



The Heavy News Weekly



CCA ready to build with Liberal government

Originally published by Daily Commercial News and featured in CCA Weekly

Now that the Liberals have secured a majority government there's some building to do both inside and outside the walls of Parliament Hill.

"Anytime you've got a new government elected, they're going to have a lot of building to do," Canadian Construction Association (CCA) president Michael Atkinson said during the CCA's fall board meeting in Thunder Bay, Ont.

"We'll be keen to see who are put in key cabinet positions that are important to us, working with their new implementation chain, discovering who their new staff people are going to be. That's going to be one of our top priorities."

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau and his party secured 184 seats in the federal election after one of the longest election campaigns in Canadian history spanning 11 weeks.

"The fact they (the Liberals) are a majority government gives them some time to put in place the people they want and get on with the job," Atkinson explained. "If it had been a minority situation, especially if it had been a slim minority situation, governments tend to go into re-election mode rather than sticking with their platforms."

The first day of the recent CCA board meeting happened to fall on Election Day, Oct. 19, which had many attendees wondering who would end up leading the country and deciding on matters that could impact the industry. ... *Continued on Page 2*

WORKSAFELY MHCA™

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Earlier in the campaign, indications suggested it would be a close election but that was quickly snuffed out as the Liberals' red wave began with early poll returns from Atlantic Canada and continued nationwide throughout the night. The Liberals increased their number of seats by 150 since the 2011 election. The Conservatives secured 99 seats, a 67-seat decrease, while the NDP fell to 44 seats, which is a 59-seat decrease. Shortly after it was confirmed the Liberals would lead Canada, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said he would be stepping down as Conservative leader. The Conservatives have governed since 2006.

Atkinson believes a majority government means more stability and that potentially more will get done.

"It gives us a little more certainty that we're going to see something rolled out. Frankly, certainly the infrastructure programs are very important because I think it allows other levels of government to plan," he said.

During the campaign Trudeau promised he would almost double federal infrastructure investment to nearly \$125 billion from the current \$65 billion over 10 years and also divvied up where the money would go.

For Atkinson and CCA Chair Anibal Valente, working with the various levels of government is essential in order to make sure the proper infrastructure programs are carried out.

"Details, how they're rolled out, the underlying framework that's required between governments, we want to ensure that's not a stumbling block," Atkinson said. "We want to work with the government to make sure the implementation process is as streamlined, as flexible and as timely as possible."

Valente stated municipalities have to be able to access funding in a timely manner.

"I just hope that these infrastructure promises aren't unduly delayed due to red tape or long processes to go through to the point where the municipalities become frustrated," he added. "We're waiting for the details."

The Liberals have promised social infrastructure investments of \$20 billion over 10 years and are encouraging the construction of new rental housing by removing all GST on new capital investments in affordable rental housing. This is expected to provide \$125 million per year in tax incentives to grow and renovate the supply of rental housing across Canada, they believe.

The Liberals also state there will be an inventory taken of all available federal lands and buildings that could be repurposed in order to make them available at low cost for affordable housing.

The Liberals committed to spending \$20 billion over 10 years on public transit by giving the provinces, territories and municipalities long-term federal funding for transit plans.

Green infrastructure was also on the agenda, with \$20 billion committed over 10 years, for local water and wastewater facilities, clean energy, climate resilient infrastructure, like flood mitigation systems, and other infrastructure that will withstand changing weather.

Among the other infrastructure promises was the establishment of a Canada Infrastructure Bank that would provide loan guarantees and small capital contributions to provinces and municipalities to ensure projects are built. But while infrastructure spending is welcome news to the CCA, Atkinson stated there were some areas when it comes to apprenticeship where more discussion is needed.

The Liberals stated they will work with employers and workers to determine an "appropriate" apprenticeship ratio for all federal infrastructure projects. The CCA has stated there are options other than ratios.

"We share the same objective and that is to get more employer engagement with apprenticeship, no question," Atkinson stated. "I guess where we may differ is the best method or most effective means by which to achieve that objective."

Valente said incentives could be a better approach for companies.

"The majority of the tax incentives have been directed at the apprentices themselves and if that hasn't been working, to the extent that we all want it to work, we're suggesting let's try something different and that would be giving the companies themselves some incentive to hire more apprentices," he said. "These are positions we made all parties aware of."

City of Winnipeg City Hall Highlights

Originally published by The Winnipeg Free Press, written by Aldo Santin

Summary: Low interest rates too tempting for city council

City council reviewed and approved a new debt strategy for the City of Winnipeg that will allow city hall to take on an additional \$250 million to properly address the city's current infrastructure deficit.

Currently, the City of Winnipeg faces a municipal infrastructure deficit of roughly \$8 billion and rural municipalities in Manitoba have an additional \$5 billion.

Since interest rates are at an all-time low, it is prudent to take advantage of the historically-low interest rates and invest in a long-term infrastructure investment strategy.

The revised debt strategy will increase the city's net debt as a percentage of revenues for tax-supported spending to 80 per cent from 60 per cent; meanwhile, total city debt (including utilities and special operating agencies) will increase to 90 per cent from 85 per cent.

To reference Finance chairman Councillor Marty Morantz, we need to have the right tools in order to invest in Winnipeg and undertake the kind of projects that Manitobans expect.

Summary: Council amends oversight rules, waives projects under \$20M

A proposal to waive quarterly reporting of civic projects, costing less than \$20 million, generated a 90-minute debate amongst council, who eventually collectively passed a vote of 11-5.

Opponents to the move said that the change removes councillors' responsibility to monitor projects, while those in favour argued the change merely reflects the cost increase from inflation and current monitoring is a needless distraction for the administration on projects considered of minimal risk.

Inflation has driven up the value of projects; therefore, the proposed spending level to reflect in quarterly reports should now be \$20 million, as opposed to the traditional \$10 million.

The administration is also proposing to avoid having to make formal requests for financial-threshold adjustments in the future and that the threshold be adjusted for construction inflation on an annual basis.

All the proposals were passed by council.

Summary: Marching orders at City Hall

Mayor Brian Bowman has announced that he will be keeping the same six councillors on his Executive Policy committee but will assign some of them new duties:

- Councillor Janice Lukes remains acting Deputy Mayor, to coincide with her role as Chairwoman of Public Works.
- Councillor Mike Pagtakhan remains Deputy Mayor. He was appointed to chair the reconstituted committee of Protection, Community Services and Parks.

Other EPC appointments include:

- Coun. Jeff Browaty, chairman of the new innovation committee (formerly headed protection and community services);
- Coun. John Orlikow: chairman of property and development, heritage and downtown development;
- Coun. Marty Morantz: remains chairman of finance;
- Coun. Brian Mayes: chairman of the new water and waste, riverbank management and the environment (formerly chairman of downtown development, heritage and riverbank management).

MHCA Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

The below summarizes some of the areas considered by the MHCA Executive Committee at its October 21, 2015 meeting.

RECORD LEVEL OF INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

The Manitoba government's second annual report on building and upgrading core infrastructure supported by targeted PST revenue shows a record investment of \$1.032 billion in 2014-15, a 22 per cent increase over the previous year, this according to a media release on September 30, 2015.

AGGREGATE SPRINGFIELD - TASK FORCE

The first meeting was held on September 24, 2015 and second on October 22, 2015. The priority topics for consideration by the task force will likely include the following:

- Aquifer/water protection
- Development Agreement Parameters
- Dedicated Funding of Infrastructure
- Promotion of the Community Enhancement Levy
- Operations, hours, impacts
- Heatherdale Road / Garven Road

SASKATCHEWAN CROWN CORPORATIONS USE TRADE AGREEMENTS TO 'IMPROVE PROCUREMENT'

Effective September 1, 2015, seven Saskatchewan Crown Corporations are being allowed to take advantage of exemptions in the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT). They will be allowed to primarily source from the New West Partnership Trade Agreement provinces (all western provinces except Manitoba) - a regional preference practice, and from the rest of Canada and globally 'where warranted.'

The efforts of the MHCA provincially regionally and nationally have always supported the open tender system absent local preferences. The MHCA has written Premier Selinger expressing concerns.

SNOW REMOVAL POLICY REVIEW

The Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works (IRPW) Committee will consider the above reports at its November 3, 2015 meeting. The MHCA is registered to appear and present.

AWARDS BREAKFAST KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Attendees will hear 'Dan Lett's View of the World' at the MHCA Friday, November 20, 2015 Awards Breakfast. Columnist Dan Lett has accepted our invitation. Given that we would be 30 days post federal election, one month prior to the City's Capital Budget; four months away from the City's Capital Budget and five months to a provincial election, there is lots to consider and much in the way of political dynamics.

BREAKFAST WITH THREE PARTY LEADERS

The Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) and the Manitoba Home Builders' Association (MHBA) will co-host a sequential 'Breakfast with the Party Leaders' series as we head into the 2016 provincial election. Confirmation awaits acceptance of the extended invitation to the three party leaders. Dates are currently being confirmed.

We have requested their views related on the following topic areas:

- Growing Manitoba's economy and the relative priority you would place on trade & transportation investments as part of a provincial economic growth strategy, including promoting CentrePort Canada and the Port of Churchill as key Canadian trade gateways and corridors;

- To address obvious investment need, your commitment to sustaining and incrementally enhancing the projected levels of strategic investment in Manitoba's core infrastructure through the dedicated 1% of PST revenues;
- Income growth has not kept pace with the cost of housing. Address the rising cost of home ownership and decline in affordability in the Manitoba market particularly as it impacts young people;
- Your projected approaches to balancing the provincial budget;
- Your views on reviewing the existing provincial revenue sharing and striking a 'New Fiscal Deal' all of Manitoba's municipalities;
- With the growing importance and profile of the New West Partnership an indication of intention to join or otherwise project Manitoba's global presence and investment promotion; and
- Such other views, priorities or vision you choose to share.

Our intention is to publish a summary of expressed views for broad publication distribution in early March 2016.

CITIES CANNOT SHOULDER THE LOAD ALONE

Our messages around a new fiscal deal for municipalities and the need to strike a long term strategic plan involving all three levels of government were reflected in an Op Ed which the Winnipeg Free Press published on September 14, 2015.

The same message was emailed to the Mayor, each member of Council and senior administration and published in the MHCA *Heavy News Weekly*.

SNOW REMOVAL YIELD RIGHT OF WAY

The above multi-public/private stakeholder group - MHCA, MIT, MPI, HEAT, RCMP, WORKSAFELY - which the MHCA assembled has been meeting for roughly one year to consider ways and means to address the needs for yielding right of way to equipment engaged in snow removal operations.

At its October 6, 2015 meeting it concluded its deliberations with the following outcomes:

- i) For reasons considered over the existence of the committee, a legislative or regulatory amendment at this time is not feasible;
- ii) The committee will pursue through the SAFE Roads Committee a public education strategy to attempt to educate the motoring public to give right of way to equipment engaged in snow removal; operations; reduce incidents involving snow clearing equipment and private vehicles.
- iii) MPI is committed to ensuring that senior adjustors or claims supervisors review all claims involving operators of snow clearing equipment before sending for subrogation of costs, to ensure fairness and consistency.
- iv) The committee agreed to consider the impacts of the above and pursue matters with government at a later date depending upon the outcomes of the above steps.

MCSC & CCA ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES GUIDES

The above projects are now moving forward reasonably well. In each of the above a draft document has been crafted and is in process of critical review. I hope that each effort will conclude by the end of January 2016.

MIT DESIGN BUILD PROCUREMENT MODEL

MHCA (Borger, Walker, Lorenc) and WCA (Withoos, Hambley) representatives met on October 28, 2015 to review concerns around the MIT Design Build model. The meeting was very positive. Further discussion are anticipated.

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING IN CANADA- BROADBENT INSTITUTE

The Broadbent Institute released a report recently calling for Canadian policy makers to endorse long-term, significant public infrastructure spending as a means to not only to address Canada's infrastructure deficit but also boost economic productivity.

The report, titled *The Economic Benefits of Public Infrastructure Spending in Canada*, assesses the consequences of a hypothetical five-year, \$50-billion expenditure program on public projects such as highways and subways, sewage treatment project and wastewater plants that would be undertaken jointly by the federal and provincial governments.

A summary of highlights from this recent report on the economic benefits of public infrastructure investment (see the Executive Summary):

- The short-term benefits of investment equate to a GDP rise of \$1.43 per dollar of spending, 9.4 jobs per million dollars spent, and \$0.44 of each dollar spending by government is recover in additional tax revenue.
- The long-term benefits in present GDP value are \$2.46 to \$3.83 per every dollar spent.
- Private sector investment rises by 0.34 per dollar spent in the short term and up to \$1 per dollar spent in the long term.
- Business productivity improves as does international competitiveness and real wages rise.
- The impact on public finances is minimal with an estimated impact of a rise of 0.04 per cent to a decline of 0.02 per cent as a measure of debt-to-GDP for the federal government and a rise of 0.08 to a decline of 0.04 per cent for provincial governments.
- Half of all the gains accrue to the construction sector in the short term, with the remaining 50 per cent spread throughout the economy.
- In the long term, while the construction sector remains the primary beneficiary, all sectors of the economy experience significant gains.
- Provinces that need to import more goods and services experience weaker benefits.
- Productivity improvements gained by private businesses can increase GDP by as much as \$3.83 per dollar invested.
- The study was based on a hypothetical investment of \$50 billion over 5 years.

As noted, the above only highlights areas addressed by teh MHCA executive Committee.



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

CCA Update: a message from the 2015 CCA Chair, Anibal Valente

Dear colleagues,

It was great to see so many of you at the CCA Industry Summit last month. For those who missed it, this year's summit was devoted entirely to industry payment and cash flow concerns and potential solutions. It resulted in several suggested actions for CCA. The accompanying *CCA Update* provides a summary of those outcomes. The *CCA Industry Summit* article, authored by James Raiswell, a Senior Writer with Stiff Sentences Inc., offers a more detailed account. You can access the full article on the MHCA website, www.mhca.mb.ca.

The summit outcomes were a key topic at our recent board of directors meetings in Thunder Bay and resulted in the board giving some clear direction as to what course of action CCA should undertake with the federal government. Indeed as the attached update reveals, there were also a number of other priority areas of interest discussed at those meetings on a wide array of topics.

The federal election occurred while we were at the board meeting in Thunder Bay. CCA looks forward to working with the new government as it moves to implement its election promises, especially with respect to enhanced infrastructure investments. The article, *CCA ready to build with Liberal government*, that was recently published in Daily Commercial News includes some of my and CCA president Michael Atkinson's thoughts on the election results.

I would also like to draw your attention to the November 20 deadline for the CCA Award nominations. For information on the various CCA Awards and how to submit a nomination, visit awards.cca-acc.com.

Finally, registration for CCA's Annual Conference March 6 - 10, 2016 in New Orleans is now open. See cca-acc.com/en/annual-conference for the program, hotel and registration information.

I look forward to hearing your feedback.

Regards,



Anibal Valente
2015 CCA Chair
Canadian Construction Association



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Highlights from the CCA Board Meeting held October 19 – 20 in Thunder Bay, ON

CCA to Discuss Prompt Payment/Cash Flow Issues with Federal Government

The CCA board of directors passed the following motion:

“THAT, CCA work with its partner associations, interested stakeholders, and federal contracting authorities, to educate the federal government on the importance of prompt payment and cash flow on federal construction projects, and work together to resolve any concerns, which may include the enactment of federal prompt payment legislation acceptable to the industry.”

This motion was partly in response to a request by the National Trade Contractors’ Coalition (NTCCC) to support its initiative to seek the enactment of federal prompt payment legislation. The motion is also in response to the outcomes generated through consensus at the CCA Industry Summit held September 29 in Toronto (see below).

Industry Summit Suggests Path for CCA

This year’s Industry Summit was devoted entirely to examining payment and cash flow concerns and potential solutions, including the so-called prompt payment legislation. The following, (largely consensus advice), emerged from the summit:

- CCA has a leadership role to play in Canada with respect to industry payment and cash flow issues. CCA needs to establish a clear policy position on payment and payment practices in the construction industry;
- CCA can be a hub or clearing house for sharing prompt payment information and best practices – domestic (including efforts and developments at the provincial level) and international (e.g. the U.S., Australia, the U.K., etc.);
- There is support for creating new and/or strengthening existing CCDC/CCA standard contracts and guides that speak to prompt payment, including embracing the adjudication process, the right to suspend the work/terminate the contract for breach of the payment terms, and greater transparency as to the flow of funds in the contracting chain;
- CCA should not proactively get involved in any provincial initiatives – but participate if asked (although likely there would have to be a full consensus of CCA partner associations in that province);
- There is general support for CCA to educate the federal government on industry payment challenges and to support the notion of federal prompt payment legislation applicable to federal government construction contracts only. However, there was no consensus regarding the timing of such efforts given concerns regarding any resulting negative impact on similar efforts already underway at the provincial level; and
- CCA should involve all parties in the contracting chain and the industry in this discussion – including owners and consultants.

Attached you will find an article authored by James Raiswell, a Senior Writer with Stiff Sentences Inc. James was engaged by CCA to write this article for use by CCA partner associations.

CCA Embraces Corporate Social Responsibility

At the request of the CCA Business and Market Development Committee, the CCA board endorsed the following as a CCA policy statement:

“CCA recognizes that corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a rapidly evolving issue and affects companies differently depending on their size, location and specialization. CCA recognizes the importance of CSR, and encourages companies to voluntarily undertake initiatives that enable them to operate in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.”

Quality of Documents Workshop

CCA is undertaking a series of cross-country workshops concerning “Quality of Documents” in the construction industry in the next few months. The findings will provide important baseline information concerning this subject, and assist CCA in developing a comprehensive approach for the industry to address the issue with our partner associations and stakeholder organizations.

Brookfield GIS RP-1 Contracts

CCA has held several meetings with Brookfield GIS concerning its procurement and contracting practices, and terms and conditions for construction projects awarded under its RP-1 contract with PWGSC. The CCA Standard Practices Committee reviewed the supplementary conditions used by the RP-1 Contractor with CCDC 2 and expressed grave concerns on the lengthy payment period. CCA will have further discussions with Brookfield GIS on its supplementary conditions with the priority of reducing the payment period.

Development of Aboriginal Engagement Best Practices Guide on Schedule

CCA, together with the Aboriginal Human Resource Council, is in the process of developing an Aboriginal Engagement Best Practices Guide focused specifically on the construction industry. Steering committee members reported that a preliminary guide has been developed and that a final draft version is expected by January 2016.

Trade Contractors Guide Updated

The CCA board endorsed changes to the Trade Contractors’ Guide and Checklist to Construction Contracts. Changes included updating and incorporating a former guide for trade contractors on design responsibility and incorporating some insurance considerations. Look for the new guide early next year.

Civil Infrastructure Council Pursuing Use of Standard Contract Form for Civil Works

Recently, the CCA Civil Infrastructure Council made a presentation to the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) calling upon its Chief Engineers’ Council to help to develop and promote a common, national set of specifications and the use of a standard contract form for civil works. The CCDC publishes a standard civil works contract form known as CCDC 18. The Civil Infrastructure Council has

decided to advance common contractual language as a first priority and will work in tandem with CCDC to make a presentation specifically on CCDC 18 at the next TAC meeting scheduled for April 2016.

Council to Develop Guidelines for Owners' Use of Project Managers

The CCA General Contractors Council will strike a taskforce with owner representatives, project management (PM) firms, architects and consulting engineers to develop guidelines for owners when considering the use of PM firms. This will include guidance on the role and services provided by PM firms, when using them will add value to a project, and the parameters owners should utilize when engaging PM firms.

Construction Industry Ethics Course Expected by March 2016

CCA and BuildForce Canada have partnered to produce the first-ever national construction industry ethics course. Development is progressing well and both parties hope to be able to unveil the new course at the CCA Annual Conference next March. Plans are to make this course mandatory for Gold Seal Certification applicants.

New Corporate Members

The CCA board approved the following new corporate members:

- **Peri Formwork Systems Inc.** of Bolton, ON;
- **Tundra Environmental Drilling** of Stettler, AB; and
- **Rapley & Company**, a law firm located in Toronto, ON.

Next CCA board meeting will be March 5 - 16, 2016 in New Orleans.

CCA Update distribution: These CCA updates are sent to CCA board members, corporate members, partner association chief operating officers and partner association board members as well as anyone who subscribes to them through bit.ly/ccasubscribe.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NEXT YEAR'S

EXPO NORTH

Destination: **Thompson**
February 24 & 25, 2016

EXPO SOUTH

Destination: **Winnipeg**
April 5 & 6, 2016



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Awards Breakfast & Annual General Meeting

Friday, November 20, 2015 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

RBC Convention Centre, Room 2EF (second floor)

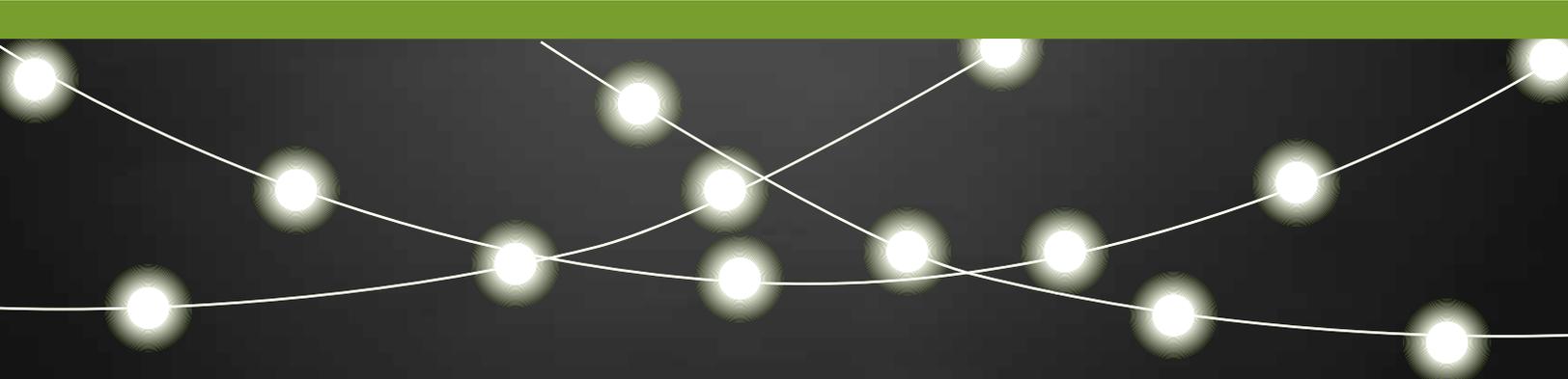
Greetings from: The Honourable Steve Ashton, Minister of Infrastructure & Transportation

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: _____

Company: _____ **Contact Person:** _____

Phone: _____ **Please Invoice:** _____

Visa / MC / AMEX #: _____ **Exp. Date:** _____ **3-Digit Security Code:** _____

Card Holder Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

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.



Join your colleagues at the WCR&HCA Convention

Sunday, February 7 to Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Fairmont Kea Lani

Wailea Coast, Maui, Hawaii

Convention Features & Highlights Include:

- Accommodations at the Fairmont Kea Lani, Hawaii's only all-suites oceanfront resort
- Keynote speakers: The Honourable John Baird and Todd Hirsch
- An extensive social program, including four fabulous evening events
- An educational program that will address today's emerging issues and trends
- Exclusive group and kids activities offered daily
- The AON Golf Classic on the Wailea Gold Course, home of The Champions Skins Game
- 4 great days of networking and sunshine!

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For Convention & Registration information, visit www.wcrhca.org

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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



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WORKSAFELY MHCA™ SAFETY TIPS

Halloween

The festive celebration of dressing up and trick-or-treating can still lead to incidents if we are not careful; however, with a little preparation and knowledge, there are many ways we can minimize the risk to ensure we all have a happy and safe Halloween:

Find the perfect frightful fit

Dress appropriately for the season and festivities by ensuring you buy or make a costume that will comfortably fit over layers of warm clothing. Be sure the outfit doesn't hang too low, posing a tripping hazard, and that Young revellers dress in brightly-colored outfits with reflectors so they can be seen by motorists. Health Canada also notes parents should ensure that accessories such as swords are made of a soft, flexible plastic.

Masks versus make-up

In the debate over the superiority of masks versus face paint, face paint appears to have won — at least in terms of safety considerations. Safety experts say that since masks narrow the field of vision, children should opt to use make-up. Faux blood and ghoulish powders can closely mimic the effects of frightening masks. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eyeholes are large enough for the child to see through properly. Also check that the nose holes allow for proper ventilation.

Halloween night all aglow

Jack-o'-lanterns may provide festive cheer but they also pose a fire hazard to small children. Never leave a candle in a pumpkin unattended and consider using a small flashlight as an alternative means of illuminating your pumpkin. Keep pumpkins, matches and lighters in a secure place out of the reach of small children.

Visit all your old haunts and make a map

Planning a route is crucial to an abundant candy harvest but a strategy also offers some practical benefits as well. Establish a route for children in pairs or small groups to walk in familiar neighborhoods. Discourage children from zigzagging back and forth across the street to ensure road safety. Parents who aren't accompanying their children should know the areas in which their children are walking in case of emergency. Children should also carry a flashlight and, if available, a cellphone.

Don't let slowpokes be spooked

Choose a well-lit, central, local landmark to be a meeting place if anyone in the party gets separated. Keep a running headcount of children in your group so stragglers won't be left behind.

Build a spooky but safe and well-wired haunted house

With spooky smoke machines, lights and screeching soundtracks, Halloween enthusiasts can put on a haunting good show. Secure extension cords so trick-or-treaters can easily pass by without stumbling. When buying lights, check for certification from the Canadian Standards Association or the Underwriters' Laboratory of Canada. Also, check for frayed wires and be sure not to overload outlets.

Trash the unwrapped candy stash

Caregivers should tell their children not to eat their treats until the end of the evening when their candies can be properly inspected. Any treats that aren't wrapped or have torn, damaged packages should be thrown out. For children under the age of five, check for any hard or large chewy candies that might be a choking hazard.

Considerations for children with diabetes

The Canadian Diabetes Association says that children with diabetes should be allowed to keep potato chips, peanuts and sugar-free gum, along with a few extra treats. Younger children should be encouraged to stay home and hand out treats in costume.

Carve carefully

Let children draw the faces on the pumpkins with marker and leave the carving to the adults. Use a carving kit, equipped with blunt tools, and place the pumpkin on a sturdy, flat table. Don't try to saw the pumpkin but make a series of incisions along the drawn lines.

Start the evening early

Send your little ones out early so they can enjoy the evening before it gets too dark and make it home at a reasonable hour to rest and recover after a frightfully fun evening!



**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



South Africa: Competitive as Ever

By Peter G Hall, Vice President and Chief Economist



Times are tough for resource-rich economies. Plunging global prices for oil, gas and other minerals are wreaking havoc with profit margins, trade balances and future investment plans. Canada knows this all too well – but for economies that are far less diversified, the news is obviously worse. Resource-dependence is a lot greater in South Africa, and the effects are evident: a contracting economy, currency depreciation, labour unrest and infrastructure woes. It's not a pretty picture; has our optimism for the South African economy faded?

Current numbers aren't great. The economy contracted by 1.3 per cent in the second quarter. This was heavily influenced by a one-time swing in inventories, but even so, underlying growth is steadily trending downward. Manufacturing is stagnant. Gold mining is on a long-term slide, and weaker prices aren't helping. The leading indicator has fallen to its lowest point since 2009. In general, confidence is sagging. At least in the short term, economic prospects have soured.

Unfortunately, that's what happens to any country or company when the prices of their key products plunge. And if the prices are beyond their control, those affected by the change can only hope to react appropriately, in a way that ensures long-term viability. In South Africa's case, longer-term prospects now depend on what the country did through the past six-to-seven years of favourable conditions. Were the good years squandered, or has South Africa actually positioned itself well to capture future waves of global growth?

What do the data say? According to the latest WEF Global Competitiveness Report, South Africa climbed seven spots to 49th place among the 140 countries ranked, and placed second only to Mauritius in the region. A key strength for South Africa is its financial sector. In financial market development, it ranks 12th in the world, just behind Luxembourg. South Africa's financial markets are by far the most developed and stable on the continent and rival those of most other countries. South Africa is home to Africa's largest commercial banks and hosts over 40% of Africa's publicly-listed companies.

The Report also ranks South Africa as the most innovative and sophisticated business environment in Africa and ranked it 36th worldwide, coming just behind Spain. Another area of strength is in institutions, where South Africa ranks 38th worldwide, better than all the BRIC countries, Mexico and several developed economies including Israel, South Korea, Spain and Portugal.

The World Economic Forum's Africa Competitiveness Report gives a revealing inside look at the region. The overall assessment is that competitiveness across the continent has remained stagnant for much of the past decade. Here, South Africa is one of only three regional economies that stands apart, for reasons that increase its strategic economic importance.

First, Africa as a whole claims a tiny share of global trade, at just 2 per cent. Participation in global value chains is about the same, at only 2.2 per cent of the total. However, as a 'headquarter economy' for other countries in the region, South Africa stands in contrast to the rest of Africa. This critical mass remains a key magnet for additional foreign direct investment.

Second, the Report cites lack of access to financing as the greatest challenge to doing business in Africa. South Africa's state-of-the-art financial sector makes it an essential link in regional corporate activity, and a key opportunity for global financial institutions that are active in the region.

Third, the Report notes that trade costs in Africa remain among the highest in the world. South Africa's superior transportation infrastructure, including Durban, the sub-continent's busiest port, remains the lowest trade cost option for Africa. These features together suggest a bright future for South Africa, and a good reason for EDC to open its newest international office this week in Johannesburg.

The bottom line? Life is rough for resource-dependent economies these days. But those who used the good times to structure themselves well for the long term are still full of promise, and South Africa has definitely made the list.

October 29, 2015 - Manitoba Infrastructure & Transportation - www.gov.mb.ca/tgs/contracts/tenders/index.html

C.O. X04454 - SPOT GRADE IMPROVEMENT

Location: PR 264, Vicinity of Oak Brae

Tender Availability: Currently available

Tender Due: 12:00 Noon, October 29, 2015 **Owner:** Infrastructure and Transportation **Phone:** 204-622-2061

The work involves construction of a crushed rock subgrade and traffic gravel surface and installation of through grade culverts and ditch clean out on PR 264 beginning approximately 600m north of Oak Brae and continuing northerly for a distance of 900m in the Rural Municipality of Mossey River.

TENDER NO. 6608 - BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION (STRUCTURE)

Location: Over Assiniboine River and CP Rail on PTH 1A (Brandon, Manitoba)

Tender Availability: Currently available

Tender Due: 12:00 Noon, November 17, 2015 **Owner:** Infrastructure and Transportation **Phone:** 204-945-3637

Construction of two four-span, 202.1 metre long steel girder bridges over Assiniboine River and CP Rail and associated roadworks on Provincial Trunk Highway 1A in Northeast 1/4 Section 23-10-19W, City of Brandon, Bridge Site No's. 2582-11 and 2582-12.

C.O. X34078 - SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS TO MILE 14 PUMP STATION - MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL WORKS

Location: Between Lot 46 and 48, Pasquia Land Settlement, near The Pas, Manitoba

Tender Availability: Currently available

Tender Due: 12:00 Noon, November 18, 2015 **Owner:** Infrastructure and Transportation **Phone:** 204-945-3773

The work involves mechanical and electrical improvements such as replacement of supply and exhaust fans, supply and installation of electric hoist, new lightings, relocation of electrical services, etc.

October 29, 2015 - City of Winnipeg - www.winnipeg.ca Phone: 204-986-2491

TENDER NO. 881-2015 - FERRY ROAD AND RIVERBEND COMBINED SEWER RELIEF CONTRACT 5 WEST

Tender Availability: Currently available

Tender Due: 12:00 Noon, November 3, 2015 **Owner:** Infrastructure and Transportation **Phone:** 204-986-2491

October 29, 2015 - Manitoba Infrastructure & Transportation - www.gov.mb.ca/tgs/contracts/tenders/index.html

TENDER NO. 6606 - STOCKPILING AGGREGATE, THE PAS-SNOW LAKE AREA

Closing: October 20, 2015

Results:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| (M) Harrower Enterprises | \$826,000.00 |
| (M) Strilkiwski Enterprises COR™ | \$862,500.00 |
| 3572405 Manitoba Ltd. | \$1,032,100.00 |
| (M) Lafarge Canada Inc. COR™ | \$6,454,801.60 |

October 29, 2015 - City of Winnipeg - www.winnipeg.ca Phone: 204-986-2491

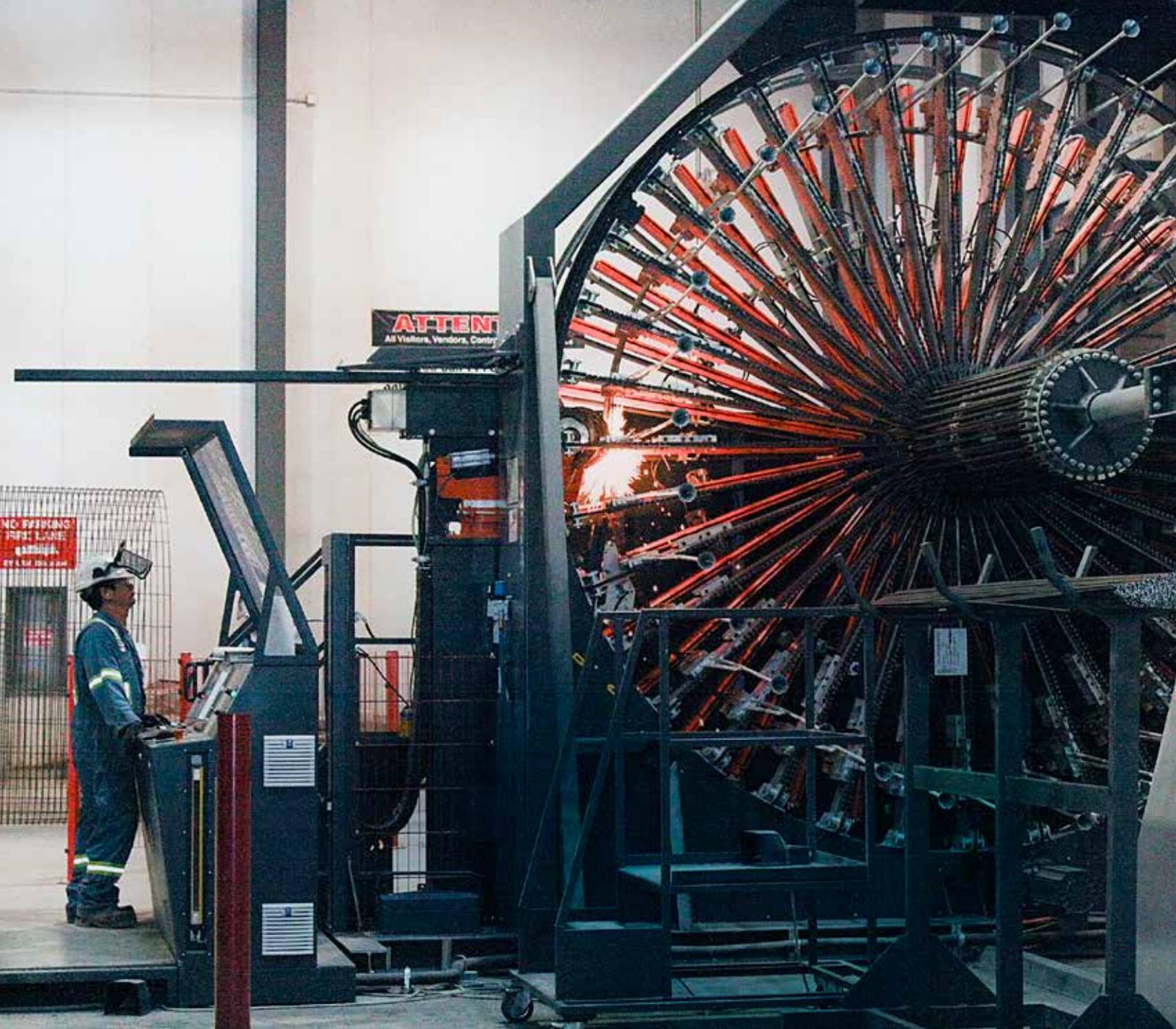
EVALUATED RESULTS

TENDER NO. 478-2015 - NESS AVENUE AT STURGEON CREEK BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Closing: October 16, 2015

Results:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| (M) PCL Constructors Canada Inc. | \$5,911,699.70 |
| (M) M.D. Steele Construction Ltd. | \$6,071,238.70 |
| (M) Graham Construction and Engineering | \$6,334,858.00 |



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