to steel framing to drywalling.

Foster's experience working in a traditionally male-dominated industry has been much different from what her mother encountered, when men opposed to her mere presence in the mine vocally and openly expressed sexist views. Still, Foster, who moved to Halifax from London, Ont., several years ago, has had some challenging days as she charts a path through the construction sector. 'I haven't found very many that are like that,' she said. 'I have found a couple that are like, 'Why are you here? Why aren't you out working at Walmart or behind a desk?'' she said. 'And I'm like, I have every right to be here as much as you.'

But the immense pride the 26-year-old derives from her work greatly outweighs the adversity. '(I love) the fact that in 20 to 30 years I can take my children to come to a building and say, 'Hey, your mom did that.'" Foster is one of many women in Nova Scotia who are smashing the glass ceiling with a hammer, screwdriver, crane or any other tool at their disposal. At a time when a looming labour shortage in the construction industry is causing concern, a number of women are looking at trades as a viable employment option, working in jobs previously seen as gender-specific.

According to a recent forecast from BuildForce Canada (previously the Construction Sector Council), more than 100,000 construction-related jobs will need to be filled by 2021. Nova Scotia will see a gap of nearly 3,200 jobs during that time period. Workers will need to be found outside the industry. According to many in the industry, the number of women entering the construction workforce is growing exponentially, helping to fill the void. Three months ago, Amanda Splonick, 32, graduated from the Nova Scotia Community College architectural engineering technician program.

Now she's a construction manager with the WM Fares Group and working on a site at St. Lawrence Place, a 13-storey condominium tower the company is building on Dutch Village Road in Halifax. The commercial part of the project, expected to be completed next year, is a five-storey building facing Joseph Howe Drive with 32,000 square feet of retail and office space. For Splonick, working in an office setting was never in the cards.

'I've always been more of a labourer type, work-with-my-hands type of person, and I did that ever since I was a teenager,' she said. 'I was doing roofing, I've done painting, I've done deck building, demolition, I've done all those kinds of things and I just found that I get along really well with people on site.'

And she's not alone. She notes that at least half the students in her classes were women. 'I think it's because it's more accepted in this day and age where women can branch out into traditional male roles and I think ... that they want to look at all their options instead of traditional roles,' Splonick said.

Bev Young, administrator at the Carpenter Millwright Trades College in Lower Sackville, said she has seen an increase in the number of women submitting applications. She attributes that partly to high schools, co-op and skills programs and other educational institutions that work with the college to raise awareness for young women looking for a career.

'We have seen a lot of women come through who might not otherwise have had an opportunity to put on a tool belt, swing a hammer, and they're walking out saying, 'That was really interesting and I'm interested in this as a career,'" Young said. The labour shortage is also creating opportunities for women who might have been shut out of construction work in the past. 'Where before there may not have been room to hire even a strong male candidate, today there is so much more room to hire a willing and able candidate,' Young said.

continued on page 4 ....

## Busting through the concrete ceiling, continued from page 4

'Gender doesn't really factor in as part of the equation. Are you able, do you have the ability, the aptitude, the willingness, the right attitude, the training? Then you're the person for the job."

Paul Pettipas, chief executive officer of the Nova Scotia Home Builders' Association, agrees with Young. "Sometimes when you have shortages, it allows people who might not have a chance, to have a chance now." He said more women are entering the construction workforce because of attractive salaries and evolving attitudes among male co-workers.

"That sort of old boys school that used to be there for engineers and whatever is gone, in my opinion," Pettipas said. "You've still got a few dinosaurs out there, but really I think their whimpers are being drowned out by people who say, 'Look, let's get the best person to do the job.'"

But Duncan Williams, president of the Construction Association of Nova Scotia, said the number of women in construction has been stuck in the three per cent range for more than a decade. "There are certainly more women who are coming into project management, estimating, some of those trades," he said. "I think the electrical trades have done fairly well in attracting women. But there hasn't been massive growth. I mean, I don't think it would be fair to say that there has."

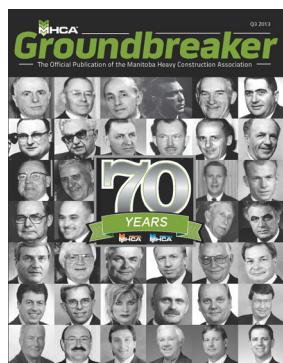
And even more women entering the industry will not solve the labour woes that are on the horizon, Williams added. "If anybody is looking for a silver bullet, there is no silver bullet to labour and construction, especially because you have a number of under-represented groups out there that need to be tapped into," he said.

"At the same time the construction industry is tapping into them, so is the automotive sector, and so is the restaurant sector." Like Foster, Denise Morgan works at the St. Lawrence Place site, as an apprentice electrician. Morgan, 28, graduated from the BayTech Institute of Trades and Technology in Moncton two years ago and has been at St. Lawrence Place for more than a year. She had dabbled in other jobs, including taking cooking classes, before finding her passion in electrical work, although not many of her classmates have followed her lead.

"I definitely would like to see more women out there. I mean, like I said, it's almost like a mythical creature you hear about, female electricians, and I still have never seen another one, so it would be nice if there were more out there someday," Morgan said, adding that demand for electricians is about to increase tenfold over the next decade.

"But I mean, there's so many people that I talk to that are interested going forward with my trade or plumbing or whatnot." Morgan's goal is to become Nova Scotia's first female electrical inspector. "There's never been, as far as I know, a female inspector so far, so long term that's what I'd like to retire doing."

.....



The Q3 Edition of the *Groundbreaker* will be shipped very soon to our valued members and stakeholders. Stay tuned to read all about the MHCA's 70th Anniversary!

# Training Schedule

Winnipeg Schedule:

Construction Safety Excellence™

## September Training Schedule:

WHMIS (1/2 day AM)	September 3
TDG (1/2 day PM)	September 3
Flagperson (1/2 day AM)	September 5
Train the Trainer	September 9 - 10
COR™ Auditor Refresher (1/2 day AM)	September 13
COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence	September 16 - 17
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management	September 18
COR™ Auditor	September 19 - 20
Traffic Control Coordinator	September 23 - 24
Owner Operator	September 25 - 26
COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence	September 30



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

To Register:

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

## OWNER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION



**WORKSAFEY**  MHCA™

will hold a two day  
Owner Operator Certification course on  
**September 25th and 26th, 2013**  
(8:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.)

at the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association  
3-1680 Ellice Ave, Winnipeg MB



To register please contact: Sarah Higgins at [sarah@mhca.mb.ca](mailto:sarah@mhca.mb.ca) or by phone at 204-947-1379



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

Construction Safety Excellence™



MANITOBA HEAVY  
CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

Enhance your safety program today!



## Program Services

- COR™ Certification
- Customized Safety Manuals
- Safety Talks
- Weekly Newsletters
- Safety Signage & Banners
- Groundbreaking Safety Leadership
- Safety/COR™ Training
- CSO Designation
- Heavy Construction Expo
- Safe Roads/ Winter Roads
- Safety Consulting Services
- Audit Readiness Certification
- Gold Seal Certification

## Construction Safety Excellence™

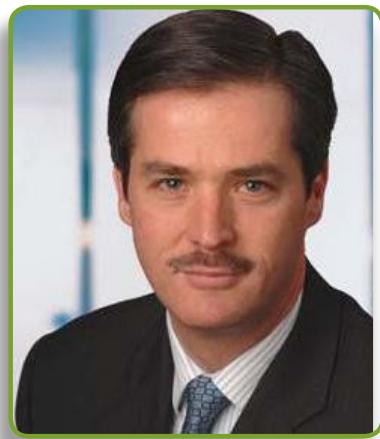


To Register:  
[worksafely@mhca.mb.ca](mailto:worksafely@mhca.mb.ca)  
ph: 204.947.1379 fx: 204.943.2279

[www.mhca.mb.ca/worksafely](http://www.mhca.mb.ca/worksafely)

# Prices A Telling Pulse-Check

Peter G. Hall, EDC Vice-President and Chief Economist, August 30, 2013



Peter G. Hall

Scan recent news reports, and you'll find a full spectrum of inflation banter. Some fear that excessive liquidity will trigger a sudden upward price spiral. Others see deflation lurking in reports of sluggish overall growth, elevated risk and the unwinding of extraordinary policy measures.

Still others see volatility in the clash between strong cost-push and weak demand-pull pressures. If prices are a key pulse-point of the economy, today's confusion is a concern. What are the numbers telling us?

Of inflation and deflation, the latter is still the lesser-known evil. But unfortunately, it's the bosom-buddy of recessions, as the onset of weakness quickly spurs a wave of price-cutting. Persistent soft price growth is the hallmark of our post-crisis economy, absent only in emerging markets with heavy stimulus programs underway.

This protracted price weakness is stoking fears of an entrenched 'purchase-deferral' mentality, if you like, a broader extension of Japan's double-decade debacle.

Do current stats disagree? Europe's numbers aren't comforting. Although the latest GDP figures ended a 6-quarter recession, prices remain unusually soft, with July prices tumbling in certain key countries.

Nonetheless, pan-EU growth has been bolstered in the last three months by stronger core price growth in Germany and sustained gains in the UK.

A more relaxed fiscal drag in the coming months suggests that disinflation may loosen its grip on the zone as we march toward 2014.

The jump in Japan's June CPI sparked excitement that Abenomics is indeed rekindling optimism on the beleaguered archipelago. However, a spike in energy costs was the key driver; core prices extended a string of weakness, declining 0.1 per cent in June.

Structural weakness and looming fiscal contraction suggest that it will be some time before Japan is out of its deflationary woods.

What of recent US activity - are prices illustrating a revival in demand? Without a doubt, house prices have staged a convincing comeback, up 12 per cent over last year's levels, and rising. Broader price gains are less dramatic, but steady.

Consumer prices have nudged up to the 2 per cent level, getting considerable lift from energy costs. Core prices are only slightly more subdued, but the details are a bit more troubling. Prices of services illustrate an economy on the move, but core goods are sluggish - prices have barely budged in a year, and monthly growth is pancake-flat.

Economic momentum suggests this will improve, but current data speaks loudly of persistent excess supply in the economy.

Gauging Canada's price path is compounded by the awkwardness of the moment. Currently in transition from domestic to externally-led growth, the economy is in a soft in-between zone where price increases are quite muted. Housing prices are on hold as the market tries to find a foothold.

Consumer prices are soft, with core growth vacillating between 1.0 and 1.5 per cent - under the mid-point of the Bank of Canada's target range by enough to raise an eyebrow.

Near-future performance will depend on a successful growth-shift and careful management of looming structural constraints.



Connect with us

*Groundbreaking*



[Facebook.com/ManitobaHeavy](https://www.facebook.com/ManitobaHeavy)



[Twitter.com/ManitobaHeavy](https://twitter.com/ManitobaHeavy)



[Youtube.com/ManitobaHeavy](https://www.youtube.com/ManitobaHeavy)



[www.mhca.mb.ca](http://www.mhca.mb.ca)