



The Heavy News Weekly



A Stunning Reversal of Fortune



MHCA President Chris Lorenc

In a politically stunning reversal of fortune, Justin Trudeau's Liberals moved from distant third place in seats in the House of Commons to strong majority during a 78 day campaign (the longest in Canadian history). To put that in perspective, the last time an opposition party moved from third to government in the course of one election happened in 1923.

While many likely sensed a growing momentum favoring Trudeau about 10 days prior to the October 19, 2015 election date - speculating perhaps a Liberal minority

or bare majority - no one predicted what happened: Liberals 184; Conservatives 99; NDP 44; Bloc 10; and Green 1.

In Winnipeg, aside from the Winnipeg Elmwood Transcona riding which went NDP all others went Liberal. Churchill stayed NDP in northern Manitoba and the remaining rural seats stayed Conservative.

Get used to hearing about Jim Carr (Winnipeg South Centre), Terry Duguid (Winnipeg South), Doug Eyolfson (Charleswood-St. James-Assiniboia-Headingley), Kevin Lamoureux (Winnipeg North) MaryAnn Mihychuk (Kildonan St. Paul), Robert-Falcon Ouellette (Winnipeg Centre), Dan Vandal (Saint-Boniface-Saint Vital) for they now form the front bench of governing Liberal MPs representing the all but one ridings in Winnipeg and by extension Manitoba's interests in Ottawa. They also reflect potential cabinet choices for the Prime Minister to select from. ...Continued on Page 2



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What all of the above means for Manitoba and Canada will make for very interesting politics. Prime Minister-Elect Justin Trudeau will be sworn in on November 4, 2015 with some ambitious plans to introduce and high expectations to meet. He will no doubt start with enthusiastic support from those Canadians who voted for his 'Real Change' message and likely a 'wait and see' attitude from those who didn't.

While there may exist deep divisions on the propriety of budgetary deficits, foreign policy, taxation levels and other areas of substantive public policy, hopefully all Canadians will wish success for the 43 year old Trudeau, one of Canada's youngest Prime Ministers and son of former Prime Minister Pierre Elliot, for his government's success translates into Canada's success.

As Canadians, we owe a deep debt of gratitude to out-going Prime Minister Stephen Harper. He was both elegant and classy in his concession speech. He congratulated Trudeau's success, offered immediate and full support during transition and accepted responsibility for his party's fortunes. In a separate concurrent release, Harper indicated that he would step down as leader simultaneously asking his party to appoint an interim leader and begin the search for his replacement.

Say what you will about Harper who at times exhibited both uncanny political finesse and harsh partisanship, but he did leave for his successor a united country whose finances, banking system, taxation levels, balanced budget and economy - notwithstanding the challenges of depressed oil prices - in a globally envied and remarkably strong state of affairs.

We also owe sincere gratitude and thanks to all candidates regardless of party affiliation who offered to serve Canada's interests as parliamentarians.

Elected office is a noble calling but with it comes no easy life. Rather it is an unforgiving, pressure packed, stressful, tough on family, merciless arena where positions are cross-examined, intentions are questioned and reputations hard to gain but easily tarnished or lost under the glare of more often than not unfair and/or ill-informed criticism and scrutiny.

We cannot change the direction of winds, but we can and will adjust our sails to meet the new federal reality. Our responsibility is to work with whomsoever the public elects, offering advice, collaboration, criticism and insight from an industry association always focusing on the broader public best interests.

So we salute all who were elected, all who ran and were defeated, all who served and all who volunteered their time, energy and capital in support of whatever party they endorsed.

The beauty of Canada is that we can all do all of this, and witness without bloodshed, a calm, seamless, open, democratic transfer of power based only upon the strength of 'pen to ballot.'

We truly are blessed to live in this wonderful country of Canada. Let's all make sure we keep it that way.

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

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Winnipeg Mayor, construction industry welcome Liberal infrastructure spending

Originally published by CBC News

The cement on a new Liberal government hasn't started to dry yet, but promises of infrastructure cash are generating some smiles in Winnipeg.

Prime minister designate Justin Trudeau promised during the campaign to run deficits of up to \$10 billion a year, with \$5 billion in new spending designated for massive infrastructure projects in the first year.

Mayor Brian Bowman didn't hesitate for a second when asked where he'd like to see the federal money spent.

"The number 1 priority for Winnipeggers is fix the roads," Bowman said at a Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce function the day after the election.

The city will pump a record \$103.3 million into roads this year and looks forward to the federal government helping out, Bowman said. He also said he'd like to see the feds spend more on transit, specifically rapid transit.

People in the construction industry also relish the idea of a federal infrastructure tap getting turned on, but the enthusiasm comes with some caveats.

Spread the spend

Carmine Militano, a senior vice-president at Bockstael Construction, said he'd like to see what he calls a "balanced spend." Bockstael works on projects ranging from multi-family housing to schools to hospitals.

"There is infrastructure that is degrading, that needs some attention. At the same time, there's some quality-of-life infrastructure that's required and that is going to need some attention," Militano said.

Quality-of-life projects include affordable housing and investments in arts and culture facilities, he explained.

The federal government's participation in these projects is a bonus, he said, because no one level of government has to pay for everything on its own.

Construction executive wants 'balanced spend' on infrastructure

Carmine Militano of Bockstael Construction wants spending divided between crumbling infrastructure and what he called quality-of-life infrastructure such as cultural buildings. (LinkedIn.com)

"It's leveraged dollars. It leverages the city's dollars, it leverages the province's dollars ... it creates greater opportunity," Militano said.

Where Militano wants a split of priorities, the head of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association is more focused on a single goal.

"Access to Manitoba's markets should be the priority," said Chris Lorenc.

Repairs and improvements to highways that bring commerce in and send Manitoba's materials out should be where the infrastructure money is spent, Lorenc said. He singled out Highway 75 and Highway 10, both routes to the U.S., and Highway 6 to Thompson as important links.



The Liberals have promised major infrastructure funding over the first years they're in power. (CBC News)

Lorenc also sees the massive CentrePort development, an inland port and foreign trade zone in Winnipeg, as an important piece of infrastructure that needs investment to continue growing.

Build it — but plan properly

Lorenc and Militano agreed on the need for proper planning and investments in productivity in the construction industry.

A big increase in infrastructure spending must be well thought out, Lorenc said.

“Don’t build or repair just for the sake of building or repairing,” he said.

There were also tempering words from Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce president Dave Angus.

“We have to make sure that this government — and we have to hold their feet to the fire — remains committed to competitiveness,” Angus said. “If we start sliding, in relation to tax policy, regulation, etc., which make it more difficult for Canadian business to do business, then it won’t matter. We won’t have the resources to sustain infrastructure investment.”

Trudeau said during the campaign that he’ll discuss where federal infrastructure money is going in his first meeting with the provinces. The Liberals promised they would spread the cash equally among public transit, green projects and social infrastructure.

Modular Construction can be Fast & Safe

Originally published in Daily Commerce News and featured in the CCA Weekly



It’s got a small but steady share of the market in western Europe. In recent years the Chinese have gone for it in a big way. But in North America? Not much at all, except for places like mining camps.

But the modular industry got a boost recently with the publication of a study showing that modular construction can be faster, cheaper and safer than conventional on-site construction.

The sample was small — just 17 projects — so it can’t be taken as definitive. But it’s a start, a step toward creating a model for collecting data on modular construction.

The principle researcher for the study was Ryan Smith of the University of Utah. There were several sponsors, including the Modular Building Institute (MBI) and the Off-Site Construction Council of the U.S. National Institute of Building Sciences.

Off-site construction is defined as any component of a building that is assembled away from its final location. Permanent modular construction (PMC) is also known as volumetric modular and is a sub-set of off-site construction.

There is no uniform standard for collecting data, said Smith, so his study is an important first step.

One problem was finding conventionally built projects that were similar enough to off-site construction in enough ways to make meaningful comparison possible. Most of the time, comparing the two systems is like comparing apples and oranges. So Smith, who acknowledged that 100 samples would have made a better study, had to settle for case studies of just 17 projects where he was able to compare like with like. Of those 17 projects, one was in Australia, one in Spain, two in the United Kingdom, and three in Canada, with the remaining 10 all in the U.S.

The Canadian projects were an office/industrial building in Sudbury, Ont., a mining camp lodge in northern Alberta and the Whistler Athletes’ Lodge, built for the Vancouver Winter Olympics.

The small sample size means it is “difficult to make statistical arguments or identify trends,” the study says. But working with that sample, Smith found that on average, schedules can be slashed by 45 per cent when using modular construction, that costs can be reduced by 16 per cent compared with on-site construction.

There were, on average, just 5.4 change orders, and even fewer safety incidents — an average of just one for every four projects.

Smith presented his findings at the first Off-Site Construction Expo recently in Washington, D.C., an event that drew more than 600 registrants.

The greatest barrier to PMC, he said, “is the culture of resistance to change.”

In the meantime, the study identifies the next steps to be taken.

First among them is to develop alternate methods of comparative analysis. Labour hours in the PMC industry should be collected to help determine productivity in construction and there should be an annual survey to identify benefits and barriers to PMC.

On the international scene, prefabrication and off-site fabrication have been shown to have a number of productivity benefits. In the U.S., the National Research council has identified the expanded use of prefabrication and off-site fabrication as an important way to achieve greater productivity and competitiveness in the domestic U.S. market over the coming two decades.

The MBI was founded in 1983 as an international non-profit trade association. Its members are manufacturers in two distinct segments of the industry: PMC and relocatable buildings (RB). Associate members are companies supplying building components, services and financing.

The MBI also has an educational foundation to offer training and scholarships for those interested in modular construction. It also founded the MBI Canadian Foundation in 2011.

The study, Permanent Modular Construction: Process, Practice, Performance, is a worthwhile read for those who may be interested in branching out. It's a free download that can be found at www.modular.org.



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NOTICE OF MHCA'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To: All MHCA Members

And to: Charles H. Wepler, C.A.

BE ADVISED that the Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association Inc. (the MHCA) will convene at 10:15 am on Friday, November 20, 2015 at the Room 2 EF on the second floor of the RBC Convention Centre, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider the following:

1. The Annual Audited Financial Statements of the MHCA for the period ending June 30, 2015 and the report of the MHCA's auditors thereon;
2. Report of the directors on the activities of the MHCA;
3. The appointment of an Auditor for the ensuing year;
4. Resolve to ratify, sanction and confirm all acts, contracts, proceedings, elections, appointments accounts and payments made, done and taken by the directors and officers of the MHCA during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015; and
5. The election of members to the MHCA Board of Directors.

Dated this 21st day of October, 2015.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION INC.
Derek Walker, Chairman of the Board



Awards Breakfast & Annual General Meeting

Friday, November 20, 2015 8 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
RBC Convention Centre, Room 2EF (second floor)

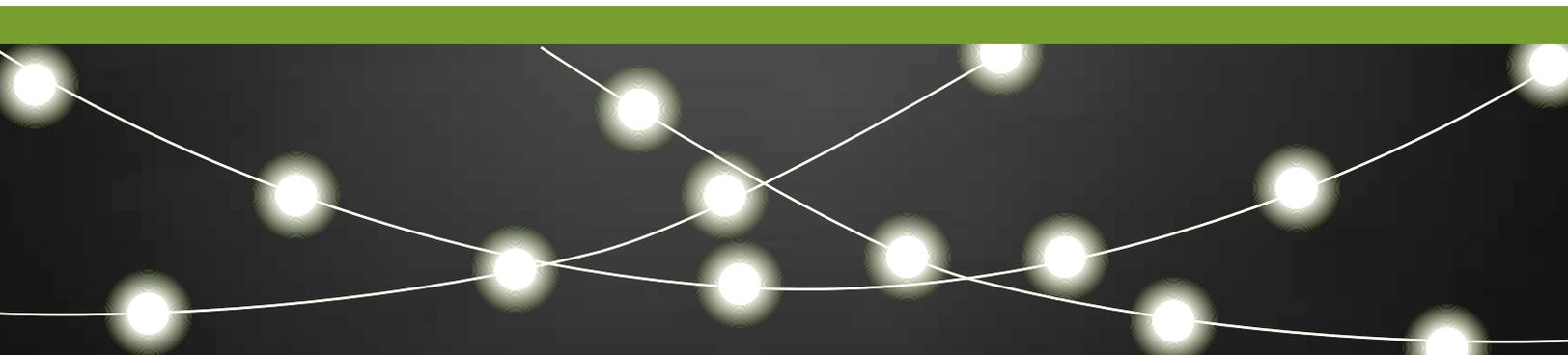
Greetings from: The Honourable Steve Ashton, Minister of Infrastructure & Transportation

Keynote Speaker: Dan Lett, Columnist, Winnipeg Free Press

Awards, Year in Review and Membership presentations to follow.

Tickets: \$49 +GST (per person)

No. of tickets: _____



MHCA Annual Chairman's Gala

AN EVENING IN BLACK & WHITE

Saturday, November 21, 2015

**RBC Convention Centre,
Winnipeg, MB**

Cocktails - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner - 7:30 p.m.

Tables of 10 available

Tickets: \$205 +GST /person
(all inclusive)

No. of tickets: _____

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Delta Winnipeg, reservations: 204-944-7243 - room rates starting at **\$149**

Quote: Manitoba Heavy Construction Association

Fill out this form in full and fax it to Christine Miller at the MHCA office at 204-943-2279.

To request a special meal, to accommodate any food allergies and/or dietary restrictions, you can reach Christine directly at 204-947-1379 or christine@mhca.mb.ca.

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- An extensive social program, including four fabulous evening events
- Exclusive group and kids activities offered daily
- The AON Golf Classic at the Wailea Gold Course, home of The Champions Skins Game
- Four great days of networking and sunshine!

REGISTER NOW AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EARLY BIRD RATE!

Registration & Convention Information contact: Unconventional Planning Inc.
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iMaQs

iMaQs Training by the Manitoba Mines Branch

The Manitoba Mines Branch will be offering iMaQs Training at the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) on December 2 and 9, 2015.

The training will focus on:

- Registering online for an iMaQs account
- A walk-through of how to look for information as disposition owner and/or administrator conducting business on behalf of the company
- Submitting and editing an Exemption Certificate
- Submitting a Quarry Return
- Using iMaQs Map Viewer
- Entering and submitting an application online (Private Quarry)

This training course will include a live test system demonstration and hands-on training on how to effectively enter and search for information. Throughout the duration of the course, Mines Branch Quarry Recording Office staff will be available to answer questions and assist clients with how to use iMaQs. All course materials will be provided.

December 2 - training session, 9 a.m. - noon
December 9 - training session, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

To register for the iMaQs training course, contact Christine Miller at:

MHCA
Unit 3 - 1680 Ellice Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0Z2
Phone: 204-974-1379 ex. 14
Email: christine@mhca.mb.ca

For further information on the training itself, contact the Manitoba Mines Branch:

Phone: 204-945-6528
Email: Mines_Br@gov.mb.ca



The Manitoba Workforce Conference

Hosted by Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and Skills Connect



On Tuesday, November 10, The Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and Skills Connect are hosting this full day conference consisting of keynote speakers and panel discussions, made up of stakeholders offering insight on the problems at hand, and the potential for growth and future development.

The Manitoba business community consistently sites workforce as a major issue for their growth. This conference will provide an avenue to for industry to engage in frank discussions that address solutions to workforce issues within the province.

This conference hopes to change the conversation, adjust the current way of looking at workforce challenges and hear from those impacted and companies working to pave the way for the next generation of workers, learning from workers with experience, focussing on new immigrants and aboriginal employment and the advantages of hiring people with disabilities.

The confirmed guest list for the conference's panel discussions includes:

Brian Rochat, Ready, Willing and Able Initiative | Oly Backstrom, Pres/CEO SCE LifeWorks | Michael McMullen, MBA, Professional Services and Workforce Development Associate | Janice Gair, CEC, CHRP, Executive Coach and HR Strategist | Dr. Rehman Abdulrehman, Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor, University of Manitoba Medical Faculty
Major Marsh Petitt, Retiring member of the Canadian Air Force, 17th Wing | Judith Hayes, Executive Director, Manitoba Start | Serge M. Kaptegaïne, Refugee Employment Coordinator with Opportunities for Employment and President/CEO of the Canadian Centre for Refugee Employment | Karen Velthuys, Executive Director, Youth Employment Services | Darrell Cole, Founder and CEO, CareerTrek

This is your companies opportunity to share your success stories and set the agenda moving forward to address workforce challenges in Manitoba.

Click [here](#) to join us on Tuesday, November 10th at the Delta Winnipeg or visit www.mbchamber.mb.ca for investment opportunities at this special conference.

Groundbreaker

The Official Publication of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association

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WORKSAFELY MHCA™ SAFETY TIPS

Cold Season

The common cold is arguably the most common illness in humans. It is also one of the most common causes of work and school absenteeism.

Colds are caused by viral infections. Over 200 different viruses can cause cold symptoms of varying severity. Viruses that cause colds are spread from person to person through tiny droplets of mucus that enter the air from the nasal passages of infected persons and are inhaled by others. Colds can also be spread by touching surfaces that have been contaminated by contact with infected persons and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

While it is impossible to completely prevent the spread of colds, there are steps you can take to reduce your and your family's chances of becoming infected with a virus that causes colds:

Wash your Hands

This is probably the single best measure to prevent transmission of colds. Especially after shopping, going to the gym, or spending time in public places, hand washing is critical. Frequent hand washing can destroy viruses that you have acquired from touching surfaces used by other people. You can also carry a small tube of hand sanitizer or sanitizing hand wipes when visiting public places. Teach your children the importance of hand washing too.

Cough Etiquette

If you have to cough, cough into your sleeve. This small but mighty measure helps reduce the transmission of colds.

Avoid Touching Your Face

The nose, mouth, and eye areas are the most vulnerable and susceptible to cold viruses.

Don't Smoke

Cigarette smoke can irritate the airways and increase susceptibility to colds and other infections. Even exposure to passive smoke can make you (or your children) more vulnerable to colds.

Use Disposable Items if Someone in your Family is Infected

Disposable cups can be thrown away after each use and prevent accidental spread of the virus from sharing of cups or glasses. This is particularly important if you have young children who may try to drink from others' cups.

Use Paper Towels

Germs can live for several hours on cloth towels. Use paper towels in the kitchen and bathroom for cleaning and/or hand-washing; Alternatively, have separate towels for each family member and provide a clean one for guests.

Throw Tissues Away After Use

Used tissues are sources of virus that can contaminate any surface where they are left.

Maintain a Healthy Lifestyle

While there isn't direct evidence to show that eating well or exercising can prevent colds, maintenance of a healthy lifestyle, with adequate sleep, good nutrition, and physical exercise can help ensure that your immune system is in good condition and ready to fight infection if it occurs.

Control Stress

Studies have shown that people experiencing emotional stress have weakened immune systems and are more likely to catch a cold than their calmer counterparts.



**TO REGISTER,
PLEASE CONTACT:**
Sarah Higgins
sarah@mhca.mb.ca

Training Schedule

October

COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence
 COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management
 COR™ Auditor
 Flagperson (1/2 day AM)
 Committee/Representative Training (1/2 day PM)
 WHMIS (1/2 day AM)
 TDG (1/2 day PM)

Oct. 5 - 6 MHCA Office
 Oct. 7 MHCA Office
 Oct. 8 - 9 MHCA Office
 Oct. 19 MHCA Office
 Oct. 19 MHCA Office
 Oct. 20 MHCA Office
 Oct. 20 MHCA Office

November

COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence
 COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management
 COR™ Auditor
 Traffic Control Coordinator

Nov. 2 - 3 MHCA Office
 Nov. 4 MHCA Office
 Nov. 5 - 6 MHCA Office
 Nov. 16 - 17 MHCA Office

COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence
 COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management
 COR™ Auditor

Nov. 23 - 24 Arborg Assisted Living Complex
 Nov. 25 Arborg Assisted Living Complex
 Nov. 26 - 27 Arborg Assisted Living Complex

December

COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence
 COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management
 COR™ Auditor

Dec. 14 - 15 MHCA Office
 Dec. 16 MHCA Office
 Dec. 17 - 18 MHCA Office

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5 COR Leadership in Safety Excellence	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Training Flagperson	15	16
17	18 COR Leadership in Safety Excellence	19 COR Leadership in Safety Excellence	20 COR Auditor	21 COR Auditor	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

The Population Premium

By Peter G Hall, Vice President and Chief Economist



Seems we're never happy. Back in the '70s, we were obsessed with ecology, Club of Rome doomsaying on non-renewable resources and the crisis that global overpopulation was driving us toward. These arguments resurfaced in the New Millennium growth-frenzy years as excessive pollution, spiking resource prices, increased economic engagement of vast populations and other issues, reviving seminal questions of sustainability. In the stagnant post-crisis years, concern has turned to the effects of aging and shrinking populations on growth. Funny, isn't it, that one of the most predictable economic phenomena – population – should be key to a volatile policy and strategic debate.

What is plain at the moment is that the focus seems clearly on the slow-population-growth zones. Our current obsession with economic weakness has led to a dissection of the importance of population to economic growth – with good reason. As one of the three core pillars of long-term growth, it's an essential economic element. It's no surprise, then, that the economies analysts seem most worried about are those with a stagnant or declining labour force. In recent history, Japan was first past the post, as its population began declining in the early 1990s. Western Europe followed later in the decade, and in general, other OECD nations are on the same track. But it's not just an industrialized ill. Russia's population is also in decline, and China's one-child policy tips its people-growth into the red, beginning this year.

If we are consistent, then it follows that the economies with large populations should be the most exciting near-term prospects. That may be a bit too much to expect, as the balance of concern is still tilted to stagnation. However, forward-thinkers are compiling a list of 'next' markets, and in general, they are the populous ones. India is being touted as the next China, and on population alone, it deserves the attention. Indonesia, a population of 257 million, is also up there in analysts' minds. The list goes on: Nigeria is the most populous African nation by a long shot, and then there's Bangladesh, Vietnam, Mexico, the Philippines and others with ready work forces to offer the world.

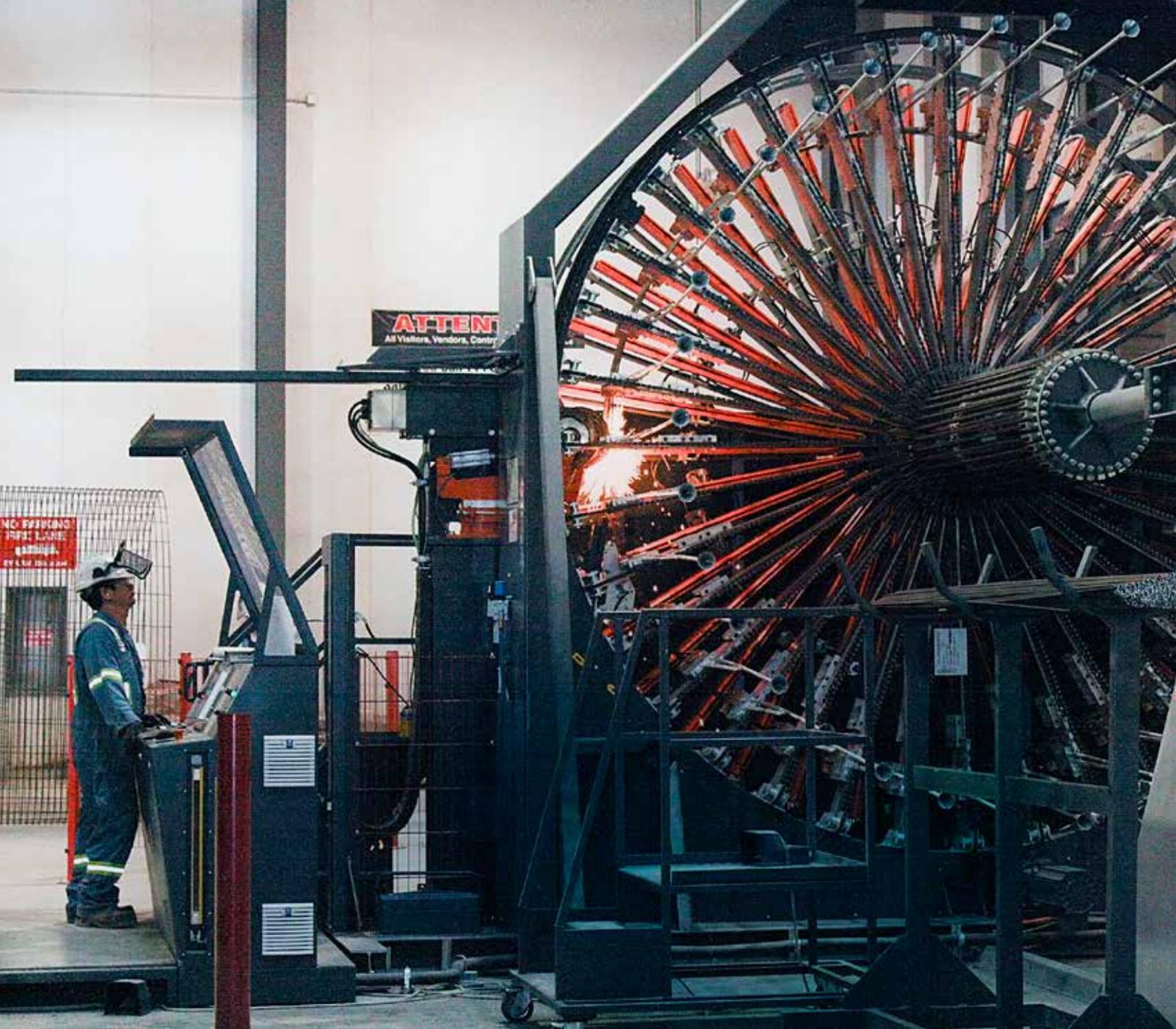
What separates today from the 1970s is globalization. Back then, populations were more geographically stranded, putting a strain on local resources for the more prosperous nations, and isolating vast populations in poorer nations from the bulk of economic activity. Today's economy has redefined the frontier, with trans-border activity transforming potential growth and including virtually all who want to participate. Population-poor nations are looking to the populous and investing there to secure access to this precious resource. In fact, population-seeking foreign investment could be the greatest near- to-medium-term megatrend in the global economy.

Those inclined to worry about overpopulation and finite resources can relax for the moment, and maybe longer. Pre-crisis fretting about scarcity spiked resource prices, attracting huge investments which have unearthed such an abundance of new stuff that prices are plunging to unthinkable lows.

The population upheaval isn't all positive, though; in financial markets, systems dependent on perpetually-rising populations are at risk. Pay-as-you go taxation, health-care and pension systems are needing to be ever-more creative at managing themselves. Ageing populations are also shifting the allocation of wealth to lower-risk assets, a threat both to the returns on those assets and the need for capital in higher-risk ventures.

Sustainability is also an issue, primarily in population-rich fast-growth zones. China is a modern example of rapid development where in the short run, environmental sustainability was sacrificed in favour of sustained growth. All underdeveloped economies with rapid growth potential face the same hurdles, with consequences that in most cases are not just local. And with many not expecting an imminent return to rapid growth, preparedness is likely lacking.

The bottom line? People are an economy's greatest asset, and it seems that those with the greatest endowment will be able to cash in on their population premium when we cast off the shackles of yesterday and get on with the next growth cycle.



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